



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Disciples of Christ

Welcoming All. Encountering Christ. Celebrating Community.

OCTOBER 2019

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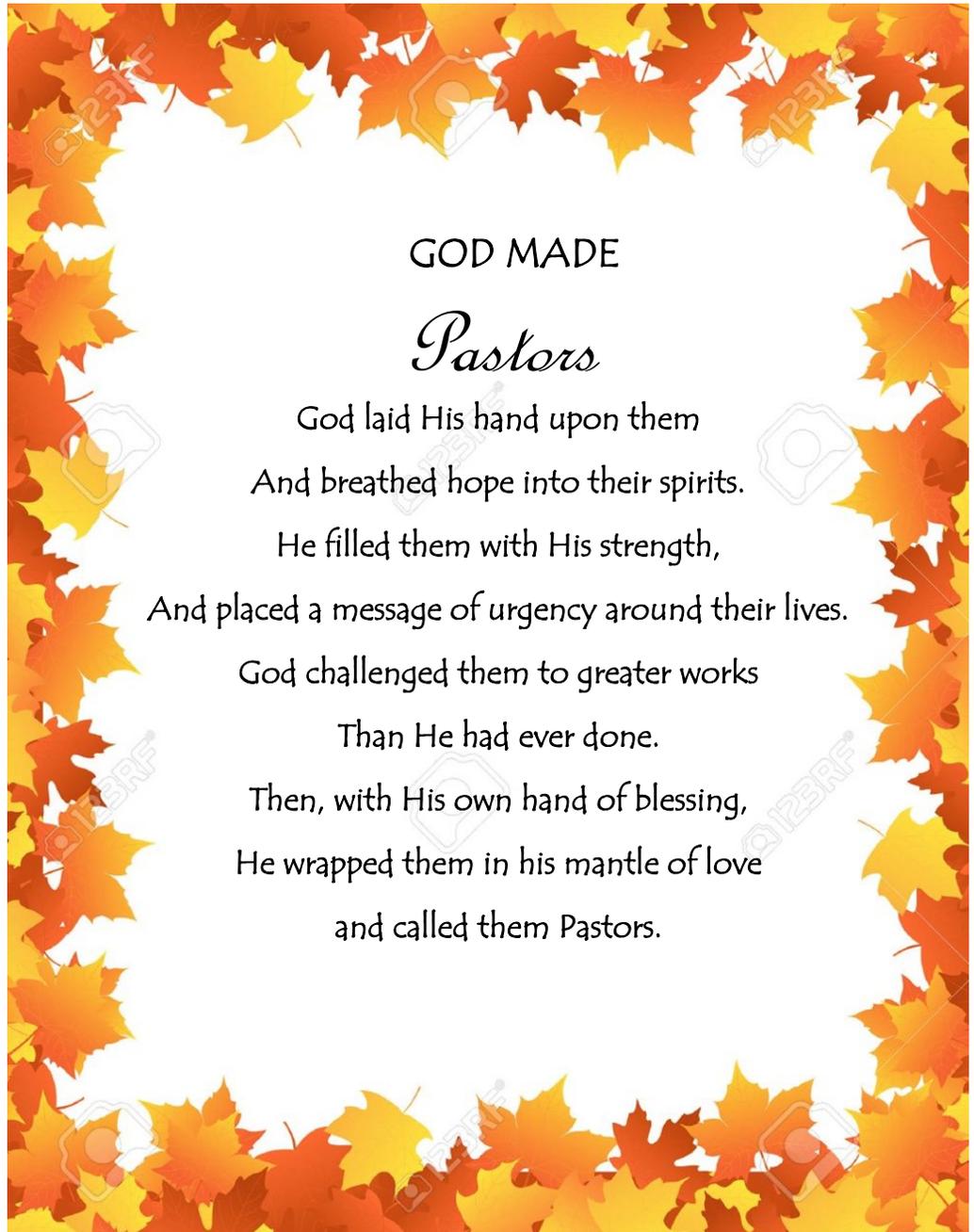
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STATEMENT OF MISSION

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.



GOD MADE

Pastors

God laid His hand upon them
And breathed hope into their spirits.

He filled them with His strength,
And placed a message of urgency around their lives.

God challenged them to greater works
Than He had ever done.

Then, with His own hand of blessing,
He wrapped them in his mantle of love
and called them Pastors.

FROM BEN.....



Our purpose is to love as Jesus loved, with reckless abandon (without limits).

Thanks to our TRUTH Youth this stone is appropriately embedded in the landscaping by the entrance to our building. This phrase was born out of the Hope Partnership committee that helped to imagine what the future of FCC would be in our new facility. This may sound too



idealistic for some and for others it may be threatening because they are uncomfortable with the verbiage. Modern Christianity has lived off a message of love with limits. We are conditioned to believe in grace with boundaries, which I would argue is something other than amazing grace. For grace to truly be amazing it must be beyond what humans can comprehend. If grace is a divine gift, it ought to stretch our finite understanding and practice of giving and receiving. But far too often, the grace that we extend to ourselves and others seems to be modeled in our image rather than in the image of God.

Controlled grace is much less messy. A black and white view of the world and people is less complicated than acknowledging the existence of gray. Perhaps this is why many faith communities hold on tight-fisted to a dualistic theology of us vs. them, insiders vs. outsiders, Christians vs. everyone else. Jesus' ministry erased the lines that religion worked so hard to construct and he was crucified for it. When we model our ministry after Jesus, we too will draw the ire of religious zealots who are not ready to give up the keys to the kingdom. For most of my life, I was told to beware persecution from non-Christians, but the irony is that when I align my life and actions more closely with Jesus, the opposition comes from modern day religious Pharisees.

As a Christian Church, we will draw the circle wider. We will add more chairs to the Table as we unashamedly welcome all as God has welcomed us.

Oh Love of God
How rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
The saints' and angels' song!
(The Love of God, Frederick M. Lehman)

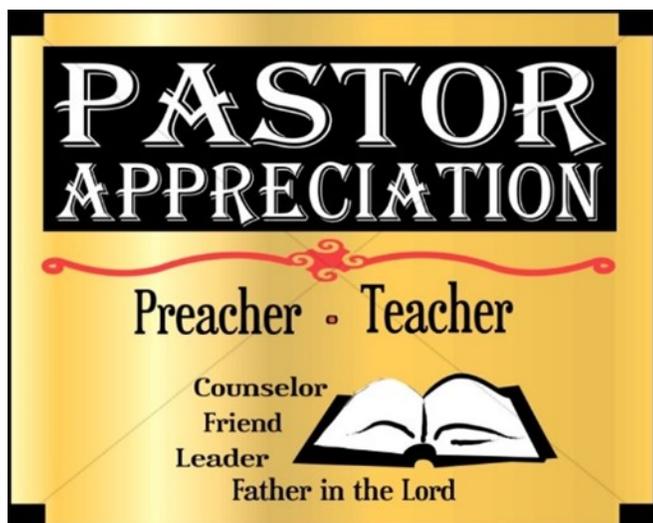
Grace & Peace, *Ben*



NAME TAGS

Very soon, we will be asking everyone attending Sunday morning worship to wear a name tag to help us familiarize ourselves with each other's names.

MINISTERIAL APPRECIATION



October is Ministerial Appreciation Month and church goers are encouraged to give thanks for their pastors and ministerial leaders. We at First Christian Church are blessed to have these ministers in our church family: Ben Hitzfeld, senior pastor; Lukus Ebert, pastoral intern; David Jones, ordained minister, Ben Duerfeldt, emeritus minister, and Ashely VanGilder, Director of Christian Education. **Sunday, October 13**, FCC will pay special recognition to our ministers during worship service; however, during this month commit to inspiring our pastors in some special way, words of encouragement, a note, a card, a text, or a small gift of appreciation, as well as a daily prayer of thanksgiving for their service.

Our Pastor

Have you ever walked in our Pastor's shoes,
And gone where his feet have trod?
Have you ever thought of what he means to us,
And on your knees, given thanks to God?

Have you ever told him thank you,
For being there, when times are tough,
For comforting words and fervent prayers
When trials come and the storms of life are rough?

He answers our calls in the middle of the night
And tells us not to worry, for he will be there.
He gives up his comfort of quiet rest
And comes with prayers of comfort to share.

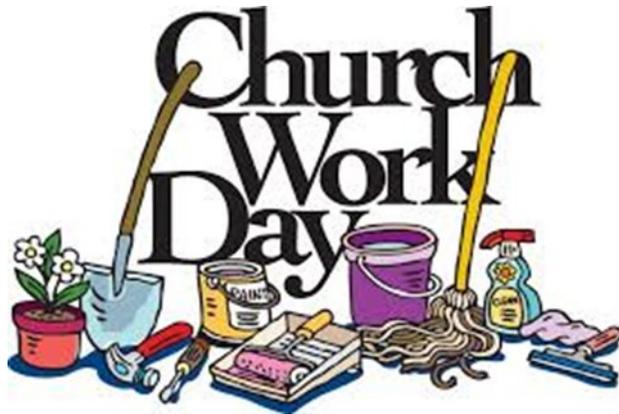
Have you ever thought to say thank you Pastor,
For preaching God's word to help us understand,
For all the times he has asked for things
That will lend us a helping hand?

When you pray, put him at the top of the list
And ask the Lord to surround him with loving care,
To give him strength and walk with him,
To help him with the burdens that he must bear.

Have you ever walked in our Pastor's shoes,
And gone where his feet have trod?
Have you ever thought of what he means to us,
And on your knees, given thanks to God?

- by Judy Crowe

CHURCH NEWS



Come One – Come All!
Saturday, October 12th 9 am

After several months in our new building, it is time to perform some **“Routine Maintenance”** including cleaning, changing the air filters, etc. Steve Jankord, Stewardship Chair, will have a list of items needing attention. Come early (8:30 am) to enjoy coffee fellowship with sweet treats; work begins at 9am.

“Many hands make light work!”



Food—Family—Fun

Friday, October 25, 2019 5:30 pm
FCC Fellowship Hall

Bring your board games and
come join us!



Join your FCC family for a **FANGTASTIC** time on Halloween night from 5-7pm for our first ever **“Trunk or Treat!”** Adults are invited to decorate the trunks of their cars, load them with trickets and treats and then come find a spot in the church parking lot to provide an opportunity for the children to have a good time grabbing lots of goodies in a safe environment. Tell your friends and neighbors, and bring your kids and grandkids for a fun evening. We would love to see lots of little ghosts, goblins, monsters, superheroes, royalty, and everything in between!

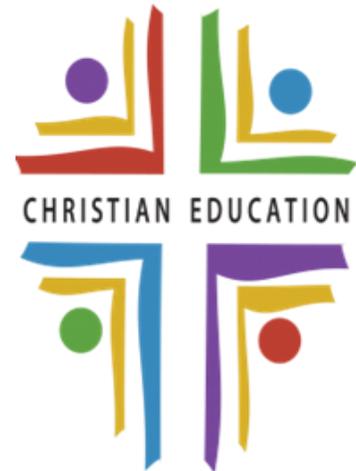
CHURCH NEWS

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAM

The Discipleship Ministry Team has been busy supporting the education ministry of FCC. Many church members have been involved in providing VBS for our younger children, preparing for Church School classes this fall, and supporting the camp experiences of our young people. Members of the youth group and the DMT distributed door hangers publicizing the Church Open Houses and ribbon cutting ceremony to households in the Grand Mere Neighborhood.

Significant time has been spent setting up classrooms and the playground for our preschool/childcare program. Thanks to all team members and others who have worked so faithfully.

Recent activities of our church school teachers, Ashley, and our Youth Leaders have encompassed Youth program planning. DMT members, youth sponsors, youth, and their parents enjoyed lunch and discussed the TRUTH group activities for the coming year including: a lock-in, routine meeting times, and the Kansas Disciples Youth Conference in Hutchinson next month. Fund raising possibilities mentioned were all church breakfasts, theme lunches following worship, "Junk in the Trunk," car wash, and leaf raking/yard work. Participation in the community CROP Walk is planned and the need for a meeting place for older youth was discussed.



Team members: Alicia Chaline, Ashley VanGilder, Bill McReynolds, Dave Woodmansee, Elaine Hwang, Kara Chapman, Ken Stith, Kay Stith, Linda Uthoff, Lukus Ebert, Pam Russell, Renate Woodmansee, Richard Gallagher, and Ruby Brower

Linda Gallagher, Chair



Infants and staff enjoying our newly opened Cradles to Crayons Childcare

CHURCH NEWS

CROP WALK

Fall is here and we may be done with the heat. (I hope!) I want to let you know that it is CROP Walk time again. It will be October 6 at Presbyterian Church, 801 Leavenworth St. Sign in is at 1:00 and the walk begins at 2:00. Remember that 25% of the money collected stays in our community and will be shared with Flint Hills Breadbasket, Ogden Friendship House and the Manhattan Community Gardens Program.

Liz Krieger, Chair, Local and Global Outreach Ministry Team



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE JAMAICA MISSION TRIP!



Thanks to everyone who helped make the Jamaica Mission Sunday a success! I will be traveling to Falmouth, Jamaica from October 27-November 7 with Dr. Dean Thomson and a team of 26, including Neil Engle! Please keep us in your prayers as we travel to provide assistance to our Jamaican brothers and sisters who need our help. We are all one in Faith...thanks be to God!

Linda Jones

The FCC Coordinating Council meets monthly to transact the business of our church. The meeting dates are posted on the church calendar and are open to all members who would like to attend. Copies of the minutes and ministry team reports are available in the church office, or can be sent to interested members. Please email rkb0620@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.



FROM CRADLES TO CRAYONS CHILDCARE

From Cradles to Crayons infant room opened on Monday, September 16th. We have 2 infants full-time with 3 others visiting and doing part-time over the next couple weeks until starting full time September 30th. Program staff started the first part of the month and we have had a couple of productive weeks of training, orientation and classroom prep.

We are currently accepting applications for infants through preschool age and hope to have the other classrooms opening soon. Thank you to everyone involved for their help in getting the childcare center up and running.

We are currently looking for some old comforters or quilts that we can use for infant outdoor play, baby blankets and infant and toddler clothes for classroom extras. If anyone has any that they are no longer using, donations can be dropped off at the church office.

Please welcome our childcare staff if you see them throughout the week.

Hello! My name is Maci Miller and I am the Lead Teacher in the Infant Room. I have been working in childcare for the last six years and currently hold a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology from Fort Hays State University and also a Child Development Associate (CDA) with an emphasis in Infant and Toddler. I am from Lindsborg, Kansas, but have lived in Manhattan for the last few years. When I'm not in the classroom I enjoy traveling, collecting antique cameras, and spending time with my two cats, Mocha and Brewer. I am so excited to be a part of this growing community and can't wait to see how the future unfolds for both FCC and our school.



Hello! My name is Anna Isern. I am currently a full-time assistant in the infant room! I graduated in May 2019 from KSU with a bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Science with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education. During college I worked at Hoeflin Stone House Early Learning Center for over a year and a half, spending 8 months with preschoolers and 11 months with infants. Working with kiddos is my passion and I am so excited to be a part of the FCC family! In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my husband whom I just married this May, going to K-State football games, reading, hanging out with friends, and going home to see my family. I can't wait to get to know everyone!

Hi! My name is Sara Zachgo, I am a full time assistant teacher in the infant room. I have been working with children for 13 years. My experience ranges from infants to school age. I have 3 wonderful children of my own, 1 son and 2 daughters! In my spare time I, of course, like to spend time with my children, shopping, zoos, and just relaxing with some coffee and a good book! I look forward to getting to know your children!



BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

This may be old news but it is worth noting that approximately 17 months after Groundbreaking we celebrated with a meaningful worship service in our new sanctuary, followed with a ribbon cutting ceremony in front of the narthex entrance to the church on August 18, 2019. It was so satisfying to stand at the ribbon cutting ceremony and view the seven acre site that was once a bowl shaped prairie and now consists of a landscaped parking lot and church grounds surrounding a beautiful church campus. Basically, the exterior and interior areas of the church from the Education/Childcare wing to Fellowship Hall and surrounding grounds look fantastic. We continue to find “homes” for furnishings, pictures, plaques, and sentimental pieces. And First Christian Church has definitely made the journey to 3001 Grand Mere Parkway.

The official opening of the Childcare unit “From Cradles to Crayons” occurred on September 16th with the registration of a couple of infants. The rooms are ready and populated with really neat tables, chairs, and an assortment of toys. A storage unit with an additional concrete pad is positioned outside the playground on the north end of the Education wing. It provides easy access for the staff where supplies, toys, and playground equipment can be stored. The concrete pad meets code specifications and connects with the sidewalk on the east side of the Education wing. Two or three trees or shrubs will be planted at the northeast corner of the Education wing to help camouflage the storage unit.

As we move into the fall season we will be working with Blueville and making decisions on replacing (fall or next spring) various trees and shrubs that have not survived and evaluating the care of the other areas that have been seeded with Buffalo seed and the Grand Mere mix.

The recent storms (wind and rain) have challenged the details of overall construction as related to leaks and roof drainage issues. The entire roof of the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall is being investigated for possible areas that require additional sealing to eliminate water drips and stained ceiling tile. The Building Committee is committed to working with our construction firm and roofing subcontractor to fix these areas that cause the leaks prior to winter weather.

We are also working with our construction firm in addressing numerous other “punch list” items. These include replacing and cleaning all filters on the roof-top units, repainting interior walls in certain areas, repairing walls where there are pop out screws, sealing windows and doors and concrete cuts, and adjusting door closures. Most of these “punch list” items will go unnoticed by the casual visitor and are to be expected in new buildings. But we are trying to be diligent in providing the best possible physical environment and worship/fellowship experience for our church family and the community.

Certainly, the Building Committee welcomes all comments and suggestions. And if you are on site and see someone from FCC or our construction firm working on a problem please extend a “Thank-you.” This project has been a team effort from the beginning.

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



Pam Russell is cutting out Bluebird house parts for our Cub Scouts to assemble. FCC will definitely attract Bluebirds next year! Cubs plan to install four wooden posts with houses around the back side of the circular parking lot retaining wall. Bluebirds are among the most beautiful birds ever!

(Note: not to be confused with Blue Jays, also pretty, but not in the Bluebird way.)



GOOD DEEDS!

USD 383 FIT CLOSET CONEX STORAGE FUNDRAISER

The TRUTH Youth Group is currently raising money through the "Change for Change" fundraiser and is in the process of contacting other youth groups around Manhattan to seek their help in raising money for the purchase of a Conex storage container for the USD 383 FIT Closet. The goal is to raise approximately \$2,500 to purchase a storage unit. The unit will be placed on USD 383 property and will be used to store furniture donated to the FIT Closet. This will allow them to accept donations they might otherwise have had to turn down. Accepting more furniture will enable the FIT Closet to better serve students and families who may be temporarily displaced and in need of furniture.

David Woodmansee, Youth Leader



Steve Jankord empties the change jar from his home into the youth collection container!



This display, looking very much like part of a scrabble game, only much larger, is a gift from Ruth Lackey and her daughter and son-in-law, Christi and Dave Sexton. Ruth is a former member, now living in Huntsville, Alabama. Christi is associated with a gift shop there, and she commissioned one of the artists the shop works with to do this for us at First Christian. Ruth, we're going to always miss you! Many thanks to you and your family for making yourself present now in our narthex, each and every Sunday.

TRUTH YOUTH GROUP



YOUTH LOCK-IN

Friday October 4, 7:00 p.m. to Saturday, October 5, 10:00 a.m.
For Youth 6th through 12th grades.

CROP WALK, OCTOBER 6TH Youth Lunch at Noon, Followed by CROP

The TRUTH Youth Group is making a \$100 donation to the CROP Hunger Walk Fundraiser this year, and will be participating in the local walk for awareness on October 6th. If anyone wants to add to the youth group's donation, please pass your donation on to a group member/leader by noon on October 6th.



FUNDRAISING PROJECTS

The funds raised through these activities will help pay for planned youth events and activities such as the trip to Hutchinson for KDYC in November and a Colorado ski trip in December.

“TASTE OF GERMANY” LUNCH FOR CONGREGATION—OCTOBER 27



Renate Woodmansee and Alicia Chaline will be preparing a meal that will include several samplings of mouth-watering German dishes and sides. All are welcome to attend. The TRUTH Youth Group will be assisting Renate and Alicia with preparations, serving, and cleanup for the meal, and will be accepting donations (consider an amount equal to what your family would pay for a nice meal at a restaurant - including tip). So come show your support and enjoy some great fellowship and great food!



The TRUTH Youth Group would like to **rake leaves** this fall. If you would like help with your leaves, please contact the church office to get on our list and to let us when you'd like to have it done.

Now an annual tradition for the TRUTH Youth Group, we will be **helping Bill McReynolds** build a wood pile sometime during the month of October. This is a fun event, and Mac always treats the group to lunch and makes a contribution to the youth fund in exchange for the help. Thank you, Mac!

Thank you for supporting us in so many different ways—watch for additional fundraising events! *TRUTH Youth Group*

ALL ABOUT US



Good Hands

I can thank you, Lord, for your good hands which I have strived to hang on to for most of my life. I definitely know that I am in your good hands. The last 48 hours have been the worst in my life and I never realized you were holding me safe in your loving hands. You brought peace to several doctors each in their own ideas and brought them together to save a solitary life that was in danger of not continuing. That solitary life now has energy to do what she was meant to do. I'll have to take it at a slower pace to get what you want me to do, but I promise to do my best to fulfill your requirements in my new heart health. Thank you for my new heart. I will use it wisely. For I know I am still in God's hands.
Blessings, Verleta Myers

Thank you for the lovely pink carnations you sent to me while I was in the hospital. It arrived while pastor Ben was visiting me.

Love to my church family, Jane Wassom

Congratulations!



Casey and Drew Jankord are new parents to Madeline Judith, born on September 9th. She is 6 lb 6 oz, and 20.5 inches long. Grandparents are Steve & Elizabeth Jankord, and Dudley and Judy McCaw of Sunrise Beach, MO.



October 5	Frank Hwang
October 8	Sierra Flowers Thomas Milligan
October 9	Harlie Berggren
October 11	Justin Brower
October 14	Meredith Uthoff
October 15	Howard Kidd
October 16	Victoria Wright
October 18	Clara Myers Doug Myers Joan Thomson
October 20	Don Foster
October 22	Daniel Milligan
October 26	Ruth Dyer

NEXT FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 6



If you still have keys to 115 Courthouse Plaza but won't be needing to get into that building anymore, please turn in those keys to the church office.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
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Non-Profit Organization
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Permit No. 575

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Senior Pastor 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

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CROP WALK

OCTOBER 6

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

1:00 Sign in

2:00 Walk

