

New pastor joins LeRoy First Christian Church

LeROY — Zack Clements has been named the new pastor at First Christian Church, LeRoy, having begun his assignment Nov. 1. Clements and his wife, Candace, have four children and will reside in LeRoy.

Clements has served in ministry for five years.

"I felt the call to preach and teach the glorious gospel of Christ in 2015, submitted to that calling and have been on an amazing journey ever since," Clements said.

"Ministry began for me at Bethel Baptist Church, serving wherever I could - getting involved in whatever was happening, wherever I could help," he said. "After I submitted to the call to preach, my pastor helped me understand the ends and outs of the church. I began observing and learning from him and many other pastors, and eventually started teaching a



Photo submitted
Pastor Zack Clements

college and careers class. I began filling pulpits when I had the opportunity, and continued in studying and growing in the Word. My family and I moved to New Mexico, where I became an Associate Pastor

at First Baptist Church, Edgewood, N.M., for about a year. I continued filling pulpits until 2019, when I had the opportunity to help pastor Mercy Baptist Church in Lyndon.

"First Christian Church has already accepted my family as theirs and have made us feel right at home," Clements said. "There are many challenges ahead, but with great challenges come growth, strength and great victory. We can't wait to see souls saved and lives changed - I believe that whether 2021 is smooth or rough, First Christian Church will be here serving the community. The land needs healed and we know the One that can do it.

Now, more than ever, we need the hope that is only in Christ Jesus," he added. "My family and I look forward to serving the community, and growing in grace alongside you all!"

Our Savior's Birth



Photo submitted

Children in the preschool through sixth grade religious education classes at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Burlington, performed a Christmas program Sunday following 10 a.m. Mass, where the story of Jesus' birth was told through a narrator. The congregation was invited to participate by singing several Christmas songs.

Virtual Nativities and Noels events in December

The public is invited to enjoy a variety of Virtual Nativities and Noels events throughout the Advent season until Dec. 24.

Videos will be available each Sunday and at other times and will include photos of nativities from various countries, comments by nativity owners about their creches, scriptural readings, remarks by clergy on the significance of Jesus's birth,

and sacred Christmas music.

The events can be accessed in the following way:

* YouTube: "Subscribe" to the YouTube channel Nativities and Noels.

* Facebook: On Facebook visit Nativities and Noels. "Like" the page and new posts will show up in your news feed.

* Instagram: On Instagram find @nativities_n_noels

and "follow" it to get new posts in your feed.

The virtual events were created by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Topeka with the help of friends from other faiths. The events can serve as a virtual Advent calendar, providing a beautiful and inspiring daily reminder that Jesus's birth is the reason for the Christmas season.

Tips to protect deliveries

Don't become a victim of porch pirates. It's estimated that one in three Americans have been a victim of a "porch pirate" or someone who steals delivered packages from your front porch. Amazon reported a 60 percent increase

of online sales in 2020 as compared to 2019 for Black Friday through Cyber Monday sales.

See Deliveries, Page 5

Virtual concert to feature local vocalists

BURLINGTON — The Burlington United Methodist Church's Virtual Concert Series continues each Friday night at 6 p.m. on the Burlington UMC Facebook page.

This Friday's concert will feature local vocalists Susan Croll, Johnny Freeman, Tawny Johnson, Annette Barrett-Knight, and Holly Thomsen. Sheree Damashek will accompany the singers on piano.

Both traditional Christmas carols and more contemporary songs will be included. Johnny Freeman and Tawny

Johnson will share duets of the beloved carols "Silent Night" and "The First Noel." "Tawny and I had never had a chance to sing together, so I asked if she'd be interested in trying a couple of my favorites," Freeman explained. "The chill bumps from our harmonies were a great reward."

Soloist Susan Croll said, "Our entire family has been singing all of our lives, and I can't imagine a Christmas without it!" Croll recently discovered the song "Be Born

in Me" and immediately "fell in love with it." She will perform that solo in addition to "Breath of Heaven," "which has been a favorite of hers for years.

The concert will remain accessible on Burlington UMC's Facebook page for future viewing, along with the previous two weeks' Friday concerts. The final concert in the series will air Friday, Dec. 18, featuring percussionist Nick Kaufmann Mamisashvili accompanied by BUMC's Pastor Daekyung Kim on piano.

This Week in History

Compiled by the Coffey County Museum, 1101 Neosho Street, Burlington. The museum is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. See their YouTube channel, Coffey Museum, for videos about the history of Coffey County.

Dec. 6–Dec. 12

25 years ago (1995)

* Nearly 200 children visited Santa Claus at the Coffey County Museum after the annual Christmas Parade.

50 years ago (1970)

* A small herd of five steers seen cavorting down U.S. 75 in Burlington about seven o'clock Saturday night. They were rounded up Sunday morning.

* The Texas Cowgirls will make their debut in Burlington when this squad of outstanding young ladies will play the Burlington high faculty.

75 years ago (1945)

* The presentation of the high school operetta has been postponed until after Christmas vacation. The postponement is necessary because of the scourge of flu which has prevented the necessary rehearsals for the event. Thirty high school pupils were absent Tuesday because of the flu and 25 Wednesday.

* The 50th Anniversary Edition was printed on Dec. 10, 1945. The edition was in 14 sections for a total of 112 pages.

100 years ago (1920)

* The Burlington City Council has finally adopted an ordinance to protect the paving from lugs, cleats, flanges etc. on tractors, engines and vehicles of various kinds, the ordinance being similar to those in force in all cities having asphalt paving.

* The girls basketball team of the Burlington High School showed the style of basketball which they will play this season by defeating a team made up of teachers and members of the girls second team in a game by a score of 28-10.

125 years ago (1895)

* City of Burlington vs. The Burlington Water Works Co. was dismissed in the supreme court at Topeka yesterday. This is a victory for the city and will save the taxpayers about \$14,000.

Farmers, ranchers wrap up year at KFB meeting

MANHATTAN — Saturday, more than 400 Farm Bureau members of Kansas wrapped up business for their farm organization during a virtual session for Kansas Farm Bureau's 102nd annual meeting.

The policies adopted will now become the organization's road map for the 2021 legislative session.

Topics of discussion included livestock marketing, trade and water.

Montgomery County farmer Rich Felts was re-elected as president.

Others elected to the board of directors include George Pretz, Miami County; Steven McCloud, Harvey County; Doug Zillinger, Phillips County; Joe Jury, Gray County; and Kevin Holle, Rawlins County.

Other activities included agriculture-related workshops and speakers including Vance Crowe, an update on American Farm Bureau

Federation activities and a townhall with members of the Kansas congressional delegation, including Sen. Jerry Moran, Sen.-elect Roger Marshall, Reps.-elect Tracey Mann and Jake LaTurner, and Rep. Sharice Davids.

KFB also honored retiring Sen. Pat Roberts for his decades of service to Kansans, especially his dedication to ensuring farmers and ranchers had their voices heard in Washington, D.C.

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BRIDGE & STREET CLOSURE:

Kennebec Street will be closed from Osborne to 16th streets, and all connecting roads, including 10th, 11th and 12th will not be accessible to through traffic due to bridge reconstruction from Dec. 14, 2020, to March 3, 2021. Dates are subject to change.