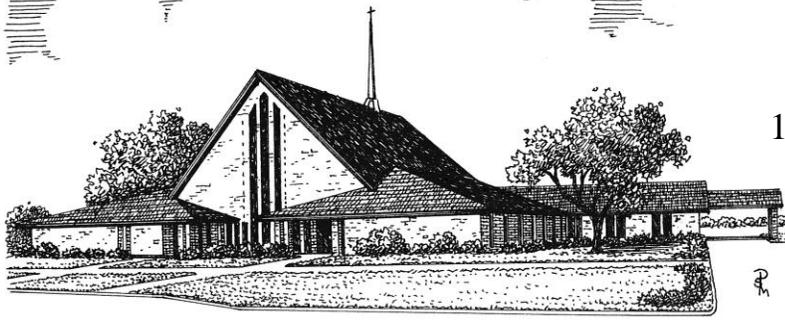




# Fore Thoughts

May 2017



## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

1500 S 29<sup>th</sup> St. • Parsons KS 67357  
620-421-4790

Website: [www.fccparsons.org](http://www.fccparsons.org)

Church e-mail:

[fcc\\_church@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fcc_church@sbcglobal.net)



## Happy Mother's Day!

Be sure to join us  
for worship Sunday

May 14<sup>th</sup>

as we celebrate  
Mother's Day.

### A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Nearly 2,000 years ago a birth occurred, a very unique birth with worldwide and everlasting ramifications. This birth came seven Sundays following Easter Sunday. It was the Day of Pentecost and as the believers of Jesus Christ were gathered, something amazing happened. God poured out His Holy Spirit. We mark this day as the birth of the church universal. We invite you to join us on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate this special day.

Through the centuries, the church became known as the Body of Christ. In our community of Parsons, the early Christian settlers gathered informally in homes to study the Bible and enjoy fellowship. The birth of our congregation came **145 years ago** when the formal organization of "Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Sunday School" was established. This first Sunday School met in a real estate office and later a lodge and a one-room frame structure. Baptisms took place in Labette Creek and an old mill pond located on 21<sup>st</sup> between Main and Washington Streets. The exact birth date was August 4, 1872.

A charter was granted in 1878 and 35 members participated in both worship services and a Bible School. The Ladies Aid Society served meals for 25 cents which provided a good portion of the funds needed to operate the church.

In 1890 a misunderstanding happened in the congregation and a split occurred with thirty women and four men leaving and eventually starting a new church. Fortunately reconciliation was in the air and within five years the two congregations were reunited.

As we entered the 1900's our congregation experienced several significant events. Our name changed to Central Avenue Christian Church in 1905 when we met at our new location, a \$25,000 structure at 300 North Central Avenue. On March 26, 1906, the church was officially dedicated and the offering given

for the new building that Sunday was \$11,000. Considering the yearly operating receipts were less than \$5,000 this was quite a large amount. Growth occurred very rapidly and records indicate that by 1909 the membership reached the 1,000 mark.

Nationwide church attendance was at an all-time high during the 1950's. One evangelistic campaign in 1956 led 327 persons to unite with Christ and our local congregation. The following year (1957) our church recorded an attendance of 431 students and teachers in Vacation Bible School. A separate Children's Building and a major remodeling were completed during this time.

Sadness was prevalent on Sept. 28, 1977, as the Central Avenue Christian Church building was razed by fire. The following year (1978) 4.2 acres of ground were purchased at 29<sup>th</sup> and Southern for \$50.00. This is the location of our current church building. During this time our congregational name changed to First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The first worship service in our current building was held on Jan. 11, 1981.

The history of our church is marked by many changes: changes in locations, name changes and changes in membership, both growth and decline. Thankfully God's grace and mercy remain constant. Our need to be in relationship with God through His son Jesus Christ does not change.

### Let us pray:

*God, fill this body of believers with your Holy Spirit. Lead us to do your will. Enable and motivate us to be your servants and witnesses. Thank you for the blessings we have and help us to be a blessing to others. We give you praise and glory forever. Amen.*

**Come join us on Pentecost Sunday (June 4<sup>th</sup>) as we celebrate the birth of the church universal and our local congregation.**

**We are excited and blessed** to announce that the Manuel "Manny" Gomez and Korianna "Kori" Tullis have entered the church community with their baptism on April 23, 2017.



WELCOME TO  
God's Family

We hope that you, their friends, family and community, will welcome them into the church family and guide them through their religious journey



When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." John 20:19

According to John, it was fear "of the Jews" that made the disciples huddle behind the locked doors of the upper room. Not only have such statements created Christian antisemitism for centuries, both here in the U.S as well as throughout the world, but I think John got it wrong as to the root cause of their fear. They weren't just afraid of the "other "aka" the Jews nor even of death. I think they feared new life. I know I fear new life sometimes. Perhaps you do, too. It means change... always.

The truth is, such fear resonates through the Resurrection stories. The women ran from the tomb in fear. The guards trembled with fear, "like dead men." When the disciples saw the Risen Christ by the Sea of Tiberius, they were afraid to ask who he was because, John states, "they knew it was the Lord." If that were true, their lives would never be the same. Now there's a scary thought.

So perhaps they locked the doors out of fear of the religious leaders or the Romans or anyone else they were afraid would do them harm. But perhaps they also shut the doors because they were afraid of him, the Resurrected One, the one who promised them new life because if he lived, they would have to live too, in a new way. I mean really live in a new way.

No wonder they bolted the doors. Of course, if he were strong enough to break the bonds of death, he could make it through their doors and their fears. He probably could make it through ours as well.

So as we celebrate new beginnings this Easter Tide do not be afraid of the "New."

For in all the "New Life" the "New Beginnings" we will always find Jesus to lead us through. Risen Christ, break through our defenses and our doors. Give us the courage to be open to your new life. Amen.

*Pastor Paul*

---

**We are currently accepting applications for Wilma Zink Memorial Scholarships. The scholarship amount is \$200 per semester, to assist a graduating senior from high school for two consecutive semesters of college studies. For more information please contact the church office.**

---

## The Disciple Women's May Project



### Hannah's Promise

**"CHANGE makes a difference!"**

Parsons' Hannah's Promise is a home for unwed mothers. These young women are facing the biggest decision of their lives – do I keep this baby? Can I alone support a child financially and emotionally, or should I relinquish this precious baby to a loving, childless couple desperate to be parents? This is a heart breaking decision to make.

Living in a home in a Christ-like atmosphere that provides a personalized life plan, they attend school or work, learn about parenting, nutrition, budgeting, and many other helpful services.



Will you sign up and take a baby bottle, available in the Narthex, that can be used for donations? Keep it all month, and fill it with change, bills, or a check. Hannah's Promise calls this project **"CHANGE makes a difference"**.

Our monetary donations make all the difference to those choosing life for their babies.

We invite the congregation to join the Disciples' Women Project, if they wish, to support this life-changing decision during Mother's Day month.

May we ask your support? We are a loving, caring congregation. You have proven that many times. Bless you!

*Ruth group meets Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.  
at the Kitchen Pass.*

*Deborah group meets Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.  
in the church parlor.*

*DW General Meeting May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 pm.  
in fellowship hall*

### **Sunbeams Preschool News**

We are pre-enrolling children for the 2017-2018 school year. We currently have 14 open spots. If you know of a young child who could benefit from this wonderful opportunity, have them call the church office at 421-4790 for more details.

We are getting closer to the end of our school year. In our classroom we are growing flowers and painting pictures of spring things. Our school pictures were taken by Rex Kessler of Mound Valley. We are practicing for our end of year program which will be May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Our church playground area has been improved! The fence has been painted and new mulch put down. **Thank you** to David Reeves and the following LCC students: Manny Gomez, Cole Cannon, Tre Ponce, Cody Foes, and Shea Conley for all your hard work.

**RECYCLING REMINDERS:** – cardboard and paper may not be placed in plastic bags for recycling. Please place in boxes or paper bags and place in the recycling bins. *Cardboard boxes should be broken down and placed inside other boxes.*

Rinse jugs and cans – this will help keep ants away. Put items in the correct recycling bins. No paper or cans in the plastic bin. Thanks for your help!





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](mailto:fcc_church@sbcglobal.net))

### **Sunday, May 7**

**Elder/Sacraments:** Dean Cramer

**Elder/Offering:** Lori Ray

**Deacons:** Dori Howerter, Barbara Robbins, Marlene Wegner, Elaine Harris, Sandy Womeldorff

**Worship Leader:** Don Barcus

**Nursing Home Devotions:** Steve Fincher, Sherrie Coltrain (Presbyterian Manor 2:30 pm)

**Sound Board:** David Austin

**Narthex Kids:** Jared Hawks

### **Sunday, May 14**

**Elder/Sacraments:** Don Barcus

**Elder/Offering:** Janie Barcus

**Deacons:** Jerry Janssen, Mary Elliott, Jean Reeves, John Mulberry, Dori Howerter

**Worship Leader:** Mary Elliott

**Sound Board:** Dean Cramer

**Narthex Kids:** Barbara Robbins

### **Sunday, May 21**

**Elder/Sacraments:** Anne Maloney

**Elder/Offering:** Steve Fincher

**Deacons:** Jeanette Horton, Peg Cramer, Sharon Ryan, Elaine Hudson, Barbara Robbins

**Worship Leader:** Sherrie Coltrain

**Sound Board:** Lori Ford

**Narthex Kids:** Janie Barcus

**Home Communion:** Jewell Reed, Marian Johnson, Janie Barcus

**Board Prayer (May 23):** Marian Johnson

### **Sunday, May 28**

**Elder/Sacraments:** Sherrie Coltrain

**Elder/Offering:** Jewell Reed

**Deacons:** Marlene Wegner, Jerry Janssen, Mary Elliott, Jean Reeves

**Worship Leader:** Steve Fincher

**Sound Board:** Lori Ray

**Narthex Kids:** Jared Hawks

*Funeral visitation: Dean Cramer, Jewell Reed*



03 James Hardman, Jr.

07 Kristina McCarty

07 John Rexwinkle

08 Kathryn Lindeman

13 Carol Hoyt

14 Wesley Brown

14 Mallory Mattis

14 Becky Shipley

14 Nora Winslow

16 Karen Bulkley

16 Chris Callstrom

17 Kent Drummond

18 Lois Parker

19 Elma Ramey

21 Angela Pearson

23 Andrea Hetlinger

23 Jacquelyn Lansdowne

24 Leo Janssen

25 Willard Garrett

26 Ronald Little

27 Gregory Brewer

30 Sandra Ford

30 Amy Smith

31 Mary Mabery

31 Ronald Maloney



## Surrounding in prayer

Our nation's leaders and military  
 Church Ministers & Staff  
 Regional Church Staff  
 Andrew Shipps (Iona Shipp's grandson)

### 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 & Lacreata 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)  
 Bill Hood (Marian Johnson's brother)



## 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.)

### May 1 – May 7

Sally Mosier	June Nance
John & Brenda Mulberry	Bettie Nash
Sandy Nance	Tony & Becky Nash

### May 8 – May 14

Allen & Marsha Ogle	Lois Parker
Betty Olmstead	Robin Paulie
Judy Panek	David & Ruth Ports

### May 15 – May 21

Bertha Proffitt	Mitch & Gina Ramey
Linda Railsback	Lori Ray
Allene Ramey	Michele Ramirez

### May 22 – May 28

Mike & Jewell Reed	Barbara Robbins
David & Tammy Reel	Randy & Jolene Roberts
David & Jean Reeves	Dick & Sharon Ryan

### May 28 – June 4

Rev. John Schaich	Dan & Wendy Shields
Wayne & Kay Shields	Kathleen Seward
Rosalie Schulze	Iona Shipps

Attendance & Offering Report		
March 2017		
Average:	55	Total \$6,361.00
March 5	58	\$2,302.00
March 12	51	\$1,105.00
March 19	48	\$1,838.00
March 26	61	\$1,116.00
Budget: \$196,159.00		
(Monthly \$16,346.59; weekly \$3,772.00)		
Stewardship – careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.		

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

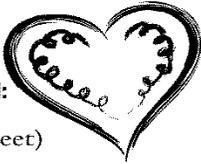


Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 Permit # 16  
 US Postage Paid  
 Parsons KS 67357

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# A heartfelt felt heart

On Mother's Day, express your love for your mom or another special woman by giving her this gift from the heart.



**What you need:**

- Red felt (8" x 11" sheet)
- Dark pen
- Fabric scissors
- Pillow stuffing
- Straight pins
- Embroidery thread (pink, red or black)
- Needle
- An adult to help

**What you do:**

1. Fold the felt in half and draw a heart on it. Cut out the heart so you have two of the same size.
2. Place the hearts on top of each other, add stuffing and pin the hearts together.
3. Thread the needle with a long piece of thread. Knot the end.
4. Sew the hearts together. Knot the thread and trim the ends. Remove pins.
5. Give the gift — and a hug!

**PUZZLE**

*A mother's love*

At age 12, Jesus was left behind in Jerusalem. His parents later found him in the temple, discussing Scripture. What did Mary, Jesus' mother, think about this?

*Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct vowels to complete the Bible verse.*

**A E I O U Y**

B \_ t M \_ r \_ tr \_ \_ s \_ r \_ d  
 \_ p \_ ll th \_ s \_ th \_ ngs  
 \_ nd p \_ nd \_ r \_ d th \_ m  
 \_ n h \_ r h \_ \_ rt.  
 L \_ k \_ 2:19, NIV

Answer: But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:19, NIV