



# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Disciples of Christ

*Welcoming All. Encountering Christ. Celebrating Community.*

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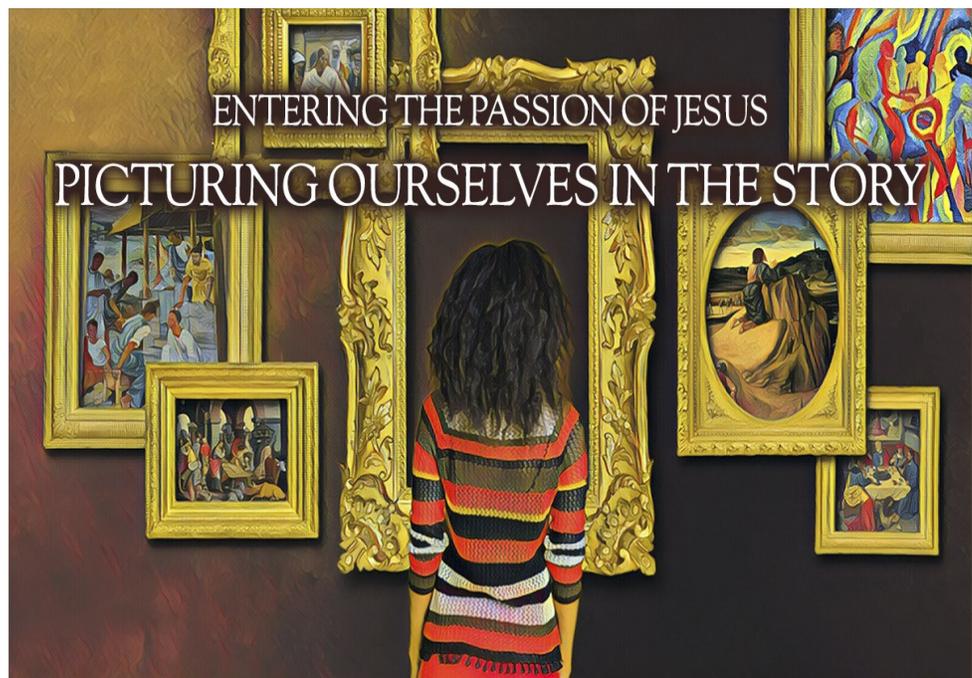
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## STATEMENT OF MISSION

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.

## March 2020



The events of Christ's Passion, which take place during the last week of Jesus' life, often don't receive enough time in our worship and study. These stories are important to our faith journey and our identity as followers of Jesus. And yet we often move **too quickly from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday with little time to take** in the dramatic story of that last week. Throughout the six weeks of Lent we will "freeze-frame" moments in Holy Week so we might put ourselves in the picture, thereby "Entering the Passion of Jesus." How might taking a closer look at the ancient story open us to deeper conviction for our role in its ongoing message?

# FROM BEN.....



During the season of Lent, there are a wide variety of spiritual practices and disciplines that people adhere to. There is no right or wrong way to observe Lent if you approach it with a sincere and humble heart. Some people choose to fast meals. Some choose to fast from a form of entertainment or particular time consuming activity. Fasting may seem like the predominant practice during this time of year, but I think it is a good idea to find wholesome additions to replace the items that are fasted. A friend of mine chose to write a daily blog (online journal entry) dealing with scripture and the ups and downs of life. I know people who have made weekly time commitments to local non-profits during Lent or to get

involved in their faith community in a new way. This is a good time to examine your prayer and devotional routine and if it needs a shake-up, there is no better time than the present to use the next 7 weeks to begin new life-giving habits.

We begin Lent on Ash Wednesday acknowledging our brokenness and receiving God's grace and mercy. The sign of the ash-cross on our foreheads tells a tale of beautiful beginnings as we are created in God's image. The shape of the cross reminds us that sin is toxic to us and our neighbors and that God came in human flesh to be the antidote to our soul-disease. Lent is a 40 day journey through the desert with Jesus, knowing that a cross awaits. Good Friday awaits as a verdict against humanity's pride, greed, anger, and violence. So may we rid ourselves of all darkness and ask the Holy Spirit to shine marvelous light into the deepest recesses of our soul. Let us pray with the Psalmist, "search us oh God, and know our hearts. Test us and know our anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in us, and lead us in the everlasting way (Psalm 139:23-24).

Grace & Peace Beloved,  
Ben <>



## Every Wednesday

**Morning Group**  
8:45-9:45am  
*Sparrow Specialty Coffee*  
1437 Anderson Ave.

**Evening Group**  
6:00-7:00pm  
*Bluestem Bistro*  
1219 Moro St.



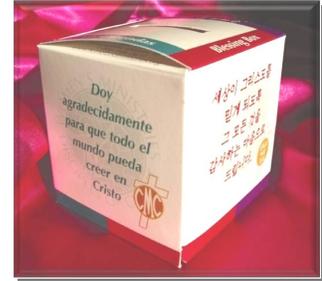
**Discussions on Life, Faith, and Current Events**

# DISCIPLES WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

## WHAT ARE BLESSING BOXES??

For 60 years, the women of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have had a special way to express their gratitude to God for the blessings they have received – the **Blessing Box**. It is a way of saying “*Thank you God, for your world and especially for people.*”

For those who participate, it is a spiritual discipline even more than a financial one. It helps keep a focus on gratitude to God and on the responsibility to share blessings with others. The amount put in is not nearly as important as the discipline of regularly remembering God’s goodness through the acts of dropping in coins and praying prayers of thanksgiving.



Blessing Box offerings will be collected at the March Faith Sisters and Larson Group meetings or may be given directly to Deb Marfield. The offerings will then be brought to be dedicated at Spirit Fest in April.

## FAITH SISTERS MEETING INFORMATION

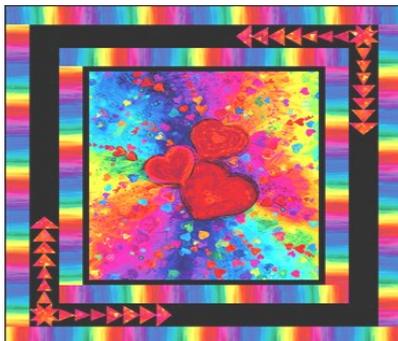
Faith Sisters will meet on March 12 at the home of Kathy Huntzinger. The April group meeting has been changed to April 16 since the regular meeting night is Maundy Thursday. Planning for the May Salad Supper will replace the lesson at the April meeting.

## GET YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE PUBLISHED!

Kansas Disciples Women are collecting recipes for the Disciples Women Cookbook that is scheduled for publication later this year. All net proceeds will benefit the construction of Jones Lodge at Camp Tawakoni. Although tagged a Disciples Women project, women, men and youth are encouraged to submit favorite recipes. Recipes are due by **May 20, 2020**. Please include your full name, a phone number, and FCC Manhattan (as your home church).



Recipes can be mailed to Carla Pearson, 1816 17th Ave., McPherson, KS 67460 or emailed to [carla.pearson58@gmail.com](mailto:carla.pearson58@gmail.com)



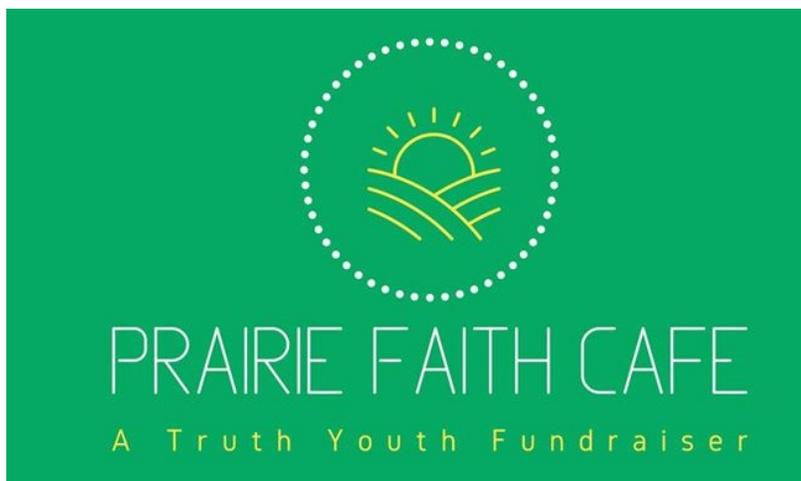
**Our Do Day Quilting** group meets on the second Wednesday every month, 9:00 a.m. They would like nothing better than for you to join them! It is a great group, newcomers don't need to know anything about quilting. There is something for everyone to do regardless of skill level!



## MARCH 29TH

Each year, the TRUTH Youth Group leads a worship service and they do it their own way. Those who attend this special Sunday always say it is one of the most meaningful services of the year. The youth choose the music, prepare their own prayers, offer communion and decide how they want to deliver the message, sometimes through a sermon, sometimes through a skit—but no matter what they decide, it is always a joy to be there!

On Saturday, March 28, to make final preparations and have rehearsal time, TRUTH group will have a lock-in with a pizza supper. They will be making all things ready for Sunday morning, plus have a wonderful time while doing so!



**Prairie Faith Café will be serving breakfast on Sunday, March 22nd 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.**

**Come one and all for delicious food, and warm fellowship. Support Our TRUTH Youth!**

# CHURCH NEWS

## COORDINATING COUNCIL

Last December the Trustees and a few members of the Coordinating Council met with Riley County Clerk Rich Vargo to see what could be worked out for the sale of the Courthouse Plaza building to the county. We have always hoped that the building could be preserved as a house of worship, but since Manhattan Presbyterian Church was not able to purchase the property as planned no serious buyers have stepped forward with an offer to purchase the facility. Because we are still paying for maintenance, utilities, and insurance for the vacant building, it is important for us to be able to sell the property sooner rather than later.

The Trustees have been authorized to proceed with the sale of the building to Riley County. A price of \$850,000.00 has been agreed upon between the church and the county. Tresa Landis is communicating with Riley County on the closing date and other specific points contained in the contract. Because the county desires to eventually use the land for expansion, the county has no interest in retaining anything from the building itself. The closing date of the sale will not take place until after there is an opportunity to have an auction of the contents of the church that are not of use to us here but may be useful to others. We plan to contact the families named on the plaques and stained glass windows to see if they are interested in having them. The next few weeks will be busy as we organize contents of the church for the upcoming sale.

*Alice Trussell, Coordinating Council Chair*

## TABLE FELLOWSHIP



Table Fellowship small groups of 6-10 people have formed and will be having their dinners the last weekends of March and April.

If you didn't sign up for a group but would like to participate, substitutes are still needed

If you have any questions or would like to sign-up, please contact our wonderful Table Fellowship organizer:

Marilyn Masterson ([greggmasterson@att.net](mailto:greggmasterson@att.net)),



**5TH SUNDAY  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING AND POTLUCK  
MARCH 29TH**



# DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

## SOUP SUPPER—TALENT SHOW

A great time was had by all who attended the February 23rd. Soup Supper/Talent Show! Proceeds from the event were \$1448.25 and donations are still welcome. All of this money goes to our Camp and Conference Scholarship Fund. The soups were all incredibly delicious, and the talent was totally heartwarming and enjoyable.

We are very happy for each and every winner of the theme baskets raffle. Be assured, each basket got wonderfully placed with the lucky winners.

Thanks to everyone for your support of this yearly fundraiser!



## VBS—SAVE THE DATES

We are beginning to plan for a July Vacation Bible School, July 13th - 17th. We will be needing teachers, leaders for music, games and crafts, and help with spreading the word to eligible participants ages Preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for this activity for our younger members.



**Our His Kids Class** enjoying their Sunday School hour. Many thanks to Pam Russell and Renate Woodmansee for their loving guidance!

Linda Gallagher, *Discipleship Ministry Team Chair*

# CHURCH CAMP

## 2020 Camp Schedule Announced!

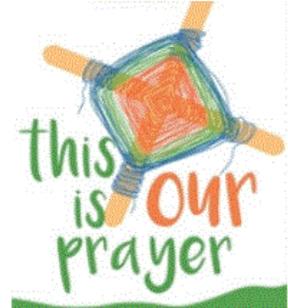
Early-bird deadline — April 30 — saves \$45!

Fee includes: Lodging & Meals, Program expense, Nurse;  
theme T-Shirt and Water bottle. Camp Fee includes  
\$10 for Camp Maintenance fund, and Canteen too!  
(Group Photo is on the Region's website!)

All Camps are scheduled at *Disciples Center at Tawakoni*, near Augusta, unless otherwise stated.

### Theme Stories include:

- Jesus calls disciples—*Luke 6:12-16*
- Esther and her people—*Esther 4*
- Jonah speaks to God—*Jonah 4*
- Solomon prays for wisdom—*I Kings 3:7-15*
- Jesus takes time for prayer—*Luke 5:12-16, Isaiah 40:1-5, 28-31*
- Sisters work for change—*Num. 27:1, 11*
- Paul's word of joy—*Philippians 1:3-11*



Event:	Date:	Grade Completed:	Max. Enroll:	Begin/End Time:	Fees:	After 4/30:
CYF Conf - Alpha	June 15-20 (Mon-Sat)	9-12	60	1:00 pm -10 am	\$305	\$350
CYF Conf - Omega	July 6-11 (Mon-Sat)	9-12	70	1:00 pm -10 am	\$305	\$350
Pre-High	June 15-20 (Mon-Sat)	8 Only	30	1:00 pm -10 am	\$305	\$350
Chi Rho 1	June 1-6 (Mon-Sat)	6-7	65	1:00 pm -10 am	\$305	\$350
Chi Rho 2	July 13-18 (Mon-Sat)	6-7	35	1:00 pm -10 am	\$305	\$350
Junior 1	June 2-6 (Tues—Sat)	4-5	55	1:00 pm -10 am	\$280	\$325
Junior 2	July 13-18 (Mon-Sat)	4-5	35	1:00 pm -10 am	\$305	\$350
Primary 1	May 26-28 (Tues-Thurs)	2-3	45	1:00 pm - 10 am	\$210	\$255
Primary 2	June 8-10 (Mon—Wed)	2-3	45	1:00 pm - 10 am	\$210	\$255
Discovery	May 27-28 (Wed-Thurs)	K-1	45	1:00 pm - 10 am	\$100	\$ 145

**See Ashley VanGilder for Registration forms.  
Forms are due to the church office by April 26th.**

# FROM CRADLES TO CRAYONS CHILDCARE

From Cradles to Crayons is growing! Our toddler and preschool rooms are now separated and we are quickly adding children. We currently have 8 infants, 8 toddlers and 5 preschools with additional children starting the next several weeks. We continue to get calls regarding care and doing tours. As more people know we are here, we get more referrals and calls.

Our infant room is adjusting to having mobile infants as 3 of the infants are now crawling, and pulling themselves up on anything available. We have 6 babies eating baby food so we are going through that much faster. The room has been rearranged several times with continued adjustments being made to accommodate the mobile as well as non-mobile infants.

We have hired a new full-time assistant for preschool and several part-time assistant teachers. Some have scheduled hours and some are substitutes working as needed to cover for staff time off and illnesses. It has been a busy time of getting to know our new children, adjusting to having 3 rooms open and hiring and training assistants, aides and subs.

Our toddler and preschool rooms celebrated Valentine's Day with a party for all the children and their families. The infant room had a pajama day and made Valentine's artwork.

Current Wishlist/needs:

- Parent's Choice Advantage Infant Formula (available at Wal-Mart)
- Toddler push and ride toys for playground
- Mobile Infant/Young toddler toys
- Size 5 diapers

A huge thank you to Pam Russell for making curtains for classroom doors and windows which comply with fire marshal regulations and for Sharon Purvis's hard work making our lunches everyday and doing our grocery shopping. Also thank you to everyone who has donated formula, plastic bags and other items. It is all greatly appreciated.

*Cassie Anderson, Director*



# SCOUTING AT FIRST CHRISTIAN



We were all so proud and grateful to recognize our Scout program at First Christian in worship on February 16th. God bless all these Scouts, their families, and their leaders.



City Commissioner Linda Morse was a guest speaker at a recent Cub Scout meeting. Our Scouts prepared questions and interviewed her about her duties as an elected official. She talked about "Leadership" and "Service to Others" - both very important qualities and values we strive to instill in our Scouts.

# ALL ABOUT US



Thank you for the wonderful gift of Little Apple Dollars I received from First Christian for Christmas! Your generosity is so very appreciated!  
*Sincerely, Lisa Berggren*

Thank you to the Youth who brought the loaf of Valentine bread. It was so delicious, and I appreciate the thoughtfulness very much.  
*Love, Jane Wassom*

## A REMINDER



We have a number of plants here at First Christian, some of which are wintering with us. There are many nurturers among us and that presents the danger of the plants dying due to overwatering.

Be assured—there are several people designated to water those plants so that the rest of us don't have to worry about it. Even if you think they need water—don't!

## OUR HEARTFELT SYMPATHY



We reach out in sympathy to Ruth Lackey and to Christi Sexton and her family, at the death of their son and brother, John Lackey.

Our sympathy to all the friends and family of Natalie Appl, who died on February 13th. Natalie was treasured in our church family and we loved her just as much as she loved us back.

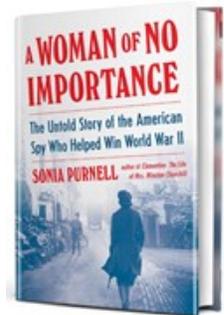
*Father, grant peace to those we love but see no longer, and your comfort to those who*

## BLESSED BIRTHDAY!

March 14	Bryan Schurle
March 27	Carol Duerfeldt
March 28	Sharon Douthit
March 29	Kathy Huntzinger

## BOOK STUDY

The Monday Morning Book Study group begins a discussion of "A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II." This is a NY Times bestseller about an extraordinarily brave woman by Sonia Purnell. Come at 10:30 a.m. March 3rd for the first session.



## FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY, MARCH 1

**Start the month off right—give to help others by filling our food donation box for the Flint Hills Breadbasket!**



# BE THE CHURCH!

FCC – Manhattan welcomes your gifts of time, talent, and expertise, and the New Year is an excellent time for you to do something kind by sharing with your church family. Prayerfully review the lengthy list of opportunities available at FCC-Manhattan, and phone Marian in the church office, and visit with her about how you would like to become involved.

Opportunities for study, fellowship, or volunteering include:

- Monday Book Study – 10:30 am, Fellowship Hall (beginning mid-January)
- Common Grounds Discussion Time with the Pastor – Wednesdays, 8:45—9:45 am at Sparrow Specialty Coffee and 6—7 pm at Aggieville Bluestem Bistro.
- Table Fellowship – Dinner for 8 (last weekend, February, March, and April)
  - ◇ Disciples Men’s and Women’s Fellowship groups:
  - ◇ Larson Group – 3rd Wednesday of the month, 2:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
  - ◇ Faith Sisters Group – 2nd Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm, in members’ homes
  - ◇ Do-Day Quilters – 2nd Wednesday of the month, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
  - ◇ Disciples Men Fellowship – 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 am, breakfast at Vista
- Music
  - ◇ Sing in the choir – practice Sunday, 8:15 am
  - ◇ Play in the Praise Band – practice Sunday, 9:30 am
- Sunday School classes for all ages – weekly at 9:30 am
- Attend a Coordinating Council meeting – meets monthly 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 5:45 pm
- Join a Ministry Team
  - ◇ Discipleship – centers on the planning and implementation of Christian Education for the church.
  - ◇ Fellowship – focuses on the “Reaching In” activities of the Church to build relationships within the congregation.
  - ◇ Local and Global Outreach – oversees outreach actions as well as the implementation of Evangelism activities of the Church.
  - ◇ Stewardship – responsible for exploring, initiating, and implementing all dimensions of stewardship with a focus on issues related to finances, property, and budget.
  - ◇ Worship & Spiritual Life – plans corporate worship services, promotes individual devotional life, oversees the music staff, and coordinates lay personnel for worship services.

Additional volunteer opportunities to serve the Church include:

- Greeter and/or usher for worship services
- Worship Leader – read scripture for worship services
- Give a Children’s Message in worship
- Assemble newsletter – last Wednesday of the month
- Teach a Sunday School class or offer to be a substitute
- Assist with Vacation Bible School – Mid July
- Sunday morning donut pick-up
- Make sweet bread/friendship bread to share with visitors
- Prepare food or treats for a youth event/meeting
- Help with Church work/cleaning day
- Write notes to youth attending summer church camp



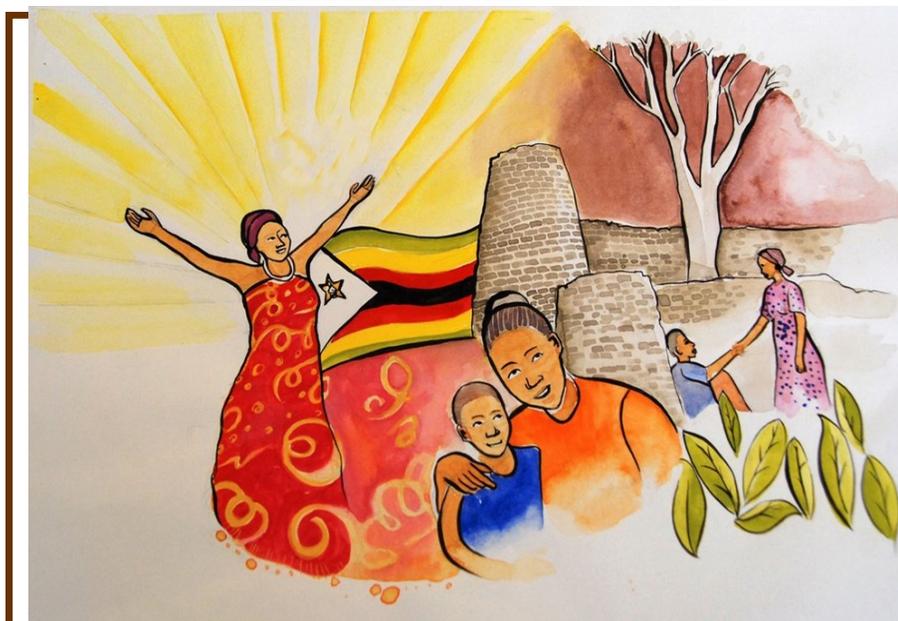
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(Disciples of Christ)  
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Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
Permit No. 575

First Christian Church  
Senior Pastor: Ben Hitzfeld  
Ministry Intern: Lukus Ebert  
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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**World Day of Prayer  
March 8, 2020**

Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk

This year we learn about Zimbabwe's history and culture, their communities, and their concerns. We are invited to follow prayer about how we can help, and then with action. WDP motto is "Informed prayer leads to prayerful action."

Act in Love for Peace