



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Kearney, MO
816.628.5583
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The Christian

June 1, 2011

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VBS registration is now available on the church website! fcckearney.org

Staying Updated...Electronically!

You know that technology is an ever-growing part of our culture. As a church, we're working to better utilize technology, especially when it comes to communication. Here are some ways you might not be aware of that you can stay connected to the church:

- **Email.** Abigail sends out emails most Tuesdays and Fridays with reminders of upcoming events in church life. This is especially helpful for details that aren't available when printing materials such as a newsletter and bulletin. Please consider being added to that list! Just email: Rev.Abigail.Conley@Gmail.com
- **Newsletter.** Many of you are reading this newsletter on your computer screen right now. We'd like to reduce the number of printed newsletters; please let the church office know if electronic only works for you! fcckearney@aol.com
- **Website.** If you haven't noticed the new website, you should take a look! It is regularly updated and many print materials are also posted on the website. For example, if you lost your sheet of paper that tells you when you're serving as a deacon, you can go to the website and download a new copy. Do you have ideas for things you'd like to see on the website? Let Abigail know.

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

Pastor's Notes

Knowing that our daughter and family live in southern Missouri, some of you have asked about their safety following the tornado in Joplin. They are fine, but thanks for asking. They live about an hour east of Joplin. As you pray for the people in Joplin and other areas devastated by nature's wrath, remember that designated gifts may be sent to Week of Compassion (our denomination's emergency relief fund). You may give them through our church office (please mark your gifts accordingly) or at weekofcompassion.org. Also keep in mind that 100% of your designated gift is used for its intended purpose.

The story is told of a man who thought religion would get in the way of his daily life. The two things seemed so contrary. Religion dealt with "spiritual stuff" of little or no relevance. Real life was about going to work, keeping a job, paying the bills, etc. What did one have to do with the other? ... Then he met Jesus and in his own words, "I was so filled with joy that I could live my life cheerfully from morning until night."

Andrew Murray writes, "Many Christians do not understand that the joy of the Lord keeps us and enables us for daily living. The kingdom of God is pure love and joy and peace through the Holy Spirit. " ... The Apostle Paul writes, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." ... The Good News is: Jesus came that our daily lives would be transformed by His presence.

Yours in Christ,
Doug

Ongoing Sunday Morning Study Groups

Mixed Nuts: Adult study group meeting in classroom A

This group is working through a Bible Basics Study Pack from The Thoughtful Christian. It's not just Bible 101; it also includes a lot of things around and about the Bible—like what do we mean when we talk about Divine Inspiration?

Young at Heart: Senior adult study group meeting in the classroom off the sanctuary

This group uses The Present Word, a series for adults, and will be studying the book of Joshua during June.

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. They're reading quite carefully and you're welcome to join them.

Youth Group: Kids in grades 6th through 12th meet in the Barr Youth Center
This group is currently studying wacky Bible stories with Abigail.

Children: Preschool through 3rd grade: Classroom C
4th & 5th grades: Classroom B

The kids study the Bible in a variety of ways, rotating through story, science, snack and more. For a month, they study the same story or person in all those different ways. Some begin their time of study with music; others with a more in-depth study time. Please note: These locations are where children begin the rotation each week, not where they finish.

Implementation Team

The Implementation Team has been hard at work! If you haven't had a chance to check out the detailed list of our progress, you should visit the church website: fckearney.org. The plan is posted on the home page. Don't have internet access but would still like to see it? Let the church office know and we'll get you a hard copy!

Men's Group

Mark your calendar! The Men's Group is planning a "Bring your kids and grandkids to breakfast" on Saturday, June 11 @ 8:00 am. Please RSVP to the church office by June 8 so the group can plan accordingly.

Relay for Life

Relay for Life, a benefit for the American Cancer Society, will be June 17-18 from 6 pm to 6 am at the Kearney High School track. If you would like to walk with us, please go to www.relay.acsevents.org to register. Our team name is "Angela's Angels" (team #1). Please contact Susan Mick (antutu1@aol.com or 816.320.2209) with any questions.

Do You Know Your Spiritual Gifts?

As Kearney First Christian continues to seek God's Plan for Our Future, the leaders of the church invite everyone to complete a Spiritual Gifts inventory by September of this year. As we plan for the new year, we want to choose leaders best able to serve in the ministries to which this congregation has been called. Here are the upcoming workshop times, when you can complete a Spiritual Gifts inventory:

Thursday, June 23rd, 6 pm

Wednesday, July 6th, 6:30 pm

Sunday, August 14th, 5:30 pm

Wednesday, September 14th, 7 pm

If you can't attend one of the workshops, but would like to complete an inventory, please contact your Shepherd. They can likely answer any questions you may have as well!

An update from Week of Compassion: Reaching Out to "Each as Any Had Need": Deadly Twisters Devastate Joplin Disciples

The numbers coming out of Joplin, MO, are overwhelming.

According to news reports as of May 25th, 123 people were killed by the tornado that ripped through Southwest Missouri making it one of the deadliest tornados in the state's history. Property damage is estimated in the millions, and the loss of life and livelihood will inevitably have a catastrophic impact on this close-knit community. We have been in touch with South Joplin Christian Church and Joplin's First Christian Church. Many, many families from those congregations have lost their homes. Others have sustained extensive damage. Each and every member has a neighbor or friend or relative who is suffering unbelievable loss. The situation can only be described as devastating—with so many of our own Disciples families gravely affected.

With the needs mounting, we need your help and hope.

Already this year, close to 500 people have been killed by tornados—far higher than the average. Communities have been affected in Mississippi, Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas, Alabama, Tennessee, Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, Texas and Oklahoma. Every time we reach out on behalf of those suffering in the wake of unbelievable damage, you have responded out of generosity, solidarity, and compassion.

Amidst all of this seemingly unending destruction, we invite your continued support. At this stage, the immediate needs of our church members are the most critical for us to meet, and there will be much more for us to support in the recovery process: local long-term recovery committees; interfaith and ecumenical responses; Church World Service, as they respond to spring storms across the Midwest and South; and collaboration with Disciples Volunteering to discern how to best provide Disciples congregations with opportunities to serve in tornado-ravaged communities.

Your generosity is the beating heart of Week of Compassion's response. We are incredibly grateful for the sustained impact your Courageous Compassion provides. Thank you for all that you have contributed and provided to communities you may have never even visited. Week of Compassion is what it is because of you. We respond immediately and effectively because **YOU** respond.

We have no idea what this disaster-filled spring will continue to bring. Contributions to the Compassion Response Fund will enable us to prepare for the worst, so we can continue to reach out to "each as any had need" (Acts 4:35).

We thank God for each of you, and we pray for all those individuals, families, congregations, and communities struck by tornados and severe weather this spring.

First Christian Church Blood Drive

Thursday, June 23rd

3 pm – 7 pm

Fellowship Hall

To make an appointment call 816.628.5583 or visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsorcode: FCCKearney.

For eligibility questions, please call 866.236.3276. Please bring a photo ID when you come to donate.



American Red Cross

Text **givelife** to **42227** to join
the Red Cross Blood texting program.
redcrossblood.org / 800-RED CROSS

Mission Trip Garage Sale

The Mission Trip garage sale will be June 2 & 3 from 7 am to 6 pm. You can drop off your donations May 29 to June 1, 9 am to 8 pm.

Mission Trip

We're heading to Tulsa, Oklahoma the week of July 17th to help with home repairs for elderly and disabled people. It's sure to be lots of fun - not to mention living out Jesus' command to serve the very least of these. Folks 12 years old and up are invited to go.

Gospel Concert Series



**THE PALMETTO
STATE QUARTET**

Thursday, June 2
7:00 pm

**THE DOVE
BROTHERS
QUARTET**

Sunday, June 26
2:30 pm



Thanks to the Church Family

Thanks for the sympathy card for the loss of my Meredith. It means so much knowing you have never forgotten us and we appreciated all the cards you have sent during the past. Also, thanks for all the prayer's and keep them coming because I need them to help me get through this time alone. I don't know what I would do without my son, Meredith, and daughter in law, Julie. I know where Meredith is and he is no longer suffering and I will be with him someday. Your cards and caring have meant a lot to me.

~Doris Darlington

Thank you for your care and concern during my recent illness.

~Teresa Brent

Thank you for all you support and donations to the Acorn Dash 5K which benefited Tall Oaks Conference and Camp Center. Nine of us attended, with six of us participating in the walk. Everyone enjoyed horseback riding, the challenge course, touring the grounds, eating and worshipping with the regional cabinet. ~Janice Roberts

Thank you for prayers, cards, visits and calls during my recent surgery.

~Helen Booth

Thank you for your prayers, calls, cards and concerns for Sherman Worley. We truly felt your love.

~Larry & Jan Worley

Thank you to all who have prayed, sent cards, sent plants, came to the visitation or funeral and have supported our family during the illness and passing of my mom, Gloria Bolton. A special thanks to our funeral babysitters, Helen and Cathy.

~Deanna Whitford & Family

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and concern during my recent injury. I am doing well and appreciate all that you have done.

~Rod Will

Annual Ladies Luncheon

The Membership & Events Committee is hosting the 2nd annual Ladies Luncheon on Saturday, June 25 at 11:30 am in the fellowship hall. More details will be available soon but mark your calendar now!

Directory Update

Doug Gilpin's cell: 816.332.0254

Doug & Thersa have canceled their home phone so please update your directory accordingly.

June Birthdays

6/1	Susan Griffey
6/4	Mac DePrenger Denver Snider
6/8	Jennifer McClung
6/9	Helen Gustafson
6/10	Marie Kersten
6/11	Michael Novak
6/12	Elizabeth Yeager
6/13	Jared Novak
6/14	Edward Rapstine Jan Simpson
6/15	Stewart Dainty
6/16	Daniel Lovelady
6/17	Lisa Gallinger
6/19	Joe Caraway Robert Norman
6/20	Shawna Cromer
6/21	Gene Bowers
6/22	Teresa Brent Erin Shadrach
6/23	Jennifer Willis
6/27	Sarah Benner


If your birthday is missing, please contact the church office at fcckearney@aol.com or 628.5583.

Praying with...

...those who grieve. Over the last weeks, several members of our congregation lost people who were dear to them. Please continue to hold the families of these people in your prayers:

- Gloria Bolton
(Deanna Whitford's mother)
- Sherman Worley
(Larry Worley's brother)

June 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Committee night (6/29/11) 5 pm 8:15 Worship committee meeting 6 pm Evangelism committee meeting 6:30 pm all other committee meetings 7:30 pm Elders' meeting			1	2	3	4
			7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's)	Mission Trip garage sale 7 am – 6 pm	Barr Youth Center Reserved (Girl Scouts & Brownie Troop)	Breakdown the garage sale
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Dedication of the baptistry and rose garden (immediately following late service) <i>Pentecost Offering</i>		9:30 am Quilting Board report info deadline	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's) 7 pm Membership Class		9 am Youth to Worlds of Fun	8 am Men's Breakfast
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
2 pm Fellowship hall reserved (Tara Brown) 6:30 pm Board meeting <i>Pentecost Pentecost Offering</i>		9:30 am Quilting	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's)		Nelson/Adreon Wedding Relay for Life 6 pm -6 am Kearney High School track	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	6:30 pm Implementation Team meeting	9:30 am Quilting	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's) Newsletter deadline	3 pm American Red Cross Blood Drive 6 pm Spiritual Gifts Workshop		11:30 am Annual Ladies Luncheon
26	27	28	29	30		
2:30 pm Gospel Concert: Dove Brothers Quartet		9:30 am Quilting	Committee Night (see info above)			

Just for Kids!

Vacation Bible School begins Sunday, July 10 and continues through Thursday, July 14. It's from 5:45-8:30 p.m.; ages 4 years-completed 5th grade are invited. We will serve nightly family meals from 5:00-5:30. You can register kids any time by visiting fcckearney.org. We are always looking for volunteers so feel free to register too. We hope you'll be able to join us at **PandaMania**—Where God is Wild About You! Invite friends and neighbors!

Youth Group

Thank you!

We're so grateful for Lori Osborn faithfully leading our youth group for nearly two years, both on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. Even though we're sad that her job no longer allows her time to devote to the youth group, we're still so thankful for the time she gave. Thanks, Lori!

Summer Plans for the Youth

As we recruit volunteers to support the life of the Youth Group, here are the plans for the summer:

- No regular Wednesday evening meetings
- Abigail will be teaching the Sunday morning study group
- Kids have a chance to enjoy each other's company at least once a month!
 - Friday, June 10th, Worlds of Fun
 - Friday, July 15th, post-VBS water games and movie night
 - Friday, August 12th, Back to School pool party

Keep watch for specific information regarding times and what to bring! If you have any questions, contact Abigail. She likely knows the answer—or at least knows who does!

Rev.Abigail.Conley@Gmail.com

Keeping in Touch

Making sure everyone knows what's going on is challenging at times—especially, it seems, with our Youth Groupers! After youth committee and parent discussions, we think text messaging is the best way to communicate with kids about the life of the Youth Group. Kids or families of kids who want to receive texts about Youth Group life should let Abigail or someone in the church office know. All we ask is that a kid and an adult in the kid's life both receive messages. That way, both know what's going on!

From Abigail:

A Windstorm Keeps Sweeping Down...

Ok, so fair warning: Just because I say a certain Bible story is my favorite at any given moment doesn't mean that's actually true. I have many, many, many favorite stories including but not limited to: the woman caught in adultery, Abigail and everything about her, ditto with Elijah, and healing Jairus' daughter. And I really like to read Hebrews, Romans and Ecclesiastes, too! (Yes, I know I'm a nerd.)

Another one of my favorite Bible stories is Jesus calming the storm. And I would have said that even before my first experience of tornado sirens and hanging out downstairs at the church. I could tell you many, many details about that story. The verbs that are used and what nuance they have in Greek. The differences among the Gospel writers. It's one of those stories that gives me goosebumps and even now, I'm typing a bit faster because I'm just that excited about it.

Sometimes I love the fact that Jesus was sleeping; other times I hate it. The disciples are a bit neurotic, as usual, following Jesus' command to take the boat to the other side, then fearing for their lives in the middle of the storm sweeping over the boat where they followed him. And when Mark tells this story, he reminds us that Jesus spoke to the wind and the sea: "Peace!" And they obeyed. It's a truly wonderful story to study and pick apart, no matter the situation.

It's no great revelation that the last month has been tumultuous, as have many months before this one. It has been wrought with everything from the death of a terrorist to many deaths near us, affecting people and places dear to us. There was even a failed prediction of the end times thrown in for good measure. And yes, waiting out a storm in a stairwell or basement brings this story close to home. The need for the command, "Peace!" is clearly evident.

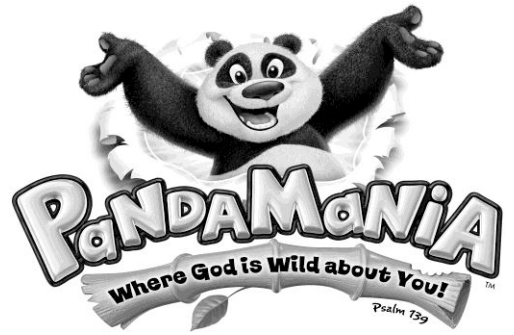
Still we wonder, "When will it come?" There is no way to answer that question. I, along with so many of you, pray that calm will come soon in every aspect of our lives, from the weather to the smallest detail of our lives.

Unlike the disciples, though, who were understandably uncertain, we already have the promise of Jesus' command, "Peace!" We're not stuck in a sinking boat wondering if anything can be done. Instead, we live in that promise that the command will come. We are certain the cry of "Peace!" drowns out the shout, "We are perishing." For that promise is a holy one, made by the one whom even the wind and seas obey. Christ's peace to us all.

Volunteer for PandaMania VBS!

Join our team to help create an excellent PandaMania for children the week of July 10-14, 2011 from 5:45-8:30 p.m.! Return this form *or sign up online at fcckearney.org.*

If you are willing to share your time, energy, and resources, we have a place for you to serve using your God-given gifts and talents to make a difference in the lives of the children in the community. Will you prayerfully consider filling one of the following positions for our PandaMania staff?



- _____ Crew Leader-Attends a leader training meeting, attends PandaMania daily; participates in fun activities while shepherding a group of five-eight elementary age children (30 needed).
- _____ Assistant Crew Leader-Attends training; assists crew leader with above activities-this position is for youth who have completed 6th grade.
- _____ Panda Pre-School Crew Leader- Attends a leader training meeting, attends PandaMania daily; participates in fun activities while shepherding a group of four pre-school age children(10 needed).
- _____ Panda Pre-School Assistant Crew Leader- Attends training; assists crew leader with above activities- this position is for youth who have completed 6th grade.
- _____ Registration Workers-Assists with registrations of children coming to PandaMania (4 needed).
- _____ Nursery Workers-Cares for the children (age 3 and under) of the workers at PandaMania (2 people needed).
- _____ Decorations Assistants-Assists the decorator with the decorating (5-8 people needed).
- _____ Publicity Coordinator-Works to coordinate efforts to promote PandaMania .
- _____ Meal/Snack Assistants-Prepares, serves, and cleans up the nightly meal/snack (4 needed).
- _____ Timer-Works nightly to coordinate pagers to keep PandaMania running smoothly.
- _____ Spotlight Drama-Takes pictures daily and puts them into a PowerPoint presentation. You must have digital camera and PowerPoint computer knowledge for this position.
- _____ Prayer Partner-Intercedes daily for all PandaMania volunteers as they are recruited.

_____ **Yes! I will volunteer my time, energy, and resources to serve!**

Name: _____ Telephone Number(s): _____

Position: _____ E-mail address(es): _____

Do you want a T-shirt (cost is \$10)? YES / NO Size: _____



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
fcckearney@aol.com
816.628.5583

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

Prayer Concerns

Dana Ball, Robert Baurer, Angela Bennett & family,
Gloria Bolton family, Louise Eastep, Merrill & Pat
Fairley, Allen Gilliland, Bill Goeke, Helen Griffey,
Gerri Hall, Rhonda Heverstick, Evan & Jeanne Hoit,
Jim Hutchens, Cecil Lovett, Ava Martinez & family, Gary
Martin, Richard May, Debbie Olsen, Kate Pence, Doug
Rawdon, Noel & Gwendean Scott, Ellen Smith, , Alvin &
Irma Willis, Opal Wisely, Sherman Worley family, our
troops (Josh Bettis, Steven Davis, Corey Hughes, Tim
Johnson, Shaun Lind, Jason Tribble & Brady Willis),
Global Mission Partners, our country, our church
programs, our world.

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