

THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

11 W. Pine, Butler, MO 64730

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<https://fccbutler.org>



The “E”-word

Let’s think about something mainline Christians don’t do very well: evangelism.

Growing up in the Baptist church, I was taught that all Christians must “witness” to others. We weren’t given a whole lot of instruction how to do that, and I doubt very many of us had a lot of non-Christian friends. Without non-Christians handy, the next available options were knocking on doors or, maybe, going somewhere that might have a higher concentration of non-believers we could talk to. I know of exactly one of my peers who did that.

Other than this personal witnessing, the only other evangelism I knew about was the occasional revival meeting. But not everyone is called to that kind of ministry, and the stereotypical revival message (you’re a sinner, doomed to hell; accept Jesus right now and you will be saved from that eternal torment) has kind of fallen out of favor.

I think most folks in mainline churches can feel their blood pressure rising when they hear someone talking about evangelism. We have caricatures in our minds of folks who make themselves obnoxious trying to convert people to their brand of Christianity, and we don’t really want to be like that. And in today’s world, folks aren’t always open to the kind of hard-sell witnessing some of us were taught when we were younger. In this country, too, we’re taught that polite conversation should not include discussions of religion or politics, and that our faith is a private matter, between ourselves and God.

There are lots of arguments *against* evangelism, and really only one *for* it; but that one sort of overshadows everything else. That argument is that we must do evangelism because Jesus told us to. “Go...and make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28:19). We’re not all called to knock on doors or spend spring break handing out tracts on the beach; and very few of us are called to preach revivals. But we *are* all called to make disciples.

But given all the negatives, and the reality that most of us just plain don’t know *how* to make disciples, what are we to do?

Over the next few weeks, I want to get an evangelism committee together, to help all of us figure that out. If anybody wants to be part of this, I’m going to get a clipboard going around on Sunday mornings (we like our clipboards, don’t we?), where you can sign up. If you are not able to participate in a committee, but want to support the church’s evangelism efforts with prayer, you can sign up for that, too. In either case, prayer is going to be a major part of whatever we do, because even if we don’t know the best way to spread the Gospel in our community, God *does*, and will show us the way if we ask.

The Pastor's

TRAIN



OF THOUGHT

Sharla



January Serving Schedule

January 6

Elder: Shawn Quick
Scripture: Carol Hedrick

9:30 a.m. Worship

Deacons: Dorothy Carter & Judy Daniel
Greeters: John & Judy Daniel

January 13

Elder: Phyllis McBrayer
Scripture: Chuck Lewis

9:30 a.m. Worship

Deacons: Judy Colburn & Carol Lewis
Greeter: Carol Hedrick

January 20

Elder: John Daniel
Scripture: Peggy Fuller

9:30 a.m. Worship

Deacons: Carol Roberts & Mike Studards
Greeter: Justin Quick

January 27

Elder: Dolly Studards
Scripture: Diana Rich

9:30 a.m. Worship

Deacons: Derek Lile & Jennifer Schmehl
Greeter: Kathy Wood

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

02—Allan Bopp
04—Denise Burch
06—Gary Bollweg
06—Julie Lewis
11—Weston Colburn
12—Jeanette Cushard
12—Geneva Hough
17—Dot Crist
18—Lucille Munday
18—Phillip Pieratt
20—Ed Perkins
21—Shawn Quick
22—Jared Rolph
22—Justin Quick
29—Kevin Hines

Anniversaries

11—Ed & Lynda Perkins
12—Terry & Candi Agnew
14—Justin & Christina Quick
24—Chuck & Carol Lewis
30—Mike & Dolly Studards

Budget

November Income
\$8,972.12

November Expenses
\$11,548.92

Year-to-date Income
\$155,328.59

Year-to-date Expenses
\$144,200.21

Attendance

Date	Sunday School		Worship
November 25	Life Group—0 Elementary—0	Officers—0 Total—0	54
December 2	Life Group—8 Elementary—0	Officers—0 Total—8	48
December 9	Life Group—12 Elementary—3	Officers—3 Total—18	53
December 16	Life Group—10 Elementary—8	Officers—0 Total—18	64

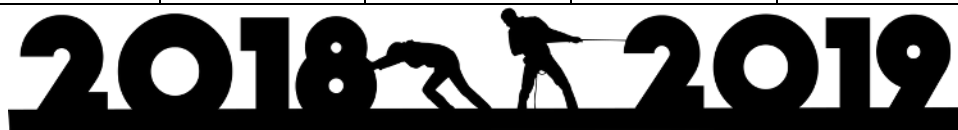
You may view a complete financial report in the church office.

Important Dates

01—New Year's Day
02—NO Youth Group
03—PDO starts again
06—Recognition & Installation
09—Youth Group starts again
15—Community Café
20—Elders Meeting 5 p.m.
20—Board Meeting 5 p.m.

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Year's Day 	2	3 9 a.m. PDO	4	5
6 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School Recognition & Installation	7	8	9 6-7 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Choir Practice	10 9 a.m. PDO	11	12
13 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	14	15 5:30-6:00 p.m. Community Café	16 6-7 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Choir Practice	17 9 a.m. PDO	18	19
20 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	22	23 6-7 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Choir Practice	24 9 a.m. PDO	25	26
27 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	28	29	30 6-7 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Choir Practice	31 9 a.m. PDO		



Upcoming Sermons

January 6

Message: "Unintended Consequences"

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-23

What I was thinking: We like to stop the story of the Magi's journey with their presentation of gifts to baby Jesus. But we shouldn't forget that their visit to Judea set into motion some pretty horrific events.

January 13

Message: "Why did Jesus need his sins washed away?"

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-17

What I was thinking: One understanding of baptism, going all the way back to John, is the symbolic washing away of our sins. Jesus, the Son of God, did not sin, right? So why did he get baptized?

January 20

Message: "I can resist anything except temptation"

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-17

What I was thinking: Oscar Wilde's famous quote says just about everything there is to say about humans' relationship to temptation. Jesus, fully human but also fully divine, was tempted, yet he resisted. What were his temptations, how did he resist, and is there anything here that can help us when we're tempted?

January 27

Message: "Hip, Hip, Hooray"

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-20

What I was thinking: There is far too much in today's reading for one sermon. We will focus on the Beatitudes, and try to see the revolutionary message we've obscured with gauzy prettiness over the years.





Women's Group Coming Soon

We will be making plans to start our Women's Group in 2019.
Make sure you stay tuned to find out all the details.



Thoughts & Prayers

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

Attention

We now have a weekly email newsletter. If you want to be added to this email list, please let the office know. Put a little note in the collection plates or email/call the office with your name and email address and we will get you added. This list will get a link to the Sunday's sermon, any special announcements, and important dates delivered weekly (usually on Monday).

Stay up to date with FCC!



Help Is Needed For The Butler Ministerial Alliance

The Butler Ministerial Alliance is in need of emergency assistance funds to continue to help those in need in our community. The giving of funds is suspended until we have money in our account to give away. Please consider giving above and beyond your usual giving to support the Alliance and all the good they do in Butler and Bates County!

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.

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Return Service Requested

The Messenger

