

THE CHRISTIAN ECHO

January

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Goodland, Kansas

2023

So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren to go on to you before me, and arrange in advance for this gift you have promised, so that it may be ready not as an exaction but as a willing gift. The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work.

2 Corinthians 9: 5-8

Gifts and Gifting

Having just finished giving and receiving the gifts typically given at Christmas time, we are mindful of the different attitudes that motivates one to give. Some give because that's just what is expected of us, an obligation of sorts. Some give to 'out-give' others and elevate self. Some give marking it off of the 'to do' list. Some give only out of their abundance, while others are giving sacrificially. Some lovingly gift others, and some begrudgingly give gifts. The list goes on.

There are just as many ways to receive gifts as there are to give them. You can show love and honor in gratefully receiving gifts, or be critical or disrespectful in the manner in which we treat the giver or gift. Do we act as if we deserve any and all gifts we get and lift up those who are able to give larger gifts than others? Or do we treat the givers and gifts with equal gratitude, showing value to both?

I'm sure that we can think of times that fit most of these situations, but all of this pales in importance when we look at the most unselfish, loving, and sacrificial giving we find in Jesus Christ. The song lyrics remind us: He came from Heaven to earth to show the way, from the earth to the cross my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky - but it didn't stop there. The Holy Spirit was sent as a Helper with the same motivation—love. This makes everything else we placed value or importance on seem to evaporate. The shame of materialism over loving our triune God and our fellow man enters in and we find ourselves standing in the need of forgiveness.

It is so fitting that we enter into a new year choosing to do self examination and re-evaluation. The adjustments are aimed at consciously making an effort to do better or be better in some way. Let's be sure to not only look at the worldly aspects of living, but consider our spiritual health as well. Getting closer to God and using our spiritual gifts and talents takes determination and action as well.

How does this approaching new year find you? Could you make some adjustments to facilitate growth? Remember, this not only affects you, but encourages others as they witness your changes!



Speaking of gifts, on Friday these ladies came in with a giving spirit. Marlene Ward (left), daughter of Vola Fenner (right), made this very meaningful framed picture. It was decided that in honor of Vola & her joining the church in 1949, the family wanted to gift it to the church for others to be inspired by. The property committee will no doubt be seeking just the right spot for this gift. Thank you so much for sharing and we are happy that Vola is a part of this church family!! (The picture is made up of over 100,000 square beads less than 1/8" square)

As we journey together...

Debbie Griffith

FOR YOUR INFORMATION!

Extended Prayerful Considerations:

Please include in your ongoing prayers the following:

Sharon Bowker Roger Collins
 Galen Cooper Lois Cossman
 John & Glenda Hamilton
 Charley & Janet (Chatfield) Johnson
 Lonnie Kerr Craig Lawson
 Jennifer Martin Sharon Mann
 Marie Marsh Vetha Petty
 Jeannie Pyles
 Bernie Taylor Emma Van Vleet



Please pray for our Active Military:

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



1/1	Hayden Mann
1/2	Jim Griffith
1/5	Eli Daigle
1/6	Richard Frerichs
1/7	Chelsea Sheldon Myer Barry Guyer
1/9	Parker Griffith
1/12	Jeric Goin Mary Daise
1/14	Andrea Roeder LaDona Frerichs
1/15	Jazlyn Fenner
1/18	Kierra Warren
1/19	Emma Van Vleet Stephanie Sheldon Mareello 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
12/4	\$2,249.70	\$784.00	-\$1465.70	55
12/11	\$2,249.70	\$3047.00	+\$797.30	70
12/18	\$2,249.70	\$7357.00	+\$5107.30	77
12/25	\$2,249.70	\$1904.00	-\$345.70	47

From the Church Mouse:

>Joni Guyer does such a great job in keeping our Church decorated, esp. during the holidays. We all so appreciate you, Joni!!



>Did you know that Dirk & Pam Sheldon will be grandparents again? Stephanie & Eric Mareello are expecting their first child. Congratulations!!

>Many thanks to all who have substituted for me in the office so I could take a few days off this past week—Connie Grieve, Birkley Barnes, & Kenny Griffith. You are treasured!! Debbie

>Pg 3—The mystery chalk writing on the door/doorway is an Epiphany Blessing for those who live there. It also mimics the Passover markings. The short version of this blessing is that the C+M+B stands for “Christus Mansionem Benedicat” (each initial separated by a cross) meaning “Christ bless this house”. The 20 is the century and the 22 is the current year. A blessing can be read/recited as you write it. (full info avail @ office)

NEEDS FOR THE CHURCH:



Paper Towels, Paper Towels, Paper Towels

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



1/5	Jeff & Nona Mason
1/8	Kevin & Kim Rasure
1/26	Tony & Debbie Martin
1/27	Travis & Angie Jones



Snippets from the last Board Meeting

- ◆ There were two Board members who made 100% of the meetings in 2022 - Debbie Griffith and Kara Smith
- ◆ We are investigating a consult with JR Audio & Sound in regards to the issues we continue to have with our sound system.
- ◆ Plumbing issues were fixed, but in the process an issue with the shutoff valve in the basement was found. This will be investigated and measures for fixing will be reported in the next meeting.
- ◆ Worship committee reports that there are some special gifts being prepared for those who have recently been baptized. A sample was presented.

USDA Commodities Distribution

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

January, 2023 @ 1:30pm



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

Elderetti Spaghetti Supper



Be sure to mark your calendars for this delicious event coming your way on Sunday, January 22nd, at the famous time of 5-a-clock-a (p.m. that is).

As usual, there will be plenty of spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread, & dessert. On top of that, you will be in fine company to fellowship with. And, on top of THAT, there will be entertainment by the combined choir (Lutheran & FCC) that will knock your socks-a-off-a.



Come & bring your friends for an evening that will warm your January chills!!

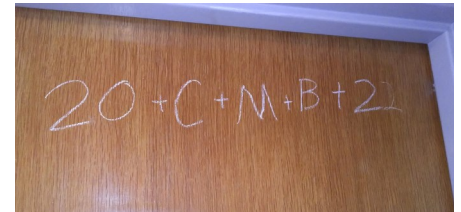
Flying High



Proof positive that the brave pilot pastor took this happy camper for an uplifting ride among the clouds. Connie Grieve was fortunate enough to be related to the lucky man who “doesn’t ever win anything”! With God, all things are possible, right Kenny Grieve!?

In the recent past I was on a Christian college campus and this was written in chalk on many of the doors &/or door frames. Can you figure out what this could be?

Hmmmm—
20+C+M+B+22



????????????????

The Disciple Zone children gave the congregation a true Christmas gift—a glimpse into their hearts and minds about “**What Christmas Means to Me**”. Most of them read their own, but a few who couldn’t be present left theirs to be read by head leader, Tricia Meier.

It was heartwarming to see the shift of spiritual understanding from the very young to the teen/pre-teen age groups. Some had deep thoughts and reflections about the first coming of Christ to this world and the special purpose it holds for us all.

Many thanks to Tricia and her helpers, Andrew Luna, Pam Sheldon, and Debbie Martin for making sure that these children are taught and led to the saving arms of Jesus. Great job!!



Just a Little Talk With Jesus



Last month's "Who am I?" was **John Hamilton**



1. Who did an Angel appear to in a dream after it was apparent Your mother was pregnant? Your father
2. In what year were You born? It is not certain but possibly 2 or 3 B.C.
3. Does the Bible say You were born in December? No. (The Bible does not state the exact date of Jesus' birth.)
4. True or False - Christmas wasn't celebrated for over 300 years after You died. True (The first Christmas was celebrated on December 25th, 336 A.D.)
5. Who decreed the census of the Roman Empire be taken? Caesar Augustus
6. Where were You born? In Bethlehem, the City of David.
7. Which of Your names translates to "God is with us"? Emmanuel
8. Who informed the shepherds that the Messiah was born? Angel
9. Who was the Roman King during Your birth? King Herod who was a shrewd and clever tyrant.
10. At what age did Your ministry begin? Jesus ministry began about the time he was 30. Before that, he learned the carpentry trade from his father.



Reflections from our Church Sign

(wisdom that blesses our community weekly)

- **All of our seats come with a first class service!
- **Jesus is the reason for the season
- **Without Christmas there would be no Easter!



Thank You...

FCC, Thank you so much for being so accommodating and helping with our loved one's funeral. Thanks also to Terry Smith & the church ladies! Your kind expression of sympathy and friendship will always remain in our memories.

The family of Sherida Shoff

Christmas Eve Service was well attended with a sanctuary full of love and the light of Christ. Thank you, Tori Jones, for blessing us by singing "O Holy Night"!



Biblical Resolutions

- Hold firmly to your faith (Hebr 4:14)
- Assemble with the saints (Hebr 10:25)
- Pray and thank God earnestly (1 Thess 5:17-18)
- Petition God for great blessings (Mal 3:10)
- Yield not to temptation (1 Thess 5:22)
- Notice opportunities to serve others (Gal 6:10)
- Examine yourself daily (2 Cor 13:5)
- Work diligently for the Lord (1 Cor 15:58)
- Yearn for righteousness (Matt 5:6)
- Exercise godliness (1 Tim 4:7)
- Aim for sinless perfection (Hebr 6:1)
- Redeem the time, living wisely (Eph 5:15-16)

Nifty Needlers

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



Great job as always, ladies!!

CWF EVENTS



The next meeting will be Wed., Jan 11th, at 1:00pm. This will be the "After Christmas Gathering" so bring finger foods to share! The idea of having it earlier is so that lunch items can make this a late lunch for those who prefer not to have both.

Additions to the Poinsettia donation listing:

Tim/Amanda Armknecht: for Shaunna Armknecht
The Ross & Frank families: for Terry Ross, Kay Weeks, George & Ruth Ross, Carl & Evonne Frank

Thanks for helping to make our sanctuary festive!

A New Life ~

On November 15, 2022, Tyler & Taryn Jones added another son to their family. His name is Baxter Glenn Jones & he weighed 8lbs 3oz, and was 20.5" long.



As you can see, big brother, Brodi, is sharing Dad's lap willingly.

God bless this sweet family and let the action begin!!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

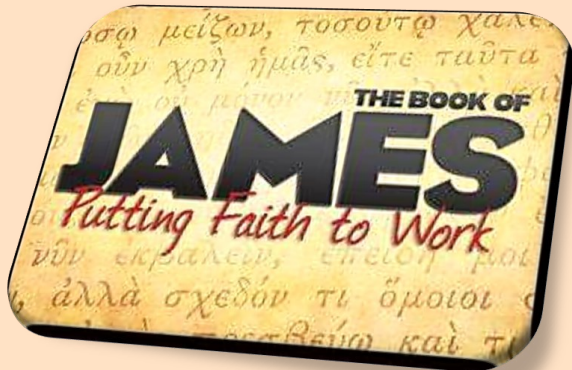
Bible Study

Looking for a study of God's word? Look no further. Pastor Don will be teaching two classes on Tuesdays—one at 10:00 a.m. and one at 7:00 p.m.

It doesn't matter if this is your first Bible study or you are a bit seasoned, you will be met where you are and encouraged to grow!



Starting in January:



!!ALL NEW!!

DISCIPLE ZONE 2.0

Every Sunday @ 10:30 a.m,
Toddler—5th Grade

We are trying something new this fall - Disciple Zone will be held each Sunday during the 10:30am Church Service. If you cannot be present, we still hope you will bring your kiddos!

Questions? Call Tricia Meier @ 785-728-7045

FCC



YOUTH

GROUP

6th-12th Grade

Each Sunday @ 5:30pm

In the youth room

!! Come, be a part !!

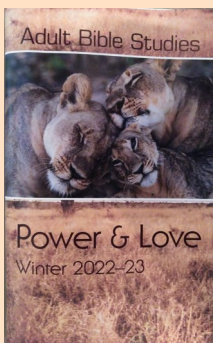
Tricia Meier @ 785-728-7045

FRIENDSHIP CLASS

Every Sunday at 9 a.m.

“Power and Belonging” January

The Spiritual Practice of
Active Love



Jan 1 ~ Children of God Through Adoption

Jan 8 ~ Grace and Assurance for All

Jan 15 ~ In the World, Not of It

Jan 22 ~ Controlled by Peace

Jan 29 ~ A Seat at the Table

<<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 Thursday @ 1:00 p.m.
Church Parlor



January 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1. 9:00am Friendship Class 10:00am Fellowship time 10:30am Worship & Disciple Zone 2.0 5:30pm FCC Youth Grp	2. Office Closed 9:00am Exercise	3. 2:00pm Nifty Needlers	4. 9:00am Exercise 7pm Choir Practice	5. 1:00pm Game Day Group 5:00pm Worship & Music Meeting	6. 9:00am Exercise	7.
8. 9:00am Friendship Class 10:00am Fellowship time 10:30am Worship & Disciple Zone 2.0 4:00pm Elders Meeting 5:30pm FCC Youth Grp	9. 9:00am Exercise	10. 10:00 Bible Study 2:00pm Nifty Needlers 7:00pm Bible Study	11. 9:00am Exercise 1:00pm CWF "After Christmas Party" 7pm Choir Practice	12. 1:00pm Game Day Group	13. 9:00am Exercise	14.
15. 7:30am Board Meeting 9:00am Friendship Class 10:00am Fellowship time 10:30am Worship & Disciple Zone 2.0 5:30pm FCC Youth Grp	16. 9:00am Exercise	17. 10:00 Bible Study 2:00pm Nifty Needlers 7:00pm Bible Study	18. 9:00am Exercise 7pm Choir Practice	19. 1:00pm Game Day Group	20. 9:00am Exercise	21.
22, 9:00am Friendship Class 10:00am Fellowship time 10:30am Worship & Disciple Zone 2.0 5:00pm Elderetti Spaghetti Supper 5:30pm FCC Youth Grp	23. 9:00am Exercise (??) 1:30pm Commodity Distribution (??)	24. 10:00 Bible Study 2:00pm Nifty Needlers 7:00pm Bible Study	25. 9:00am Exercise 7pm Choir Practice	26. 1:00pm Game Day Group	27. 9:00am Exercise	28.
29. 9:00am Friendship Class 10:00am Fellowship time 10:30am Worship & Disciple Zone 2.0 5:30pm FCC Youth Grp	30 9:00am Exercise	31. 10:00 Bible Study 2:00pm Nifty Needlers 7:00pm Bible Study				

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



Church (785) 890-5233
 Pastor's Cell (870) 692-7242 (Pastor Don Warren)
 Church E-mail: fccd@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 Sunday mornings during worship.
 Fcc Youth Group Sunday evening.

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

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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 2023

	1	8	15	22	29
Elders	Tim Armknecht, Off Kenny Griffith, Com	Dick Hayden, Off Kim Cole, Com	Ron Vignery, Off Debbie Martin, Com	Debbie Griffith, Off Terry Smith, Com	Dick Hayden, Off Tim Armknecht, Com
Worship Leader	Joy Hayden	Kara Smith	Emma Van Vleet	Glenda Hamilton	Joni Guyer
Greeter(s):	Serving Elders	Serving Elders	Serving Elders	Serving Elders	Serving Elders
A/V Tech-Closer	Andrew Luna	Kenny Griffith	Terry Smith	Andrew Luna	Kenny Griffith

John 1: 6-12

In Keeping with Scripture OR Scripturally Speaking

God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.