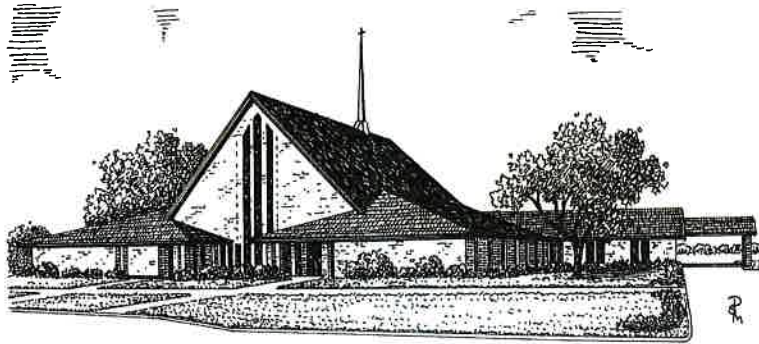




# Fore Thoughts December 2017



## 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)

### Pastor's Post

The Christmas season is finally upon us! I can hardly wait to sing the old favorites and maybe a new one or two. Our worship series for the season is *Angels Among Us* and I think you are going to love it. I am excited too, because this is my first Christmas with you and I am going to get to see the Sanctuary in all its festive glory.

We will be hosting the Cantata this year and the choir has been working overtime to learn the music. Don't miss worship on the 17<sup>th</sup>. In fact, this holiday season would be a great time to share our church with friends and let them catch them excitement.

Then, when all the presents have been unwrapped and the food in the refrigerator is all the leftovers, we will be having our December 31<sup>st</sup> (New Year's Eve) service in the Fellowship Hall. Bring the goodies you have too much of and we will enjoy a casual worship service around the Tables. Who knows, we might even say goodbye to a habit, or thought it's time to let go of.

Gee... I feel like a little kid – I can hardly wait to start the season!

See you at the Table!

*Laurie*

### CYF News

The Kansas Regional Youth Convention was a blast! Everybody says they would go again – even the adults! And I don't know who was more tired piling out of the van. I think it was the kids. Apparently, they tend to stay up late when they are in hotel rooms together. 'Tis the season and we are making Gingerbread Houses on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Our Christmas bells will be beautiful and we will be actively involved in worship throughout the holidays. What a great group of kids – we are truly blessed!



*Join us on  
Sunday,  
December 24<sup>th</sup>  
at 6 pm for our  
Christmas Eve  
Service*

### PARSONS MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE'S COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER



*Christmas Dinner*

will be served at FCC on Monday, December 25 from 11 am to 1:30pm. If you can donate supplies or volunteer to help cook, clean up or deliver meals, please contact the church.

Carryout and delivery will be available by calling the church office (421-4790) no later than noon, Friday, December 22 and placing your reservation.



### 2017 Christmas Special Offering for Regional Ministry

*Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. Ephesians 4:15-16*



**Christmas Offering for  
Regional Ministry**

Regional Ministry knits the church together by equipping leaders, encouraging congregations, and building relationships

The Christmas Special Offering will be received on December 10 and 17. Please continue your generous support of regional ministry.

Please join us for worship on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. The chancel choirs of First Christian and First Presbyterian will present *"The First Noel"* by Joe E. Parks. This will be the only performance. Come celebrate this joyful event with festive music and voices raised in praise!



# Disciple Women's Project December 2017

## Safe Haven Outreach Mission

"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back." Luke 6:38



Safe Haven, Parsons' homeless shelter, opens their door to those who have no place to go – no place to call home.

Safe Haven is directed by Melissa Brown, a loving, compassionate woman who "lives" her job, 24 hours a day. (Bless her loving heart.)

Where do you go when you have no job, no money, no food? Anyone can become homeless due to job loss, fires, floods, large medical bills – the reasons are many. Some occupants are drug or alcohol addicted; some are displaced military veterans – some are families who have fallen on hard times. All trying to get back on their feet and turn their lives around.

Not all succeed – strict rules must be followed to live there. Housing only 8 people at a time, sadly, many are turned away every day. Carefully screened, applicants receive shelter, food, medical care, help in finding a job and even help in transitioning to an apartment or house complete with furniture (donated by caring people like you) when they are ready to be on their own.

We are blessed with our warm homes, comfortable beds, and our loving families. Are you your brother's keeper? Show your love, your compassion and your generosity – we invite our church family to join us. Please mark your envelope "DW Safe Haven."

**DW Executive Board Meeting – Dec. 5 at 9:30 am**

**Nursing Home Party – Dec. 7 at 2:30 pm**

**Disciple Women Merry Christmas Luncheon – Dec. 11 at noon in Fellowship Hall**  
*all FCC women are invited!*

### Mission Update

**Dinner on 17<sup>th</sup> Street** continues to provide a meal each Thursday at First Baptist Church for somewhere between 125 – 150 + people. Please accept my sincere thanks to everyone who has helped with desserts, serving or clean up for many years. You are the hands and feet of our Lord, providing for His children.

There recently have been a few changes in the way we provide these meals. All food has to be prepared in either our church kitchen or the kitchen at First Baptist Church, so instead of asking for desserts we will be asking for donations of cake mixes and powdered sugar. This will be starting sometime in 2018. When we have a date, we will put out a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. More helpers will be needed to help serve and also for cleanup.

Barbara Robbins



Dinner on 17th

## As the New Year Approaches...

A new church year is about to begin, and Lori Ray has committed to be the Moderator of the board for 2018. She needs your support. If you are willing to become involved in one or more of the committees of the board, please step up and volunteer. There is no doubt in my mind that everyone in the church is capable of helping in one way or another. If you have questions about the various committees, ask Laurie, Lori, or me, and we will share the description and duties of each committee. Remember – many hands make light work!"

Dean Cramer, Moderator.



### Attendance & Financial Report November 2017

|             |    |                   |
|-------------|----|-------------------|
| Average:    | 68 | Total: \$5,964.00 |
| November 5  | 88 | \$2,033.75        |
| November 12 | 76 | \$1,652.75        |
| November 19 | 57 | \$1,619.75        |
| November 26 | 50 | \$ 657.75         |

Budget: \$196,159.00

(Monthly \$16,346.59; weekly \$3,772.00)

*Stewardship – careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care*



## Sunbeams Preschool News

Our Sunbeams Preschool class of 14 students gave a very nice Thanksgiving program on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> in our sanctuary.

We have been making crafts for the holidays that go along with our shapes for the week. We had a field trip to Honey Bee Gardens recently and saw horses, a donkey, goats and a fish garden.

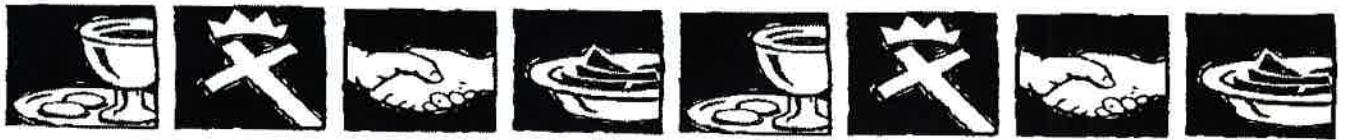
We will have our Christmas program on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 11 am in the sanctuary. All are invited! Our winter break begins Dec. 18 with preschool resuming on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.



*Winter is coming! The board moderator and pastor will make the call when we will have to close the church due to inclement weather or massive amounts of snow or ice.*

**Please tune into  
KOAM/KFJX TV stations  
for cancellations.**





**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, December 3**

**Elder/Sacraments:** Don Barcus  
**Elder/Offering:** Janie Barcus  
**Deacons:** Elaine Hudson, Peg Cramer, John Mulberry, Barbara Robbins  
**Worship Leader:** Diane Watkins  
**Nursing Home Devotions:** Janie Barcus, Don Barcus (Presbyterian Manor 2:30 pm)  
**Sound Board:** Dean Cramer

**Sunday, December 10**

**Elder/Sacraments:** Jewell Reed  
**Elder/Offering:** Lori Ray  
**Deacons:** Jeanette Horton, Val McElroy, Elaine Harris, Marlene Wegner  
**Worship Leader:** Sharon Ryan  
**Sound Board:** Lori Ford

**Sunday, December 17**

**Elder/Sacraments:** Anne Maloney  
**Elder/Offering:** Dean Cramer  
**Deacons:** Jerry Janssen, Sandy Womeldorff, Jean Reeves, Elaine Hudson  
**Worship Leader:** Marlene Wegner  
**Sound Board:** Lori Ray

**Sunday, December 24**

**Elder/Sacraments:** Janie Barcus  
**Elder/Offering:** Don Barcus  
**Deacons:** Barbara Robbins, Sharon Ryan, Val McElroy, John Mulberry  
**Worship Leader:** Jewell Reed  
**Sound Board:** Dean Cramer  
**Home Communion –** Marian Johnson, Anne Maloney, Steve Fincher

**Christmas Eve Service**

**Elder/Sacraments:** Dean Cramer  
**Elder/Offering:** Steve Fincher  
**Deacons:** to be announced  
**Worship Leader:** to be announced  
**Sound Board:** need volunteer

**Sunday, December 31**

**Elder/Sacraments:** Marian Johnson  
**Elder/Offering:** Sherrie Coltrain  
**+Deacons:** Elaine Hudson, Sandy Womeldorff, Marlene Wegner, Elaine Harris  
**Worship Leader:**  
**Sound Board:** Lori Ray

**Board Prayer:** Sherrie Coltrain

*Funeral visitation: Steve Fincher, Anne Maloney*



*01 Jerry Gartner  
 05 Nancy Miller  
 07 Jimmy Dodds  
 07 Carol Fincher  
 11 Karen Wheat  
 12 Sammi Ford  
 13 Lexi Howerter*

*13 Betty Olmstead  
 14 Jason Langston  
 16 Nancy Kemp  
 24 James Miller  
 25 Richard Burger  
 28 Joyce Austin  
 29 Arlice Smith*

**ANNIVERSARIES**

*17 Jerry & Joan Gartner  
 27 Lewis & Carol Hoyt*



# Please Pray For

## Surrounding in prayer

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

### Care Homes/Homebound

|                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Doris Brenner  | Jimmy Dodds          |
| June Dodds     | Rutheen Hammack      |
| Bill Hogelin   | Barbara Wills        |
| Iona Shipps    | Doris Drummond       |
| Martha Tredway | Betty Olmsted        |
| Eunice Blaich  | Crystal Jump         |
| Debra Myers    | Ivan & Lydia Lorimor |

### Health Concerns:

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Sharon Dillinger | Richard Burger   |
| Carol Fincher    | Betty Thomas     |
| Dick Ryan        | Marian Johnson   |
| Martha Cabbage   | David Womeldorff |
| Fern Woolfolk    |                  |

### Our friends with continuing concerns:

Sam Blubaugh (Betty Thomas' friend)  
Dick Holroyd (Brad Bayless friend & neighbor)  
Don Dean's nephew, Rick  
Melissa Paynee  
Sonny Johnson  
Barney Ellis  
Dick French (Jay's dad)  
Ingrid Schneickert (Jonna Gabbert's cousin)  
Doris Stice (Sherrie Coltrain's friend)  
Dick Marlow  
Kristi Brown  
Erlene Cares



## ELDERS PRAYER LIST

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

### December 3 – December 9

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| David & Debbie Lindeman | Ron Little      |
| Maribeth Long           | Cathy Long      |
| Debi Lorenz             | Mary Lou Mabery |

### December 10 – December 16

Keith & Anne Maloney Ed & JoAnn Mattox  
Robert & Valerie McElroy

### December 17 – December 23

June Miller Barbara Mosier  
Jim & Nancy Miller

### December 24 – December 30

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| John & Brenda Mulberry | Sandy Nance   |
| June Nance             | Betty Olmsted |

### December 31 – January 6, 2018

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Linda Railsback | Lois Parker     |
| Allene Ramey    | Bertha Proffitt |








| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

**Sunday Worship Schedule**  
 8:30 am - Elders meeting  
 9:30 am - Worship  
 10:30 am - Fellowship  
 11:00 am - Sunday School

**Christmas Eve Service**  
 Dec. 24th at 6 pm

**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
 Tuesday, Dec. 26 from noon to 6 pm  
 Wednesday, from 8 am to noon  
 Help us help others in this joyous time!

|  |  |   |   |  |  |                                    |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|------------------------------------|
| 3<br>Nursing Home Devotions<br>Presbyterian Manor<br>2:30 pm   | 4<br>DW Christmas Luncheon<br>noon   | 5<br>9:30 am - DW Executive Board Meeting<br>10 am - SEK Regional Minister Meeting at FCC   | 6<br>6 - CYF<br>6:15 Choir  | 7<br>2:30 pm -<br>DW Nursing Home Party<br><i>Parsons Parade</i> | 1<br>1   | 2                                  |
| 10<br>Christmas Special Offering   | 11<br>DW Christmas Luncheon<br>noon<br> | 12<br>WMC   | 13<br>WMC<br>11 - Staff Meeting<br>6 - CYF<br>6:15 Choir                                    | 14<br>14   | 15<br>11:00 - Preschool<br>Christmas Program<br>in Sanctuary           | 16<br>Cantata Rehearsal<br>10 a.m. |
| 17<br><br>Board Meeting following<br>worship | 18   | 19  | 20<br>6 - CYF<br>6:15 Choir   | 21<br>WMC  | 22<br>Christmas Dinner delivery orders<br>must be placed by noon today | 23                                 |
| 24<br><br>Christmas Special Offering        | 25<br>Community<br>Christmas<br>dinner<br>11 am - 1:30 pm  | 26<br> | 27<br> | 28   | 29   | 30                                 |
| 31<br>Casual worship service in<br>Fellowship Hall   |  |   |   |  |  |                                    |