

Church briefs

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Worship the Lord this Sunday with Coffeyville First Church of the Nazarene located at 2300 West First Street. The service will begin at 10:45 with music led by the Praise and Worship team. Pastor Ford Hall will bring the morning message. Children's Church is available for children first through sixth grade. The sanctuary is sectioned to provide social distancing and we encourage masks or face coverings. The service will be broadcast live on our Facebook page for those who choose to join us virtually. For more information, ministry opportunities, and to leave your prayer requests and praise reports go to www.mycfn-church.com and be sure and follow us on Facebook.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

First Baptist Coffeyville is praying for our city and for those affected by the virus at Windsor. We are thinking of the residents and staff there, and their families. They have been working so hard to keep this out of there and in recent days they are dealing with it.

We love all those precious people there and are holding up the arms of the workers like Aaron and Hur did with Moses during the battle of Israel with the Amalekites. As long as Moses held up the staff of the Lord Joshua was able to lead the Israelites to victory. When Moses' arms got tired, they had him sit and Aaron and Hur helped keep his hands up for victory. It is a great example for us to remember we are not in this alone.

Montie Coffman and the staff at Windsor are battling on the front lines and we as Christians should do our part. We should pray, lifting them up to the Lord in our petitions throughout the day. We are family and we love because he loved us first. He listens to his children's prayers and it moves him just as our own children do. So we stand united for our brothers and sisters. Lord hold them tightly in your hands and chase this virus away and make yourself known to all as we go through this. May we come to know first hand that the battle belongs to the Lord. He is our hope and assurance. He holds our futures in his hands and they are more secure than Allstate's hands. They come from a God who went to extreme length on our behalf. What a mighty God he is.

This Sunday Pastor Dick Smith will bring the message, "It Is Finished" John 19:23-30 at 10:45am live in church or online at www.firstbaptistcoffeyville.com or you can find us on facebook live on the churches facebook page - First Baptist Coffeyville. If you like the churches page you will get a notification each week that we are going live. For now Sunday morning service and Wednesday night college age bible study is all we are doing weekly.

We will be having a fellowship at the Walter Johnson Park this coming Sunday at 6pm in our normal place. Pizza, pop, water and cookies will be served and we will have some games to play as well. It will be a lot of fun. Come if you can and are ok with getting out. Wear a mask if you want to. We will be able to social distance and it will be outdoors so we, July 26th, will good either way.

We have two positions we are working towards hiring. One is our Youth Coordinator, who will work with our youth and help coordinate the children's activities. It is a part time position with flexible hours and great pay up to \$400 a week. You'll have an office and work closely with Pastor Dick in planning and recruiting others to help with our Wednesday night and Sunday morning youth and children activities. Contact Pastor Dick Smith at dmoesmith@gmail.com or the church office at 620-251-3980 for an application and job description.

We also are in need of a nursery worker for Sunday mornings and eventually for Wednesday evenings. It is a paid position and we are looking for an adult.

We will coordinate our activities with the school system here at the church and take it one month at a time. We hope to do some of it in September at this time.

We are a church in the heart of the city with a heart for God and the city.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday, July 26, St. Paul's Episcopal Church will have Holy Communion, without a Priest, at 9:00 a.m. Masks will be required and social distancing will be practiced. Deacon

Charles Durland will be the celebrant.

Wednesday's Morning Prayer has been canceled until further notice.

The church office is open Monday 10:00 - noon and Tuesday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - noon. Masks will be required and only one person at a time will be allowed in the office. You must wear a mask and social distancing will be observed.

The Thrift Shop remains closed until further notice and they are NOT accepting donations of any kind at this time.

We pray for each and everyone of you and together we shall over come these difficult times.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

If you would like to watch Deacon Charles Durland live sermons from the past Sundays, and for the Sundays to come, the link to the Facebook page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Pauls-Episcopal-Church-Coffeyville-Ks-367025520743070/>
Click on the link, and scroll down. You will see all the sermons posted on the page, click on the one you want to watch.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

There is theology in our hymns. We sing hymns because as we sing, they teach us about the Bible, our world, and our neighbors. We learn about God's abundant grace and steadfast love, Jesus' life and teachings, and the early church. Our hymns express social concerns, past and present, with an emphasis on Christian action. Hymns from different cultures give us an insight to peoples from different experiences, different lands, and different struggles. Hymns can be a statement of faith shared by the whole congregation. All verses of a hymn are an important part of the hymn's total message, and verses should not be omitted because hymns are scripture, prayers, and sacred poetry, expressing feelings, ideas, and the nature of God's relationship to all creation. Hymn singing unifies a body of individuals into one community. We share in that community as we praise God—Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer, and as we celebrate in hymns Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. Congregational singing is a highlight of our services as we unite in one voice worshipping and praising God.

Our hymns serve as instruments by which the spiritual heritage received from the past is celebrated in the present and transmitted to future generations. Next to the Bible, our hymnals have been our most formative resource.

Above all we should sing spiritually and have an eye to God in every word of every verse we sing. We should aim to please Him, and in order to do this, we should attend strictly to the sense of what we sing as our hearts are offered to God continually.

John Wesley is considered to be the father of Methodism. His brother Charles, became one of the most prolific English-speaking poets, composing more than 6,500 hymns. From the time of John and Charles Wesley, hymn singing has been a vital and distinctive component of our worship of God. From our beginning Methodists have been "a singing people."

Join us for our in-person Worship Service this Sunday at 9:00 AM. We are still following COVID-19 precautions and live streaming on our First United Methodist Church Facebook. Sunday School and other activities at the church have not resumed. We are the church with the ark in the playground at 10th and Elm.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) invites you to worship with us Sunday mornings. Sunday school 9:30 a.m.; Worship service 10:45 a.m. with Mary Wilson as Elder and Linda Walker as Worship Leader. Rev. Lee Passwater's sermon title will be "Who's the Story on Missions," taken from Acts 13:1-5. The anthem will be "Whispering Hope" performed by the choir. Our custom is to observe communion every Sunday with the Lord's Table being open to all who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

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VISA RESTRICTIONS LIMIT FOREIGN-BORN DOCTORS' ROLE IN COVID

International medical graduates (IMGs) who are ready to help out in areas hard-hit by COVID-19 are unable to do so due to explicit restrictions on their work visas.

There's a lot of uncertainty for IMGs, and it can be hard to navigate the visa quotas and limits placed on their practice.

States are calling for more doctors. I keep getting emails from recruiters desperately seeking help in COVID hot zones. I have both Oklahoma and Kansas medical licenses, and I can be of help in my time off. But my visa says I can't.

IMGs represent a quarter of the total physician workforce in the US. There are approximately 15,000 IMGs in this situation who feel like they are on the sidelines because their visa specifies which hospital they have to work in. Applying for a new H1B is a tedious multistep process that takes several months to get approved.

The pride of working as a frontline physician in a crisis like COVID has been replaced by anxiety and fear. If I were to get sick from COVID 19 and not be able to work for about 2 months, I fear deportation because of current visa rules. However, if I had a green card, I would be immune from H1B visa rules — meaning I could help out in COVID hot zones.

It just does not seem right that we are considered essential when it comes to saving lives but are non-essential in terms of immigration purposes and that we and our families face a risk of deportation if we get affected by COVID. It takes decades for physicians from some countries to get the permanent resident card — or green card — that gives them flexibility to work without special authorization.

One potential solution is the bipartisan Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act — S3599. The bill currently has 36 bipartisan senate co-sponsors and senate majority leadership should take every step to include this legislation into the Cares 2 COVID relief package expected in the next 2 weeks. This bill, if approved, would relocate 15,000 unused employment-based visas for doctors that were previously authorized by Congress. The bill also would provide expedited processing, which could potentially enable up to 15,000 physicians to receive the benefits and flexibility of a green card and enable them to work in areas of dire need immediately without visa hassles.

Please help us help you.

[Dr. Gangula is a board certified Family Medicine physician practicing at Coffeyville Regional Medical Center Medical Group in Coffeyville, KS and the Medical Director of the Montgomery County Kansas Health Department.]



DR. GANGULA

"Tomorrow's Find"

BY ALBERT MITCHELL

Today rolls while yesterday is relaxing. Times two, stepping toward tomorrow's find. Monday that says soon. Thursday through Friday does away with time. Saturday's heart offers new horizons.

FAITH & VALUES

DR. VERA HALL LINZEY AND DR. JAMES F. LINZEY

They will fight with the Lamb, but the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of kings and king of kings, and those with him are called, chosen, and faithful" (Rev. 17:14, NABRE). Martin Luther defined faith as "a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure that one would die a thousand times for it." Faith as a fruit is clearly distinguished from the act of faith which brings initial salvation and the gift of faith which is a special operation of faith. The same God gives each. But there is growth to be achieved. The fruit must grow until faith permeates every aspect of the believer's life.

Such synonyms as trust, faithfulness, conviction, integrity, and fidelity often translate the Greek word 'pistis' or faith. Thus the list of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5 is capable of a double meaning of faith and faithfulness, though the majority of 20th century translations prefer faithfulness or fidelity rather than the KJV's rendition of faith. Growing out of the believer's steadfast faith in God there is a dependability beyond the ordinary.

Faith in God produces faithfulness toward God and man. The job of the Holy Spirit is to bring faith

into the Spirit-filled life. The Christian full of the Spirit and faith is faithful. God is absolutely reliable and constant (James 1:17). The man of faith is himself faithful because he is obedient. Having faith in God involves keeping God, and faith with God. True faith manifests dependability in doing the work of God, as in fact in doing both temporal and spiritual tasks. Much of the success of the early church was due to the efforts of the saints of God who prayed, testified, visited, gave their means, and opened their homes. They were not faithful just to men, but they had real vision for the work of God. They were faithful in the commonplace things of life, the monotonous routine of the day. They were just as faithful when it was raining as when the sun was shining. The disciples and apostles found the place where God wanted them to be, and they stayed there and were faithful.

For example, consider Paul. God called him to be an apostle, to a life of hardship. He could have quit any time. He didn't really need shipwreck, stripes, persecutions, hunger, thirst, imprisonment. He could have said, "This is too hard; I'll just go back to the Sanhedrin." But he stayed where God wanted him, and it was while he was in prison that we wrote the beautiful epistles that give

God's instructions for the early church and for our own spiritual growth.

Saving faith puts us in Christ, but faith the fruit of the Spirit puts Christ in us. The fruit of the Spirit creates a new character of us. The nine-fold fruit of the Spirit is intended to develop our characters and make us holy so that we can work effectively for Christ. Through this kind of faith, the presence of Christ comes into our lives and indwells us, controls us, speaks through us, works through us. The world will then see Jesus in us. We cannot produce the fruit of the Spirit ourselves. It is produced in us by the

abiding presence of Christ in our lives.

Some Christians think that after conversion they must exercise a strenuous self-discipline so that the fruit of the Spirit can be seen in their lives. When they are persecuted, they tell themselves, "now I must show long-suffering. I must not lose my temper." But all the time they are ready to explode. Self-discipline cannot produce spiritual things because it belongs to self. What we need is Christ's discipline, or to become disciples of Christ. In John 15, Jesus says that if we let Him abide in us, we'll produce much fruit. This fruit doesn't apply

to soul-saving or the results of our work for the Lord. This fruit is the fruit of the Spirit. When the presence of Jesus fills our lives, the faith of the Son of God will be seen in our characters.

Of all the fruit of the Spirit, faithfulness may be the most inconspicuous. The faithful one is usually taken for granted. In spite of that, however, faithfulness is one of the most necessary Christian virtues. The reliability of people shows in related attributes of loyalty, honesty, and integrity. Such a person is faithful in words, in deed, and in character. The servant of God must be faithful in the small and mundane,

for those who are faithful in little will be faithful in much. God's ideal of faithfulness is a work of the Spirit. The work of the Holy Spirit is to mold and develop Christ-like character. The believer cooperates in this by denying himself and allowing the Spirit to produce its own harvest — the fruit of the Spirit.

[Dr. Vera Hall Linzey (U.S. Navy Mother of the Fleet and Honorary Admiral) and her son Dr. James F. Linzey (Retired Army Chaplain, rank of Major) founded the Military Bible Association and completed their courses of study at Fuller Theological Seminary.]

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