

THE MESSENGER



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

11 W. Pine, Butler, MO 64730

Phone: 660-679-3066 Email: admin@fccbutler.org

<https://fccbutler.org>

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

The Pastor's

TRAIN



OF THOUGHT

The holiday season is my favorite time of the year! All the decorations, the music, special events with family and friends, and then candlelight on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of Jesus—it's just all wondrous to me.

I know I'm not alone in having precious memories of Christmases past; but I also know I'm not alone in the awareness that not everything at this time of year is happy and lighthearted. Grief seems to be most keenly felt during this season, and oftentimes it seems to be compounded by the pressure to paste on a smile so as not to "ruin" anybody else's holiday. Some of us also deal with financial stresses, and even happy families experience tensions during such an emotionally-charged time of year, to say nothing of families that aren't so healthy. And I'm afraid many people who work in retail at this time of year are subjected to less-than-ideal treatment from stressed-out shoppers.

All this is to say that, at this time when we celebrate the best gift we've ever been given—Jesus Christ—there is a wonderful gift we can give to the world around us. That gift is kindness. Kindness stems from the recognition that everyone we meet is human, just like we are, and has a mixture of joy, sorrow, happiness, and trouble in their life, just like we do. The people we encounter while we're out shopping are *people*, not props in our personal drama. When we realize that, we are motivated to apply the Golden Rule (which is basic empathy, if you think about it) to our interactions with them.

If, for instance, I were a checker at Walmart in December, dealing with long lines and people who are in a hurry, how would I want the folks coming through my lane to treat me? Most likely, I would hope for a smile and a sincere "thank you," and that shoppers wouldn't take their stress out on me just because I'm handy. I've seen employees at various retail establishments reduced to tears by nasty customers. That's neither kind nor necessary.

When I was growing up in the Baptist church, we had to memorize verses from the Bible. One of my favorites was Ephesians 4:32: "...be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ has also forgiven you." What kind of witness would we bear in the world if we Christians all made that our guiding principle as we go about our business this holiday season?

Sharla

December Serving Schedule

<p>December 2</p> <p>Elder: Shawn Quick Scripture: Shawn Quick</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>Deacons: Everett McBrayer, Judy Daniel, Mike Studards, Judy Colburn Greeters: Ed & Sue Ann Steele</p>
<p>December 9</p> <p>Elder: Phyllis McBrayer Scripture: Carol Hedrick</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>Deacons: Derek Lile, Don Malan, Carol Roberts, Gary Coffman Greeters: Tom & Judy Taylor</p>
<p>December 16</p> <p>Elder: John Daniel Scripture: Carol Hedrick</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>Deacons: Carol Lewis, Peggy Fuller, Chuck Lewis, Dorothy Carter Greeter: Judy Colburn</p>
<p>December 23</p> <p>Elder: Justin Quick Scripture: Carol Roberts</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>Deacons: Everett McBrayer, Judy Daniel, Mike Studards, Judy Colburn Greeter: Carol Roberts</p>
<p>December 30</p> <p>Elder: Dolly Studards Scripture: Alan Munday</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>Deacons: Derek Lile, Don Malan, Carol Roberts, Gary Coffman Greeter: Jennifer Schmehl</p>

Music Director: Carol Ann Winburn — Accompanist: Mary Coffman
Sound Techs: Phyllis McBrayer, Dianna Silvers, Justin Quick,
Communion Preparers: Carol Hedrick | Nursery Attendants: Jessika Blaser, Jakaila Rolph

Birthdays

03—Dianna Silvers
03—Noah Lile
03—Patsy Quick
04—Gary Coffman
09—Karen Russell
10—Ruth Weil
13—Braysen Hameltt
18—Phyllis McBrayer
25—Christine Quick
26—Gene Morrison
29—Jarod McBrayer

Anniversaries

18—Bob & Louise Foster
18—Gary & Mary Coffman
24—Gene & Jackie Morrison
26—John & Maribeth Golladay
27—Randy & Pam Winburn

Budget

October Income
\$7,124.80

October Expenses
\$7,892.78

Year-to-date Income
\$146,356.47

Year-to-date Expenses
\$132,651.29

You may view a complete financial report in the church office.

Attendance

Date	Sunday School	Worship
October 28	Life Group—6 Elementary—9	Officers—0 Total—15
November 4	Life Group—9 Elementary—3	Officers—0 Total—12
November 11	Life Group—11 Elementary—4	Officers—2 Total—17
November 18	Life Group—9 Elementary—3	Officers—0 Total—12

Important Dates

02—Hanging of the Greens
16—Christmas Music Program
18—Community Café
20—NO PDO
24—Christmas Eve Service
25—Christmas Day
26—NO Youth Group
27—NO PDO
31—New Years Eve

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship Hanging of the Greens 10:45 Sunday School	3	4	5 6-7 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Choir Practice	6 9 a.m. PDO	7	8
9 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	10	11	12 6-7 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Choir Practice	13 9 a.m. PDO	14	15
16 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 7:00 Christmas Music Program	17	18 5:30-6:00 p.m. Community Café	19 6-7 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Choir Practice	20	21	22
23 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	24 Christmas Eve 6:30 p.m. Worship	25 Christmas Day	26 7 p.m. Choir Practice	27	28	29
30 New Years Eve						

Upcoming Sermons

December 2

Message: "After I gave up hope, I felt better...?"

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11

Advent Theme: Hope

What I was thinking: What is the meaning of *hope*? For the believer, it has to be something more than wishful thinking.

December 9

Message: "Dull Swords and Fangless Snakes"

Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5

Advent Theme: Peace

What I was thinking: These two passages, both traditionally read during Advent, speak of the peace the Messiah is supposed to bring us. What is the nature of that peace?

December 16

Message: "Never Forgotten"

Scripture: Isaiah 49:13-16

Advent Theme: Joy

What I was thinking: The people are called, in this post-exile passage, to rejoice; but they are in the midst of a very difficult season of life. What is there to rejoice about when we're discouraged?

December 23

Message: "Love and Righteousness"

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Advent Theme: Love

What I was thinking: We heard something about God's love and compassion last week; this week we will meet Jesus' father Joseph, who has something else to show us about the nature of love.

December 30

Message: "Roots"

Scripture: Matthew 1:1-17

What I was thinking: Matthew and Luke both tell us about Jesus' genealogy, but each one does it in a slightly different way, to make a slightly different point. What does Matthew's recitation of Jesus' family tree tell us about who Jesus is?



Board Minutes

October 21, 2018

Pending Board Approval

Board members present: Deacons- Everett McBrayer, Chuck Lewis, Don Malan, Dorothy Carter, Judy Daniel, Judy Colburn, Carol Lewis, Carol Roberts, and Derek Lile. Elders- Justin Quick, Phyllis McBrayer, Shawn Quick, and John Daniel. Others present: Rev. Sharla Hulseley and Diana Rich.

Chuck Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Shawn Quick opened with prayer.

The agenda was adopted with additions on motion of Carol Roberts and second by Justin Quick.

The minutes of the 10-21-18 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented on motion of Shawn Quick and second by Justin Quick.

Financial Reports: The October financial reports (Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss)s were reviewed through October 31, 2018. John Daniel reviewed the reports. The October financial report was approved by motion of Phyllis McBrayer and second by Judy Colburn. Full reports are available in the church office.

Minister Report: Rev. Hulseley presented her monthly report. A full report is available in the church office. She noted visits and meeting activity. She thanked everyone who helped with the photography event. She reported she will start conducting a service at the Butler Center Rehabilitation on the second Sunday each month.

Old Business

Church Security: The Security Committee met and reviewed a proposal from American Detection Specialists in Springfield, MO to install cameras, controls, and power equipment. The committee decided this proposal was too expensive and will look at other options. They hope to have a recommendation at the next board meeting.

FCC Insurance Expense: A revised insurance quote was reviewed from the current carrier Insurance Board. After a comparison review of all three bids, Shawn Quick made a motion to accept the coverage from the Insurance Board company for an annual total of \$6,049, which was the lowest bid. The motion was seconded by John Daniel. Motion carried.

Enhance current hearing devices: The new loop system was installed from Hearing Access Solutions on October 29th. Reports from the congregation are very positive.

It was noted that more receiver packs and ear buds are needed. After much discussion, Phyllis McBrayer made a motion to purchase 4 more packs at \$85/each, and a package of 10 ear buds for \$18/pkg. This was seconded by John Daniel. Motion carried. It was decided the money for these items will come from the Memorial Funds.

It was also noted that the florescent lights in the base cause interference when on. Everett McBrayer will get a bid from Bollweg Electric for the total cost to replace those lights with a newer type of light. He will report back at the next board meeting.

Clean-up Day: Carol Lewis presented a list of 10 items with plans for clean-up and disposal of those items. There was no opposition. Carol Roberts inquired about when the books in the library will be removed. A date of Feb. 28, 2019 was set, or at least have a definite location for these books in the near future. Judy Daniel will contact the Butler Public Library to inquiry about any interest they might have for these books.

Board Minutes—Continued

Church Directory: Pictures have been taken. Some additional formatting will be needed after all “submitted” pictures are received. A picture for the front of the directory will need to be selected. Phyllis McBrayer and Rev. Hulsey will continue to work on this.

Debit card vs. credit card: Rev. Hulsey has not selected the best option. She will continue to research and report at the next board meeting.

Repair of North Wall: Due to illness and surgery Everett McBrayer has not gotten additional bids. He hopes to have these to present at the next board meeting with proposals and the timeframe this could be completed.

New Business

2018 Departmental Evaluations: The departments and committees were encouraged to do a written evaluation on their accomplishments during this last year as is noted in the FCC Procedural Document. It was noted, this would help the new committee or department chairs better understand their responsibilities.

December Board meeting: On motion of Shawn Quick and second by John Daniel, it was approved to cancel the December board meeting due to numerous activities and conflicts.

Audio Hosting for Website: A report was given noting the current service options are Sound Cloud for \$144/year or Podbean for \$108/year. Both have been used with good results. It was noted that Podbean audio player looks nicer on the website. On motion of Dorothy Carter, and second by Shawn Quick the board approved to go with Podbean.

Staff Performance Review: There was discussion about who and when the minister’s performance review would be done. After much discussion, it was decided this evaluation should be done by the Personal Committee in February (Rev. Hulsey’s anniversary date) along with any recommendation for salary adjustment.

Committee Reports

Christian Education: Carol Roberts reported on the questionnaire distributed this morning concerning a women’s group at FCC.

Worship: Phyllis McBrayer reported on numerous activities planned for November, December and January as follows: Community Café on 11/20 and 12/18, FCC Thanksgiving Feast on 11/25, Christmas Program 12/16, Possible Hanging of the Greens 12/2, Christmas Eve Activity 12/24, and Recognition and Installation of Board members on 1/6.

Property: Everett McBrayer reported this morning he discovered the furnace that heats the front of the sanctuary was not working. He will contact Kershner Heating to get this looked at and proposal for any repairs needed.

Closing Prayer: Rev. Hulsey closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment: With no further business brought to the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Submitted by: Carol Roberts, Secretary

Hearing Loop Is Now Available!

The Church is now equipped with Hearing Loop, which allows a person with hearing aids to hear Sunday's message clearly as if Sharla (or anyone using the microphone) was talking directly to them.

Using Hearing Loop is easy!

If your hearing aids have a Telecoil in them, simply turn on Telecoil. The hearing aids will automatically pick up the hearing loop system/.

If your hearing aids do not have Telecoils, don't worry. We have receivers with headsets that you can use so you may better hear Sunday's Worship. If you need to use a receiver, please talk to someone in the Sound Room.

The Hearing Loop system also works in the Fellowship Hall.

Important:

People who give announcements or other details during Sunday's Worship will need to speak into a microphone so that it ensures everyone will be able to hear you clearly.



Attention: Women of the Congregation

Some women of the congregation have expressed interest in having a women's group at our church. To determine the level of interest, we have made a questionnaire—located on the table in the Foyer. Please take the time to fill out the questions and return it in the offering plate, or leave it in the church office, or hand deliver it to Carol Roberts or Diana Rich. Thank you!



Thoughts & Prayers

Arleta Daniel, Angie Jones, Aimee Daniel Breiner, Barbara Walsh, Caleb Hoffard, Carl Shubert, Dennis Shannon, Dustin VanMeter, Galen Robertson, Hailey Carter, Jerry Hertzog, Jill Tiona, Kay Haile, Keith McBrayer, Katie Boyd, Lona Grosshart, Pat Arnold, Paul Miller, Rachel Bittencourt, Rhonda Yarick, Sam McCombs, Verna Kooker

Results from the Congregation Meeting

There were a total of 38 votes during the Congregation Meeting on November 4th. The following are the results:

The 2019 Budget—38 voted yes, 0 voted no.

The Elder, Deacon, and Board Officers—37 voted yes, 1 voted no.

Books in the Library

Please take the time to browse through the books in the library to see if there are any that would like to take home. The books are available to take home through February. After that, they will either be donated or removed.

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
11 W. Pine Street
Butler, MO 64730

Church Phone: 660-679-3066
Fax: 660-679-5680
Email: admin@fccbutler.org
Web: <https://fccbutler.org>
Pastor Sharla Hulseley
revsharkie@gmail.com

Return Service Requested

The Messenger

