



The Messenger

JUNE 2018 NEWSLETTER

message from the Minister

My friend chucked her dead-end job, downsized her apartment, and went back to school for her MSW last fall. She's up most nights, past midnight, and has started talking about coffee as if it were an actual person. She's being pushed to consider alternative points of view about deeply held assumptions and she is having to articulate for her classes, her own understanding. And it is UNcomfortable.

My niece is in the throes of adolescence. She's grown three inches taller and her hips have started to fill out. She's prone to wild mood swings and doesn't know if she wants to play with Barbies or make prank phone calls to her crush. And it is UNcomfortable.

I have a colleague whose church decided to sell their building, shut down their ministry for six months, and start over with a new name, a new location, and a new vision. Some people have left and other people, out of curiosity, have shown up for the first time in decades. Together, they are throwing away an awful lot of stuff (both physical and emotional) and deciding what is most vital as they move forward. And it is UNcomfortable.

The good news in the midst of these terribly uncomfortable moments is that they have made room for growth, new life, and awe. My friend is invigorated and inspired. My niece is turning into a young woman. And the church is no longer flailing, but instead, dancing.

What I've found throughout my life...and maybe you've noticed this too...is that when we are most uncomfortable, we are about to hit some sort of growth spurt. Maybe that growth looks like freedom or clarity or beauty or new life. Or maybe that growth just looks like renewal or respite. But whatever it is, it appears to begin with stages of discomfort.

What I've also found throughout my life...is that no one really likes to be uncomfortable. And we'll do and say whatever we can to avoid it...until it becomes more painful to stay the same.

(Surely this sounds familiar?! "Oh, how we wish that the Lord had just put us to death while we were still in the land of Egypt. There we could sit by the pots cooking meat and eat our fill of bread. Instead, you've brought us out into this desert to starve this whole assembly to death." (Exodus 16:3) Oh! The lament! You can almost hear the gnashing of teeth, as they basically say...we'd rather be slaves and be comfortable, than move forward in this new way. And God responds (as God does) by making food appear in abundance.)

The thing is, as we watch our Methodist brothers and sisters walk through their pain and heartbreak, as they close their visible ministry on the corner of 21st and Howell, we start to really understand how devastating it can be to resist the growth spurt, the uncomfortable moments, and the journey ahead. Please hear me say, the work and ministry they did and will continue to do has been vital and life-giving. You don't last 100+ years without the ministry "mattering." But I wonder...when did it stop stretching them? And us? This neighborhood and this community? At what point do we find ourselves crying out to God to make us like we used to be...

- Did you know there's a church who does an entire service of worship based off the words of Beyoncé songs?
- There's another, this one located in Chicago, who turned their entire beautiful front lawn into a community garden!



Darlene Logan
First UMC-NKC
Roger Kelley
Sharon Hansen, Shery Caples' mother
Pat Roberts
Ron George, brother of Louise Jones
Jeff & Nancy Tennant
Marvin Preston
Pam Bear
Carl Neilson
Jackie Stewart
Jodelle Alexander
Dana Rosson
Sam Lane
Ramsey Phillips
Mike Widebrook
John Hodges
Mildred Heins, Lois Kuhlman's mother
Jack Lane
Emilie, Chris Boswell's mother
David Phillips
Sue Wright
Wade Ross
Bud Mosby
Agnes Forson
Janice, mother of Steve Hicks
Ruth Weathers
Dottie Babb
Tom Fisher
Valerie Lipari
Hannah Neilson
Jim Holladay
Emmie Stewart

Please notify the office for any updates or corrections regarding prayer requests.

note of Gratitude Thank You!

from Chuck & Darlene Logan

Darlene and I grateful to our church family for the many ways you showed us your love and support in recent weeks upon the deaths of our brothers and in Darlene's recent hospital stay. We appreciate your prayers and kindnesses.

Continued on the next page

- Another built an outdoor bread oven and makes fresh pizza and bread every week, for its neighbors! (Imagine the evangelism!)
- Did you know there's a church who made its whole mission about helping High School Seniors figure out how to manage their adult lives? EVERYTHING...from the Sunday morning sermons to the weekday career tutoring sessions are geared toward equipping them for the future.
- And another who turned their building into a religious art institute.
- Churches are, again and again, becoming voices for justice and equality by marching and speaking with the disenfranchised.
- There are churches who are JUST internet based. And there are churches without buildings who meet in various locations around their city.
- Here in town, there's a church who shuts their doors every "fifth Sunday" and does a mission project in their neighborhood.

Each one experienced growth pains...wringing hands... what-abouts...and road blocks. But each one wiggled through the pain and came out on the other side, a little more aware of how they might touch another's life in tangible, holy ways...a little more prepared to welcome new life...and a little more in awe of the world around them.

The new structure we have in place is meant to foster this growth. But it can't happen without you...without your dreams...and without your stretch. Let's grow together! It might be uncomfortable...but I betcha we can get through it, if we do so, together.

It is my joy to serve with and for you, rt+

to the Congregation

Ministry & Announcements

Did You Know? Prayer Concerns . . .



Do you have a prayer concern? A small group continues to meet every Tuesday at 12:30 pm to pray for the needs of our community, neighborhood, and world. Everyone is invited to this prayer group and/or if you have a concern which you would like added to the list, you may send an email to prayer@fccnkc.org, where they will be held confidentially (unless otherwise expressed) and prayed for by this group.

Northland Youth Group Mission Day



On Friday, June 1st, 8:30am-noon – Grades 2 to 12 – will meet at Avenue of Life, 500 N. 7th Street Trafficway, KC, KS 66101, at 8:30 am, and stay till noon.

We'll be supporting an agency that serves the poor and homeless of KCK. In two years, Avenue of Life has reduced homelessness in Wyandotte County schools, by over 42%. Our youth group's likely activities will be outdoor landscaping or cleanup, sorting clothing donations, or sorting food. Since the needs change daily, we're being asked to be flexible and willing to do what is most needed at the moment. It is suggested to dress in a way that will be comfortable outside, and able to get dirty. Please wear close-toed athletic shoes and clothing that

would be appropriate at your schools. Please let Rev. Trish know if you plan to attend (Text her at 816-785-4931 or email at revtrish@fccnkc.org) and we can possibly work out a car-pool. Come be a part of making a difference in people's lives!

Holy Hike



What is a Holy hike? It's a hike through God's creation with stops along the way for elements of worship! *When is the next one?* Saturday, June 9th. *What level of fitness will be required?* If you can walk, you are invited to participate! Down the line there may be a trail that is more challenging, but Rev. Trish will let you know. *What time will we meet?* For now we'll start each hike (promptly) at 8:00 am. *Where will it be?* Line Creek Trail—we'll meet at the community center. See you then!

Father's Day Reception



Please join us for a cake and punch reception in the lounge at 10:30 am on Sunday, June 17th, as we honor the men of our congregation. **Strong in the Lord! God is my strength and power. 2 Samuel 22:33** Happy Father's Day!

Vacation Bible School



Make plans now to join the fun for Vacation Bible School, here, at First Christian Church on the evenings of July 12-14! Using parables and story, we'll explore how Jesus welcomes and leads ALL of us, as our shepherd and our guide. Then, to end the weekend of fun, we'll have a petting zoo and party! If you would like to find ways to be involved, would like more information, or want to register your child, neighbor, or grandchild, please email Tammy Schelp at tschelp@comcast.net.

"Stay Out of the Rough" Golf Tournament



Benefitting the Northland Assistance Center (NAC) at Paradise Point Golf Course, Saturday July 14, 2018 8:00 am Shotgun. \$200.00 Hole Sponsor, \$400.00 Four Person Team, \$500.00 Team and Hole Sponsor, Gifts, continental breakfast, beverages, and SLAPS BBQ included. Entry forms are available at the church office. Call Rita at 816-591-0615 for more information.

to the Disciples Women

Ministry & Announcements

Disciples Women's Ministry

It's Good to Receive Graciously
For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.
1 Timothy 4:4

When our appreciation is sincere, then saying "thank you" to a person is also saying "thank you" to our heavenly Father.

Liz Curtis Higgs, It's Good to Be Queen

We invite you to join us in Disciples Women's Ministry Monday, June 4th, at 9:30 a.m. in the DCC room.

Deborah Group



We will meet this month on June 14th and 28th at 6 pm—bring your sack supper for a time of fellowship. Our study of women in the Bible will begin at 6:30 pm. Questions?

Contact Vicki Kistler.

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 4 Kay Lunsford
- 5 Shirley Hollon
Jana Lane
- 7 Bob Painter
John Perdue
Kristie Shaver
- 8 Jerry & Melissa Phillippi
- 10 Robert Kreikemeier
David Stewart
- 11 Josh & Chelsea Erickson
Jim & Lorinda Holladay
Greg & Kathryn Lane
- 17 Rita Pearce
Jason Sharpsteen
- 18 Pat Roberts
J Cooper Sharpsteen
Gary & Tammy Schelp
- 21 Emily Stewart
Anthony & Lindsey French
- 22 Ryan Stewart
Larry & Rita Moss
- 23 Timmie Martin
Thomas Morrow
Mary Richardson
- 24 Marty Burke
Charles Rosencrans
- 25 Madison Magee
- 26 Chuck Logan
Heidi Kreikemeier
- 27 Marvin Preston
Rev. Trish Winters
- 28 Roger Kelley
- 29 Dee Dee Brewer
- 30 Laura Perryn

free lunch Hot Dogs Served in May

- 5/2 796
- 5/9 764
- 5/16 677
- 5/23 668



nuts and bolts of Ministry

Who's Serving Where This Month?

SERMONS MINISTRY

June 3: *Won't You Be My Neighbor: Let's Have Dinner* | Luke 19:1-10

June 10: *Won't You Be My Neighbor: You Are My Mirror* | Matthew 15:21-28

June 17: *Won't You Be My Neighbor: A Father's Love* | Matthew 9:18-26

June 24: *Won't You Be My Neighbor: We're All in This Together* | John 8:1-11

TEAM AND TABLE MINISTRY

Team 3A (8:30)

Elders
Christy Boswell
Mark Brewer
Bob Seely

Deacons

Chris Boswell
Lois Kuhlman
Debbie Matteson
Debbie Painter—Communion Prep
Twyla Smith
Jennifer Finch

Team 3B (11:00)

Mary Hicks

Care Calls for June—

Hospital Calls for June—

Coffee Service for June— New Found Path Class

LAY LEADER & ASSISTANT TELLER MINISTRY

Lay Leaders/Tellers for June are:

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>Assistant Teller</u>
3	Bob Painter	Patty Webb	Toni Cracraft
10	Rick Lunsford	Vicki Kistler	Pat Hodges
17	Christy Boswell	Cristie Sharpsteen	Joann Blackburn
24	Debbie Painter	Mary Hicks	Marty Burke

ATTENDANCE & GIVING FOR MAY

Attendance	<u>4/29</u>	<u>5/6</u>	<u>5/13</u>	<u>5/20</u>
Worship	79	78	79	57
Sunday School	33	33	29	19
Tithing	9525	8793	5844	3193

Website: www.loveourchurch.org
E-mail: office@fcckc.org
Office Hours: M-Th 9:30 am-1:30 pm
11:00 Praise & Worship Service
10:00 am Sunday School
8:30 am Traditional Service

Sunday Worship Times

816-842-2341

North Kansas City, MO 64116

2018 Gentry Street

of North Kansas City

First Christian Church

