



**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Disciples of Christ

*Welcoming All. Encountering Christ. Celebrating Community.*

**CONTENTS**

Minister  
Page 2

Coordinating Council  
Page 3

Outreach  
Page 4

Church Community News  
Page 5

Interfaith Earth Day  
Page 6, 7

Fellowship  
Page 8

Graduates  
Page 9, 10

Scouts  
Page 11

Discipleship  
Page 12

Men & Women Fellowship  
Pages 13

From Cradles to Crayons  
Page 14

All About Us  
Page 15

**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.

**MAY 2024**



**FCC was a perfect setting for the Earth Day Interfaith gathering which we hosted in April. A pictorial of the day's activities is included in this newsletter.**

**Speaking of Earth Day.....WHO WAS NANCY GOULDEN?**

**Nancy Goulden, a member of FCC from 1988 until she died in 2023, was an outstanding protector of our environment here in Riley County. She will be honored at the Discovery Center for her excellent work as a docent on the Konza. To say that Nancy was beloved in our church and our community is an understatement. Discovery Center knows how much Nancy treasured her church membership and has extended a special invitation to us to attend and share remembrances of her. Nancy gave her all, cheerfully, intelligently, willingly always, and everywhere. Plan to attend this special occasion at the Discovery Center.**



**May 8, 5:30—7:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served.**

# A WORD FROM LAURIE....



It is already May! My, how time flies when you're having fun. April really has flown by. A special thanks to everyone who helped with the Interfaith Earth Day activities and worship service. And Grow Green Day! From Cradles to Crayons brought in from 34 gifts of \$20,214.34. I can't wait to see the total once the matching funds are added.

In May we will honor our graduates on the 5th. Rev. Arthur Stewart will be preaching on Mother's Day and on that day we will say good bye to Darryl Matsune and Kolby Van Camp—both of whom are moving from Manhattan. We have been blessed by their incredible musical talent. I will be in Tulsa for my grandson Zachary's baby dedication. And then, of course, is Pentecost which is always a great service.

Thursday, May 16, will be our last Cub meeting of the year. It will also be Robert Russell's final Scout meeting. Robert, we cannot thank you enough for all you have done with our Scouts over the past 35+ years.

I can't wait for May, and all the beautiful flowers of summer. We are truly blessed! Thank you for all you are and do. I enjoy serving alongside you in ministry.

*See you at the Table!*

*Laurie*

## MAY WORSHIP MESSAGES

May 5	I Love Baskin-Robins	John 15:1-8
May 12	The Gospel According to Matthias	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
May 19	Like a Brood of Cicadas	Acts 2:1-21
May 26	Veterans	John 3:1-17

## EVERY END IS A NEW BEGINNING



We are honoring part of our music team, Darryl Matsune and Kolby Van Camp, with a **reception at 10 am on May 12**. Both will be moving away in May. We have been so fortunate to have them lift our hearts in music, and we will miss them! Darryl returns to his home state of California to be close to family and to pursue music opportunities. Kolby has accepted a broadcasting position in Garden City with Western Kansas Broadcast Center as Sports Director and Voice of Garden City Community College and Garden City High School Athletics.

Be sure to come to the reception before worship on May 12 to thank these two for all they have given us, and to wish them well in their next chapter!



# COORDINATING COUNCIL

April brought us the Easter Season and fabulous worship services and music. We held our Earth Day activities and Interfaith service on Earth Sunday, April 21. The ministry teams and Coordinating Council met on Sunday, April 28.



May brings in the season of Graduation, Pentecost and the celebration of Mother's Day as well as the Memorial Day of remembrance.

I am thankful for our church lay leaders and our ministers, musicians, childcare and professional staff. Please join me in thanking all who make First Christian Church such a wonderful community of faith.

*Peace and Love*  
*Grant Chapman, coordinating council*

## We Are Grateful for Marian Fuller

Our spotlight this month shines on our church secretary, and her husband, Jim.

Marian grew up in Junction City and Jim near Sedan, KS. They met at K-State in a Statistics class where they sat on the back row talking and laughing with one another so much they were called into the professor's office about that issue (so high school and so supremely embarrassing). Mercifully they did pass the class but not surprisingly retained little about statistics. They have however kept the laughter in their relationship!

After K-State, Jim got his Masters in Social Work and they settled in Olathe with their 2 children. Jim worked in Rehabilitation Services for the Blind and was honored one year to be named Kansas Rehabilitation Counselor of the Year. In retirement he loves to garden, read, and is a huge K-State sports fan. Marian was a church secretary at a Lutheran Church in Olathe and has retained a friendship with that pastor ever since. After Olathe he pastored in Sterling, CO, and several months ago when he and his wife were back in Kansas for a visit, Marian got them together with Bill and Pat McReynolds, long time members of FCC who were about to move to Sterling, so that they could share insights. Small good world!



Marian started at First Christian Church when Ben Duerfeldt was pastor. In her years at FCC, she has been very impressed by our community of saints, both past and present. She says it is an extraordinary congregation, both in talent and willingness to do whatever is needed, and that it couldn't be a better place to work— being alongside good people just trying, with God's help, to be better. And she believes that we are the most welcoming group of Christians ever!

We are so blessed to have Marian in our family. Her loving manner, attention to detail, and fun-loving attitude, keeps FCC running smoothly. Thank you for everything, Marian.

*Submitted by Pam Crawford*



# OUTREACH

## HELPING WITH “TEFAP TUESDAY” AT THE FLINT HILLS BREADBASKET!

On April 9 we had seven volunteers that helped at the Flint Hills Breadbasket food pantry to prepare The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) food pallets for regional distribution.

With seven people we formed two teams making the job go much quicker. The ladies kept things in order with their accurate counts which hardly gave the men a chance to show off their bravado! A big thanks to Dave Woodmansee, Pam and Robert Russell, Mark Maxwell, Eric King, Pam Crawford and Ron Thomas for making this event a fun success. As always, the staff at the Breadbasket were very thankful for our help.

The TEFAP truck comes once every two months, so we plan to continue to make this a regular volunteer event. In case you missed this one, be on the lookout for the next one scheduled for June 11!



## CALLING ON VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE LUNCH AT BE ABLE!



If you're interested in learning more about BE ABLE, come and join us on **Friday, May 3**, as we host a hot dog Bar-B-Q lunch at their 431 S 5<sup>th</sup> Street location. BE ABLE reaches out to those in need who perhaps don't fit in, are reluctant to move forward, or don't know how. They serve their neighbors-in-need by developing relationships and connections, by helping them cultivate their skills, and by opening doors of opportunity.

We will be lighting up the charcoal at 11am to cook and serve lunch for many of the neighbors they support along with the staff. During lunch we will have an opportunity to meet many of these neighbors and hear some of their stories. A great way to see how God's love is working in our community.

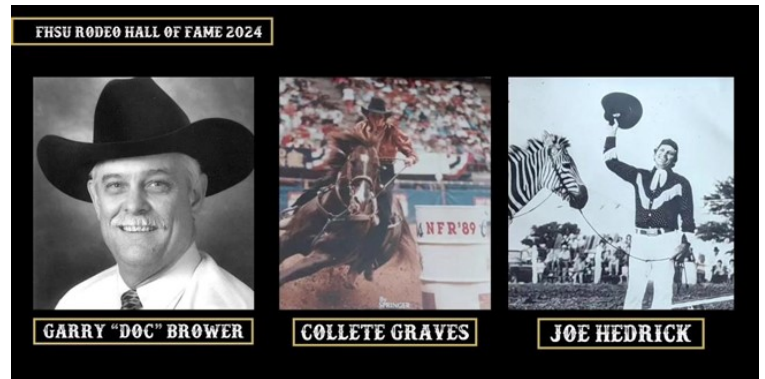
If you're not able to make it, we will also be looking for donations to help with the lunch (hot dogs, buns, cookies, individually bagged chips, apples/oranges). Please watch for an email to serve as a volunteer or provide food donations. We will once again be using the Sign-Up-Genius to coordinate this activity, or you can contact Ron Thomas directly at [ronniedale59@gmail.com](mailto:ronniedale59@gmail.com).



# CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS

## FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY RODEO CLUB HALL OF FAME

One of the most significant events of the rodeo weekend at Fort Hays State University was the induction and grand celebration of three new members of the Rodeo Hall of Fame: Dr. Garry Brower, Collete Graves, and Joe Hedrick. Their achievements are a testament to the excellence and dedication the FHSU rodeo community upholds, inspiring us all to strive for greatness.



Dr. Garry "Doc" Brower was a professor in the FHSU Department of Agriculture from 1976-2012, earning a reputation as the most respected and the toughest, orneriest instructor in the department. Garry once shared his experience at FHSU, "I accepted a position at Fort Hays on the basis I would be here one year, which turned into 36. After one semester, I was hooked." During his early years at FHSU, he was an advisor to the Block and Bridle Club and coached the horse judging team. In 1981, Doc became the rodeo club Faculty Advisor. At that time, it was more of a campus-wide social organization than a competitive organization. During his years at the helm, it progressed to a point where they had both indoor and outdoor arenas, plenty of practice stock, scholarships, and university financial support. Garry was always up to

something, so to illustrate the economic impact of the rodeo to the community, he began the tradition of giving \$2 bills for change at the annual rodeo. That caught everyone's attention; there isn't a convenient place for a \$2 bill in a cash drawer!

In 2011, as a testament to Dr. Brower's dedication to college rodeo, FHSU, his students, and their education, rodeo alumni, former students, and friends established and endowed the "Doc" Garry R Brower scholarship. This enduring tribute continues to benefit club members, leaving a lasting impact on their lives and the FHSU rodeo community.



The induction of Dr. Garry Brower into the Rodeo

Hall of Fame was a moment of immense pride and honor for his family. His wife Ruby, son Justin, daughter-in-law Kathy, granddaughters Claire and Jenna, and sister and brother-in-law Linda and Jim Watkins were present to celebrate this significant achievement and accept the commemorative buckle.





# INTERFAITH EARTH DAY AT FCC

A meaningful service and lots of fun activities outside



Thanks to all who made this Interfaith gathering so special. Here's to the next one!



A perfect day and perfect place for kite flying!



# INTERFAITH EARTH DAY AT FCC



Emma Louira from the Mercury came to do a story on the event.

What would we do without our tech people!?



The folks who attended just loved hearing the beautiful combined choirs.

# FELLOWSHIP

Thanks to all who participated in the Easter continental brunch, hosted by Fellowship Ministry Team. It was a relaxing time to visit with friends, old and new.

Please mark Sunday, June 30, as the date for a summer potluck picnic. More details will be coming. The FCC pictorial directory online has been updated, although it is still missing a few photos. You can easily find it on the website [www.fccmanhattan.org](https://www.fccmanhattan.org). Click "about" and then "online church directory". <https://www.fccmanhattan.org/online-church-directory.html> Please contact the church office or our CE Director, Ashley VanGilder, to get the password. This is a good resource to connect names and faces of new and not-so-new faith friends.

*Debi Rogers, Fellowship Chair*



## *Disciples Women Fellowship Salad Supper Celebration*

Wednesday, May 1st, 2024  
6:00 pm in Community Hall

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Bring a friend, a salad to share, and come enjoy a fun filled evening with the women of First Christian Church.

Build your own Sundae Bar!



Barbara Rees  
Guest Pianist  
Concert and  
Sing-A-Long



**First Christian Church**  
3001 Grand Mere Parkway  
Manhattan, KS 66503



# CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES



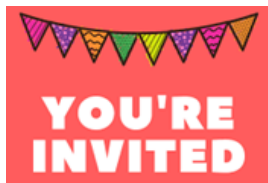
## ELIZABETH CHAPMAN

Elizabeth, the daughter of Grant and Kara, is graduating Summa Cum Laude from Kansas State University with a BA in Political Science and a BA in International Studies plus minors in French and Leadership Studies. She was an officer in Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority, International Buddies and Student Government Association. She plans to attend the University of Nebraska College of Law in the fall.



## MICHAEL HWANG

Michael, the son of Frank and Elaine, is a 2024 Manhattan High School graduate. In high school, Michael was the senior class president, a treasurer in both Civic Engagement Club and AFS club. Michael played tennis for all four years of his high school career and was a member of the MHS chamber orchestra. Michael plans to continue his studies at Kansas State University in kinesiology with a goal of becoming a pediatric physical therapist.



We are all invited to attend the graduation open houses to celebrate with these graduates. Elizabeth's is Saturday, May 11, and Michael's is Saturday, May 18. Both open houses are in our Community Hall. Join them anytime between 1:00—3:00 p.m.

## ALSO GRADUATING

**RICKY GUTIERREZ**, grandson of Richard & Linda Gallagher, is receiving a second Master's degree in Special Education while being employed as a teacher in the Turner School District in Kansas City, Kansas. Ricky will be married to Priscila Aguero on May 26, 2024. They will be living in Shawnee, KS.



**ADISON HONEYCUTT**, granddaughter of Kathy Huntzinger, will graduate from Wamego High School. Adi participated in many activities through high school and outside of school. She played tennis, softball and competed in wrestling for Wamego High. Adi was in FFA and served as president of HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) It is a club for healthcare workers. In the summers she played travel softball.

Adi plans to attend Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri on a softball scholarship, while majoring in nursing with a minor in religion. Following graduation, she plans to return home and work at one of the local hospitals before deciding whether to get an esthetician license or going back to school to become a nurse practitioner.

**JACKSON KING** is the grandson of Eric & Barb King. He graduates from Royal Valley High School this May.

Highlights of Jackson's accomplishments include earning the Rank of Eagle Scout, lettering in 3 sports- varsity football, wrestling, and baseball, being inducted into the National Honor Society, serving on the student council, and a member of the Fishing club and Student Athlete Leadership Team. Jackson attended Boys State 2023, was a Royal Valley Senior of the Month, and was elected King of the Winter Formal. Jackson attends St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. Last summer he traveled to Minnesota for a mission trip with his high school youth group and work with Native American communities.

Jackson will attend Washburn University in the fall where he has been admitted to the Law Early Acceptance Program, where he will major in Business before attending Washburn Law. Jackson has been designated as a 2024 Kansas State Scholar by the Kansas Board of Regents!





# SCOUTING



Brian Peete, RCPD Director visited our scout pack and troops recently.. He gave informative remarks about the history of his career and answered prepared questions from our scouts. He said RCPD's greatest strength is its culture of service to the communities served.



Great time at Pinewood Derby qualifying race.

Seven of our Scouts' cars will advance to the District Finals in May!

# DISCIPLESHIP



## CHURCH CAMP SEASON WILL BE HERE SOON!

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. Let's 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.**

## FIRST CHRISTIAN MUSICAL CAMP IS COMING!



Musical Theatre Camp for 4th-8th graders will be held at FCC June 18—21, 3—5:30 pm in the Sanctuary. This is very low cost...\$20 for music and materials.

It will be called **LIGHT OF THE WORLD** camp, featuring singing, dancing and acting, and the focus will be on accepting differences and spreading love, not division.

Director is Linda Uthoff. There will be two performances, June 21, at 5 pm and June 23 during worship.

**Spread the word!**



## 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](mailto:ashley@fccmanhattan.org)



# DISCIPLES MEN AND WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

## DISCIPLES MEN

Our journey in life with God relies on faith. Faith in knowing God exists, that he is present with us and will be there in times of need. When Jesus walked the earth, many saw his face, how tall he was, what color his eyes were, the shape of his hands, his facial expressions and more. However, none of that is described in the scriptures. We are left to imagine the details of his appearance. Anthropologists have studied first-century middle easterners and even recently researchers have used artificial intelligence to produce images of Jesus' appearance. Most of these images are in sharp contrast to the illustrations of Jesus we all grew up seeing in Sunday school or in paintings on church walls.

If you are like me, I want to know what Jesus looked like. I do not think it is wrong to want to know this about him. I believe that when I meet Jesus his appearance may totally surprise me. However, I think there will be an undeniable revelation, an immediate recognition of whose presence I am in. I believe there will be unequivocal affirmation that I am in His presence.



Since that may not happen in my lifetime, my faith journey can and does offer other tangible ways that God becomes recognizable. We have all heard how we see God in the birth of our children, the magnificence of God's creations in spectacular sunsets, seeing the ocean for the first time, witnessing mountain vistas, perhaps even when viewing a total solar eclipse. These illustrations are like that for me.

Recognizing God's presence will be different for each of us. I know I need to spend more time consciously looking for God...not just during rare and special life experiences, but in everyday living. What does Jesus look like to you? Where do you see him? Are you looking for Him?

*Robert Russell, Coordinator*

**Next Men's Fellowship Meeting is Tuesday, May 14, 8 am at Vista Restaurant**

## DISCIPLES WOMEN

Our members arranged for a "Treasure in the Trunk" parking lot sale on April 13. We welcome feedback on whether this is an activity we should continue.



Members assisted Pastor Laurie with hosting the Earth Day Interfaith activities and the reception following the worship service.

DWF cabinet is looking for a replacement for Secretary, Jean Neipert, who has resigned, and we welcome Fran Irelan who will be replacing Deb Marfield as Treasurer, as Deb retires after many years dedicated to DWF Cabinet. Deb will continue to manage our "Welcome Cups" for Sunday morning visitors. We are grateful to both of these members for their service to DWF.

Hope everyone will attend the "All church women and friends" Salad Supper, Wednesday, May 1. Main program will be food, fellowship and some fun entertainment!

# FROM CRADLES TO CRAYONS CHILDCARE



We have had a great spring so far!! Our Easter egg hunt was a success, we had so many parents join us for the hunt! I love all the activities we plan that the parents can be involved in. We just celebrated "The Week of the Young Child." Each day had a theme. Friday was "Family Friday," we had parents come into most of the classrooms and read to the children, Inventors had parents come and eat breakfast with them. It was so awesome!

We have 44 children enrolled as of April 16. I am finally finished hiring new staff to take the place of our college girls leaving in May. I just hired a new teacher for the Infant room, her name is Lauren; a new assistant in the Adventurers room, Karen; Investigators will have a new assistant starting on May 13th, Fatima; Inventors will have a new assistant, Aubrey. We will be busy with orientations, observations and training all the new staff. Please welcome them if you see them in the halls!

We will be getting ready for Muffins with Mom's in May and celebrating with them! I will be working on Teacher Appreciation week, and trying to plan a great week for my teachers! I want them to know how much they are appreciated!

*Chan'Tal Underwood, Director*



Family Friday!  
Parents came to share with the children's classrooms.





# ALL ABOUT US



I want to thank so many FCC friends for their prayers, cards, food, treats, and caring concern following my injury. It is comforting just to hear from friends at these times as I patiently (or not so patiently) wait for God's healing hands to work.

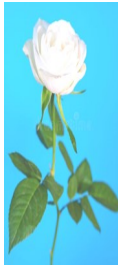
*Feeling loved, Linda Gallagher*

Recently I came into work to find the office computer not working. Panic! I called JT VanGilder to seek his expertise, and he came out to the church and fixed it in about 2 seconds. He literally saved the day. What a blessing he is!

*Marian*

## OUR SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy to Paula Hardin and her family at the death of her son-in-law, Tad Thompson on April 8.



*Father, may those who mourn so deeply now, know the comfort of your love Amen.*

## FLINT HILLS BREADBASKET COLLECTION DAY—MAY 12

Greatest needs:

**Canned Chicken, Spam, Sugar, Syrup, Rice,**

**Dish Soap, Toilet Paper**



May 1 Christian Haig

May 5 Rose Carter  
Joe Crain

May 17 Robert Russell

May 20 Alicia Chaline

May 24 Earl Dreher

May 27 Tristin Teel

May 31 Kay Stith

*If we missed your birthday, contact the office*

HELP THE CAMP FUND!

# PURCHASE

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!

## 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](http://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"

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**3001 GRAND MERE PARKWAY, MANHATTAN, KS 66503**  
**785.776.8790 fccmanhattan.org**

Minister: Rev. Laurie Lewis	laurie@fccmanhattan.org
Christian Education Director: Ashley VanGilder	ashley@fccmanhattan.org
From Cradles to Crayons Director: Chan'Tal Underwood	director@fccmanhattan.org
Church Secretary: Marian Fuller	marian@fccmanhattan.org
Property Co-Chairs: Fred Landis	felandis57@gmail.com
John Trussell	johnrussell@gmail.com
Coordinating Council:	
Chair: Grant Chapman	theglobalchapman@gmail.com
Chair-Elect: David Woodmansee	david.w.woodmansee@gmail.com
Secretary: Ruby Brower	rkb0620@gmail.com
Trustee Chair: Alice Trussell	alitrus@ksu.edu
Elder Chair: Frank Hwang	fhp537@yahoo.com
Deacon Chair: Marilyn Lewis	mjlewis@ksu.edu
Ministry Team Chairs:	
Discipleship: Linda Uthoff	lindau3@yahoo.com
Fellowship: Debi Rogers	derogers@ksu.edu
Local & Global Outreach Co-chairs:	
Ann Foster	ann.foster82@yahoo.com
Ron Thomas	ronniedale59@gmail.com
Stewardship Interim Co-Chairs: Grant Chapman	rrglghr@ksu.edu
David Woodmansee	
Worship & Spiritual Life: Pam Russell	prussell5656@gmail.com

**PENTECOST OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED MAY 12 AND 19**

Your gifts to the 2024 Pentecost Offering are divided equally between our regional ministry, which supports local new churches, and **New Church Ministry**, which trains, equips, and assists emerging leaders to be “movement initiators.”

**Church — a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.**

