

THE CHRISTIAN ECHO

December

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Goodland, Kansas

2021




Colossians 3: 23-24 Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you are serving the Lord Christ.

On Facebook, I recently shared a quote from Martin Luther: *Every occupation has its own honor before God. Ordinary work is a divine vocation or calling. In our daily work, no matter how important or mundane, we serve God by serving the neighbor and we also participate in God's on-going providence for the human race.*

This quote makes me think of that well-oiled machine that is often referred to. When every part does its job, it runs smoothly. The work that each part has is vital to making the whole machine able to do what it is designed to do. But, we all know what happens when a gear gets out of sync or a bolt is loosened and falls out. That part can render the whole machine useless or at the very least, compromised in its ability.



 In a similar way, we see in 1 Corinthians 12 the design of the church body as it is compared to what we know of our physical bodies. All working together for the good of the whole. The person, or body part, that is given a meager task is as needed as one who is chosen to lead. In my experience, sometimes someone's presence is just as important as anything they say or do!

Hmmm, ...*we participate in God's on-going providence for the human race.* Often we think about God's on-going providence in a personal sense, but back up and widen that view a bit to include the whole of the human race. We could learn much from nature, observing a colony of bees or ants. Each one doing their part, but not making comparisons, not sitting around wishing they could be something they aren't designed for. God has the plan and we are privileged to get to participate in it!

So, this is all well and good, but what does all of this have to do with the Advent/Christmas season? We are celebrating God's plan for humanity's redemption and looking with longing eyes for Christ's second coming—God's on-going providence for the human race. But how is it that we can participate? There is a reason each of us has been put here, in this place and in this time, to do and be what & who we are supposed to do and be. The gifts we are given & our divine calling, no matter how big or small we *perceive* them to be, is important to the whole.

Jesus—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace—but a divine appointment to come to earth as a baby? A tall order with such a meager beginning. Who would have thought!? Thanks be to God!!

Blessings as we journey together,

Debbie Griffith



FOR YOUR INFORMATION!

Extended Prayerful Considerations:

Please include in your ongoing prayers the following:

George Adelgren	Jason Biernacki
Roger Collins	Galen Cooper
Vetha Cormier	Alice Jackson
Charley & Janet (Chatfield) Johnson	
Lonnie Kerr	Sharon Mann
Marie Marsh	Catherine Parisi
Mike Stamm	Bernie Taylor
Emma VanVleet	

Wheat Ridge (main building)

Etta Mae Keirns

Please pray for our Active Military:

Tyson Reed, Chris Elliott, Nathan Craig, D J Glassman



12/3	Henry Jolly-Sisson
12/5	Abby Jolly Hutson Joseph Von Lintel Thatcher Jones
12/6	Tori Jones
12/8	Amy Griffith Fenner
12/12	Jeff Vignery Tharon Barber
12/14	Debbie Martin
12/15	Trent Coon
12/16	Jesse Cooper Kevin Kibel
12/17	Sam Rethmann
12/18	Cindy Bowman Tony Martin
12/20	Conner Keith Hayden Blochlinger Haile Blochlinger
12/21	Erin Snider Biernacki
12/23	Nicole Smith Ploeger
12/26	Reese Hillmer Isabella Duncan
12/27	Kim Cole
12/30	Joy Hayden

GENERAL FUND GIVING

Date	Amt Needed	Offering	Over/Short	In-Person
11/7	\$1994.75	\$1619.00	-\$375.75	32
11/14	\$1994.75	\$2280.00	+\$285.25	34
11/21	\$1994.75	\$925.00	-\$1069.75	29
11/28	\$1994.75	\$850.00	-\$1144.75	31

The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our region:



- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

Please give generously so the work of the church at large may also continue to impact the world—near and far!!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

12/5	Lon & Carolyn Kerr
12/14	Gil & Bernie Taylor
12/22	Chriss & Amanda Ross
12/23	Jon & Jennifer Goin
12/28	Doug & Belinda Amend
12/30	Lynn & Dee Ann Ihrig

NEEDS FOR THE CHURCH:



39gal trashbags

A big THANK YOU to those who are so generously giving in this way!!

Thank You...

...to the FNB Bank for the recent gift of \$154 to the Nifty Needlers. This will be helpful in continuing our projects for others. We are so grateful to you for the support of our church and our community!

Nifty Needlers

...to the Nifty Needlers for your donation of the Baby Bundle to the Camp Tawakoni Annual Gala and Auction. We appreciate your support in helping make the event successful. The proceeds from the 2021 Gala will help to construct a new fence and security gate for the camp entrance. Christian Church in Kansas

Editors note: The CWF & Nifty Needlers were in joint effort of this project—thanks to both groups!!

...Many thanks for your kinds words and prayer support in the time of my surgeries and in the loss of my sister. You all are the best!!

Debbie Griffith

USDA Commodities Distribution

The commodities distributions will be on a monthly basis for the time being. The next distribution will be:

Monday, Dec. 27 @ 1:30-2:30pm



If you have time and would like to help, please let **Tracy Hillmer** know. Our Lord asked us to feed the hungry, and so we shall!!

CWF EVENTS



The next meeting will be on the 3rd Wed this month, which is Dec. 15th at 2pm. Connie Grieve will be giving the devotions and Lois Cossman providing refreshments.



Such a meaningful service that you will NOT want to miss! Rev. Carol Edling Jolly will be imparting words of wisdom to us in this special service. May all be blessed as we experience Emmanuel, God with us, in word, fellowship, song and candlelight.

This service will begin at 5:00pm on Friday, Dec. 24th and is sure to enhance the meaning of your Christmas celebration!!

No idle hands here!

Debbie Martin has been a good steward of the front planter boxes all summer and now has dressed them for winter. (right)



!!Thank you, ladies!!



Joni Guyer is so talented with her splashes of color around the church. Such warm welcoming creations.

Snippets from the Nov. Board Meeting

- ◆ The Elders had a special prayer & communion service in their meeting, praying for our church and asking for guidance in God's will for the church.
- ◆ Property Committee—the computer that we use for streaming the worship service will be getting serviced soon in hopes that it doesn't need replaced. There are 5 lighted exit signs that need replacing so they can be upgraded to LED and battery backup. Playground repairs and upgrades continue.
- ◆ A new brand/style of disposable communion cups have been found and are better quality. They are slightly higher but will give them a try soon to see what the congregation thinks.
- ◆ Outreach & Mission Committee—37 households we serviced with the distribution in Oct.
- ◆ Worship and Music Committee reports that pulpit supply is covered through the end of the year. Rev. Carol Jolly will be doing the Christmas Eve Service.
- ◆ The budget proposal was presented to the board by the Stewardship Committee for review and approval. It will go to the congregation on Dec. 6th for final approval.
- ◆ Nifty Needlers sent a thank you and monetary donation for the church's help and use of space for their endeavors.
- ◆ The board voted on a monetary gift for Debbie Griffith in appreciation of the added duties and time spent while we have been without a minister.
- ◆ It was requested that a listing of the people who are on the various committees and board be listed in the newsletter so everyone knows who to contact if they have a need to. (Sec. note: this will be incorporated in the Jan. newsletter)



WHO AM I?

Last month's "Who am I?" was **Ron Vignery**.
This month can you guess who our congregational family member is?



1. What is your favorite Christmas Tradition? Listening to Christmas music
2. Do you have a favorite gift that you have received? Spending time with my extended family
3. Do you have a special gift request for this year? New iPhone
4. What is your favorite Christmas food? Strawberry Pretzel Salad
5. What is your favorite activity in school? Time with my friends
6. What do you like to do in your spare time? Sleep, time with friends
7. What is your favorite App? Tik Toc
8. Who is the hardest person for you to buy a gift for? One of my Cousins
9. Do you have a favorite music group or favorite song? Bruno Mars, Careless, Whisper
10. Name one thing about FCC Goodland that means a lot to you. Christmas Eve Service & hugs from Lois



That moment proud parents are bursting with pride when their adult children are honored with significant distinction!

Tranda Ihrig Strnad received the 2021 Outstanding Art Educator of the year at the Kansas Art Education Association Fall Conference in Wichita!



Tranda is the daughter of Lynn & Dee Ann Ihrig & grew up attending FCC.

We, here at FCC, join them in celebrating this great honor—so proud of you!!

~KUDOS~



Welcome, little one!

*Annabelle Marie Ploeger
Aka: "Ellie"*

This sweet bundle of joy was born on 11-19-2021 @ 11:16a.m. She entered this world weighing 9 pounds & 1 ounce, and was 20 inches long.

Her parents are Matt and Nicole (Smith) Ploeger, and will be taught the wonders of childhood by brothers Andrew and Cooper.

Grandparents, Terry & Kara Smith, will have yet another reason to be traveling to the eastern part of the state often!!



Reflections from our Church Sign

(wisdom that blesses our community weekly)

**Daylight Savings changed time, Jesus changes lives!

**Give God what's right, not what's left!

**Divine forecast—reign forever!

** Looking for the perfect “gift”, find Him here!



Nifty Needlers



Meeting every Tuesday @ 2 p.m. in the Church's Sewing Room (north west corner of the building).

More “Quilts of Valor” given to....



Mary Ann Herrera

a
n
d



Andy Kear

(both pictured with
Joni Denton)

Thank you, Nifty Needlers, for your excellent work and in showing others just how much they are appreciated.

Phillips Seminary 2021 Advent Devotional

Prepare for this holy season with devotions written by faculty, staff, alums, and students of the Phillips Theological Seminary.

They are offering this free online at ptstulsa.edu/devotionals. You may download the pdf file or listen to it as a podcast.

Phillips Theological Seminary is one of the four graduate seminaries affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



Calendars for Sale



Membership and Evangelism will again be selling wall calendars at \$7.00 each.

They make great Christmas gifts as well as offering

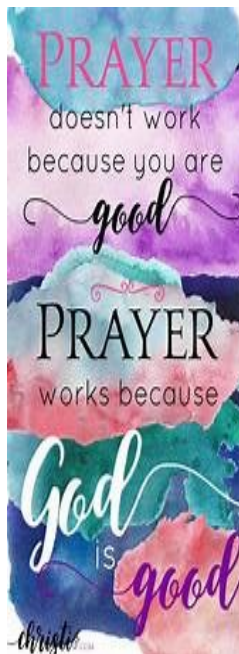
you monthly reminders of God's beauty and wisdom. See Tracy Hillmer, Debbie Martin or the church office to reserve your calendars.

Did you know...

...that in July, 1908, a ladies organization of the Christian Church called the Christian Endeavor, began circulating the idea of a library in Goodland? From this organization, the City Federation of Women's Organization was formed with the primary task of formation of a public library.

It was because of the initial work of these women's organizations that the Carnegie Library was ultimately built. There's much more to the story, and if you are interested the church office has copies of the complete article with all the details.

If you are saying that your ideas don't matter and/or it can't be done, think again! What you say or do has an impact on the world around you.



First Christian Church Family...

...Thank you so much for your support of the Nifty Needlers and all our projects! We appreciate your support of the quilt raffle and our other activities. Thank you for moving the freezer to accommodate our expanding needs.

Please accept our (monetary) gift to help with the expenses of keeping us in a light filled, comfortable room throughout the year!!

Joy Hayden	Bernie Taylor
Sharon Finley	Joan Reid
Joni Denton	Mary Daise
Virginia Terry	
Emma VanVleet	
Virginia Warkomski	

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sermon Schedule

Dec 5	David Branda
Dec 12	Children's Program
Dec 19	Tracy Hillmer
Dec 26	Kenny Griffith

Many thanks to those who delivered messages in November. God speaks to each of us through willing vessels like YOU!!



!!!WE ARE BACK!!!

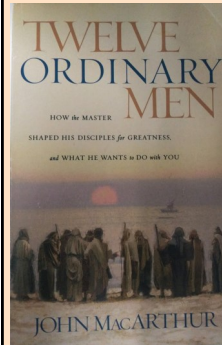
Each Wednesday evening, Disciple Zone 2.0 will meet.



It will start with a light dinner at 5:45 p.m. Following dinner, the children will begin their classes on the east end of the building and the adults will begin their class in the parlor. (See information below) As always, Disciple Zone will end at 7:00pm.

Come join in on a time of food, fellowship, and fun!!

NOON PRAYER CLASS



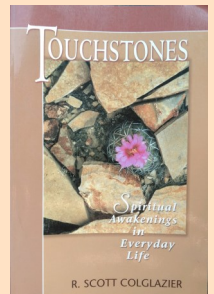
Come and be a part of this book study, prayer & fellowship. The book is "Twelve Ordinary Men" by John MacArthur. The subtitle describes it well: How the Master shaped His disciples for greatness, and what He wants to do with you.

*Every Thursday @ 12:30 p.m.
Church Parlor*

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT BOOK STUDY

Wed. nights at 6:15 p.m.
(following the Disciple Zone meal)

In the book Touchstones, by R. Scott Colglazier, we will be led with a blend of theology, philosophy, and psychology, in showing us how we can find precious encounters of spiritual awareness in our everyday relationships, art, work, play, community and more. Be sure to join us for great reading and meaningful discussion!!



!! Available by Zoom as well !!

FRIENDSHIP CLASS Every Sunday at 9 a.m. "Engage"

December—Wait for It
(The Spiritual Practice of
Continuous Prayer)

Dec. 5 ~ A Long Wait
Dec. 12 ~ Mary's Pondering
Dec. 19 ~ Waiting for Prophecy to Be Fulfilled
Dec. 26 ~ Jesus Is Waiting





December 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1. 9:00am Exercise 4:00pm Woodwinds 5:45pm DZ 2.0 7:00pm Choir	2. 12:30pm Noon Prayer Class	3. 9:00am Exercise	4.
5. 9:00am Friendship Class 10:00am Fellowship time 10:30am Worship In-person & Online Congregational meeting (following worship)	6. 9:00am Exercise	7. 2:00pm Nifty Needlers	8. 9:00am Exercise 4:00pm Woodwinds 5:45pm DZ 2.0 7:00pm Choir	9. 12:30pm Noon Prayer Class	10. 9:00am Exercise	11.
12. 7:30am Board Meeting 9:00am Friendship Class 10:00am Fellowship time 10:30am Worship In-person & Online	13. 9:00am Exercise	14. 2:00pm Nifty Needlers	15. 9:00am Exercise 2:00pm CWF Mtg. 4:00pm Woodwinds 5:45pm DZ 2.0 7:00pm Choir	16. 12:30pm Noon Prayer Class	17. 9:00am Exercise	18.
19. 9:00am Friendship Class 10:00am Fellowship time 10:30am Worship In-person & Online	20. 9:00am Exercise	21. 2:00pm Nifty Needlers	22.	23.	24.  5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25. MERRY CHRISTMAS
26. 9:00am Friendship Class 10:00am Fellowship time 10:30am Worship In-person & Online	27. 9:00am Exercise 1:30-2:30 pm Commodities Distribution	28. 2:00pm Nifty Needlers	29.	30. 12:30pm Noon Prayer Class	31.	

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
711 Arcade, P.O.Box 335
Goodland, KS 67735



Church (785) 890-5233
Pastor's Cell
E-mail: fccdoc@st-tel.net

Friendship Class 9:00 a.m.
Fellowship Time 10:00 a.m. (Refreshments served)
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Disciple Zone 2.0 on Wednesday nights at 5:45 p.m.
(classes for children and adults!)

The Christian Echo is sent to you as a member or friend of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Goodland, Ks

CHECK IT OUT!
www.goodlandfccdoc.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Vision Statement


To be a faithful, growing church,
 that demonstrates true community,
 deep Christian Spirituality,
 and a passion for justice.
 (Micah 6:8)

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Mission Statement

To be and to share the Good News
 of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving,
 and serving from our doorsteps
 "to the ends of the earth."
 (Acts 1:8)

December 2021

	5	12	19	26		
Elders	Ron Vignery, Off Dick Hayden, Com	Debbie Martin, Off Kim Cole, Com	Tracy Hillmer, Off Tim Armknecht, Com	Debbie Griffith, Off Kenny Griffith, Com		
Worship Leader	Lois Cossman	Connie Grieve	Ron Vignery	Joan Reid		
Greeter(s):	Bob Weeteling	Roger Collins Andrew Luna	Barry & Joni Guyer	Marie Marsh		
Servers	<i>For unto us a child is born, to us a child is given;</i>	<i>and the government will be upon his shoulder,</i>	<i>and his name will be called</i>	<i>"Wonderful Counselor,</i>		<i>Mighty God,</i>
Candlelighters	<i>Everlasting Father,</i>	<i>Prince of Peace."</i>	<i>Of the increase of his government</i>	<i>and of peace there will be no end,</i>		<i>upon the throne of David,</i>
Nursery	<i>and over his kingdom,</i>	<i>to establish it, and to uphold it</i>	<i>with justice and with righteousness</i>	<i>from this time forth</i>	<i>and for evermore...</i>	
A/V Tech-Closer	Kenny Griffith	Terry Smith	Kenny Griffith	Terry Smith	<i>Isaiah 9: 6-7</i>	