

THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

11 W. Pine, Butler, MO 64730

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<https://fccbutler.org>



Giving Up or Taking Up?

The Pastor's

TRAIN



OF THOUGHT

It's sort of become a cliché: "What are you giving up for Lent?" Seems like it's almost always some kind of food or drink: a seminary classmate of mine gave up all caffeinated beverages. I'm not sure I'd have survived Lent if I did that!

A couple weeks ago the subject came up during choir practice. And I made a little joke: I said I was giving up zucchini for Lent. That's an easy one—I don't like zucchini, so I never eat it.

But is that it? Is Lent just about giving up some food we like (or in my case, don't like)? I suppose the reason we make it about food is that it has been a practice for centuries to fast during Lent. Christians observing Lent would fast totally at least one day a week, or at the very minimum do without meat on Fridays. Some Christians still do this. As I mentioned in a sermon recently, I'm not personally one to fast. So what do I do during Lent?

The purpose of Lent is to examine our lives and our relationships with God, and perhaps to hit "reset." Maybe one person is noticing they're making a lot of excuses why they're not praying as often as they ought. Or someone else realizes they've been awfully selfish, not looking out for how they can be of help to a brother or sister. Perhaps another realizes that in not looking after their health, they're risking illness that will make it hard for them to serve God in the way they've been called to serve. Lent is a good time to make some changes if they're needed.

Yes, sometimes that means giving something up. Would the money I'm spending on fast food be better used to help a person in need? Then perhaps I give up fast food for Lent. (That could also help my health, frankly.)

But other times it means taking something up. If you're not praying like you know you should, then perhaps try a new prayer practice. I can make some suggestions if you'd like. If you're concerned you're being a little self-centered lately, then maybe you want to find an hour a week to volunteer somewhere. (Actually, find isn't the best word. When we're busy, finding time seems impossible. But if we truly want to do something, what we need to do is make the time.)

Lent begins on March 6 this year. That's Ash Wednesday, and we will have a service that evening. If you are feeling the need for a reset in your spiritual life, I hope you'll join us.

Sharla



March Serving Schedule

<p>March 3 Elder: Dolly Studards Scripture: Carol Lewis</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Worship Deacons: Dorothy Carter and Judy Daniel Greeters: Chuck and Carol Lewis</p>
<p>March 10 Elder: Diana Rich Scripture: Carol Hedrick</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Worship Deacons: Judy Colburn and Carol Lewis Greeter: Candi Agnew</p>
<p>March 17 Elder: Shawn Quick Scripture: Chuck Lewis</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Worship Deacons: Carol Roberts and Mike Studards Greeter: Jennifer Schmehl</p>
<p>March 24 Elder: Phyllis McBrayer Scripture: TBA</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Worship Deacons: Derek Lile and Jennifer Schmehl Greeters: Judy Colburn</p>
<p>March 31 Elder: John Daniel Scripture: TBA</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Worship Deacons: Denise Burch and Kathy Wood Greeters: Kathy Wood</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

01—Chuck Lewis
 06—Ruby Cummings
 06—Teresa Berry
 07—Alan Munday
 07—Bill McGuire
 08—Louise Foster
 12—Brayden VanMeter
 15—Lynette Clover
 16—Michaela Boonstra
 22—Carol Roberts
 24—Edith Dilley
 24—Suzie Wilson
 26—Bob Johnson

Anniversaries

16—Bill & Julie McGuire
 21—Don & Juanita
 Huenefeldt
 27—Greg & Jeanie Bartimus

Budget

January Income
 \$8,723.10

January Expenses
 \$8,625.40

Year-to-date Income
 \$13,793.20

Year-to-date Expenses
 \$15,640.85

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

Attendance

Date	Sunday School		Worship
January 27	Life Group—8 Elementary—3	Officers—0 Total—11	50
February 3	Life Group—10 Elementary—4	Officers—0 Total—14	73
February 10	Life Group—0 Elementary—0	Officers—0 Total—0	Closed
February 17	Life Group—0 Elementary—0	Officers—0 Total—0	34

Important Dates

05—Disciples Women
 06—Ash Wednesday Service
 17—Community Choir
 17—Elders Meeting
 17—Board Meeting
 17—St. Patrick's Day
 19—Community Café
 31—Guest Pastor Kirby Gould



March 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	4	5 6:30 p.m. Women's Group	6 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 7 p.m. Choir Practice	7 9 a.m. PDO	8	9
10 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	11	12	13 6-7 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Choir Practice	14 9 a.m. PDO	15	16
17 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 3 pm Commu- nity Choir	18	19 5:30-6:00 p.m. Community Café	20 6-7 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Choir Practice	21 9 a.m. PDO	22	23
24 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 5 pm Elders 6 pm Board	25	26	27 6-7 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Choir Practice	28 9 a.m. PDO	29	30
31 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School						

Upcoming Sermons

March 3

Message: "It's going to get worse before it gets better."

Scripture: Matthew 16:24-17:8

What I was thinking: In today's reading we mark a transition in the story of Jesus' life. Here he begins to prepare his disciples for what will soon happen; but they don't want to here it.

March 10

Shawn Quick will be preaching

March 17

Message: "Shunning"

Scripture: Matthew 18:15-35

What I was thinking: Horror stories abound about churches where "church discipline" is used in abusive ways. Is this a practice that can be redeemed? Does the pairing in Matthew 18 of instructions on discipline and instructions about forgiveness help at all?

March 24

Message: "The kingdom of heaven is...UNFAIR!"

Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16

What I was thinking: This parable utterly offends our sense of fairness. If this is what the kingdom of heaven is like, do we really want to be part of it?

March 31

Special Guest: Kirby Gould, Christian Church Foundation



Books!!

We are dismantling our church library. During the next few months a table will be in the foyer with some titles for the taking. However, if anyone wants to go in the library to browse the shelves to select some materials, feel free to do so.

FCC Disciples Women

The first meeting of this group was held Tuesday, February 12, 2019 with ten women present.

There was discussion about the very interesting history of women's groups at FCC. Two service projects will be coordinated by this group: 1. Best choice labels, and 2. Church World Service Kits. It was decided the Bible/book study will be about **Women of the Bible**. Rev. Hulseby will lead this study.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 5 at 6:30. All women of the church are invited to attend.

If you need a ride, or need child care for that evening, please call the church office so arrangements can be made.



2019 Lenten Services

Join area churches during our Lenten Services from March 13th to April 10th.

Each Wednesday, the Lenten Service will be held at a different location. Afterwards, a light meal will be served. A special offering will be collected to support the Butler Ministerial Alliance.

Please see the enclosed flyer for the dates, times, and locations.



Thoughts & Prayers

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

18th Annual Celebration of Church Music

A concert benefiting The Ministerial Alliance of Butler will be held on Sunday, March 17 at 3:00 pm at the First Christian Church. Refreshments will follow the concert.

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!

Board Minutes

February 17, 2019

Pending Board Approval

Board members present: Deacons- Judy Daniel, Judy Colburn, Carol Roberts, Mike Studards, Jennifer Schmehl, Lucille Munday, Kathy Wood, and Alan Munday. Elders-Phyllis McBrayer, Shawn Quick, Dolly Studards, John Daniel and Diana Rich, and member Don Malan. Others present: Rev. Sharla Hulseley, and Everett McBrayer.

Alan Munday called the meeting to order at 10:50 AM. This meeting was held immediately following church service due to inclement weather and road conditions. Shawn Quick opened with prayer.

The agenda was adopted with additions on motion of Phyllis McBrayer and second by Carol Roberts.

The minutes of the 01-20-19 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented on motion of Judy Colburn and second by John Daniel.

Financial Reports: January reports will be available to review in March.

Minister Report: Rev. Hulseley presented her monthly report verbally. A full report is available in the church office. She noted several Lenten services that will be observed at FCC. She noted some educational in-services she has, and will be, attending. She stated she will be attending a convention, taking a short vacation, and will not be in the pulpit on March 10th. Shawn Quick will fill the pulpit that day.

Old Business

Memorial/Gift Committee Chair needed: John Daniel volunteered to serve in this capacity.

Church Security. Nothing new to report. This committee will continue to look for the best option for FCC.

Enhance current hearing devices: (to complete this project.)

Everett McBrayer reported he has talked with Bollweg Electric who stated new filters would be needed on the basement lights. During discussion, one board member stated that he had no interference this morning when the basements lights were on. Due to this new information, no action will be taken at this time. If problem arises this will be addressed at that time.

Church Directory: Rev. Hulseley reported the first directory proof was received, reviewed and returned with some corrections. The next proof will be received soon for additional review.

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

Repair of North Wall: Everett McBrayer has not gotten additional bids. He will continue to work on this and report back.

New Business

Elevator Inspection: It was explained to the board that the elevator needs to have the annual evaluation completed. The company used in the past, is no longer in service and sold to another company. A list of three different bids have been received. After reviewing and discussing all options, the board approved to select the Access Done Easy, LLC company on motion of Mike Studards, and second by Shawn Quick.

Board Minutes—Continued

Personnel Committee: Dolly Studards noted 2 items requiring board action:

- A. The new MO. minimum wage increased to \$8.60 and workers in the PDO program need adjusted to this rate. This was approved on motion of John Daniel and second by Phyllis McBrayer.
- B. Rev. Hulse's annual evaluation has been completed and the Personnel Committee is recommending a 3% increase in her salary. This was approved on motion of Kathy Wood and second by John Daniel.

Adjust Dates of Board Meetings in March and April:

March 17th is the date of the Community Music Program at FCC. It was suggested to move the Board Meeting to March 24th. April 21st is Easter, thus it was suggested to move this board meeting to April 14th. On motion of Carol Roberts and second by Shawn Quick it was approved to adjust the dates as recommended.

Committee Reports

Worship: Phyllis McBrayer reported on numerous activities planned: Community Café on 02/19, several Lenten Services/activities are being planned for FCC, and Wear Green on St. Patrick's Day.

Property: Repair of Furnace: Everett McBrayer noted that when the furnace was repaired by Kershner Heating and Cooling in December, the bill was \$102.50 as no major repairs were needed.

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

Adjournment: With no further business brought to the board, the meeting adjourned at 11:17 AM on motion of John Daniel and second by Shawn Quick.

Submitted by: Carol Roberts, Secretary



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!



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Return Service Requested

The Messenger

