



THE CHRISTIAN ECHO

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Goodland, Kansas

December

2024

Ode to Our First Advent



Happy December, First Christian Church! Our first Advent is upon us - together! Do you remember that first Advent? That first waiting for Christmas - like a child waiting to see what's under the tree?

Can you imagine That First Advent celebrating - one year later - two years later - ten - a hundred - a thousand! Two!?

Anticipating Christ-mass and the earth-birth of God's Son: Celebrating a baby - recalling the awe and wonder of a host of angels proclaiming HOSANNAs in the sky to earthy cold shepherds. Proclaiming something new - something promised - something hopeful to All!

Those earthy cold shepherds running to town followed by a few lambs to find THE Lamb, swaddled as told. Telling all who would listen - all who could keep up - about that great sight and sound in the heavens over those hills.

This is something we do together year after year as the Body of Christ. We know the world is suffering. We know the world is in trouble. We know things have been unjust and far from the heart of God for some time. But we have each other and we have our church - The Church, God's Church..And we have a Savior for Whom many are waiting ... And so we wait, wait for that Hope to be made real, made manifest in a baby, in each other.

In our gathering and our worshiping, in our praying and in our communing we wait, week after week, year after year—because we know better – we know there IS better because God made us that way - and if you are a Disciple, that very real hope of Christ tugs on our hearts – clamors from our hearts!

We don't live this life of faith alone. We do it all in Love - in that Great Big Love Force of the universe Who saw fit to come down and be with us ~ Emmanuel.

It is in not turning away that we see - no, behold - Christ - ! Behold this Savior Babe in our hearts, in this season, in the world - and, yes, in each other.

Happy Advent, FCC! Let us behold a renewed Spirit of Christ together in our church and our community and in one another.

Amen - Your Pastor Monika

FOR YOUR INFORMATION!

Extended Prayerful Considerations:

Please include in your ongoing prayers the following:

Bob Simmons	
Roger Collins	Galen Cooper
Lois Cossman	Marie Marsh
Lonnie Kerr	Janet Schreiber
Shawn Ryan	Bob & Mary Smith



Please pray for our Active Military:

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

GENERAL FUND GIVING

<i>Date</i>	<i>Amt Needed</i>	<i>Offering</i>	<i>Over/Short</i>	<i>In-Person</i>
11/03	\$2453	\$975	-\$1478	32
11/10	\$2453	\$1570	-\$883	43
11/17	\$2453	\$2996	+\$543	42
11/24	\$2453	\$3677.80	+\$1224.80	48

Snippets from the last Board Meeting

- The Elders met at Andrew Luna's new home for a house blessing.
- A thank you to Randy Carri for upkeep on the Commodities freezer.
- Membership & Outreach is selling calendars and note pads again this year.
- Budget planning and proposal was approved by the Board and will go to the congregation for voting on Dec. 8th following worship services. A copy of the budget proposal for 2025 is available in the entryway. Board members will be voted on in that meeting as well.
- Connie Grieve has resigned from the Board and as Membership & Outreach chairperson. It is with understanding and thanks for a job well done that we accept her resignation.



Birthdays this month!

Terry Webb	Dec	4
Abby (Jolly) Hutson	Dec	5
Joseph Von Lintel	Dec	5
Thatcher Jones	Dec	5
Tori Jones	Dec	6
Amy Griffith Fenner	Dec	8
Moira Romine	Dec	12
Jeff Vignery	Dec	12
Tharon Barber	Dec	12
Debbie Martin	Dec	14
Trent Coon	Dec	15
Jesse Cooper	Dec	16
Kevin Kibel	Dec	16
Sam Rethmann	Dec	17
Cindy Bowman	Dec	18
Tony Martin	Dec	18
Conner Keith	Dec	20
Hayden Blochlinger	Dec	20
Haile Blochlinger	Dec	20
Erin Snider Biernacki	Dec	21
Nicole Smith Ploeger	Dec	23
Reese Hillmer	Dec	26
Isabella Duncan	Dec	26
Kim Cole	Dec	27
Brenner Guyer	Dec	29
Joy Hayden	Dec	30

Anniversary's this month!

Lon & Carolyn Kerr	Dec	5
Chris & Amanda Ross	Dec	22
Jon & Jennifer Goin	Dec	23
Doug & Belinda Amend	Dec	28
Lynn & Dee Ann Ihrig	Dec	30

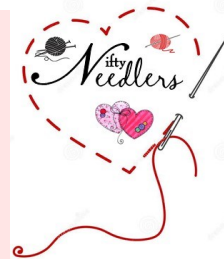
Commodities were handed out for the last time of this year on Nov. 25th. Thank you to Randy Carri for going to Colby to distribute to our 9 counties in Northwest Kansas. Randy is coordinator of dispersing to Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Logan, Norton, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman and Thomas Counties. We were blessed with more products to hand out; therefore, we recruited many more volunteers. Upon returning with our order, Sean Davis and Eric Corke came to help unload the trailer of food into the fellowship hall, along with Janet, Diann, Ron, Peggy, Shawn, Ted & Linda, and Mark Buller. Additional volunteers showed up to distribute food to 57 households in the afternoon. They are Judy, LaDona, Shelly, Jim, Lois, Becca, Pat S., Pat A., Denyce, Elaine and Jolene. Two of our students showed up to help people gather food and take to their vehicles too, Joseph and Landin Von Lintel. Connie did the sign-up sheets.

All volunteers were MUCH appreciated!



Nifty Needlers

Every Tuesday @ 2 p.m. in the Church's Sewing Room .



Thank you to everyone who supported Nifty Needlers in 2024. Thank you to all of those who attend on Tuesdays, whether weekly or just occasionally. Thank you also to everyone who donated fabric and supplies!

Your donations turn into baby and adult quilts, items for the nursery, gift bags and more. The love you share with your gifts of supplies, time or talent is multiplied many, many times! With grateful hearts,
Nifty Needlers.



USDA Commodities Distribution



The next distributions will be:

To Be Announced

If you would like to help, please let the church office know (785-890-5233). Please & Thanks for any & all help!

Merry CHRISTmas Season

Who Am I?

(Last month's "Who am I?" was Keagan Greeson)

- * 1. **What is your favorite Christmas tradition?** Singing carols at a nursing home with someone playing guitar or keyboard. They just appreciate it so much, as does the staff.
- * 2. **Do you have a favorite memory of Christmas or favorite gift that you received?** I received a small organ keyboard when I was about six, which was something I really wanted. (Alas, I never did really learn to play.)
- * 3. **What is your favorite Christmas food?** This French thing I've made (and have to refer to the recipe in an actual cookbook [that's not unpacked yet] - it's with homemade pastry where you 'shoot' the flour into the mixture, and it has mushrooms and grated carrots and gruyere cheese (YUM). Other than that, everything - Everything Christmas is my favorite food LOL!
- * 4. **Where were you born? Where have you lived the longest?** I was born outside Chicago. The longest place I've lived as an adult was in Wallow County, Oregon (8 years).
- * 5. **What do you like to do in your spare time?** I like to sing, walk, birdwatch, kayak, read, watch videos, write and worship- even better with friends!
- * 6. **Tell us something we would be surprised to know about you.** I jumped out of a Huey helicopter 4 times with a parachute on a static line (a cable on the floor of the helicopter connected to the top of your 'chute so that it opens it for you). I didn't take the final jump to be static-line-free, which is a good thing because I had blacked out every time i jumped out the door (till my chute opened up) & wouldn't be here today had I jumped static-line-free
- * 7. **Do you have a favorite book/app?** Other than the Bible, there are too many favorite books and movies. I do like keeping up with friends on good ole Facebook
- * 8. **Can you put into a few words what the birth of Jesus Christ means to you?** God emptying of divinity & glory & "coming down here" in the flesh to show us what Love Is

Our Weekly Church Sign

(wisdom that blesses our community weekly)

- We thank God for helping us by helping others!
- Faith Flourishes in the Garden of Gratitude!
- Real Thanksgiving is Thanksliving!



Advent Candle Lighting

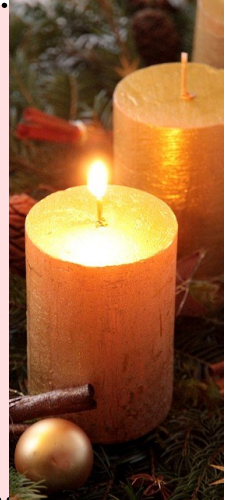
Dec 1: “Light of Hope” The VanVleet Family

Dec 8: “Light of Peace” The Hageman Family

Dec. 15: “Light of Joy” The Von Lintel Family

Dec. 22 “Light of Love”

Dec. 24: “Light of Light”



The Christmas season will include chimes, choir, candle lightings, and more to celebrate our Savior! Check the calendar for special festivities and practices.



CWF News

CWF met on Nov. 13th for our special time with residents of Wheatridge Acres. Birkley provided song sheets and we all sang along as she played the piano. Those in attendance were Etta Mae, Bob & Dorothy, Maggie, Eileen, Jo, Donna, Jeannie, Marilyn, Shirley M., Bunny, Shirley W. and Connie.

Our next meeting is Dec. 4th, at 2pm in the church Parlor. Come join us.

Attention All Singers

Choir is weekly on Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the parlor, soooooo exercise those vocal chords and join us.

No previous experience required, but be ready to have a great time

with great folks who love music, too!!



<<Game Day Group>>

Ever wanted to get together with others and play different (and familiar) card games, dominos, or any other type of game??

Well, this is your day, because that is what this group is doing!

Please come join in whenever you can.

Every Friday
@ 1:00 p.m.
Church Parlor



Membership & Evangelism will be selling calendars & notepads until they're gone. Get yours early. Calendars are \$8 and Notepads are \$3 each or 2 for \$5. This campaign supports special days in the church year. Contact Connie Grieve or Debbie Martin.

NEEDS FOR THE CHURCH



64 Gallon Trash Bags
8.5 oz Styrofoam Coffee Cups

A big THANK YOU to those who so generously give in this tangible way.

Welcome Rev. Monika Hunter!



Sharing God's Word with Others

Thank you to those who have filled the pulpit in November:

**Terry Smith, David Branda,
Kary Zwegardt, & Kim Cole**

November Wheat Ridge Service



Top Left: Jo, Donna, Jeannie, Burkley
Top Right: Etta Mae, Bob & Dorothy
Bottom Right: Maggie, Eileen, Jo, Donna,
Jeannie

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Fellowship Time 10:30am Worship Service 4:00pm Elders Meeting	2 9:00 am Exercise	3 2:00 pm Nifty Needlers	4 (office closed) 9:00 am Exercise 2:00pm CWF Meeting 6:15pm Chimes 7:00pm Choir	5 7:00pm Praise Team Practice	6 9:00 am Exercise 1:00pm Game Day Group	7
8 7:30am Board Meeting 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Fellowship Time 10:30am Worship Service *Choir Congregational Meeting After Church	9 9:00 am Exercise	10 2:00 pm Nifty Needlers	11 (office closed) 9:00 am Exercise 6:15pm Chimes 7:00pm Choir	12 7:00pm Praise Team Practice	13 9:00am Exercise 1:00pm Game Day Group	14
15 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Fellowship Time 10:30am Worship Service *Chimes	16 9:00 am Exercise	17 2:00pm Nifty Needlers	18 (office closed) 9:00am Exercise 7:00pm Choir	19 7:00pm Praise Team Practice	20 9:00am Exercise 1:00pm Game Day Group	21
22 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Fellowship Time 10:30am Worship Service *Choir	23 (office closed) 9:00am Exercise	24 (office closed) 5:30pm Christmas Eve Service	25 (office closed) Christmas Day	26	27	28
29 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Fellowship Time 10:30am Worship Service	30	31 (office closed) New Years Eve				



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 711 Arcade, P.O.Box 335
 Goodland, KS 67735



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

Fellowship Time 10:00 a.m. (Refreshments served)
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

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 2024

	1	8	15	22	29
Elders	Terry, Kim	Kenny, Ron	Dick, Tim	Andrew, Debbie M	Debbie M. Andrew
Worship Leader	Terry Smith	Connie Grieve	Jeff	Jo Simmons	Kara Smith
Greeter(s):	Janet Davis	Kenny Grieve			Richard & LaDona
A/V Tech-Closer	Kenny	Andrew	Terry	Terry	Kenny
Nursery	Debbie Martin	Kim Cole	Betty Hageman	Kara Smith	Tehnee Hageman