



**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Disciples of Christ

*Welcoming All. Encountering Christ. Celebrating Community.*

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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.

## JULY 2024



**Grab your lawn chair, a bottle of water, and come to First Christian Church around 9 pm Thursday, the 4th of July, to view a spectacular display of fireworks from across the city!**

**That evening, we will be privileged to welcome and visit with 40 English teachers from Brazil who are participating in professional development at K-State this summer. Grant and Kara Chapman will be hosting.**

**Don't miss this special evening under the stars with a sky filled with joyful fireworks, and a loving international connection!**

# A WORD FROM LAURIE....



Happy summertime! I hope your gardens and lawns have enjoyed all the rain!

Our June has sailed along and July is here! Thank you for participating in the dedication of Sadie Mae Crain, the wonderful Musical Theatre Camp performance *Let Your Light Shine*, plus the Standing Bear Intertribal Drum Circle and Summer Picnic. Again, thanks to all who make these ministries happen!

The Faith Sisters have a great outing plan for Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup>, involving AJ's Pizza followed by some time at a Speakeasy. There is a hot dog lunch to prepare Friday, the 26<sup>th</sup> at BE ABLE, and our usual men's, women's and chapel ministries.

In addition to our expected summer activities, we are going to try something exciting starting July 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7. Casual jazz worship at Rockin K's. Please come and check it out, order some food and drinks, and enjoy the fabulous music. *Faith, Hope, and Jazz* will include the opportunity to participate in Lord's Supper, prayer, and to hear a word of hope to go alongside the jazz. It is a great place to bring a friend. They can learn more about who we are without the trepidation of walking in a building full of strangers for the first time. There are maps in the Narthex. Please be excited. This is a wonderful opportunity to get us out in the public eye and add another reason for people to be talking about us. Who knows what it might lead to!

It is a privilege to share in your ministry with you!

See you at the Table,  
*Laurie*

## WORSHIP MESSAGES

July 7 "A Prophet Among Us" Mark 6:1-13

July 14 "He Asked Her to Dance" Mark 6:14-29

July 21 "A Table in the Wilderness" Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 28 "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

### TOM & PATTI BALLOWE

Tom and Patti Ballowe placed membership with First Christian on June 23. The Ballowes returned to Manhattan from Green Valley, AZ, last year.

They have 2 grown daughters, Melissa and son-in-law, Andy, live in Cortland, NY. Their daughter Lindsay, and grandsons, Thomas, Bennett, and Ethan live in Harker Heights, TX. Their son-in-law, Douglas is in the Army and currently deployed to Lithuania.



Tom and Patti want everyone to know they are happy to be members of such a joyful and friendly church. And WE are super delighted to have them! Welcome, Ballowes!

# COORDINATING COUNCIL

Happy Fourth of July! The Coordinating Council and Ministry Teams met on June 23. Thanks to Linda Uthoff and all who made the Musical Theatre Praise Camp a reality. We had a wonderful worship service with a "Let Your Light Shine" musical message from the youth campers on Sunday, June 23. In fact, we had over 100 attending worship service that day! We had a church congregation meeting and the annual all church picnic on the last Sunday of June, June 30.

Please stay cool this July. Please remember the continuing church and community needs with your gifts during the summer.

*Peace and Love,  
Grant Chapman, Coordinating Council Chair*



## WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR RUBY BROWER

Let's celebrate Ruby Brower. A ruby is a precious stone that promotes loving, nurturing, health and knowledge. That's OUR Ruby, too.

Ruby was an only child and grew up in Benton, Kansas. She graduated from K State with degrees in medical laboratory science and a master's degree in adult and occupational education. For 25 years, she directed the St Mary's Hospital Lab in Manhattan. She also worked as an inspector of laboratories across the state for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. She was recognized by her peers as the National Medical Laboratory Professional of the Year. A colleague said their mantra was, "Let's call Ruby. She'll know!!"

Ruby was married to her beloved Garry, who, with a PhD from K State, was a professor of agriculture at Fort Hays State University. Garry passed away in 2012. They had 2 sons. Doug passed away in 2017. Her other son, Justin, lives in Manhattan with his wife, Kathy, and Ruby's 2 granddaughters Claire 16 and Jenna 13.

Ruby keeps very busy with leadership roles in Riley County Extension 4-H Youth activities. Her family was the 4-H family of the year in 1995.

Ruby loves and collects antique dishes and crystal dishes. She enjoys reading novels and scientific journals specifically about medical labs.

Ruby's father was a mechanic and owned the service station in town. Ruby was his helper, and used to tear down engines on hay bailers, combines and tractors, clean them and then reassemble them. This was an unusual pastime for a young girl in the 1960s but she treasures the time spent beside her dad.

Ruby is a treasure at First Christian Church. She is a hard worker on many committees and the Coordinating Council secretary. She's a precious jewel to us.

*Submitted by Pam Crawford*





**REACHING OUT— HOSTED BY FCC!**

**FAITH,  
HOPE, &  
JAZZ!**

**THURSDAY  
JUL 11TH  
5:30PM-7PM**

**LIVE JAZZ EVERY THURSDAY  
ROCKIN K'S BAR & GRILL!  
1880 KIMBALL AVE**

# REGIONAL ASSEMBLY



## 2024 Regional Assembly August 10, 2024

Hillside Christian Church, Wichita



The 2024 Kansas Disciples Regional Assembly will be held on **Saturday, August 10** at Hillside Christian Church in Wichita. This year's theme is **"We are Disciples, Linked by Love."**

Additionally, during the final worship service, the region's two new Associate Regional Ministers will be installed. You will have the opportunity to meet them, as well as other recently hired regional staff members, in person during the day.

The meeting features two keynote speakers: The Rev. Dr. Jay Hartley, Regional Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Arizona, and Rev. Jerry Zehr. Five educational workshops will be available for you to choose from.

**Business Meeting** - The biennial (every two years) official Regional business session will be held to vote on the following items and any others brought to the assembly:

- ◆ Election of new regional officers
- ◆ Approve the date and location for the 2026 Regional Assembly

**Voting Representatives**—*Each congregation is entitled to three voting delegates (churches with greater than 300 members are entitled to additional delegates). All ministers in good standing and members of the regional board of directors are voting representatives. FCC Manhattan is entitled to three voting delegates in addition to our minister, Laurie, Debi Rogers, and myself as board members.*

*Please contact Grant if you are willing to represent our congregation as a voting delegate. Delegates will be selected at the July 21 Coordinating Council meeting.*

**Registration is \$25. Go to the [Kansasdisciples.org](http://Kansasdisciples.org) website to register.**

**OUR 5TH SUNDAY PICNIC WAS SO MUCH FUN! THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED.  
CAN'T WAIT TO DO IT AGAIN!!**



First Class Grillers



Pickleball On The Back Court!

# LOCAL AND GLOBAL OUTREACH MINISTRY

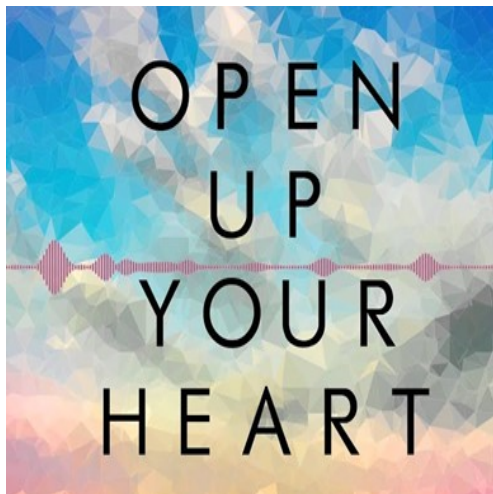
## Helping with “TEFAP Tuesday” at the Flint Hills Breadbasket!

On June 11 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.

These three pictures show the beginning, the middle and the end of our effort. At the beginning, pallets of food items are arranged in the warehouse after being delivered to the Breadbasket. The second picture shows how a portion of these pallets are then redistributed onto new pallets based on each area food pantry’s allocation. The last picture shows the final pallets, wrapped and ready for pickup.

A big thanks to Pam and Robert Russell, Mark Maxwell, Eric King, Pam Crawford, Debi Rogers 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, so if you miss this one, be on the lookout for the next one scheduled for August 13!



## FLINT HILLS BREADBASKET COLLECTION DAY—JULY 14

### WISH LIST:

**CANNED CHICKEN, SPAM, SUGAR, SYRUP, RICE,  
BOXED CHEESE (LIKE VELVEETA )  
DISH SOAP, TOILET PAPER**

The number of folks needing Breadbasket food help has grown leaps and bounds. Expenses have gone up so much—but for many income has not.



# LOCAL & GLOBAL OUTREACH



## CALLING ON VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE LUNCH AT BE ABLE JULY 26!

If you're interested in finding out more about BE ABLE, come and join us on **Friday, July 26** as we host a Bar-B-Q lunch at their 431 S 5<sup>th</sup> Street location.

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 experience how BE ABLE is touching the lives of those in our community who need support.



If you're not able to make it, we will also be looking for donations to help with the lunch. Please be on the lookout for an email to sign-up to serve as volunteers or provide a food donation. We will once again be using SignUpGenius to coordinate this activity, or you can contact Ron Thomas directly at [ronniedale59@gmail.com](mailto:ronniedale59@gmail.com).



## FCC IS GETTING NEW T-SHIRTS!

We have a new T-shirt design ! It is simple and easy to read, and we plan to have these shirts to wear at church events and volunteer activities.

Shirts will cost \$20 each and orders will be taken the first two weeks of July via email or by a sign-up sheet that will be church.

## TIME TO "STUFF THE BUS"

Once again, FCC will collect school supplies for the "Stuff the Bus" campaign to support USD 383. This year, the " Bus" will be located at Walmart. An appropriately labeled box can be found in the narthex for collecting our school items. Our donations will be taken to the Walmart collection point on July 13.

For additional information and a list of needed school supplies, visit <https://stuffthebusmhk.com>. Suggested items include backpacks, tissues, supply boxes, and standard school supplies.



# DISCIPLES MEN FELLOWSHIP

## TAKE MY HAND, PRECIOUS LORD

by *JIM GRASSI* | APR 9, 2024 | *WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL*, <https://mensministrycatalyst.org/>

Thomas Andrew Dorsey was the first African American elected to the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Gospel Music Association's Living Hall of Fame. His significant contributions to Christian music are noteworthy. He is referred to as the "Father of Gospel Music" and is often credited with creating it.

In his very early years, he was predominantly a blues musician and singer. In 1932 at the age of thirty-three, he and his wife, Nettie lived in a small apartment on Chicago's Southside. It was a hot August afternoon when he was supposed to go to St. Louis, where he would be a featured soloist at a large revival meeting. Something did not feel right. He told Nettie that he was not going to the revival. Nettie, who was in the last month of pregnancy with their first child, insisted that he go to the concert. So, he went. The concert was so successful that people were screaming for him to keep on singing. Out of the corner of his eye he saw a messenger boy running up to him with a Western Union telegram. He ripped open the envelope. Pasted on the yellow sheet were the words: YOUR WIFE JUST DIED.



Thomas confesses, "When I got back, I learned that Nettie had given birth to a boy. I swung between grief and joy. Yet that night, the baby died. I buried Nettie and our little boy together, in the same casket. Then I fell apart. For days I closeted myself. I felt that God had done me an injustice. I did not want to serve Him any longer or write gospel songs. I just wanted to go back to that jazz world I once knew so well." Yet, Thomas eventually turned back to the Lord for comfort and relief from his deep grief. In the process, Thomas wrote the song, "Take My Hand, Precious Lord."

These stanzas captured the grief not only of Dorsey, but also of any who has suffered significant loss.

*Precious Lord, take my hand,  
lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light;  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

The opening line of stanza one, "Precious Lord, take my hand," indicates a suffering soul that is reaching out. The songwriter/singer acknowledges that he is at the end of his rope: "I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm worn." When Dorsey penned, "Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light," perhaps he was thinking of [Matthew 8:23-27](#), where Jesus stilled the storm.

It seems that in life we find ourselves willing and motivated to reach out to God in dark times when we are vulnerable, hurting, angry and lost. God is always there for us. His son Jesus does not judge us for only seeking him when we are in need. He loves us unconditionally.

Many hymns and messages are conceived in the throes of tragedy. What events or circumstances have drawn you closer to God? How have you been able to share your pain?

*Robert Russell, Coordinator*

## KANSAS DISCIPLES MEN FALL RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 26—27, 2024

DISCIPLES CENTER AT TAWAKONI

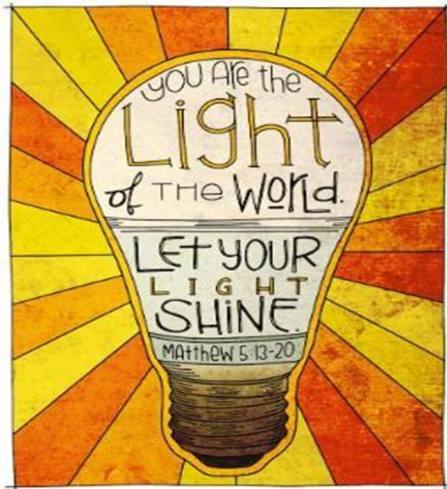
The Keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Paxton Jones. He served on the staff of the Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ) for 18 years, 10 of which were as the Regional Minister and President.

Robert Russell and David Woodmansee plan to attend and can answer any questions you might have. Registration info may be found at [kansasdisciples.org](http://kansasdisciples.org)





# MUSICAL THEATRE PRAISE CAMP 2024



***Our thanks to the 2024  
Light of the World  
Musical Theatre Praise Camp!***

**Eliana Davidson, Kaylee Duntz,  
Maycee Duntz, Avalee Lewis,  
Madyson Marfield, Addalyne Neef,  
Clair Poell, Lilly Poell, Ellie Rogers  
Lucy Rogers, Kylee Teel**

**Music Director: Natalie Davidson  
Choreographer: Eliana Davidson  
Staging Director: Linda Uthoff**



Many thanks to Linda Uthoff who directed this year's Musical Theatre at First Christian, and to all those who pitched in to help, for everything from decorations, to treats, to helping with lighting and sound. It was a wonderful week and what a great performance! But it was our wonderful Linda who made it all happen. With help from her husband John, definitely!

# MUSICAL THEATRE PRAISE CAMP 2024



Rehearsal week was so much fun!





# USING TALENT GIVEN BY GOD



In the spring of 2023 while at church I saw artwork which included the Disciples of Christ chalice. When I first saw it all I could see was BEADS! During worship I was thinking of things I had and things I would need to get. I started working on this project in February of 2024 and finished in June.

I know I'm not the best beader on earth but I do the best I can with my right hand. It is my therapy to keep my right hand moving. If I have beaded too long I can't move the hand the next day. But, I will continue on with my Lord's help.

I am using the North Eastern Woodland Indians technique of beading. I have used it for many years and for many projects. I have evolved from projects to pictures so anyone/everyone can see them in a gallery. This is my seventh picture and hopefully more are to come as long as my right hand holds out. My pictures take anywhere from three to four months, to eleven months or more so far. Smaller pictures will take less time and are in the immediate future.

*Blessings to all, Verleta Myers/Red Otter*



Standing Bear Brotherhood shared Indian spirituality at worship in June.



# OUR YOUTH



The FCC youth at Camp Tawakoni this year—Joe, Joshua, Reiley and Kylee— all had a great time, and thank us all for our support!



Sadie Mae Crain, daughter of Joe and Sarah, sister of Millie, and granddaughter of Mark and Kathy Maxwell, was dedicated at worship on June 23.



## CE DIRECTOR

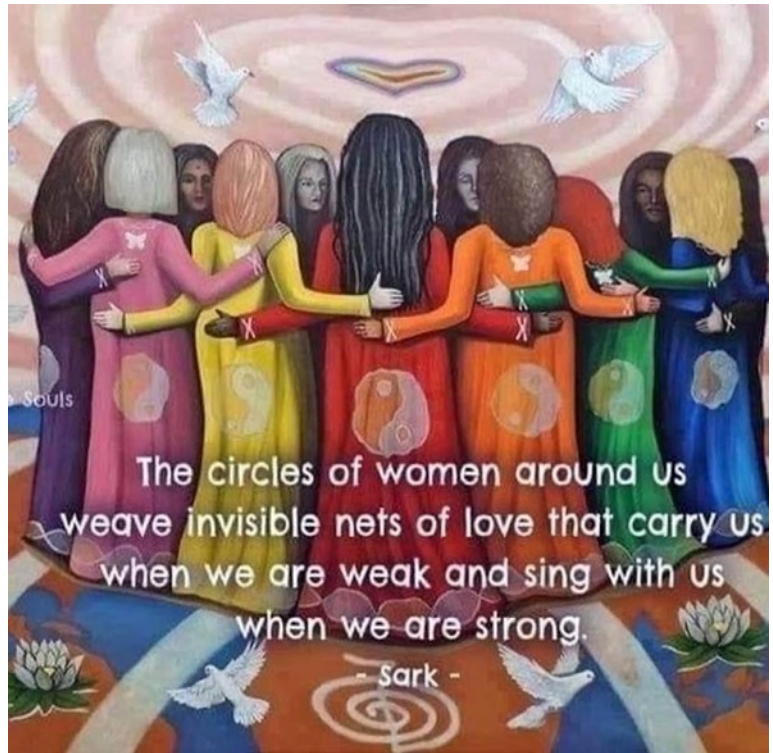
Ashley VanGilder can be reached at 620-218-2594 and at [ashley@fccmanhattan.org](mailto:ashley@fccmanhattan.org)

# DISCIPLES WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Disciple Women's Fellowship groups are formed to provide opportunities for spiritual growth, enrichment, education and creative ministries to enable women to develop a sense of personal responsibility for the whole mission of the church of Jesus Christ and to provide a means through which women in the congregation may be joined in fellowship and participate in the Christian Church (DOC) as a whole.

Our groups (Do-Day, Larson Group, Faith Sisters) maintain contact through in person meetings in homes and at church, and support each other in many creative ways. A variety of meeting times are offered. Do-Day meets mornings, Larson Group meets afternoons, and Faith Sisters have an evening time. Our Coordinating Cabinet is interested in offering a group for employed women and moms, possibly on a Saturday morning. All church women are invited to join the "Faith Sisters" group chat on Facebook to stay informed about activities. Monthly group meetings are also announced in the Newsletter, and through phone reminders if you prefer non-electronic communication. A program booklet is compiled and distributed in late summer with group schedules and meeting places. Please see any member, or Marian in the church office to receive your copy.

**All church women** are welcome to attend the Dutch Treat dinners hosted by Faith Sisters on the second Thursday of each summer month. July 11 takes us to the Speakeasy for a fun, fancy drink at 5:30 and then to AJ's for Pizza. (Check Facebook "Faith Sisters" for details and to RSVP) This is a great way to build a small group relationship, or just get acquainted!



A recent From Cradles to Crayons assembly in the sanctuary, with Linda Gallagher and Marilyn Masterson and Heather Thomas leading the children in a song.





# FROM CRADLES TO CRAYONS CHILDCARE



Our Doughnuts with Dads in June was a great turnout. I have been working on the transitions of the classrooms will happen August 12th-16th. We will be transitioning them in groups of 3, in hopes that this makes it easier. I have reached out to all the parents and they are all excited and ready for their children to move up. We are going to make our 2 year old room a little younger, per state licensing we can have 8 children in that room from 2 weeks-6 years. We have a lot of babies that will be coming and this makes room in the 1 year old room for a few that had temporary spots. I am working on keeping us full, it can be hard through the transitions.

We hired an awesome assistant in the infant room, her name is Lauren. We also hired 2 new assistants in the Preschool rooms. Fatima is from Brazil and is taking classes to learn more English. Aubrey is a student working full time during the summer.

We are at 46 kiddos! We have recently changed our names for our rooms. The infants are the Otter Pups, the 1's are the Pandas, the 2's are the Kangaroos, the 3's are the Hedgehogs and the 4's are the Koalas. We are excited about the new names!

The children are enjoying the summer so far with pool play, exploring the water toys and just having fun being a kid. They are loving it! Sam and I are starting to plan the graduation for her class. Stay tuned for the details.

*Chan'Tal Underwood, Director*



Staff enjoyed a night out!



Summer fun for the children!



# ALL ABOUT US



Thanks to all who sent birthday greetings on the occasion of my 97th birthday! And thanks be to God for the wonderful life he gives me!  
*Love, Betty Slemen*

Thank you to my FCC family for your ongoing prayers and words of comfort during the illness and passing of my son, Patrick Freeman. Your support has been appreciated so much.  
*Love, Nancy Freeman*

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Dave and Renate Woodmansee have a new great grandchild! Mother Charity and baby are doing well—baby is Oliva Mae Baumann., 7 lb, 3 oz, 20.5", born May 31. We are happy for all!



- July 1 Ryan Haig
- July 4 Stephen Dyer  
Mark Maxwell
- July 8 Eula Mae Hedman
- July 12 Paula Hardin
- July 16 John Uthoff
- July 25 Judy Marshall
- July 28 Virginia Morris
- July 29 Debbie Soper

*If we missed your birthday, contact the office*



Eula Mae Hedman turns 102 on July 8th! She loves her church and here is a time for us to love her back with birthday cards and good wishes.



Whether you know her or not, please join in with this card shower. She is your sister in Christ!

Send cards to 2121 Meadowlark, 66502



Special music at worship on Father's Day featured father and son, Chris and JT VanGilder.

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

Minister: Rev. Laurie Lewis  
Christian Education Director: Ashley VanGilder  
From Cradles to Crayons Director: Chan'Tal Underwood  
Church Secretary: Marian Fuller  
Property Co-Chairs: Fred Landis  
John Trussell

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Coordinating Council:

Chair: Grant Chapman  
Chair-Elect: David Woodmansee  
Secretary: Ruby Brower  
Trustee Chair: Alice Trussell  
Elder Chair: Frank Hwang  
Deacon Chair: Marilyn Lewis

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Stewardship Interim Co-Chairs: Grant Chapman  
David Woodmansee

Worship & Spiritual Life: Pam Russell

[prussell5656@gmail.com](mailto:prussell5656@gmail.com)



**Join Us for Jazz!!**

**Thursday Nights  
this summer at  
Rockin' K's!**

**See inside for details**