



The Leavenworth Christian

Roger's Random Ramblings

September 2025

The balance of the Lord's Prayer is a balance we need to practice across our spiritual lives. I see four different stages modeled in this prayer. It is important to note the design and balance of this prayer because we indicate that we rely on or use it so often,

The first stage is intended to help us recognize God as the Holy Other. We are pressed to identify the great contrast between ourselves and God. God is referred to as our father, in heaven whose name is hallowed. We are challenged to appreciate this contrast as we are led to pray for God's kingdom to come and God's will to be followed on earth as it is already followed in heaven.

Next, the prayer shifts to the temporal world in which we live, breathe, and have our being. The request is first that our sustenance will be maintained through God's continual daily gifts. But then a shift is made to underscore the balance, the stability, and the equity we are to practice in our living. Just as we depend on God to provide for us daily and to forgive our debts, we need to bring balance, stability, and equity to every relationship we share. Forgiveness becomes treating others as we hope to be treated.

In the third stage we are expected to know that one of the surest ways to avoid accruing debt to God or others is to be protected from temptation and being delivered from evil. The more temptation we hold at bay and the greater evil we avoid, the less likely we will envision ourselves to be like the old song says; "another day older and deeper in debt."

Finally, we are reminded again that God is the eternal one. God is the one who holds the kingdom, the power and the glory from now through eternity.

We would live in a far different world if Christian people would practice what they pray. The impact of Christians on our world is minimized because they, we, are so reluctant to love the way God does, and to forgive the way God does. In Matthew 18 we encounter the time when Jesus pushes hard on Peter to understand forgiveness. Peter, thinking he is answering his question perfectly, regarding how many times one should forgive by saying up to seven times is in essence rebuked by Jesus for thinking too small. Jesus throws Peter's technically perfect answer back in his face.

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He indicates a better answer would be that forgiveness should be limitless. He expands on Peter's statement of seven times and says it should be more like seventy-seven times. One should not put a number on forgiveness. There is a reason that Jesus immediately offered the parable of the servant who was consumed with getting and having.

You remember the parable; a servant was called in by his master to account for what he owed him. He owed a debt to his master which he could never repay. The master at first started to make him and his family accountable for the debt. When the man desperately pleaded for mercy the master relented and forgave him all his indebtedness. However, immediately the one who had been forgiven an unpayable amount went out and vigorously sought out anyone who owed him anything.

The callous and selfish man went on a tangent concerning a slave who owed him. When that slave could not pay a relatively small amount, he mercilessly retaliated by having this slave imprisoned. The other slaves got word to the master who changed his mind concerning the first slave because he failed to extend mercy like it was extended to him. As a result, the wrath of the master burned, and the ungrateful slave was thrust into torture.

Jesus concludes with the following words, "So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

In Christ. Rev. Roger Brav

Praises!

Praise! *Alice* is scheduled to come home on Saturday.

Praises, *Jody* is doing better, but still hurting

Ginger & Vic's grandson who has MD was granted a wish to go to Japan.

Don & Molly's daughter and granddaughter came to visit.

Don & Molly celebrated their 43rd Anniversary.

Emily's shoulder is better.

Diane D's ankle is healing, please continue to pray. *Fran*

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## **Ongoing Cares & Concerns**

Alice Bushman, Noah Kincaid, Kim Kincaid, Bill Wilson, Kathy Ramirez, Rose Marie Theel, Linda Bohnsack's daughter Amanda, Marji Dickson, Danielle, Doug Euler & Family, Ann Crum, Rev Bill Worcester, Merritt

## ***Prayer Ministry***

*Ukraine, Russia & Israel & Gaza (Aid workers)*

**Our Nation:** pray for our country and its people.

Those with mental health issues.

Shelter staffing and volunteers.

*Larry Elliott* in the VA with health concerns. – *Cheryl & Sandy*

*Kathy Ramirez* to have surgery on her cervical spine Sept 8.

Prayers for *Mayra Abold* for cancer surgery on thyroid Sep 10.

*Donna Jean Fletcher* fell and broke her neck and other bones. *Kathy*

Prayers for Don B's brother-in-law, *Ron S.* His battle with cancer is not going well.

Prayers for *Steve Weissenfluh* who has cancer – *Don H*

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Pray for our out-of-town Active-Duty Personnel

Jim & Rachel Sullivan, Nelson Hanson,
Cameron Brown, Christin Collins, Nickalas Derringer,
Tyler Kowalewski, Edison Urquiza,
Jeremy Bower, Brandon Williams, Kyler McKeel,
Derrek McGowen

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## ***How to Watch Live & Past Worship Service***



[www.LeavenworthChristian.com](http://www.LeavenworthChristian.com)

click on “Sermons” on the upper Right of the Homepage

# THANK YOU!

*Thank You so much for all your prayers, calls and cards of encouragement! My ankle replacement is healing well and I hope to be back in the office soon! I'd like to give a huge thank you to Fran and Pastor Roger along with anyone else that has covered for me during my recuperation! God Bless You All! Diane D.*

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*Dear Friends at FCC:
Again, your generosity will help provide food for children in the Leavenworth school system who are food insecure. Thank you for your gift of \$720. Sincerely, Ruth Kenton*

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## *Transformation Team*

The congregation is developing a Transformational Team to help us go through the interim period and to develop plans that will challenge us as we get a settled pastor on board and work with her or him to claim the future God holds out to us.

The term transformational is relied upon because it calls us to face the challenge ahead of us as we strive to be faithful to God. As members of this congregation, we need to be aware we are not transitioning from point A to point B. We are seeking to boldly face the future which may require us to move systematically from point A to point L or even further. Focusing on getting by and surviving is far different from considering how this church may adapt to thrive. Having this committee in place helps lead our congregation into a new era of ministry and service. This critical dynamic is essential if we are to break from the past and tackle the rapidly evolving landscape of Christianity in America today.

This model anticipates the need to be adaptative and to follow through in our church's current circumstances. Essentially the Transformational Team has been formed to address the special opportunities presented in the interim time, the time between other times. The anticipation is this will be a time of intrigue and challenge for the congregation. It will be a period through which we will rely on the leading of the Holy Spirit and the help of the Region. We will depend on them to assist us in doing self-assessment and providing guidance in developing a vision for the future. The right vision will call us to a recommit to the mission and ministry that awaits our congregation.



# RECONCILIATION MINISTRY

## Special Offering

On Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be receiving our special offering for the work of Reconciliation in and through our denomination. The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering is received each year in congregations (in solidarity with World Communion Sunday). Funds generated by this special emphasis are used throughout the year to provide grants to ministries and congregations actively developing and implementing programs that promote our Church's Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racist identity. These programs and efforts seek to reveal, re-educate, and remove systemic and structural barriers in our communities that serve to deny the image of God and human thriving based on race.

Your gifts to Reconciliation Ministry strengthen our Church's witness to God's unending love for all of humanity. With your generosity, leaders, communities, and our congregations are being equipped to witness to God's love and justice in all times and in every season. The time is always ripe to stand up for justice to ensure that all of God's children are treated equitably. Thank you for joining us on this journey through your generosity.

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Silver Chalice MINISTRY

Seeking Silver Chalice Status

Several people in our congregation raised the prospect of our congregation becoming a Silver Chalice Congregation at the recent board meeting. Some who attended were encouraged at the General Assembly and they spoke to us about pursuing this designation for our congregation.

The purpose of the Silver Chalice Program is to encourage, support, and celebrate congregations, DOC offices, assemblies and organizations who have a strong desire to live out their Christian faith by caring for, assisting, and utilizing the gifts and wisdom of older adults. The Silver Chalice Program seeks congregations/organizations to commit to offer and enhance support to and for our aging members. Achieving a Silver Chalice designation means the congregation/organization has reached certain goals regarding programming and services that focus on adding meaning and value to the life of the older adult as well as the life of the larger church.

We are determining what will be required of us to meet the established criteria.



Green Chalice

On August 19, 2025, First Christian Church was re-certified and recognized for its Green Chalice Ministry in taking steps to love God, neighbors, and creation with intentionality and passion. Our ambassadors for the Green Chalice Ministry, *Erin & Richard Sack*, are noted for their recycling efforts here at the church; we thank them for that. During Sunday's service, they were presented with the certificate provided by the Regional Office in recognition.

The Green Chalice Ministry encompasses more than just recycling, it involves looking for ways to conserve energy (i.e., caulking windows, changing light fixtures to LED, etc.). As a congregation, it takes all of us.

The Green Chalice Covenant

"As children of God and followers of Christ Jesus, we covenant to:

- ***Worship** God with all creation and pray for the healing of the earth.
- ***Study** the climate crisis and engage others in climate solutions.
- ***Repent** and forgive for the harm we have inflicted on the earth that sustains life.
- ***Advocate** for eco-justice public policies and witness by living sustainable lifestyles.
- ***Rest** in God's good creation and invite others to delight in nature."

It is up to all of us to do our part in whatever small way to heal the earth.

Dea Nicodemus, Moderator

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## *You are invited...*

to join the celebration to Commemorate the Historic Kansas Legacy of **the Farmington Christian Church, Saturday October 11, 2025, 1-4 pm** at the Farmington Christian Church at 5628 Hodgeman Rd, Effingham, KS 66023. Enjoy refreshments as well as a re-enactment of Pardee Butler by Steve & Suzanne Germes.



# *Leavenworth Christian*

September 7-29, 2025



## Sunday, Sept 7<sup>th</sup>

9:30am Worship *In-Person/Zoom/FB*  
10:45am Seekers SS *In-Person*  
Worship Mtg (following Worship)

## Monday, Sept 8<sup>th</sup>

9:30am Prayer Breakfast *Pullman's*

## Tuesday, Sept 9<sup>th</sup>

8:00am Leavened Bread *Pullman's*  
7:00pm Personnel Mtg *Kitterman*

## Wednesday, Sept 10<sup>th</sup>

8:30am Prayer Group *Kitterman*  
1:00pm aliVe *Kitterman*

## Thursday, Sept 11<sup>th</sup>

6:30pm Carillons  
7:30pm Chancel Choir

## Sunday, Sept 14<sup>th</sup>

9:30am Worship *In-Person/Zoom/FB*  
10:45am Seekers SS *In-Person*

## Monday, Sept 15<sup>th</sup>

9:30am Prayer Breakfast *Pullman's*

## Wednesday, Sept 17<sup>th</sup>

8:30am Prayer Group *Kitterman*  
3:00pm Transformation Mtg *Kitterman*

## Thursday, Sept 18<sup>th</sup>

6:30pm Carillons  
7:30pm Chancel Choir

## Sunday, Sept 21<sup>st</sup>

*Light a Candle for Children*  
9:30am Worship *In-Person/Zoom/FB*  
10:45am Seekers SS *In-Person*

## Monday, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>

9:30am Prayer Breakfast *Pullman's*

## Wednesday, Sept 24<sup>th</sup>

8:30am Prayer Group *Kitterman*  
7:00pm Elders Meeting *Kitterman*

## Thursday, Sept 25<sup>th</sup>

6:30pm Carillons  
7:30pm Chancel Choir

## Friday & Saturday, Sept 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>

DMF Retreat

## Sunday, Sept 28<sup>th</sup>

*Light a Candle for Children*  
9:30am Worship *In-Person/Zoom/FB*  
10:45am Seekers SS *In-Person*

## Monday, Sept 29<sup>th</sup>

9:30am Prayer Breakfast *Pullman's*

## SEPTEMBER SERVERS

|                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Sept 7<sup>th</sup></u><br><b>Elder: Diane E</b><br><br><b>Lay Leader:</b><br><b>Julie</b><br><br><b>Diaconate:</b><br><i>Deedie &amp; Bonnie</i> | <u>Sept 14<sup>th</sup></u><br><b>Elder: Don H</b><br><br><b>Lay Leader:</b><br><b>Sue</b><br><br><b>Diaconate:</b><br><i>April &amp; Debbie</i> | <u>Sept 21<sup>st</sup></u><br><b>Elder: Steve</b><br><br><b>Lay Leader:</b><br><b>Erin</b><br><br><b>Diaconate:</b><br><i>Barb &amp; Bill</i> | <u>Sept 28<sup>th</sup></u><br><b>Elder: Fran</b><br><br><b>Lay Leader:</b><br><b>Jim</b><br><br><b>Diaconate:</b><br><i>Janet &amp; Gracie</i> |
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## *August Giving*

|                                                      |                                               |                                                    |                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>General</b><br><b>Building</b><br><b>BackSnak</b> | <b>\$12,560</b><br><b>1,555</b><br><b>520</b> | <b>DWF</b><br><b>Pastor Fund</b><br><b>Shelter</b> | <b>\$45</b><br><b>75</b><br><b>275</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|

## *Renovations \$4,000*

### *August Attendance*

|                                                                              |                                                                              |                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>August 3<sup>rd</sup></u><br><i>In Person - 43</i><br><i>On-line - 10</i> | <u>August 17<sup>th</sup></u><br><i>In Person - 43</i><br><i>On-line - 8</i> | <u>August 31<sup>st</sup></u><br><i>In Person - 50</i><br><i>On-line - 10</i> |
| <u>August 10<sup>th</sup></u><br><i>In Person - 41</i><br><i>On-line - 7</i> | <u>August 24<sup>th</sup></u><br><i>In Person - 41</i><br><i>On-line - 9</i> |                                                                               |

*September 17<sup>th</sup>*  
*Transformation Mtg*  
*3:00pm/ Kitterman*

*September 24<sup>th</sup>*  
*Elders Meeting*  
*7:00pm/Kitterman*



## *From Carla Pearson, KDW Coordinator*

Kansas Disciples Women are asking women from across the Kansas Region to **submit devotions, meditations, and personal reflections, which will be compiled into a devotional book entitled "Footsteps of Faith."** The book is scheduled for publication and release in April 2026.

You do not need to be a professional writer to take part in this project. We are seeking to include women's reflections on their faith journeys, meditations on favorite scriptures, or other devotional messages. Proceeds from the sale of the book will benefit the KDW Care and Share Fund. We welcome your submissions now **until December 19<sup>th</sup>. Please send them, via email, to [carla.pearson58@gmail.com](mailto:carla.pearson58@gmail.com),** in an attached Word document or mailed to 1816 17<sup>th</sup> Ave, McPherson, KS 67460. Please include your name and home church when submitting your writing. For assistance, contact Ruth or Fran.

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KDW Retreat Service Project

We will be collecting items for the Wichita Family Crisis Center and Anthony Family Shelter. Please bring your donations to church by September 28th. A box will be in the Narthex for your donations. Thank you for your generosity!

Women's hygiene/self-care products

Body & Face Lotion
Body Wash
Shampoo
Conditioner
Razors
Hairbrushes
Nail Clippers

Baby Needs

Baby Wash
Baby Shampoo
Baby Lotion
Baby Wipes
Baby Bottles
Teething Toys
Sippy Cups (all stages)

September Birthdays

September 3rd

Debbie Sack

September 4th

Gayle Hubert

September 6th

Luke Euler

September 7th

Tessa Coleman

September 8th

Brian Malm

Steve Miller

September 9th

Noah Kincaid

Becky Wecas

September 13th

Kim Mattingly

September 14th

Avery Filley

Jennifer Johnson

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September 16<sup>th</sup>

*David Bryant*

September 17<sup>th</sup>

*Sandy Lowery*

September 18<sup>th</sup>

*Virginia DeFrees*

September 19<sup>th</sup>

*Margaret Collins*

September 20<sup>th</sup>

*Imogene Reynolds*

September 25<sup>th</sup>

*Christina Scott*

September 26<sup>th</sup>

*Steve Parker*

September 29<sup>th</sup>

*Lois Walling*

*Gloria Spath*

September 30<sup>th</sup>

*Diane Nixon*

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**Mary/Martha**

**Wednesday  
September 3<sup>rd</sup>  
5:00pm  
Kitterman**

**Leavened Bread**

**Tuesday  
September 9<sup>th</sup>  
8:00am  
Pullman's**

**aliVe**

**Wednesday  
September 10<sup>th</sup>  
1:00am  
Kitterman**



*Fall is Almost Here!*

*First Christian Church*  
*130 N 6<sup>th</sup> Street*  
*Leavenworth, KS 66048*



Contact US  
Telephone Number: (913) 682-3222  
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[www.leavenworthchristian.com](http://www.leavenworthchristian.com)  
Reverend Roger Bray ~ (208) 251-1690  
Email: [pastorroger@leavenworthchristian.com](mailto:pastorroger@leavenworthchristian.com)

