



**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Disciples of Christ

*Welcoming All. Encountering Christ. Celebrating Community.*

## JUNE 2021

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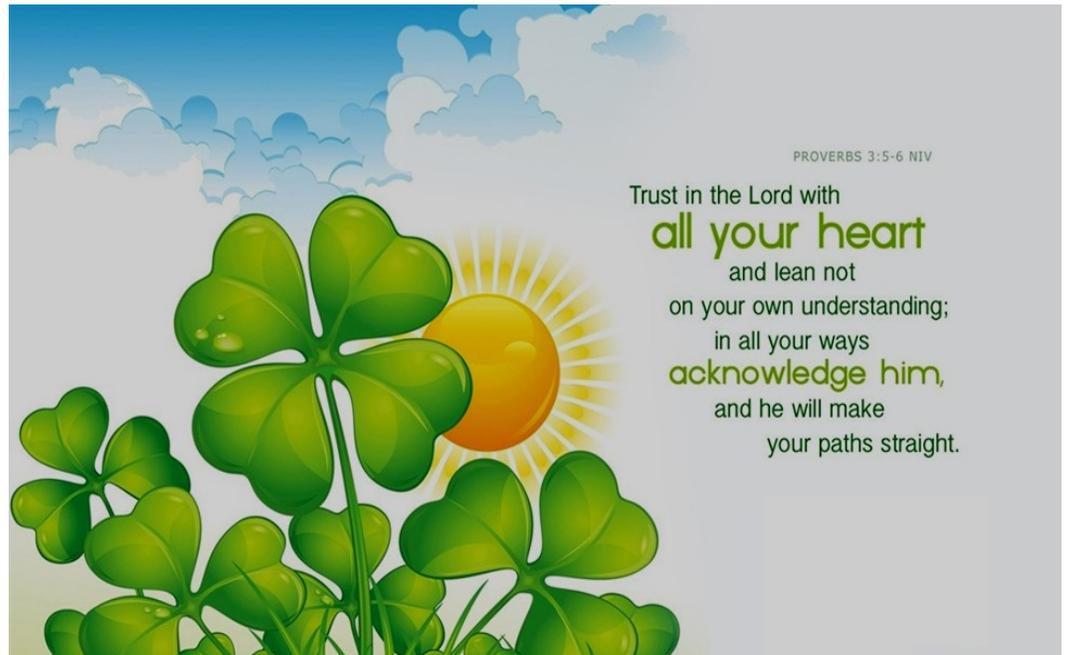
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### STATEMENT OF MISSION

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.



**Heavenly Father, we turn to you with grateful hearts  
for what we have, and with great anticipation  
for what is yet to be.**

**Bless us with a sense of unity, a spirit of cooperation,  
and a generous heart.**

**Our goals are rooted in your word and in your work.  
Please strengthen us to do our best.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**AMEN!**

# FROM BEN.....



A few years ago while living in Texas I begrudgingly went outside to mow the lawn. It was May, and it was hot and humid at 7pm - the “coolest” part of the day. I wondered to myself if we had it in our budget to hire a lawn company to come and mow the lawn so that I could, well...not mow the lawn myself. Towards the end of this mundane chore, I looked up and saw the flag that I had just set out for Memorial Day weekend. The simplicity of the sunlight showing through the flag (it kind of looked like a heart to me) caused me to turn off the mower. My pity party came to an end when I remembered that there are men and women who died in war that would have found it a great joy to come back and mow their lawn, or hug their spouse, and children, and do all of the things that I take for granted.

The importance of Memorial Day for Christians should not stop at feelings of patriotism or national pride. It is good to pause and grieve for the lives lost, but also for a world that seems to repeat the same mistakes over and over again. I will never forget talking to a veteran who had been deployed to multiple wars. When I thanked him for his service, he told me how much he hated war. I saw a sadness in his eyes when he told me about his friends who didn't make it back home.

We rightly observe Memorial Day when we commit ourselves to working for peace in a world that is bent on solving our differences through violence. We rightly observe Memorial Day when we remember that there are families who are grieving on the other side of the battle. We rightly observe Memorial Day when we are moved to live self-sacrificially for the good of our neighbors and our world. We rightly observe Memorial Day when we believe God's Kingdom does not come through force or coercion but through radical love.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me. Amen.

*Grace & Peace,  
Ben*

## CHURCH PLANNING RETREAT



Members of the Coordinating Council and the Ministry Teams have scheduled a planning retreat Friday evening, June 11 and Saturday morning, June 12. Discussions will focus on the search for a new minister, FCC programming following the COVID lapse, church finances and stewardship. Regional Minister Steve Martin will facilitate the minister search discussion Friday evening.

A light supper will be served Friday evening with coffee and pastries available Saturday morning. Elders, deacons and ministry team members are encouraged to participate, and all members of the congregation are invited to attend. Watch for additional details next week

# COORDINATING COUNCIL

Pastor Ben asked me to officially notify our FCC family that he is resigning and moving to a church in St. Joseph, Missouri. This unfortunate news has taken all of us by surprise. We understand that Pastor Ben felt he was not fully equipped to shepherd us through our financial and growth challenges. I also know that we believe he underestimates himself, and we will miss him greatly. However, his family feels that this move is the right thing for them, and we respect that they feel led explicitly to the ministry in St. Joseph. We will continue to support the Hitzfelds in prayer and friendship.

At the Coordinating Council meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup>, we discussed Pastor Ben's resignation. We are implementing plans for finding the next pastor of First Christian Church Manhattan. Past CC Chair Ruby Brower, myself, and Chair-Elect Debi Rogers met via conference call on Tuesday morning the 25<sup>th</sup> to compile a list of people we will ask to serve on the Search Committee. The Coordinating Council and Ministry Teams had already planned to have a retreat the evening of June 11<sup>th</sup> and the morning of June 12<sup>th</sup>, so we are adjusting part of our discussions to the process of finding the right candidate. Tentative plans are that on Friday evening, we will focus on the search process, and on Saturday we will be reviewing church financial information. We have a lovely new facility but still, have a construction loan to pay off. The pandemic has impacted the usual amount of offerings that we would receive during normal times.

As a congregation, we went through extensive questionnaires and focused groups to create a congregational profile in 2017 and 2018, so it will take far less time to update the information that we compiled in the last profile. We plan to find an Intentional Interim Minister to fill the pulpit after July 25<sup>th</sup>. We will be working hard to interview candidates for the permanent position as soon as possible. Although the goal is to fill this pastoral vacancy as quickly as possible, we will take the time to find the person God will lead to us. Waiting for the right candidate can sometimes take longer than anticipated, but we believe God will lead both them and us.

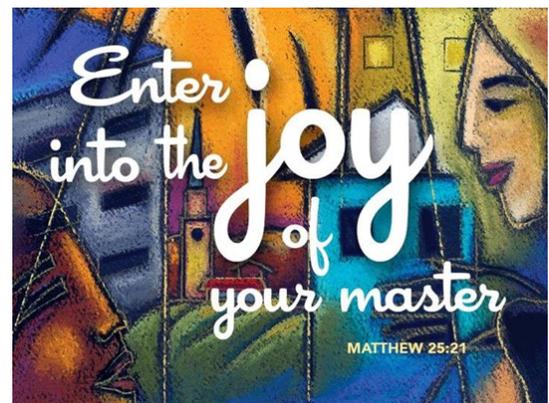
We will make an effort to keep everyone informed of the process through emails, newsletter articles, and contact through the Friendship Circle leaders. Stay tuned to see what blessings await us!

*Alice Trussell*  
*Chair, Coordinating Council*

## THOUGHTS ABOUT STEWARDSHIP

By definition, a steward is one who manages or looks after the possessions of another. We are called as God's stewards to manage that which God has bestowed to our care. While God has graciously entrusted us with the care, development, and enjoyment of everything he owns, as his stewards we are responsible to manage his assets well and according to his desires and purposes. We will be called to answer for our actions like the servants in the Parable of the Talents, Matthew 25:14-30. We should strive to hear what the master replies to the loyal servants in Matthew 25:21: *"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master's happiness!"*

*Eric King,*  
*Stewardship Ministry Team*



# YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY NEWS



The youth group met for lunch following worship on graduation recognition Sunday May 16th. We enjoyed good food and even better fellowship at Old Chicago. We look forward to getting together more this summer as more people are being vaccinated and restrictions are lifted.



My last Sunday with First Christian will be July 11th. I'll be giving the message that day and saying farewell as well. On July 18th I will be guest preacher at First Congregational United Church of Christ, and then on July 23rd, I will be moving to Wichita to start my hospital chaplaincy internship.

*My love to all, Lukus Ebert*



The Hooding Ceremony of Lukus Ebert as part of his participation in the 2021 virtual Commencement for Phillips Theological Seminary. Lukus earned his Masters of Theology.

*Oh, Lukus—how proud we are of you, and how grateful we are for your time at FCC!*

## Camp Attendees!

Primary – June 30-July 2

• Kylee T.



Discovery – July 1-2

• Reiley V.

CYF Omega – July 6-10

• Dakota O.

Chi Rho 2 – July 12-16

• Tristan T.

## Want to send mail to our campers?

Campers love to receive mail from friends and family back home. Letters need to be addressed in the following format to ensure timely delivery. There is no mail delivery on the last day of camp.



**\*\*Do not send food or candy as it is not permitted in the bunk rooms.\*\***

# DISCIPLES WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

What a joy it is for Disciples Women to be able to fellowship again! All of our groups plan to remain active with in-person events this summer. Deb Marfield is working on the new DWF yearbook containing current contact information. It will be available this fall.

**Do Day Quilters** are meeting monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. New participants are always welcome and so appreciated!

**Larson Group** will be meeting this summer on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Conference Room, at 2:00 p.m.

**Faith Sisters Group** will be eating out as a group the 2nd Thursday of each month this summer. On June 17, at 6:00 p.m. they will enjoy dinner at El Patron. You are welcome to join them, - please notify Marilyn Masterson (mastersonmarilyn@gmail.com) so that adequate seating may be reserved.



## SCOUT NEWS



Kylee Teel was the second place Pinewood Derby winner among all Konza District second grade Wolf Cub Scouts. The race was sponsored by the Midwest Dream Car Collection museum.

Way to go, Kylee!!!!



The bluebird boxes the Cub Scouts built and installed around our church parking lot have attracted a pair of bluebirds. They are making their home in the second box on the right as you enter the parking lot. Oh, that blue!! Watch for it!

# CHURCH NEWS

## CONGRATULATIONS!

More good graduation news: Maxwell Foster, grandson of Don and Ann Foster, and son of David & Vicki, recently graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Electrical Engineering.



JUNE 4 - JULY 3



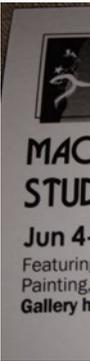
The art work of Doug & Verleta Myers has been selected for showing in the Manhattan Arts Center Community Studio Exhibit June 5 through July 3rd. Don't miss seeing the wonderful talent with which they have been blessed.

## THANK YOU!

Many thanks to Rick Allen who helps keep the Seth Child property tended. Here's a photo of some brush Rick is in the process of cutting down and removing. We are all very grateful to him.



Every Sunday the music of our Praise Team helps to lift our hearts to God. Pictured on Pentecost Sunday: L-R Jared Willard (guest musician), Lisa Berggren, Dean Armstead, Fred Burrack, Ken Garwick, Linda Uthoff, Robert Russell, and Michael Martin. Not pictured: Casey Guthals Hageman, and Steve Dyer. Take every opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to them for sharing their gifts with us!





# FROM CRADLES TO CRAYONS CHILDCARE

From Cradles to Crayons is moving into summer with excitement and changes. We have several new staff as well as several staff that have left throughout May. We were sad to lose Ms Amber and Ms Victoria in the Investigators preschool classroom but very excited to have Ms Mirayah and Ms Abria on board. Ms Carlee left our Infant room, but Ms Sarah and Ms Cantel are excited to start in that room. Ms Tracie's last day before her maternity leave was May 28th. She hopes to return in October.

The children are thriving and we have started a few new children and hope to add more soon. We will for sure have child preschool opening in August as one entire classroom transitions to kindergarten. If you know of anyone looking for care for a 3-5 year old starting mid August, please have them reach out to us.  
*Cassie Anderson, Director*



# ALL ABOUT US

## LOVE AND SYMPATHY

Our sympathy to Bill McReynolds and his family at the death of his mother on May 4th. She was 102 and lived at Kansas Christian Home in Newton.

*Father, grant peace to those we see no longer, and your comfort to those who mourn. Amen*



**TRUTH Youth Will Pick Up Food For  
Flint Hills Breadbasket  
Sunday Afternoon, June 13.  
For pick-up at your home**



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Alex and Brian Brazill on the birth of their baby boy on May 1. May Day Basket! He weighed 8 pounds 2 oz and his name is Devereax Quinn. We are SO happy for the Brazills, very active members of our congregation before moving to Wichita.



June 1	Betty Slemen
June 4	Carolyn White
June 7	Elizabeth Jankord Pam Russell
June 8	Cheyenne Bryant J.T. VanGilder
June 10	Richard Gallagher
June 13	Connie Sink
June 14	Linda Gallagher
June 15	Linda Uthoff
June 16	Grant Chapman
June 19	Matilee Hodges Maycee Hodges
June 17	Ben Duerfeldt
June 20	Archer Trego
June 21	David Woodmansee
June 25	Laura Allen



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**(785) 776-8790    fccmanhattan.org**

Senior Minister: Ben Hitzfeld  
Christian Education Director: Ashley VanGilder  
Ministry Intern, Youth Focus: Lukus Ebert  
From Cradles to Crayons Director: Cassie Anderson  
Church Secretary: Marian Fuller

Coordinating Council:

Chair: Alice Trussell  
Vice-Chair: Debi Rogers  
Secretary: Ruby Brower  
Financial Secretary: Lukus Ebert  
Treasurer:  
Trustee Chair: Elizabeth Jankord  
Elder Co-Chairs: Mickey Bogart  
Robert Russell

Deacon Chair: John Trussell

Ministry Team Chairs:

Discipleship: Linda Gallagher  
Fellowship:  
Local & Global Outreach: Cindy Garwick  
Property, Co-Chairs: Fred Landis  
John Trussell

Stewardship: Richard Gallagher  
Worship & Spiritual Life: Pam Russell

TRUTH Youth Sponsor:

Bill McReynolds

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