

# Be Connected

First Christian Church  
6630 Dodge Street  
Omaha, NE 68132  
402-558-1939

May 2024

## We're Looking For Our 2024 Graduates! Graduate Recognition Sunday

Sunday, May 26 will be Graduate Recognition Sunday.

If you or a member of your immediate family has already graduated this year, or is preparing to graduate from High School, trade school, or finishing a college degree in 2023, please contact the Church Office as soon as possible. You can respond by contacting the church office.

When you call or email, we will need the following information:

the graduate's name, the school from which they will be graduating, the date of the graduation, their major and the degree being received. This information must be received no later than Monday, May 20.

## First Christian Church-Omaha Nominating Slate of Board Members (2024 – 2025)

Moderator *	Tom Williamson
Secretary *	Amy Barry
Treasurer *	Amy Fountaine
Financial Secretary *	Paul Welsch
Ministry of Administration *	Randy Parker
Ministry of Nurture *	Angie Frey and Jo Jenson
Ministry of Outreach *	Cathy Boyer
Member at Large of Endowment Distribution*	Frank Jenson
Trustee *	Chris Carter
Congregation-at-Large Representative *	Jenn Carter – 2024/25
Diaconate Representatives **	Marge Welsch – Chair Nathan Brown
Elders Representatives **	Shain Humphrey – Chair Sheri Dodd – Vice Chair
Ex Officio	Rev. Josh Sawyer

Voting Board Members are designated with an \*



**CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**

**MAY 19**

**11:00 A.M.**

**NOMINATION VOTES**

# A Becoming Word...

Time waits for no one, does it? The month of May is just about here: meaning the school year is concluding, programs are wrapping up, graduations and celebrations of all kinds will be occurring. Our own Young Disciples are preparing to conclude their program on Pentecost (May 19), when three of our own will be baptized into the Christian faith.

This month, in consecutive weeks during worship, we will witness our Young Disciples stand up with their mentors and families to make an affirmation of faith. And then, after they make their affirmation of faith, we will witness them be baptized into the faith.

Do you remember your own baptism? What is your baptism's significance to you? Martin Luther called on the faithful to "remember their baptism" because of its significance for our lives, both now and eternally. Do you recall your affirmation of faith? When is the last time you renewed it (privately or publically)?

Perhaps in this month of May we might take a deep breath with our Young Disciples and pause just long enough to make their affirmation, our own re-affirmation, to make their baptism, a chance to reflect on our own baptism. Perhaps before May is gone, just like every month before it, we might slow down and reflect on how our life continues to change because of how we have committed to God and bound ourselves to for God's sake.

Blink and you might miss it all. But close your eyes in prayer and maybe it will all rush in before you again allowing you to see everything with renewed vision.

Blessings,  
Rev. Joshua A. Sawyer

## **Attention UNO Students!!**

### **The Wilson Scholarship Is Now Open For Applications**

**Because of the generosity of Don and Marge Wilson and their family, a scholarship is available to Active Members of the church who are undergraduate or graduate students at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.**

**The deadline for the application is June 1, 2024.**

**To obtain the Scholarship Application Form and review the Eligibility Requirements please contact the Church Office at [fccomaha@firstchristian-omaha.org](mailto:fccomaha@firstchristian-omaha.org) or by calling 402-558-1939.**

# YOUTH ENRICHMENT

## YOUNG DISCIPLES

Temple Israel visit at 6:00 p.m. with mentors April 26. Family members invited. Meet at Temple by 5:45 p.m.

Final class April 28th at 8:50 covering What is the Church Universal? Who are the Disciples of Christ? And What Do I Believe?

May 12

Affirmation of Faith

May 19

Baptism



**KAMP**  
**KALEO**  
BURWELL, NE  
REGISTRATION  
OPENS DEC. 1ST

REGISTER BEFORE  
MARCH 1ST FOR \$100 OFF  
REGISTER BETWEEN  
MARCH 2ND AND APRIL 1ST  
RECEIVE \$25 OFF

MAY 28-31 - AIC KAMP  
JUNE 2-6 - JUNIOR KAMP  
JUNE 7-9 - LITTLE KAMPERS #1  
JUNE 16-21 - JR/SR HIGH KAMP  
JULY 5-7 - LITTLE KAMPERS #2  
JULY 7-12 - Fafa/FANS KAMP  
JULY 14-17 - ROBOTICS KAMP  
AUGUST 1-5 - ADULT KAMP

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE

FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER VISIT: [WWW.KAMPKALEO.COM](http://WWW.KAMPKALEO.COM)

FCC WILL SCHLARSHIP HALF THE TUITION-  
PLEASE CONTACT BARB TENTINGER AT  
BLTENTINGER@GMAIL.COM

## WORSHIP & WONDER

Children Worship and Wonder is a great worship experience specially designed for kids age 3 to beginning readers. Following the Children's Moment in the Sanctuary, we will escort children down to the Worship and Wonder room.

Kids will share in singing, listening to and seeing a bible story told with wooden characters, and a time of wondering about the story. There is a time of prayer, a feast, and will conclude with silent work time, where they can use materials to reflect on the story.

## JOY STREET NEWS!

To all our wonderful Joy Street kiddos and parents, just a quick update! Our last Joy Street before the summer break will be Sunday, May 26. We will be finishing this quarter with the Bible stories about "Sharing" and in May, our theme is "Love". Our stories will be about "Peter and Tabitha", "The Growing Church", "Pentecost" (with a birthday celebration for the church), and "Love in Action".

We pray for all our children to have a fun and safe summer vacation. We will miss you on Joy Street but hope to see you on Sundays during Worship. Joy Street lessons will resume in September.

Bless you all ❤️!

Ms. Jo, Ms. Sue, and Ms. Marcia



# ADULT ENRICHMENT

## AT HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT- WEEK 9

Galatians 5:22-23 – Patience Cont.

It's one of the world's rarest flowers – so rare that it was seen in bloom only about twenty times in the United States in the last century. Its scarcity isn't the only thing that has made as many as 76,000 people line up for a look at it.

The titan arum is also the world's largest bloom. Just the bloom can measure eight feet tall and four feet across. The plant, which is native to Indonesia, must be tended patiently and exactly for weeks or months before the grower is rewarded with a bloom. The plant blooms only a few times in its forty-year life span and the bloom only lasts about seventy-two hours before it collapses on itself due to its tremendous weight.

But what makes this rare flower worth the wait isn't its size either, but rather its scent. Scent may be too polite a word. The flower is also known as the corpse flower. Its scent has been described as a nauseating rotten-flesh, or ripe manure smell. In fact, in one nursery in Michigan, the plant had to be moved outside when it was in full bloom, and even so, people reported that the smell "would take your breath away" if you were twenty yards downwind of it.

What makes the story of the corpse flower a story about patience?

Is this flower worth the wait? Why or why not?

What parallels can you make from this story to times in your life when you've had to be patient?

**Jot down your thoughts about patience as you read these passages:**

Proverbs 14:29, 15:18, 19:11, 25:15

Romans 12:12, 1 Corinthians 13:4, Ephesians 4:2, 2 Timothy 4:2

Why is patience a particularly important virtue for Christians?

How should we exhibit patience in our lives?

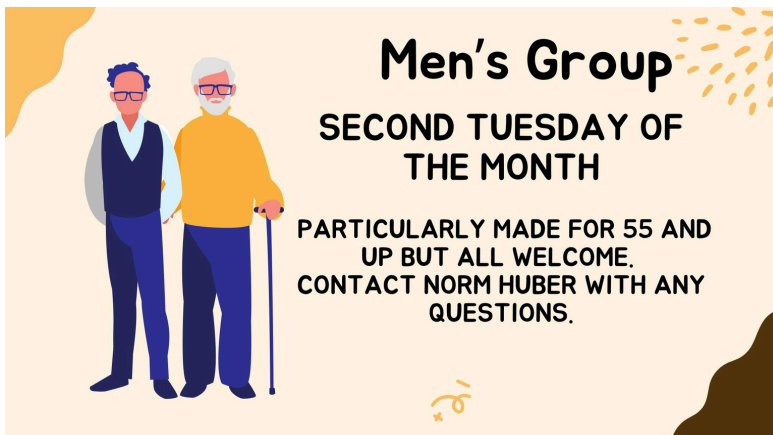
What good does being patient bring about?

How would your life be different if you exhibited more patience?

How would having more patience affect your walk with God? Your relationship with others?

How does the Holy Spirit grow patience in our lives?

What is our role in that process?



**Men's Group**  
**SECOND TUESDAY OF  
THE MONTH**

PARTICULARLY MADE FOR 55 AND  
UP BUT ALL WELCOME.  
CONTACT NORM HUBER WITH ANY  
QUESTIONS.

The graphic features an illustration of two elderly men, one in a blue vest and the other in a yellow sweater with a cane, standing against a light orange background with abstract shapes.



**Rachel Women**

We will meet at 10:00 in the Parlor on  
May 9. You will be able to enter safely  
in the East Door of the Sanctuary.  
Marge Welsch will bring treats, Jan  
Schenck will share a devotional,  
Lola Cash will bring the lesson, and we  
will plan our monthly stewardship  
giving.

The graphic features a watercolor-style background in shades of blue and green, with a line drawing of a woman's face and a group of women's silhouettes at the bottom right.



# ADULT ENRICHMENT

## Do You Have A Green Thumb?

The Gardening Committee is looking for volunteers who have an interest in helping to maintain the church landscape beds. If you know the difference between a weed and a flower (or have an app on your phone that can tell you which one you're looking at), you're qualified! We're looking for additional people to help keep the beds weeded and looking nice. If you're interested, please contact Allen or Jennie Mittan.



DO NOT MISS OUT!  
SUMMER

# BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS  
JUNE 12-JULY 10  
7:00 P.M.

• MORE DETAILS SOON! •

2024  
**Kamps FOR ADULTS**

SCAN TO LEARN MORE  
REGISTRATION  
OPENS MARCH 15TH

**AUGUST 8-11 - CULINARY KAMP FOR ADULTS**

**AUGUST 15-18 - QUILT KAMP**

**SEPT. 19-22 - WORK IN PROGRESS (WIP) WEEKEND**

**KAMP KALEO BURWELL, NE**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE  
FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER VISIT: [WWW.KAMPKALEO.COM](http://WWW.KAMPKALEO.COM)

**Book Group Readers:**  
Please join us at Trudi Crosby's  
Tuesday, May 14th at 1:00 p.m. (note: NEW TIME)  
to discuss *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker

"The Color Purple depicts the lives of African American women in early twentieth-century rural Georgia. Separated as girls, sisters Celie and Nettie sustain their loyalty to and hope in each other across time, distance, and silence. Through a series of letters spanning twenty years, first from Celie to God, then from the sisters to each other, the novel draws readers into the experiences of Celie, Nettie, Shug Avery, and Sofia."

We have a book club bag from the library for this book.  
Contact Jennie Mittan if you want a book.

## Library News

For the month of May I would like to highlight an author from the Fiction section of the Church library. We have a number of books from the Christian author, Karen Kingsbury available to check out.

They include: *Leaving, Learning, Longing and Loving*, just to name a few. Please see me with any questions or suggestions.

Arlan Rolfsen, Church Librarian





# Reminders

## Church Family News

**Church Family:** Darcy Christensen, Barb Goolsby, Sue Humphrey, Larry Karstens Patty Squier, Randy Tentinger & for all of our Shut-Ins

**Family & Friends:** Family of John Bower, Elizabeth Williamson, Afghanistan Refugee families: Zawab, Kamela, Swahila, Nazifulla, Hanifulla, Noorzia, Shazia and Silab Khan; & Redigul, Nazo, Bilal, Halal, Aisha, Habiba, Hanifa & Fatima Wazirwal.

**Honored Shut-In:** Jo Mlerendorf

**Larger Church Family:** Our General Minister and President, Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, Faith Christian Church, Omaha and their pastor Rev. Dr. Lisa Sherman

### Sunday Worship Schedule

Sunday School Classes for All Ages.....9:00 a.m.

In-Person Worship Service.....10:00 a.m.

Worship Service On-Line.....10:00 a.m.

To access Vimeo Service, go to our website, scroll down to the bottom of the page and "hit" the blue circle with the white V in it.

Average Attendance For The Month Of April: 85

Worship: In-Person-68 Virtual-17 Adult Sunday School-8

## May Birthdays

<b>Salvador Portillo</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Melissa Bussell</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Linda Hotchkiss</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Meg Blair</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Michael Frey</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Joshua Sawyer</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Norm Huber</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Hugo Sawyer</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Mary Anne Karstens</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Linda Trant</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Robert Anderson-Ludrick</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Faith Rolfsen</b>	<b>31</b>

Church Contact Informaton:

fccomaha@firstchristian-omaha.org

## Directory Updates

**Andrew & Amelia Barnett**  
20623 Pine St  
Elkhorn NE 68022

**Connie Keck**  
19304 Glenn Plz  
Apt 1B  
Elkhorn NE 68022


**Kathie Wilmot**  
15314 Holmes Plaza  
Omaha NE 68137

## THOSE WHO SERVE

	Acolytes	Stewarship Prayer	Communion Prayer	Greeters	Deacon	Communion Calling
May 5	Welsch Family	Sue Sawyer	Gary Sawyer	Carl Parmenter & Mary Lou Sortino	Debbie Davis	Gary & Sue Sawyer
May 12	Randy Parker Family	Jo Jensen	Frank Jensen	Mary Wolcott-Breci & Frank Jensen	Deana Rainey	Frank & Jo Jenseon
May 19	Fontaine Family	Mary Wolcott-Breci	Tom Williamson	Gary & Sue Sawyer	Sue Humphrey	Tom W. & Mary W. Breci
May 26	Tentinger Family	Ann Spangler	Norm Huber	Bill Weeks & Amy Barry	Clara Parker	Norm Huber & Ann Spangler



# MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 4-8pm CrossOver Fundraiser Dinner	2	3	4
5 9am Joy Street 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	6	7 7pm Board Meeting	8	9 10am Rachel Women	10	11 9am Outreach Meeting
12 9am Joy Street 9am Sunday School 10am Wroship	13	14 10am Men's Group 1pm Book Group	15	16	17	18
19 9am Joy Street 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	20 6pm Dundee Piano Studio Recital	21	22	23	24 June/July Articles Due	25
26 9am Joy Street 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	27 Memorial Day-Church Office Closed	28	29	30 9am Heart Ministry Center	31	
<b>WILSON SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 1</b>						



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## **FIRST CLASS**

**Return Service Requested**



**Board Meeting  
Tuesday, May 7  
7:00 p.m.**

**All are welcome at board meetings**