



# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Disciples of Christ

*Welcoming All. Encountering Christ. Celebrating Community.*

## JUNE 2019

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### STATEMENT OF MISSION

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is called to witness to all humankind with a spiritual vitality that embraces inclusiveness and Christ-like justice. Therefore, we seek to be a community that **reaches in** to one another, **reaches up** to God, and **reaches out** to the world with the love of Jesus Christ.

## WE'RE HOME!

**INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO**

**JOIN US AT**

**3001 GRAND MERE PARKWAY**

**AS WE BEGIN TO LIVE OUT**

**OUR FUTURE STORY!**

# FROM BEN.....



I am writing this from within my new office at the Grand Mere building. It is 3:49pm on Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup> and this is the first few minutes I've had to think about what to write for this newsletter. This week has been a whirlwind for many of us. We celebrated our first service in Grand Mere last Sunday (May 19) and the movers came on Monday and Tuesday to load up most of our belongings at 5<sup>th</sup> and Humboldt. The old building is mostly empty and quiet and the new building is full and bustling.

If I can offer one bit of encouragement to us all in these first few days, weeks, and months in our new home it is this, remain flexible. In the Army we say, "*Semper Gumby*" (always Gumby). I am sure you get the Gumby reference, the green, stretchy character from the old classic, "*The Gumby Show*". Kids, if you don't know what I am talking about, well, I am sure you already Googled it.

As we settle into our new home, let us not create a rut for ourselves to get stuck in. Now is the time for fresh ideas, to question things that have been, to experiment, and even if a particular change doesn't sit well with you at first, the only thing I can ask is this, please give it a chance. I can promise you this: we will not lose our identity as Disciples of Christ. Christ will be the center. The table will always be open to all. Love will be our only law. And we'll have grace for one another and celebrate our differences rather than be threatened by them.

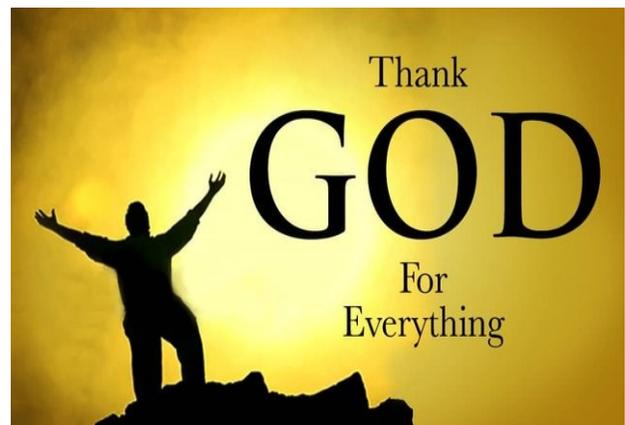
Onward and Upward.

*Ben*

*Dear First Christian,*

*What an exciting time in the long and amazing history of First Christian Church! More than 150 years of worshiping God and serving our community leads us to this new chapter in our successful story! Pam and I have been so blessed to be part of this journey. We look forward to the exciting and meaningful things we will accomplish at our new location. God bless us all as we labor together as followers and servants of Christ.*

*Robert & Pam Russell*



# COORDINATING COUNCIL

## HALLELUJAH!

The much anticipated move to our new church in Grand Mere has been completed and we experienced a fantastic “soft” opening on May 19<sup>th</sup>. What a blessing it was. The sun shone brightly and balloons galore welcomed us to our new church to celebrate with an inspirational service in a sanctuary filled with people. If you were unable to worship with us on this milestone occasion, I encourage you to join us at your earliest opportunity. We have so much to be thankful for and many prayers have been answered as our congregation has made the journey from a 2004 dream to the reality of our modern new facility in west Manhattan. This project came to completion thanks to the commitment and perseverance of so many individuals, but key to the project was the Building Committee led by Richard Gallagher, chair with Robert Russell, David Rogers, Joan Thomson, Pam Russell, and Sharon Purvis fulfilling primary roles. This group has met monthly, biweekly, weekly and finally daily during the past three years to ensure the project's completion. Steve Jankord, Stewardship Chair joined the committee the first of the year. Thank you, your dedication and hard work, are appreciated immeasurably.

The movers have finished the lifting, loading, and transport of the material things that constitute a church; however, there is still considerable work to be done. Shelves must be constructed before many items can be unpacked and placed in their new home. The next few Sundays will be part of our “soft” opening” as we work through any snafus that we may encounter in our transition to worshipping in our new surroundings. For a couple of weeks, Sunday School Classes will not meet.

Looking ahead, we will celebrate our new facility with a Dedication Service on Sunday, August 18. Circle this date on your calendar, tell your friends and extended family, and make plans to celebrate this momentous occasion in the life of FCC. Additional information will be available as the day approaches.

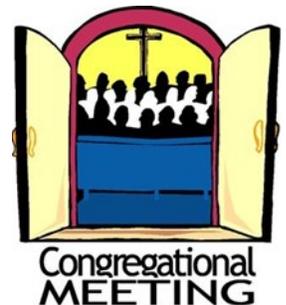


The Coordinating Council recently approved the hiring of a director for our new child care center. Cassie Anderson has joined our staff and has wasted no time in jumping into the task of establishing “From Cradles to Crayons” Child Care. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find an article introducing Cassie to our congregation.

Thanks to a grant from the Christian Church in Kansas, Pastor Ben, Alice Trussell and I spent three days at the Kansas Leadership Center in Wichita attending the “Your Leadership Edge” conference. This was an interactive experience with over 150 individuals with diverse professions, employers and educational experiences participating from across the state. The conference theme “Leadership is not a position but a process” presented us with a slightly different approach to implementing our leadership roles.

*Ruby K Broder*  
Coordinating Council Chair

**JUNE 30, 2019**  
**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
*Immediately following Worship*



**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY POTLUCK**  
*Following Congregational Meeting*

# CHURCH NEWS

## MEET OUR CHILDCARE CENTER DIRECTOR!

I am Cassie Anderson, and I am originally from Colby, Kansas, but have been in the Manhattan area since coming to K-State for school in 2000. I got my degree in Family Studies, Human Services and Mass Communications with emphasis in early childhood education, and public relations. Following graduation, I taught preschool at the K-State Center for Child Development for four years before becoming the assistant director. In 2015, I was instrumental in opening the Zoo Sprouts Preschool program at the Sunset Zoo where I served as the lead teacher and program director.

In 2007, my late husband, Scott, and I moved to the Bala community just west of Riley. This has been the perfect combination of country living in a small town environment like I experienced as a child, while being close and convenient to the amenities and atmosphere of Manhattan.

Family is very important to me and I make regular trips to visit my family in Colby, Scott's family in Norton, and his two sons in southeast Kansas. I have two beautiful granddaughters, ages 4 and 1.

I have a passion for working with children and providing high quality early childhood care and education. I believe in learning through play by providing children with experiences that allow them to explore nature based education and individual learning opportunities.

I am excited to have the opportunity to work with infants through preschool again and to provide a loving, nurturing space for children to grow and develop. It is my belief that FCC is in a perfect position to meet a huge need in the community by providing childcare in a family centered program that supports not only our children, but their families in their formative years.

I look forward to meeting everyone and am anxious to get our childcare center open and ready to welcome children very soon.

*Cassie Anderson, Director  
From Cradles to Crayons Childcare*



**Women's Salad Supper Coming Soon!!  
(Date, time, and details to be announced.)**

## Summer Special Music



The choir will not be enhancing worship services during the summer; therefore, we need other who are willing to do so. Do you play an instrument or sing? Who would you like to hear contribute to services? Don't wait to be asked! Please contact Marilyn Masterson ([mastersonmarilyn@gmail.com](mailto:mastersonmarilyn@gmail.com)) or text her at 785-313-0287 if you can help. We look forward to diverse musical experiences this summer!

# DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

## CHURCH CAMP NEWS

Nine of our youth are registered to attend Camp Tawakoni this summer. Ashley VanGilder may be contacting members of the congregation to help transport our kids to camp. Please let her know if this is something you would like to help with.

Our campers and the session they are attending:

Discovery Camp (May 28-29): Eliana and Kylee

Junior 1 (June 4-8): Tristan

CYF Omega (July 8-13): Nicholas, Rose, Elizabeth, Victoria

Chi Rho 2 (July 15-20): Michael

Pre-High (July 15-20): Dakota

If you are so inclined, they would love to receive mail. Please address as follows:

Camper Name

Camp Session (Junior 1, Omega 2, Equestrian, etc.)

Disciples Center at Tawakoni

8492 SW Tawakoni Rd.

Augusta, KS 67010-8111



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

### SPLASH CANYON

**JULY 31—AUGUST 2**

**9:00 TO 11:30 A.M.**



# PHILLIPS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



## CONGRATULATIONS, LUKUS!

We are so proud to share that Lukus Ebert was awarded the 2019 R.G. and Della Mae Ericson Preaching Award at PhillipsTheological Seminary. The announcement of the award was made at the Phillips commencement ceremony on May 18th in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

All of us at First Christian can attest to the gift for preaching that God has given Lukus, and how much we appreciate the messages he has provided at our worship, to both adults and through his Children's Messages. We are blessed to have Lukus with us while he completes his work toward his divinity degree.

# BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

As I write this update I am reminded of the wonderful closing worship service at 115 Courthouse Plaza on May 12th and the even more fantastic “soft opening” worship service at 3001 Grand Mere Parkway on May 19th. Looking back a few weeks I trust that our entire church family feels blessed to have experienced a meaningful Holy Week and a final Easter service in our downtown church. New worship experiences await us. We will be exposed to both minor and major changes in our new worship and Christian Education settings. Adjustments will be the name of the game.

Recent weather has allowed for outside site work and then the cloudy rainy days returned. The three lights at the base of the flag pole are installed and the United States and Christian flags are flying. All site lighting has been installed. Many limestone boulders and red rocks have been strategically placed in landscape beds, limestone boulders have been placed at the northeast corners of the sanctuary and education wings and a lined area of rock and plantings have been placed along all of the exterior walls including the entrance to the narthex. The areas which will have sod are being prepared and sod has been laid down and watered in several areas. The fenced playground area will be the last area to have sod. The lined area between the parking lot and the wall surrounding the parking has some landscape plantings and a few trees. All other areas that have been disturbed by site work will be seeded with buffalo grass or Grand Mere mix as the weather warms up. The lighted limestone sign at the Grand Mere entrance is finished and landscaped. The left side of the sign has a chalice and the words “First Christian Church.” The right side of the sign states “From Cradles to Crayons Child Care” with the address, “3001 Grand Mere Parkway” at the lower right-hand corner.

Essentially all interior construction and touch-up painting have been completed. The acoustical material and framework for the organ speaker chambers have been installed. The last few days have been focused on the final installation of the A/V equipment, security system, lighting, and associated controls in the sanctuary, fellowship hall, and narthex. The organ, piano, baptistery mural, and crosses have been moved from our downtown church. The shipment of sanctuary/chancel chairs arrived on May 1st. They are now positioned in the sanctuary for worship services and also in fellowship hall. Essential items for the “soft opening” worship services were moved on May 12th. The “Big” two-day move occurred on May 20th and 21st. Locating new homes for all of the items that have been moved will be challenging. Construction for shelving in many areas will be the responsibility of FCC.

A few weeks ago the regular weekly meetings of the Building Committee were abandoned and replaced with daily (sometimes hourly) communication regarding specific questions and decisions. This change in mode of communication was expected to occur as the construction phase winds down.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Richard R. Gallagher, Chair of FCC Building Committee*



May 19, 2019: Standing in the narthex and showing the preparations for welcoming worshipers to the “Soft” opening at 3001 Grand Mere Parkway.

# FIRST SUNDAY PHOTOS



Sign at the entrance to the parking lot with the chalice and church name, recognition of the Childcare Center, and our address.



No Elevator!

Welcome to all who come through our doors. We are delighted to have you!

# FIRST SUNDAY PHOTOS



First Christian's historic windows enter the new sanctuary.



Gene Ernst stained glass windows on display at our first worship service.

# FIRST SUNDAY PHOTOS



Casey Guthels directing the Chancel Choir to make beautiful music.



Lukus Ebert has the full attention of the group during his Children's Message.

# NEW CHURCH PHOTOS



Bill McReynolds and David Woodmansee share fellowship time with the youth.

Having fun in one of the new Sunday School classrooms!



# ALL ABOUT US



“Superhero Academy” was the name of the 2018-2019 Barrier Free Theatre Company one act play with music and dance, all created through improvisation. Three performances of the production were held at Purple Masque Theatre at the end of April. Far right is our own Michael Masterson, who played the part of Mr. Freeze, a Superhero Professor. The play was a delight and the cast was outstanding!

Robert Russell explaining the difference between poison ivy and Virginia creeper to the Cub Scouts on their hike at Milford on Saturday, May 11th. The weather was beautiful!



# ALL ABOUT US

## CONGRATULATIONS, 2019 GRADUATES!

**Ashley VanGilder** earned a Master's Degree in Instructional Technology from Fort Hays State University. Ashley plans on using this degree to improve her teacher lessons and help her students be 21st century learners. She will also use her Master's to help other educators utilize technology in their classrooms. Her goal is to be a Google Certified Trainer.

**Elizabeth Russell** received a Master's Degree from Ball State University in Applied Behavior Analysis. Lizzy plans to work as a behavior specialist in a community developmental disabilities organization. Her emphasis is in working with clients with autism.

Graduating from high school with their class of 2019 are Richard and Linda Gallagher's grandchildren, **Gabriela M. Gutierrez** from Eden Prairie, MN and **Benjamin S. Gallagher** from Manhattan High School. Both Gabriela and Benjamin will be attending Kansas State University in this fall!

*Graduates, go with God to love and serve the world!*

**Free  
Money!**

Remember to buy HyVee Cards at church and also sign up for Dillons Plus Card program. Both of these grocery stores give back to the church a portion of what you spend on groceries.

Purchases from Dillons this last quarter provided First Christian with a check for \$118.67!

## BLESSED BIRTHDAY!

June 1	Betty Siemen
June 4	Vi Fogerson Carolyn White
June 5	Sharon Purvis
June 7	Elizabeth Jankord
June 8	Cheyenne Bryant JT VanGilder
June 10	Richard Gallagher
June 13	Connie Sink
June 14	Linda Gallagher
June 15	Linda Uthoff
June 17	Ben Duerfeldt
June 18	James Johnson
June 19	Matille Hodges Maycee Hodges
June 21	David Woodmansee
June 25	Laura Allen Skylar Myers

## FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY, JUNE 2

**BRING FOOD TO  
HELP OTHERS!**

**DONATE  
FOOD  
HERE**



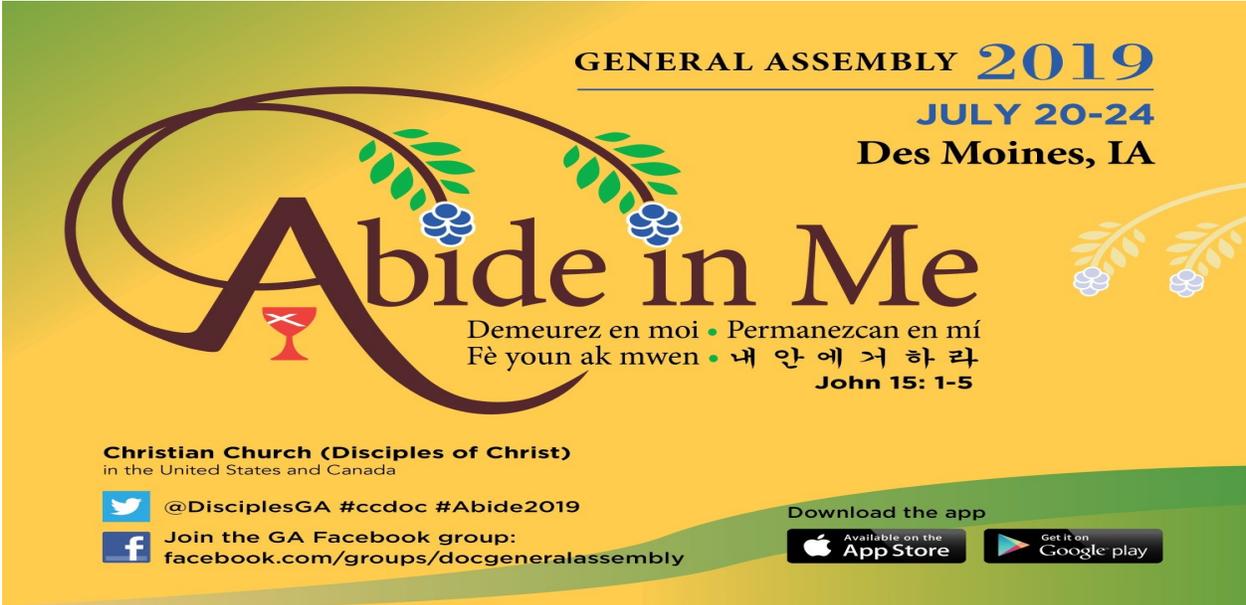
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(Disciples of Christ)  
3001 Grand Mere Parkway  
Manhattan, KS 66503

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Permit No. 575

First Christian Church, 3001 Grand Mere Parkway  
Senior Minister Ben Hitzfeld  
Christian Education Director: Ashley VanGilder  
Campus Minister: Rev. Christian Watkins, 904 Sunset  
Treasurer: Patty Duffy  
Financial Secretary: Lukus Ebert  
Church Secretary: Marian Fuller  
Custodian: Lori Teel

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**GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2019**  
**JULY 20-24**  
**Des Moines, IA**

**Abide in Me**  
Demeurez en moi • Permanezcan en mí  
Fè youn ak mwen • 내 안에 거하라  
John 15: 1-5

**Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
in the United States and Canada

 @DisciplesGA #ccdoc #Abide2019

 Join the GA Facebook group:  
facebook.com/groups/docgeneralassembly

Download the app

 Available on the App Store

 Get it on Google play