



First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
Kearney, MO  
816.628.5583  
2151 S. Jefferson St.  
[www.fcckearney.org](http://www.fcckearney.org)  
[fcckearney@aol.com](mailto:fcckearney@aol.com)

# The Christian

## January 2012

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### Saturday Night Live...

...is going bowling on Saturday, January 21, 4 pm at the Plattsburg Bowl, 206 S Main ST, Plattsburg, MO. All ages are welcome. The cost is \$5 per bowler which includes shoe rental. Feel free to bring snacks to munch on. After bowling we will head to Pizza Hut in Plattsburg for dinner. Please RSVP to GiGi Leighr by Wednesday, January 18 at 816.679.4517 or [leighrg@kearney.k12.mo.us](mailto:leighrg@kearney.k12.mo.us).

### Church-wide Potluck Lunch

Sunday, January 8 at noon

### Handys' Winter Small Group

After studying different religions last time, the group realized we would like to know more about our Christian brothers and sisters of different denominations. We'll be meeting for that study on Tuesday evenings, 7 pm, from January 10 through February 21. George and Shelly Handy will be hosting and Abigail will lead the study. Let Shelly know if you plan to attend: 816.392.9908 or [shellyh@kcbbank.com](mailto:shellyh@kcbbank.com).

### Weight Watchers Informational Meeting

Looking to shed a few pounds this year or wanting to improve your overall health? Come find out how Weight Watchers can help you meet your goals. There will be a free informational meeting on Thursday, January 12 at 6 pm in the fellowship hall. This is for information only. No weighing in at this meeting! Everyone is welcome to attend. Feel free to bring a friend from the community with you. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

### Calling All Dads!

Come join us for dinner and a movie. The date is January 27. Dinner is served from 6:00-6:30 pm. The movie, *Courageous*, is at 6:45 pm. The place is right here at First Christian Church. Wives and children are welcome. So are friends, neighbors, co-workers, and whoever. Adults and older youth/children can join us for the movie. Childcare will be provided for the little ones. Please RSVP by calling the church office or registering online at [www.fcckearney.org](http://www.fcckearney.org) no later than January 25. Hope to see you then!

Sunday Worship: 8:15 am, 10:45 am    ∞    Sunday Study Groups: 9:30 am

## Pastor's Notes

From time to time, everyone needs a fresh start, a do-over, another chance. I find that I need them often. As we begin another year, the Good News (Gospel) is this: God is the Author of new beginnings.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says, "Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I am about to do something brand new."  
(43:19, *The Message*)

Through the prophet Ezekiel, God says, "I will give you a new heart. I will put a new spirit within you. ... Then you will obey My statutes and be careful to obey My commands. You will be My people and I will be your God!" (11:19-20, *The Message*)

Through the apostle Paul, God says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV).

So as we begin 2012, what new thing does God want to give you? ... Are you open to God's Spirit making you "a new creation?" ... As God reveals the new you and invites you to new horizons, can you put the past behind you and say "Yes!" to God's future? ... If so, whatever 2012 may hold, we can be sure God will use it to make us more and more like Jesus. ... Glory to God!!!

Yours in Christ,  
Doug

## Turning to Lent

There are still several weeks before Lent, but we are planning to have Bread & Broth, again. Times and other details will be coming soon, but go ahead and mark these dates on your calendar:

February 22: Ash Wednesday Service  
February 29: Bread & Broth  
March 7: Bread & Broth  
March 14: Bread & Broth  
March 21: Bread & Broth  
March 28: Bread & Broth  
April 1: Palm Sunday  
April 5: Maundy Thursday service  
April 6: Good Friday service  
April 8: Easter

Also, the kids, youth and Mixed Nuts adult class are planning to study spiritual disciplines during this time. While plans may change, consider how you want to join in the time of spiritual preparation for Easter.

## From Your Church Leadership:

Board meeting minutes are public and available upon request. Copies of the board report are also available each month. Please contact the church office if you would like these documents.

## Ongoing Sunday Morning Study Groups

**Mixed Nuts:** Adult study group meeting in classroom A  
*The group continues to study The First Christmas by Marcus J. Borg & John Dominic Crossman.*

**Young at Heart:** Senior adult study group meeting in the classroom off the sanctuary  
*This group uses The Present Word, a series for adults.*

**A Chronological Study of the Bible:**  
Adult study group meeting in the pastor's office  
*This group is using The Chronological Study Bible, reading their way through the Bible. You're welcome to join them.*

**Youth Group:** Kids in grades 6<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> meet in the Barr Youth Center  
*This group continues studying Scary, Gross & Weird Stories from the Bible; once they're finished with that, they'll be moving on to even more weird stuff! GiGi Leighr will be their teacher starting in January.*

**Children:** Preschool – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade: Classroom C  
4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades: Classroom B  
*In December the children will be hearing Bible stories and having fun together. Come see what's going on! **Please note:** These locations are where children begin the rotation each week, not where they finish.*

## Update from Global Ministries:

**Seeking God's Vision** by Emily Goldthwaite Fries

*When he [Barnabas] came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to God with steadfast purpose. Acts 11:23*

I recently explored Bethlehem with a friend who lived there before the construction of the 30 foot concrete wall that snakes through the city. Back then, people generally moved freely to and from Jerusalem, just a few miles to the north. Tourists flooded the city not just at Christmas time, but year round. Farmers tended the orchards and fields that had sustained them for centuries.

Today, the separation wall and its system of permits and identification cards generally exclude Bethlehem residents from crossing to Jerusalem, and discourage visitors from entering. The wall creates a very different landscape. The main road into town is blocked by the wall, so the neighborhood which used to welcome visitors driving in from Jerusalem now resembles a ghost town. As we followed the wall around and between homes and closed-up shops we tried to imagine how it might feel to live in this neighborhood today.

On my way home from my volunteer work at the Palestinian Lutheran schools one day, as I crossed the checkpoint to return to Jerusalem (a privilege of holding a US passport), I feared that I have little hope to offer our students, who have experienced so much trauma and humiliation. Who am I to tell them there is a better future ahead? I felt ashamed that I could not even visualize Bethlehem without the wall. In that moment, I asked God to show me a vision of Bethlehem freed from the wall. I had come to the realization that I couldn't do it myself – I did not have the answer.

Later that same week, I saw the vision I had asked for. Many visions, in fact: paintings, collages, comics, and quotes painted on the wall. The graffiti is the work of both local and international artists. One mural pictures people opening the wall by pulling down a giant zipper; my favorite portrays the giant panels of the wall falling toward the viewer, with a clear view of Jerusalem on the other side, and a ladder to heaven revealing God's love to the people. It is the work of the faithful in this conflicted land who seek God's vision above all the cruelties imposed by human hands and dollars.

We pray together, as in the old Irish hymn, "Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me save that thou art." Please, God, reveal to us the potential you see in your creation. You are what matters – we want to witness your truth in this messed up world. Your powerful vision of peace has the last word.

*Rev. Emily Goldthwaite Fries is an ordained minister of the UCC who has volunteered through Global Ministries to accompany our partners of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.*

## Harvesters!

Kids, youth, adults, pretty much anyone, are invited to go to Harvesters on Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. We're scheduled to be there at 5 pm, which means leaving Kearney at 4:15 pm. Please let Abigail know if you'd like to attend!

## 2012 Concert Series

All concerts begin at 7 pm.

*Mark Trammell Quartet*  
Thursday, March 15

*The Melody Boys Quartet*  
Friday, April 13

*The Dixie Echoes*  
Saturday, May 5

*Red Roots*  
Thursday, June 14

*The King's Herald's Quartet*  
Monday, August 6

*The Inspirations*  
Saturday, August 25  
at the First Baptist Church of Kearney

## Kansas City Rescue Mission (KCRM)

We are going to KCRM on Saturday, January 28. We will be serving a full meal. Please contact Pat Gallinger (816.985.8301) for more information.

## Thanks to the Church Family

Thank you so much for all your kind thoughts and prayers for our family with the loss of our sister, Betty Ann Downing. Thanks for all the cards and flowers, too. We really did appreciate all your help getting us through this hard time.  
~The Downing/Cates Family

## Check out the Library!

If you haven't visited the church library lately, you might want to check it out. People continue to donate books to the church library and we are up to 455 books and growing. The books are listed in the "New Directory Notebook" using the Dewey Decimal System. There are books by popular authors; books that are excellent for research and study; historical books and much more. There is something for everyone. If you have any questions or have books to donate, please contact Phil Pulley at 816.580.3610 or [pipulley@verizon.net](mailto:pipulley@verizon.net).

## Your Church Executive Council for 2012:

Bob Norman, Chair  
Julie Butcher, Vice-Chair  
Financial Secretary, Carrie Norman  
Treasurer, Iletta Pulley

## Your Ministry Team Chairs for 2012:

Leadership Support/Development: Abigail Conley & TBD  
Discipleship Groups: Abigail Conley & TBD  
Worship: Doug Gilpin & Dawn Yeager  
Events: Julie Cargill & Stephanie DePrenger  
Missions: Pat Gallinger  
Finance: Todd Reynolds  
Personnel: Brad Schultz  
Property: Jerre Gallinger

## Elders

If you are or have been an Elder in the past and did not receive a letter from Jack Barr last fall, please contact him at 816.797.0877.

## Church News Email

If you would like to receive emails about church life, please email Abigail at [rev.abigail.conley@gmail.com](mailto:rev.abigail.conley@gmail.com). Unless there is urgent news, you will not receive more than two emails per week.

## Prayer Chain

If you would like to be on the email prayer chain, please send your request to Susan Mick at [antutu1@aol.com](mailto:antutu1@aol.com). If you would like to be on the phone prayer chain, please call Susan at 816.320.2209.

## January Birthdays

1/7 Cheryl Ballew  
Todd Hinnenkamp  
Beth Miller  
1/14 Kim Mick  
1/16 Jack Barr  
Tara Brown  
Ashley Mick  
Riley Jae Spaeth  
1/18 Rue Lovett  
1/23 Janet Cates  
Judy Fishback  
1/24 Dani Jo Looper  
1/25 Nathan Bultmann  
1/26 Jake Griffey  
1/27 Melissa Sargent  
Bob Thompson  
1/28 Lucky Bloss  
Hailey Yeager  
1/29 Paige Dainty  
Tim Fairley  
1/31 Garrett Tanking

Please let the church office know if your birthday is missing.

## Directory Update:

Kyle & Sami Kane  
(Creason, Mila & Emelyn)  
406 Yolanda CIR  
Kearney, MO 64060  
816.210.2393

## If you have a need for...

... a walker and a shower chair please contact Mary Lou Jurado at 816.628.6099. She would like to give these items to someone who needs them.

# January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Year's Day  1 pm Fellowship Hall reserved (Billups)	Office is closed	9:30 am Quilting	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's)  6:45 pm Kings Kidz	Pam's day off	Doug's day off  6:30 pm Girl Scouts (Breece)  CYF Mid-Winter Retreat	8 am Men's Breakfast   CYF Mid-Winter Retreat
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2 pm Roller skating  Noon Potluck lunch  CYF Mid-Winter Retreat	Abigail's day off	9:30 am Quilting  7 pm Handys' Small Group	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's)  6:45 pm Kings Kidz  7 pm Youth Group	Pam's day off  6 pm Weight Watchers Informational Meeting	Doug's day off	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  Office is closed	9:30 am Quilting  7 pm Handys' Small Group	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's)  5 pm Harvesters trip	Pam's day off  6 pm Weight Watchers Meeting	Doug's day off  6:30 pm Girl Scouts (Breece)	4 pm Saturday Night Live (Bowling @ Plattsburg Bowl)
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Abigail's day off	9:30 am Quilting  7 pm Handys' Small Group  <b>Newsletter deadline</b>	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's)  6:45 pm Kings Kidz  7 pm Youth Group  7 pm (or after other meetings) Elders meeting	Pam's day off  6 pm Weight Watchers Meeting	Doug's day off  <u>Dads Group</u> 6 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Movie	Kansas City Rescue Mission
29	30	31	<p><b>Sunday Service Times</b> 8:15 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday Morning Study Groups 10:45 am Worship</p>			
	Abigail's day off	9:30 am Quilting  7 pm Handys' Small Group				

## Youth

Wednesday evening Youth Group resumes on Wednesday, January 11, 7 pm.

## Kids

### Kings Kidz

Join us for Kings Kidz on Wednesday evenings in January from 6:45 - 7:45 pm. This is a Vacation Bible School type program for kids 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Join us for Bible stories, songs, crafts, games and snacks. If you have any questions, please contact Shawna Rapstine at 816.320.3732. **\*\*Please note:** We will not meet on Wednesday, January 18 as we are taking a trip to Harvesters with others in the congregation. Please join us for that, too!

### Roller Skating

We are going roller skating on Sunday, January 8 from 2 – 4 pm at Northland Rolladium Skate Center, 1020 Kent ST, Liberty. Cost is \$3 per skater and includes skate rental and a small drink. We need 10 skaters to qualify for the group discount. Contact Shawna Rapstine at 816.320.3732 if you plan on attending.

## Conference

*Children Welcome! From Stumbling Blocks to Building Blocks of Faith* is happening in Kansas City, February 23-25, 2012. The conference is jointly sponsored by The Presbyterian Church (USA) and The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and will be an opportunity for personal and congregational renewal as together we explore how best to respond to the needs and gifts of children. The time will be filled with music, worship, the learning of new skills, theological discussions, Biblical reflections, networking and much, much more. You can register at [www.childrenwelcome.org](http://www.childrenwelcome.org) or complete the registration form on the next page. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

## The Revelation

As I write this, it's in the midst of a weird liturgical time. While it's still Advent, Christmas waits only days away. The Advent wreath setting on my desk mirrors that reality. Four partially burned candles surround the still pristine white Christ candle in the center. Yet, I'm writing for January. January, when Christmas is done and forgotten. January, when winter looms ahead and kids just wish for another snow day.

Except my favorite day of the whole church year comes in January. Most of us forget about it. Churches tend to ignore it, glad to be done with all the craziness around Christmas. Yet, there's Epiphany, following the twelve days of Christmas, on January 6<sup>th</sup>. It's the day set apart to remember the wise men's journey to see the Christ child, more of a toddler than a baby by that time.

I'm not sure why I love the whole wise men thing so much. It probably has something to do with the wise men in the nativity set I played with as a child; they were the only dark-skinned dolls or people I had ever seen. "We Three Kings" has always been a favorite song, even down to the memory that the hymnal I sang from as a child listed the names of the wise men known only from traditions outside the Bible: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. They carried these strange gifts; in plays at church and school those gifts were always elegant bottles and boxes.

Added to it, I'm just as intrigued about them as an adult. The wise men weren't Jewish or Christian; they were probably Zoroastrian or some other form of astrologer. The only reason people say there were three of them is that the Bible names three gifts. There may have been only two or two hundred—who knows! I even have some incense made with frankincense and myrrh, given the name of each of the wise men according to the gift each supposedly brought.

The notion of Epiphany, though, is more than just the other that appeals to a kid or a nerd. It's the reality of the Other. It's the reality of something that is beyond us, that forms us, that calls us into being. It's the Other we call God because that is the very best way we know to talk about something so great.

Epiphany is exactly that revelation of the Other. It's the day it becomes clear that the Other is not so other after all; instead, that Other chose to walk among us, as one of us, from birth to death and everything in between. It's the kind of thing that brings with it funky presents and people unlike any we have ever known before. It's the thing that makes us sing Isaiah's words, "Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!"

It's the thing that makes Christmas matter. It's the thing that causes us to realize that baby in a manger wasn't just another baby. It's one of the first glimpses into the ongoing revelation of God in the world, something that will surely make us sing, again, "The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!"

~Abigail



# REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

- Adult     Laity     Ordained     Licensed  
 Youth    (age) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child    (age) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name and Location \_\_\_\_\_

### Special Needs

- Diet (please explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signing  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Adult Registration

- Early Bird Registration, Saturday only    \$ 95 \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If received on or before January 20, 2012)*  
 After January 20, 2012, One Day Registration    \$110 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Early Bird Registration Conference    \$130 \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If received on or before January 20, 2012)*  
 After January 20, 2012, Conference Registration    \$150 \_\_\_\_\_

### Child Registration

#### \*Infant Care

- Saturday Only    \$20 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Full Conference    \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

#### \*Preschool and Elementary Age Children

- Saturday Only    \$20 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Full Conference    \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

#### \*Middle and High School Youth

- Saturday Only    \$20 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Full Conference    \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

#### Exhibitors

- \$130 registration+\$10 exhibit fee    \$ 140 \_\_\_\_\_

### Total

\_\_\_\_\_

*\*Children, up through middle school age must be accompanied by an adult.*

Please return the completed registration form along with your payment to:

Kearney First Christian Church  
 PO Box 576  
 Kearney, MO 64060

\*\*We have scholarship funds available. Please contact the office at 816.628.5583 or fcckearney@aol.com.

## Your Church Staff

Doug Gilpin, Pastor  
pastorgiplin@aol.com  
816.903.5583

Abigail Conley, Administrative Pastor  
Rev.Abigail.Conley@gmail.com  
816.628.5583

Pam Novak, Secretary  
fckearney@aol.com  
816.628.5583

The church office is open Monday  
through Friday, from 9 am to 2 pm.

## Prayer Concerns

Jennifer Anton, Ellen Banks, Jean Bonwell, Louise Eastep, Darren Epperson, Merrill & Pat Fairley, Diane Gallinger, Bill Goeke, Helen Griffey, Alice Hall, Gerri Hall, Lois Haney, Jim Hutchens, Lisa Irwin, Cheri Jonson, Mary Lou Jurado, Nick King, Ava Martinez & family, Misty Mick, Kate Pence, Allen Pendleton, Iletta Pulley, Doug Rawdon, David Roach, Mark Sexton, Ellen Smith, Lillian Thompson, Opal Wisely, unspoken requests, our troops (Josh Bettis, Chris Brown, Max Brown, Shawn Lind, Stacy Mycanka, Ben Neth & Brady Willis), Global Mission Partners, our country, our church programs, our world.

(Return Service Requested)

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