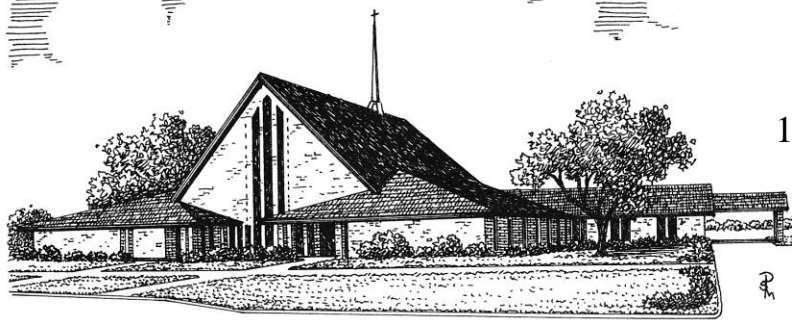




Fore Thoughts April 2017



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

1500 S 29th St. • Parsons KS 67357
620-421-4790

Website: www.fccparsons.org

Church e-mail:

fcc_church@sbcglobal.net



*Easter Sunday
Sunrise Services
At Tolen Creek Park
April 16th at 6:30 am.
with First Presbyterian
Church. Join us for this glorious
service!*

*Breakfast after the service at First Presbyterian
Church. All are invited!*

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

It's that time again! The Red Cross Bloodmobile is scheduled to be at the First Christian Church on April 27th from noon until 6 p.m. and April 28th from 8 a.m. until noon. Please take the time to schedule an appointment to donate. Call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767), or visit redcrossblood.org to make an appointment or for more information.

Many time slots are still available, but the sooner you schedule, the more likely you will get the time slot you prefer. And don't forget that you can speed up the donation process by using Rapid Pass the day of your appointment. If you require assistance in scheduling an appointment, please call Dean Cramer at 778-6483.

As always, walk-ins are always welcome, but appointments get first priority. We hope to see you all at the blood drive, and bring a friend – show them how easy it is to save lives.

How does the blood donation process work?

Donating blood is a simple thing to do, but can make a big difference in the lives of others. The donation process from the time you arrive until the time you leave takes about an hour. The steps in the process are:

Registration - You will complete donor information. You will be asked to show a donor card, driver's license or two other forms of ID.

Health History and Mini Physical - You will answer some questions during a private and confidential interview about your health history and the places you have traveled. You will have your temperature, hemoglobin, blood pressure and pulse checked.

Donation - You will have some time to relax while the bag is filling. (For a whole blood donation, it is about 8-10 minutes. If you are donating platelets, red cells or plasma by aphaeresis the collection can take up to 2 hours

Refreshments - You will spend a few minutes enjoying refreshments to allow your body time to adjust to the slight decrease in fluid volume. After 10-15 minutes you can then leave the donation site and continue with your normal daily activities.

Your gift of blood may help up to three people. Donated red blood cells do not last forever. They have a shelf-life of up to 42 days. A healthy donor may donate every 56 days. Dean Cramer, Bloodmobile Coordinator

Parsons Ministerial Association Holy Week

Service Schedule:

*All services/luncheons will be held at
Wesley United Methodist Church,
500 N. Leawood Drive, Parsons*

Monday, April 10 – 11:45 AM

Speaker: Doug Baty (Westside Christian Church)

Music: Marlan Hoffman

Tuesday, April 11 – 11:45 AM

Speaker: Jennifer Dawson (First Presbyterian Church)

Music: Glory Bound

*Wednesday, April 12 – 11:45 AM

Speaker: Sharon Billman (St. John's Episcopal Church)

Music: Warren Townsend

Thursday April 13 – 11:45 AM

Speaker: Margaret Johnson (Wesley United Methodist)

Music: Joe Burke & Family

Friday, April 14 – 11:45 AM

Speaker: Steve Crawford (First Assembly of God Church)

Music: First Presbyterian/First Christian Chancel Choir.

***First Christian Church Disciple Women will provide lunch on Wednesday, April 12th. Contact Janie Barcus if you would like to help.**

FCC serving Dinner on 17th Street April 27th

FCC is serving Dinner on 17th Street at the First Baptist Church on April 27th and you are invited to come eat, too, anytime. It is free, but if you feel you should give a little, there is always a basket for such gifts. That money provides coffee, plates, and serving needs. The Dinner on 17th meal is every Thursday and a service to the community which we share in ecumenically. Help us spread community and the love of Christ in Parsons. If you would like to help out call Barbara Robbins at 421-3446.

Dinner on 17th





"Such knowledge is too wonderful for me." - Psalm 139:6

In a few days there will be less elbow room in the pews. The Easter crowd is coming.

The assumption is that my job will be to make sense of scripture, to reduce the mystery, and to make God understandable. No one has ever put it to me that plainly, but for those who want a modern-minded faith the assumption is implicit. You bring your questions to an expert. I have fallen prey to this reasoning; I've preached dozens of sermons that aim to explain, clarify, and demystify.

One of the reasons I love the people in the Easter crowd is that their arrival stands as a direct disproof of such nonsense.

If people came to church to hear reason, Easter would not be the most popular Sunday of the year because there is nothing sensible about the resurrection. Easter ought to leave we preachers scratching our heads. We are not able to define or even describe the resurrection.

The first thing we preachers ought to admit on Easter is that God has done the incomprehensible, but not the illogical. When my daughter was in kindergarten First Christian church in Boone, Iowa gave her Sunday school class purple plastic Easter eggs to take home. The egg contained a slip of paper. She was right in the midst of learning how to read so she seized on the paper's monosyllabic words eagerly. She read with confidence. "He is..."

Then she paused, carefully considering both syllables in the third word. "He is... raisins?"

"He is raisins" is illogical. "He is risen!" is merely incomprehensible. When we preachers speak about God we should distinguish between things that do not make sense and things we cannot make sense of. Easter falls in the latter category. We can't explain it. We shouldn't try. But we can stand in joy and awe before it. Oh God, pardon our attempts to reduce you. And coax us into awestruck wonder.

In Easter Anticipation and Awe,
Pastor Paul

Bible Studies

Get ready to study about what being a Church of Wholeness or "One" in a Broken and Fragmented World means. These Bible studies are provided by faculty from Disciples-related seminaries and divinity houses and other Disciples educators. And every one of them has a unique flavor and emphasis – just like Disciples!

This is an eight week study that will start Wednesday April 19th at 5:15 and run for eight weeks. All the study guides will be provided just bring yourself and your Bible. If you want bring a snack or a drink and join in the study and discussion.

Enfolded, Unfolded, Made One: Unity in the Holy Spirit – José Francisco Morales Jr., Director of Pastoral Formation, Disciples Seminary Foundation

United In Our Multiplicity: The Immigrant Body and the Politics of Oneness in John 17:20-21 – Dr. Sharon Jacob, Assistant Professor of New Testament, Phillips Theological Seminary

Sharing Food and Sharing Life – Dr. Kristine A. Culp, Dean, Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago, Associate Professor of Theology, The Divinity School, The University of Chicago

Let Us Cooperate for One: A Lesson in Polity from Alexander Campbell – Dr. Timothy S. Lee, Associate Professor of the History of Christianity, Brite Divinity School

Staying Together with One Mind and One Heart – Dr. Delores Carpenter, Professor of Religious Education, Howard University

We Are One—What? – Dr. Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder, Faculty, Chicago Theological Seminary

Oneness in Purpose and Works – Dr. Warren Carter, Professor of New Testament, Brite Divinity School

A Meditation on One – Mark Miller-McLemore, Dean, Disciples Divinity House at Vanderbilt

The Disciple Women's April Project: The Salvation Army



DOING THE MOST GOOD

The Salvation Army is the first to respond and the last to leave in all disasters, working tirelessly to bring aid in all situations - tornadoes, floods, fires - providing food and shelter to the homeless, soup kitchens, and monetary needs for utilities, gasoline, and housing in emergencies. The list is endless. This is a truly loving, compassionate, and caring group of Christian people striving to do God's will.

Let us respond with our monetary donations to show we too care.

The need is great and endless. We invite the congregation to join us if they wish. Mark your envelopes "**DW SA Project**"

God bless you all for your ongoing, sustaining support..

Disciple Women Executive Board meets Tuesday, April 4 @ 9:30 am in the library.

The Nursing Home Party will be Thursday, April 6 @ 2:30 p.m.

Ruth Group will meet at Kitchen Pass on Monday, April 10 @ 11 am.

Deborah Group will meet Tuesday, April 11 @ 1:30 pm.

General Meeting will be Tuesday, April 25 @ 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.



Thank you to Janie Barcus and Anne Maloney for hosting our March Cookie Sunday.

We are still in need of April hosts. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex if you are interested in volunteering.

Thank you to Barbara Robbins for hosting our March Coffee. Sharon Ryan will be our April coffee hostess.





ALL Elders and Deacons are asked to meet in the parlor at 9:00 am for prayer.

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled Sunday, please exchange with someone and inform your team captain and the church office. (421-4790 or fcc_church@sbcglobal.net)

Sunday, April 2

Elder/Sacraments: Janie Barcus
Elder/Offering: Steve Fincher
Deacons: Marlene Wegner, Elaine Harris, Sandy Womeldorff, Jerry Janssen
Worship Leader: Don Barcus
Nursing Home Devotions: Dean Cramer, Marian Johnson (Elmhaven East 2:45 pm)
Sound Board: David Austin
Narthex Kids: Barbara Robbins

Sunday, April 9

Elder/Sacraments: Marian Johnson
Elder/Offering: Sherrie Coltrain
Deacons: Mary Elliott, Jean Reeves, John Mulberry, Dori Howerter
Worship Leader: Mary Elliott
Home Communion: Don Barcus, Sherrie Coltrain, Lori Ray
Sound Board: Dean Cramer
Narthex Kids: Janie Barcus

Sunday, April 16

Elder/Sacraments: Dean Cramer
Elder/Offering: Lori Ray
Deacons: Jeanette Horton, Peggy Cramer, Sharon Ryan, Elaine Hudson
Worship Leader: Sherrie Coltrain
Sound Board: Lori Ford
Narthex Kids: Jared Hawks

Sunday, April 23

Elder/Sacraments: Steve Fincher
Elder/Offering: Anne Maloney
Deacons: Barbara Robbins, Marlene Wegner, Jerry Janssen, Mary Elliott
Worship Leader: Steve Fincher
Sound Board: Lori Ray
Narthex Kids: Janie Barcus
Board Prayer April 24 – Jewell Reed

Sunday, April 30

Elder/Sacraments: Don Barcus
Elder/Offering: Janie Barcus
Deacons: Jean Reeves, Elaine Harris, Sandy Womeldorff, John Mulberry
Worship Leader: Dori Howerter
Sound Board: Jared Hawks
Narthex Kids: Barbara Robbins



02 Lewis Hoyt
 03 Claude Shue
 05 Nikki Brownwell
 05 Anita McDaniel
 07 Cheryl Hazen
 07 Sharon Keal
 07 John Taggert
 08 Bryan Mulberry
 12 Patricia Bayless
 13 Nadine Allen
 13 Jackie Kelley
 14 Steven Boss
 14 Megan Lindeman
 15 Oleva Copeland
 16 Tammy Charles
 16 Kyle McElroy

18 Pam Burnett
 18 Debra Hoppes
 18 Karen McRay
 18 Lorraine Thompson
 19 Diane Crooks
 21 Don Janssen
 22 Brad Bayless
 22 Doris Drummond
 23 Wilma Brown
 24 Amy Sands
 25 Shirley Degenhart
 25 Tyler Mulberry
 27 Selena Overall
 28 Judy Garrett
 29 Bob Burnett



Please Pray For

Surrounding in prayer

Our nation's leaders and military
 Church Ministers & Staff
 Regional Church Staff
 Andrew Shipps (Iona's grandson)
The family of Roger Lavender

Care Homes/Homebound

Doris Brenner	Jimmy Dodds
Naida Harper	Rutheen Hammack
Bill Hogelin	Barbara Wills
Iona Shipps	Francis Whinery
George Mattox	Bertha Proffitt
Doris Drummond	Martha Tredway
Londa Metcalf	June Miller
Ivan & Lydia Lorimor	Jack & Lecreta Stice

Health Concerns:

Bryleigh Beardmore	Eunice Blaich
Jean Boss	Bob Burnett
Jack Brown	Erlene Cares
Sherrie Coltrain	Diane Crooks
Sharon Dillinger	Doris Drummond
Dorothy Feagan	Carol Fincher
Dale Ham	Bill Hogelin
Jerry Henry	Naida Harper
Ivan & Lydia Lorimor	Nancy Miller
Sharon Ryan	Dick Ryan
Iona Shipps	Arlice Smith
Barbara Wills	Ann Wilkinson
Francis Whinery	Fern Woolfolk

Our friends with continuing concerns:

Sam Blubaugh (Betty Thomas' friend)
 Charlotte Brown
 Rick Bussinger
 Karla Carl
 Jenny Clemons (Joyce Austin's friend)
 Debbie DePew
 Judy French (Jay's mother)
 Helen Janssen
 Mark Harper
 Bill Hood (Marian Johnson's brother)
 Kevin Mosier (Barbara Mosier's son)
 Doris Stice (Sherrie Coltrain's friend)
 Carole Veenis (Dori Howerter' friend)
 McKenzie Wegner
 Roger Wegner
 Russ Witt (Jay French's family member)
 Kara Woolfolk (Fern Woolfolk's granddaughter)
 David Yeardon (Warren Townsend family member)

ELDERS PRAYER LIST



As part of their commitment to pray for each member of FCC, the Elders are remembering these members and their families in prayer during each week (and invite you to join them.)

April 3 – April 9

Cathy Long	Darren & April Lubbers
Debi Lorenz	Mary Lou Mabery
Ivan & Lydia Lorimor	Savannah Madore

April 10 – April 16

Gary & Colleen Marks	Keith & Anne Maloney
Mallory Mattis	Pennie Manda
Ed & JoAnn Mattox	

April 17 – April 23

George Mattox	Tim & Lydia McElroy
James & Bethany McCarty	Robert & Valerie McElroy
Kristina McCarty	Marvin & Gay McKinney

April 24 – April 30

Temple McKinzie	Jim & Nancy Miller
Dave & Mindy McReynolds	June Miller
Doug & Sharyl Merz	Barbara Mosier

“I am the resurrection and the life.”

John 11:25

First Christian Church
 1500 S 29th St.
 Parsons KS 67357
 (620) 421-4790 (Church Office)



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SHAVING CREAM EARTH

God created this wonderful world and told us to care for it. Remember that by making a unique painting.



What you need:

- A cookie sheet
- White shaving cream
- A wooden craft stick
- Paint (blue and green)
- A straw
- A paper plate

What you do:

1. On the cookie sheet, spray shaving cream in a circle (the same size as the bottom of the paper plate). Smooth it out with the craft stick.
2. Squirt the blue and green paint on top of the shaving cream in loopy, squiggly patterns. Swirl the paint around with the straw.
3. Place the bottom of the paper plate on top of the paint. Press it down gently so the whole plate bottom is covered in paint.
4. Lift up the plate and gently remove excess shaving cream with the stick.
5. After the painting dries, hang it on your wall.

PUZZLE

A SPECIAL GIFT

Give thanks to God for this amazing planet, which he filled with people, animals and plants.

Directions: Following the code below, fill in the blanks to complete the Bible verse. Then color the earth.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



The _____ is _____, and
 _____, the
 _____, and _____
 _____ 24:1, NIV

Answer: The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1, NIV