

THE CHRISTIAN ECHO

January

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Goodland, Kansas

2021



The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will be established.

Proverbs 19:21 (NRSV)

As I am sitting here, enjoying some time off, I have had time to reflect upon the past year and to contemplate the coming year. I can honestly say, this past year has not been anything like I or anyone could have imagined.

In preparing to write this column, I went back to last year's column to see if I made any outrageous goals or promises. As I said last January, the first of my two goals for 2020 was "to rediscover the child in myself, to 'change and become like children.'" My second goal was "to do my best to make sure our congregation continues to be a place where children are made to feel welcome and that we as a congregation continue to see the importance of children as a part of the Body of Christ." With the pandemic, I am not sure I achieved either goal. I took classes to improve myself as a minister, but I am not sure I focused on rediscovering the child in myself as concerns of how to lead the church through the pandemic took precedence. And by suspending our in-church programs, we, as a congregation, have not been able to focus on our children and youth ministries like we would under normal circumstances.

As we enter 2021, there are signs of hope and change. Already members of our congregation at Wheat Ridge have received the first of the two Covid vaccinations and over the coming months the vaccine will be available for the residents of Goodland. Whether you see it as good news or bad news, on January 20, President-elect Biden will take the oath of office. And for the church, we see signs that sometime in 2021, things will again start to have a sense of normalcy.

Unfortunately, that sense of normalcy is not going to happen for several months. Most experts say that the necessary number of people needed to get vaccinated to build herd immunity will not happen until maybe June. And even then, it will take time to be sure the vaccinations are working and the desired herd immunity is occurring.

So, what does all of this mean for us as a church? It means that we are going to continue to do what we have been doing through most of 2020. We are doing to do our best to follow God's will for our congregation and we will make the best decisions that we are able to make so that we can continue to meet and worship as First Christian Church. There will be both in-person and online worship (we were doing this before the pandemic hit, but, hopefully, we are doing it better than when we first began). For the foreseeable future, there will still be no fellowship gathering before worship or fellowship meals, but, as the year progresses, we will see if this will change. And like everything else, we will evaluate and make our best decision as to how and when we will do our children and youth ministries.

In other words, I am not sure what the future holds, but I trust "the purposes of the Lord will be established." I rejoice every day for the love and support you as the congregation have shown over the past year, and I pray that love and support continues.

I hope everyone had a safe and Merry Christmas and, like you, I look forward to what the new year holds. Continue to be safe and to take care of yourself. I look forward to seeing you, whether it be in person or online, and, as I have said over the past several months, whether we are together or apart, we are one in Christ. So, until next we meet, PEACE!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION!

Extended Prayerful Considerations:

Please include in your ongoing prayers the following:

Dwight Briney	Kelli Chidester
Roger Collins	Galen Cooper
Roger Cormier	Vetha Cormier
Jordan Dominick	Alice Jackson
Etta Mae Keirns	Carolyn Kerr
Lonnie Kerr	Barbara Laursen
Sharon Mann	Marie Marsh
Catherine Parisi	Wanda Schneider
David Schnug	Mike Stamm
Ione Todd	Todd Trzcinski
Mike Yoke	

Wheat Ridge (main building)

Wanda Ginn Dwight "Bud" Perrey

Please pray for our Active Military:

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



1-1	Hayden Mann
1-2	Jim Griffith
1-5	Eli Daigle
1-6	Richard Frerichs
1-7	Chelsea Sheldon Barry Guyer
1-9	Parker Griffith
1-12	Jeric Goin Mary Daise
1-14	Andrea Roeder LaDona Frerichs
1-15	Jazlyn Fenner
1-19	Emma VanVleet Stephanie Sheldon Terry Daise
1-20	Carolyn Kerr
1-21	Robbie Lawson
1-26	Kevin Rasure
1-27	Jay Jolly Pierce Kemp
1-29	Andrew Ploeger

GENERAL FUND GIVING

Date	Amt Needed	Offering	Over/Short	In-Person
12/6	\$1944.84	\$3744.00	+\$1799.16	25
12/13	\$1944.84	\$2995.00	+\$1050.16	20
12/20	\$1944.84	\$1592.00	-\$352.00	26
12/27	\$1944.84	\$2280.00	+\$335.16	22



No, I'm not suggesting that we put smiles on the windows - just our faces!!



NEEDS FOR THE CHURCH:

Paper - 20lb

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



1-5	Lon & Carolyn Kerr
1-8	Gil & Bernie Taylor
1-26	Chris & Amanda Ross
1-27	Jon & Jennifer Goin

??Ever wondered what has happened??

We are enjoying hearing from some of those whom we have worked & communed with in the past. This month we are reconnecting with Paula Bishop Pociecha:

A Joyous Christmas Greeting to the FCC Goodland family! This has been an interesting year of “isolation” that has oddly resulted in reconnecting with many I haven’t seen in decades. I remember Goodland with fondness in my heart. It was the longest I had lived in once place during my childhood!

My, how to quickly catch you up on over three decades of life?! After graduating Goodland High in 1978, I went on to the Disciples school, Phillips University in Enid, OK, and graduated with my B.A. in Psychology in 1982. I did several years of social work, and then moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to work for an airline in 1983. In 1989 I entered seminary at The Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, graduating with an M.Div. in 1992. I continued my private spiritual coaching practice until 2000, when I finally agreed to be ordained and enter into ministry in the denomination. I specialized in Intentional Interim ministry, and in 2003 I was hired by the Christian Church (DOC) of N. CA-NV region as an Associate Regional Minister. I served in this position (twice as Acting Regional Minister) until my retirement from ministry in 2014. I also received my Doctor of Ministry in 2010 from Wisdom University in Oakland, CA.

In 1992 I married Micheal Pociecha, and we made our home in San Ramon, CA. That also came with the gift of becoming an instant mother to Micheal’s two young children, Jeff and Stephanie—who are now 41 and 38! In 2013 Micheal and I found our dream home up the northern coast of CA, in the small community of Mendocino/Fort Bragg. We live among 150’ redwood trees in our yard and only a mile from the ocean. We are so fortunate to have so many places to be in nature with few people around, especially right now. Micheal has become quite the photographer, and I lead several women’s groups.

I think you probably know we lost my dad, Roy Bishop, in 1984 to a heart attack while he was serving as Administrator of the NBA Woodland Christian Towers in Houston TX. We lost my mom, Bessie Bishop, just this last Oct. 18 to complications from a fall, just a few weeks before her 95th birthday. After dad died, Mom was called to be the pastor of a small church in Tulia, TX, where she served 8 years, and was ordained on her 65th birthday! She retired in 1993 and moved to Greeley, CO to be with my siblings, Bonnie and Randy and their families. So, that’s my life in a very large nutshell. I am happy to be reconnected to the FCC Goodland family and look forward to being on your newsletter list. Look me up if you ever find yourself in N. CA!



USDA Commodities Distribution

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

Monday, Feb. 1 @ 1:30-2:30pm

If you have time and would like to help, either that day or with the preparations ahead of time, please let **Tracy Hillmer** know. We are always in need of more plastic grocery bags, so if you have some, please bring them to the church!!



CWF EVENTS



Until we see how the holidays have affected the community numbers, the CWF meetings/events will remain on hold.

As we enter the year-end & year-beginning transition, these words:

While we reconnect with those from the past with fondness, we have to remember that those whom we are worshipping, working, and communing with in this “here & now” are also the ones we will eventually be remembering. Be sure not to look back with such intensity that we miss the blessings of those around us presently.

You ALL are so dear and each one has a place in God’s plan for our individual lives, the life of the church, and the world. Let’s be sure to interact with each other with that mindset, lovingly!!



Snippets from the Board Meeting

- ◆ In January, the Elders will be starting a new study book, “Wounded Healers” by Henri Nouwen.
- ◆ A higher quality camera with more options for the internet streaming of services will be purchased with the Linda Fogo memorial funds.
- ◆ The PPP funds were officially ‘forgiven’ and the ‘paid’ note received.
- ◆ Board Officers for 2021 were voted in and are as follows: Kenny Griffith-Chairman, Kara Smith-Vice Chair, Debbie Martin-Secretary, Kim Cole-Treasurer, Terry Smith-Financial Secretary.
- ◆ Computers in the office are being reviewed and the Property Committee will be looking at the options.
- ◆ Chair Lois Cossman thanked Vice-chair Kenny Griffith for his assistance in this year of special requirements due to the pandemic. The board also thanked Lois for her willingness to serve this year.



WHO AM I?

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

1. My favorite way to spend the New Years holiday is... watch TV/sports with family
2. Do you set new year's resolutions? Yes, usually to drop a few pounds, self improvement (love more - worry less) - success rate: about 4 days!
3. What is your favorite way to spend quiet or free time? Read scripture, take a nap
4. Tell us something we would be surprised to know about you. I can call a square dance.
5. One thing on my bucket list is... Go to Hawaii
6. What is your favorite time of day? Morning, because I am refreshed after a good night's sleep.
7. What word describes your worship experience at First Christian Church? Communion
8. I have worshipped at FCC since... here since 1968, other since 1955
9. My wish for FCC in 2021 would be... Keep alert & prayerful.



Poinsettia Gifting Much Appreciated!

Many thanks to those who remembered others by way of giving poinsettias for the Christmas season:

Debbie Martin & family: For Bud & Linda Fogo, Buford & Helen Hevner, Connie Hammond .

Jeannie Pyles: For Edgar & Ella Jackson, Hal Pyles, Lyle Jackson, Betty (Hay) Jackson

Barry & Joni Guyer: For Our Loved Ones

Ron & Judy Vignery: For Glenn & Florence Vignery, Lowella Stiles, Watson & Annabelle Hevner,
Tonya Armstrong Cook

Birkley Barnes: For Levi & Edith Shull Barnes

Richard & LaDona Frerichs: For Don Harding, William & Thelma Frerichs

Gil Taylor: For Loretta & Dave Fleming

Doug & Belinda, Derrick, Sara, Amanda, Cory, Rex, and Althea.: For Don & Evelyn Amend, Cortney Weeks, and Pat Clothier

Lois Cossman: For Bob Cossman

Kenny & Debbie Griffith: For Irving Imhof, Eva Kirk, Neil & Vera Bock



Reflections from our Church Sign

(wisdom that blesses our community weekly)

- **People will never forget how you make them feel
- **If you change nothing - nothing will change
- ** (Announcement of Christmas Eve Services)
- ** Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



People are hungry year around & we are here to help.



This distribution put chills in our bones but warmth in our hearts. It takes many to pull this off, but those pictured here are (L-R): **Don McMillan** (Lutheran pastor), **Kenny Griffith**, **Ron Vignery**, **Janet Davis**, & **Tracy Hillmer**. Others who help - **Pastor Doug Amend**, **Connie Grieve**, **Brad Parker**, **Debbie Griffith**, **Rita Coonts**, **Reese & Raelyn Hillmer**.

Love in action!



Nifty Needlers

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



Coming out of quarantine has many benefits! Pictured here is a private gifting of the Quilt of Valor made for **J. Ronald Vignery**, in honor & appreciation of his time spent in the Navy. Judi Vignery stood by his side during that time, just as the picture represents. At their feet is a collage of pictures that tell the story, and also a certificate appointing him Military Judge. Thank you, Ron!

Did you notice?

There are many things that dwell in the sanctuary that serve to inspire us. We often get used to seeing them and don't think of their meaning or significance until we see them with "new eyes" at some point.

One such realization came one Sunday as we opened the baptistry doors to place poinsettias there. The doors had been left closed to draw more attention to the Holy Family. However, during that service, something new occurred to me in the viewing of our chancel area. As we look upon the Holy Family and the significance of that scene, then allow our eyes to travel upward to the table, we contemplate the reason Jesus came in the first place. But then our eyes drift further up to the baptistry, and what these 2 acts mean for each of us on a personal level - the opportunity to die to our old, sinful life and rise to a new life.

Are there other things that we take for granted, seeing them each and every Sunday? During our time of absence (March-May), we longed to be among these reminders of our faith as well as each other.

What are you seeing with "new eyes" these days? Look around with a fresh new perspective. Invite the Still Small Voice to reveal them and their meaning to you, as it relates to where you are in your journey. Blessings!!



Thank You...

...to **Janet Davis** for her willing spirit and help in updating the Praise Books. Our hearts will keep on singing a new song!
Debbie Griffith

...Dear **Nifty Needlers**, Many, many thank you's for the most beautiful quilt given to me as an acknowledgement of my military service. I was so very pleased and the quilt is a true work of art. Now, if Judi will ever let me use it. Thank you again.
Ron Vignery

...to those who filled in for me in the office, this past year - **Jo Simmons**, **Connie Grieve**, **Lois Cossman**, **Emma VanVleet**, **Janet Davis**, **Joy Hayden & Pastor Doug**. Your service to the church and help to me is much appreciated!!
Debbie Griffith

...to **Randy Topliff & Kenny Griffith** for removing the snow in the parking lot on Dec. 15th. Also, to **Terry Smith** for cleaning the sidewalk as well!
FCC

...As we enter into this new year, I wish to thank everyone for the gifts and remembrances that my family and I received this Christmas season. We feel blessed to be a part of the Goodland community and First Christian Church. May God continue to bless our ministries.
Pastor Doug Amend

...to all who made the Christmas Eve Service such a special, much needed one esp. this year! Also, to those who helped on the 27th while pastor was on vacation.

...to all who made meals for me when I hurt my knee again. It was appreciated and so good!
Marie Marsh

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

January 2021 Sermon Schedule

- Jan. 3 Second Sunday of Christmas
Going Home in the Pandemic World
 John 1: 1-9 (10-18), New Testament, Pg 862
- Jan. 10 **Back to the Basics**
 Mark 1:4 – 11, New Testament, Page 812
- Jan. 17 **Jesus Knows You**
 John 1:43 – 51, New Testament, Page 863
- Jan. 24 **Such a Simple Story**
 Mark 1:14 – 20, New Testament, Page 812
- Jan. 31 **Seasoned with Love**
 1 Corinthians 8: 1 – 13, New Test., Pg 930
- Feb. 7 **Spanning the Globe**
 1 Corinthians 9:19 – 23, New Test., Pg 931



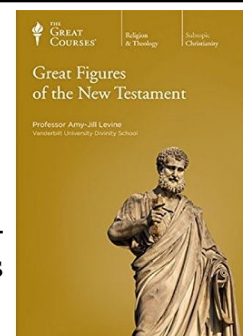
Watch for the kick-off to the 2020-2021 season coming our way as decisions are made!!

BOAT CLASS

Sunday mornings
 @ 9:15 a.m.

With the interruption of class due to Covid-19, we are continuing with the book “Great Figures of the New Testament” written by Amy-Jill Levine.

It is a look into the lives of many of the figures common to the New Testament.

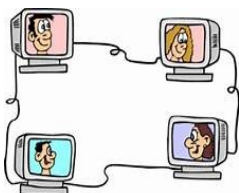
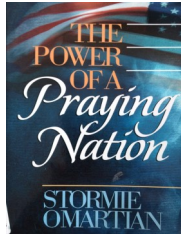


Tuesday Morning Zoom Bible Study

Be sure to sign in for Pastor Doug’s Zoom Bible study every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Discussion each week will be on the scripture that is to be used for the next Sunday’s sermon.

Connect with others as we share our experiences, questions, and insights, and learn together!!

NOON PRAYER CLASS

!!Now Available On Zoom as well as in person!!

This newly obtained book, “The Power of a Praying Nation” by Stormie Omartian is a great reminder that we DO need to pray for our nation, esp. now with so much going on!

On hold at the moment due to the rise in Covid cases locally. Watch for the resume date.

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



FRIENDSHIP CLASS

Every Sunday at 9 a.m.

“Community”

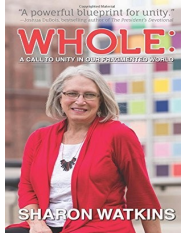
We will be catching up on the material that was not used in this time of being apart.
 Come check it out!!



WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT ZOOM CLASS (Sept-April)

Join us on Wed. nights at 7:00 p.m.
 ~with Pastor Doug Amend~

In her hope-filled book, Sharon Watkins, retired General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) shares her vision of how the good news of Jesus calls American Christians to unite around justice, mercy, and openness in the 21st century.





January 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1. Office Closed 9:00am Exercise	2.
3. 9:00am Friendship Class 9:15 a.m. Boat Class 10:00am Fellowship time 10:30am Worship In-person & Online	4. 9:00am Exercise	5. 8:30am CWF General @ church parlor 10:00am Zoom Bible Study 2:00pm Sewing Group	6. 9:00am Exercise 7:00pm Zoom book study	7. Noon Prayer Class (In-person & Zoom)	8. 9:00am Exercise	9.
10. 7:30am Board Meeting 9:00am Friendship Class 9:15am Boat Class 10:00am Fellowship time 10:30am Worship In-person & Online	11. 9:00am Exercise	12. 10:00am Zoom Bible Study 1:30pm Martha's Goldenrod Group @ church parlor 2:00pm Sewing Group 5:30 Worship Mtg	13. 9:00am Exercise 7:00pm Zoom book study	14. Noon Prayer Class (In-person & Zoom)	15. 9:00am Exercise	16.
17. 9:00am Friendship Class 9:15am Boat Class 10:00am Fellowship time 10:30am Worship In-person & Online 1:30pm Wheat Ridge Services	18. 9:00am Exercise	19. 10:00am Zoom Bible Study 2:00pm Sewing Group	20. 9:00am Exercise 7:00pm Zoom book study	21. Noon Prayer Class (In-person & Zoom)	22. 9:00am Exercise	23.
24. 9:00am Friendship Class 9:15am Boat Class 10:00am Fellowship time 10:30am Worship In-person & Online	25. 9:00am Exercise	26. 10:00am Zoom Bible Study 2:00pm Sewing Group	27. 9:00am Exercise 7:00pm Zoom book study	28. Noon Prayer Class (In-person & Zoom)	29. 9:00am Exercise	30.
31. 9:00am Friendship Class 9:15am Boat Class 10:30am Worship In-person & Online	Feb. 1 1:30-2:30 pm Commodities Distribution					

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



Church (785) 890-5233
Pastor's Cell (785) 821-2794
E-mail: Fccpastor@st-tel.net or
 revdbamend@yahoo.com
Friendship Class 9:00 a.m.
Boat Class 9:15 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)

January 2021

	3	10	17	24	31
Elders	Dick Hayden, Off Kenny Griffith, Com	Debbie Martin, Off Ron Vignery, Com	Kim Cole, Off Tim Armknecht, Com	Tracy Hillmer, Off Ron Vignery, Com	Debbie Griffith, Off Kenny Griffith, Com
Worship Leader	Every	good	and	perfect	gift
Greeter(s):	is	from	above,	coming	down
Servers	from	the	Father	of	the
Candlelighters	heavenly	lights,	who	does	not
Nursery	change	like	shifting	shadows.	James 1:17 NIV
A/V Tech-Closer	Kenny Griffith	Terry Smith	Kenny Griffith	Terry Smith	Kenny Griffith
Snacks	Thanks to the Church Members	Thanks to the Church Members	Thanks to the Church Members	Thanks to the Church Members	Thanks to the Church Members