



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Disciples of Christ

Welcoming All. Encountering Christ. Celebrating Community.

APRIL 2024

Earth Day

Interfaith Service

Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 4:30PM

(Kite flying and outdoor festivities begin at 3PM.)

Sponsoring communities:

Manhattan Jewish Congregation

Ecumenical Campus Ministry at K-State

First Christian Church of Manhattan

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Manhattan



Join us at First Christian Church

3001 Grand Mere Pkwy, Manhattan, KS

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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.

A WORD FROM LAURIE....



Here we are, maybe, just maybe, spring is finally here. Easter chocolates and candy are everywhere as parents try to get rid of all the candy! We have been having a lot of fun around here. The Easter Festival and Egg Hunt, the Baptism, Easter brunch and the Easter celebration itself means joy could be found in abundance. But wait! There is more to come!

I want to thank Linda Uthoff and Steve Dyer for tag-teaming with me on our spring Bible study. The “I am” sayings found in John led to some really interesting discussions about who Jesus is for each of us. Thanks to Rev. Arthur Stewart for the suggestion. And Arthur will be our guest preacher on Mothers’ Day. The Elders are doing a book study on Henri Nouwen’s book, *In the Name of Jesus*, it is a great read on what Christian leadership is supposed to be about.

April 21st we will be hosting a 2nd Interfaith Service with our partners: The Manhattan Jewish Congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, and Ecumenical Campus Ministry. Why us? Because we have direct access to the prairie and we will be celebrating Earth Day. People will start arriving at 3:00 to play on our hill. Kites are welcomed, There will be wildflower seeds that are native to our Flint Hills, a “Bug mom” may bring some friends with her, Doug and Verleta Myers will be sharing indigenous stories, and a seed craft for the kids. And of course, we can’t forget the bounce house. The Shofar will call us in around 4:30 to celebrate God and God’s wonderful creation. There will again be a combined choir, along with music we can all share together. If you attended our Service of Thanks in November, you saw what Miriam Edelman calls “the Flight Attendant welcome”. I will get to be the flight attendant this time. If the weather cooperates, this is going to be amazing!

And the very next day is the Manhattan Community Foundation’s *Grow Green Day!* Our combined donations of up to \$15,000 will be matched by \$7500. Have your checkbook ready to go! As you already know, every gift counts.

Thank you for all you are and do.

See you at the Table!

Laurie

Christian Reiley VanGilder was baptized on Palm Sunday by Pastor Laurie in a beautiful ceremony.

Congratulations, Reiley! We are so proud of you!



COORDINATING COUNCIL

Christ is Risen! Chris is Risen Indeed! We had a meaningful Lenten season, beautiful Palm Sunday and joyous Easter Sunday! Thanks to all who made those worship services special.

Coordinating Council and Ministry teams met on Sunday, March 17th, 2024. Our next meeting is Sunday, April 28th – ministry teams meeting after church with Coordination Council meeting starting at 1 pm. I am grateful for all the ministry teams, team members and the lay leaders for the careful planning and exciting church ministries and activities. Join me in appreciation of our church professional staff, our ministers, church staff and childcare staff and volunteers.

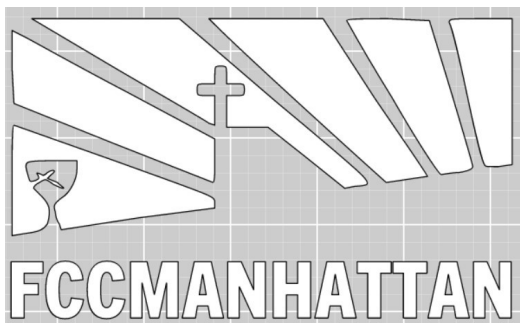
As we start the Easter season we continue to share our church building with groups, scouts, choirs, homework advising and others. Please think about the needs of having and operating our church building when you consider regular giving and special gifts to the church.

Love and Peace,

Grant Chapman, Coordinating Council Chair

APRIL WORSHIP MESSAGES

April 7	<i>Doubt Happens</i>	John 20.19-31
April 14	<i>While Passing the Beautiful Gate</i>	Acts 3.12-19
April 21	<i>Welcome to Portales, NM</i>	Acts 4.5-12
April 28	<i>I Love My Wife, I Love My Dog</i>	1 John 4.7-21



Show off your FCC heart while you drive around Manhattan. Ashley VanGilder has decals for \$2 to display on the rear window of your car. Buy one from her Sunday !

STEWARDSHIP

*Think about it... what is your sacrifice to God?
Are you living generously and giving joyfully?*

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY—APRIL 14

CHRIST IS COUNTING ON US



**Flint Hills Breadbasket greatest needs:
Canned Meat, Sugar, Syrup, Rice,
Dish Soap, Toilet Paper**

Please bring your April donations to the church on the 14th to help us fill the Breadbasket shelves.

Make a difference with kindness!

Support the Camp Fund when you shop at Dillons



To Enroll in the Dillon's Community Rewards Program:

1. Visit www.dillons.com/community-rewards
2. Sign-in to your account
3. Click on "Enroll now"
4. Search for "First Christian Church Manhattan"
5. Click "Enroll"



HELP THE CAMP
FUND!

PURCHASE

Hy-Vee Hy-Vee
Gift Cards

Purchase gift cards in the church office from
Marian or before worship from Debi Rogers.

The money raised from selling gift cards goes back
to sending our youth to Camp Tawakoni!

**GREATER MANHATTAN
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

GROW GREEN

**MATCH
DAY**



APRIL 22, 2024

visit www.GrowGreenManhattan.com

**Support From Cradles to Crayons and
Ecumenical Campus Ministry (ECM).**

**Donations made through the Greater
Manhattan Community Foundation will
receive a 50% match**

CHURCH LIFE



Bunny Cake handmade by Marilyn Lewis for Larson Group Disciples Women meeting. Cute as could be!



The Jankord kids, Madeline & Luke, having fun in Sunday School!



From Cradles to Crayons Chapel Assembly



Palm Sunday Processional



CHURCH LIFE



The Easter Egg Hunt Festival was so much fun and delighted all the children, and their parents! So much love there!

What would we have done without the help of the Scouts!? They made such a difference in the set up and in their sweet contact with the children who came during the egg hunt. THANK YOU!



Easter Morning Worship. Alleluia!
Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!



Easter Continental Breakfast—delicious!

FELLOWSHIP

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ROBERT & PAM RUSSELL

If you ever wondered who decorates the church so beautifully at the changes in the liturgical calendar, it is Pam Russell.

Pam grew up in Prairie Village, Kansas and graduated from Shawnee Mission West High School. She met Robert at Kansas State and they married in 1977. She and Robert have four children: Shorey, Robbie, Evan and Lizzy. They also have two grandchildren.

Pam was a special education teacher in and around Manhattan and Colorado Springs, Colorado. She was Executive Director of Special Services in Manhattan Ogden. She retired in 2013. Pam has held many positions at First Christian Church including Elder, Deacon, Head of Elders, Do-day leader, Building Construction Team, and Worship Ministry Team chair.

Robert has been the Cubmaster of Cub Scouts Pack 76 and just completed 37 years as a registered Scout Leader. He grew up in a military family. His dad was an Army aviator. Robert was born in Tokyo, Japan and attended 2 schools in Germany. His degree from K-State is in Biological Science. He began his career at Ft. Riley as the Transient Billeting Facility Supervisor. He transferred to Ft. Carson in Colorado Springs Colorado as the Carson Civilian Personnel Officer. He retired in 2011 as the Civilian Human Resources Agency-Southwest Region Director. At FCC, Robert serves as the Men's Fellowship Coordinator and a Trustee but his favorite job is playing drums in the Praise Band.

Robert has beautifully restored a 1963 MGB Roadster, which is pictured in the photo.

Robert and Pam have the most beautiful yard and garden. It was honored with a beautiful plaque in the Garden Tour last year.

Thank you both so much for all you do for our church.

Pam Crawford



FROM CRADLES TO CRAYONS OPPORTUNITY!

Calling all bakers! If you love baking muffins from scratch or from a mix, please let Debi Rogers know. We are looking for a few more volunteers to bake muffins for childcare breakfasts. You have the option of selecting dates that work for you. And the children will delight in what you provide!



TREASURES IN THE TRUNK IS BACK!



RECYCLE - REPURPOSE - DO NOT WASTE!

TREASURES IN THE TRUNK SALE!

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 8 AM TO 12 NOON IN THE FCC PARKING LOT

Please encourage all neighbors and friends to join in this event. We set our own little store up utilizing the trunk of our car, and the area surrounding our vehicle to display items we want to sell. Disciple's Women provides advertising, street signs, and all publicity for the event.

A donation to our Disciple's Mission Fund out of our proceeds is appreciated but not required.

Participants are asked to

1. Bring tables and anything else needed to display sale items.
2. Be your own cashier, have appropriate change.
3. At the close of the sale remove all left over items.

We have lots of customers who will enjoy finding great buys! It is a lot of fun, and it is good for our earth to recycle, plus helpful for the budgets of the customers.

The more participants we have the better!

THURSDAY SCOUT NIGHTS ARE BUSY!



Troop 275 girls meet in the conference room



Troop 75 meeting in basement to review cooking merit badge requirements.



Our guest, Lailah Bias, KSU pre-vet student and Eagle Scout, addresses our Cub Scouts.



Dustin Taylor, Scoutmaster of Troop 75, meets in the sanctuary for merit badge training.

DISCIPLESHIP



CHURCH CAMP SEASON WILL BE HERE SOON!

Do you know? FCC sends our young people to Church Camp at Disciples Center at Tawakoni for FREE!

This makes a huge impact on their lives! It takes an average of \$400 to send each student, What a gift to these young people from their Church!

We sent FIVE last year. Lets make it a goal to send even MORE this year!

Please contact Ashley VanGilder if you have any questions and to get the registration link.

PROJECT MANHATTAN

The MHS Tutoring Group meets Monday nights 7-9 pm at the church. Our own FCC member, Michael Hwang, helped create and participates in leading this program. They also prepare food for residents of our community experiencing food needs. This month the teens will be preparing food on Sunday, April 7, from 2—5 pm in the FCC kitchen.

Hats off to loving, caring, and EFFECTIVE young folks making the world better.

Be the CHANGE
you want to see
in the WORLD.

CE DIRECTOR OFFICE HOURS

Ashley VanGilder can be reached at 620-218-2594 Monday, 9:25-10:10am; Tuesday and Wednesday, 9:40-10:30am; Thursday, 10:05-11am; and everyday, after 3:30pm. She can also be reached via email any time of day. ashley@fccmanhattan.org

DISCIPLES MEN AND WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

DISCIPLES MEN

The question for discussion at the March men's fellowship was Who is Jesus to you? We focused on Philippians 2:5-11 and then shared on the question "Who is Jesus to You?"

In studying Jesus' birth, we discover multiple contrasts. The Creator of the world descended to earth as a helpless baby born in a livestock shelter and placed in a manger. He was entrusted to earthly parents who had no significant position or wealth. The most noteworthy event in human history was first announced by a chorus of angels to lowly shepherds. The glory of heaven descended in utter humility. Heaven's source of light entered our dark world yet went largely unnoticed. Most who looked for Jesus neither recognized nor welcomed him.

As with Jesus' birth, so it was with his life. He was rejected by leaders of his day. The One who breathes life into all humanity sacrificed his life on our behalf. The Son of God paid the price for our sins.

Unappreciated and underestimated, the sacrificial Lamb of God remains our unfailing Shepherd. Stripped, beaten, mocked and slain, our Savior and Lord arose from the grave and ascended into heaven, forevermore the foundation of our faith.

(Extracted from *the Secret Place, Spring 2024, Devotions for Daily Worship*)

Robert Russell, Coordinator

Next Men's Fellowship Meeting is Tuesday, April 9, 8 am at Vista Restaurant

DISCIPLES WOMEN

BLESSING BOX DONATIONS

It is time to turn in your Blessing Box offerings. As women of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) we have a special way to express our gratitude to God for the blessings we have received by contributing coins on a daily basis to our individual *Blessing Boxes* or by making a one-time contribution to the *Blessing Box Fund*.

For those who have participated in the daily discipline, please convert your coins to a check made payable to Disciples Women's Fellowship (DWF) and put Blessing Box in the memo line. For those who have chosen to give a one-time offering, please consider how God has blessed you and make a check payable to Disciples Women's Fellowship (DWF) and put Blessing Box in the memo line. The checks may be turned in at the April group meetings or left in the church office.



Blessing Box offerings are then brought to be dedicated at Spirit Fest in April. Praise God that we have been blessed and are able to share with others.

FROM CRADLES TO CRAYONS CHILDCARE



March was a fun month, celebrating Dr. Suess's birthday and doing a spirit week! We also had our St. Patrick's day parties. The children love these parties with their class and parents. Our Easter Egg Hunt was a big hit also!

We have 42 children in care right now!! Looking ahead we have 5 infants that will be moving up in the April/May time frame. We then have new infants filling those spots! So we will remain full in the Discoverers room and our 1 year old will be at full capacity. This has been a room that has been hard to keep full, we have had children that left due to moving or finding care that was a better fit for their family. I am so excited to see this room be full again!

We were able to help out several families from Hope Lutheran who closed their child care. It was a sad situation for all involved and I am happy that we were able to give some of those families peace of mind. Good news is we will be at full capacity by May time frame/

This has been a little difficult at times to navigate through all the changes, but I finally feel like we have made the adjustments needed and we are now where we need to be. Thanks to everyone who has supported me and the staff. We appreciate all of you!

Chan'Tal Underwood, Director



DISCIPLES WOMEN SPIRIT FEST!

On April 20 at Salina First Christian Church, and on May 4 at Hillside Christian, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Disciples women from all over Kansas will participate in Spirit Fest.

Any woman who has gone to Spirit Fest in previous years has been so glad they went. It is a wonderful day and will enrich your life.

Keynote speaker this year is Kansas native and author Kim Vogel Sawyer, an author of inspirational Christian fiction.

Three workshops will be offered during the breakout sessions. One of the workshops will be presented by Rev. Tiffany DeTienne who works with Church World Service and will be sharing information in her workshop about what DWF does and how we can be part of their mission. During the worship, women will have an opportunity to support the CWF Hygiene Pack project. The hope is to assemble a total of 250 kits during Spirit Fest.

Currently only enough funds are available to purchase products to complete 100 kits. If you or your DWF group would like to donate monies toward the purchase of products for this project, please send your donations to Carla Pearson at 1816 17th Aven, McPherson, KS 67460. Checks should be made out to Christian Church in Kansas.

Registration will close on Friday, April 12. Registrations will be accepted by phone in Topeka, 785-266-2914. Cost of the program and lunch is \$20.



ALL ABOUT US



Thank you for the lovely flowers when I was in the hospital. I enjoyed them so much.

Jean Neipert

We had a great campout with plenty of food and great activities.



Our side dish for the whole hog meal on Saturday night was grilled hot dogs cut into pieces in Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ sauce. Thanks so much to the church for the hot dogs. A few people made fun of the side dish, but it was all gone at the end of the night! Delicious!

Thank you from Troop 75!



- April 6 Debi Rogers
- April 9 Dakota Olivier
Lori Teel
- April 12 Phyllis Wiley
- April 13 John Trussell
- April 16 Peter VanGilder
- April 19 Ronna Olivier
- April 22 C Reiley VanGilder
- April 24 Dave Rogers
Debbie Sowell
- April 29 Michael Hwang

If we missed your birthday, contact the office

BOOK EXCHANGE

Have you checked out the book exchange table in the Narthex? Bring one, take one, the titles are changing all the time.

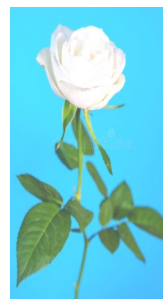
THERE'S SOME GOOD READING AT FCC!

OUR SYMPATHY

We extend our deep sympathy to the family and friends of Nebraska Regional Minister Chris Morton who died March 18.

Sympathy also to Lisa Berggren at the death of her Aunt Shirley.

*Father, may those who love.
Know the comfort of your love
Amen.*



So many thanks to all who provided the Easter Lilies for our service. They were so beautiful, and so appreciated!

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From Cradles to Crayons Director: Chan'Tal Underwood
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David Woodmansee

Worship & Spiritual Life: Pam Russell

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"For God so loved the
world that he gave his
one and only Son, that
whoever believes in
him shall not perish but
have eternal life."

-John 3:16

