

THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

11 W. Pine, Butler, MO 64730

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<https://fccbutler.org>



Are you shopping for life insurance...or fire insurance?

The Pastor's

TRAIN



OF THOUGHT

This morning Mike and I had a nurse come to our house to do mini-medical exams because we're looking to buy life insurance. It was an experience: lots of questions, lots of paper to sign, blood draws, and so on. It took quite awhile, in part at least because of feline "help."

After the nurse was gone, I got to thinking. Some people have characterized the Christian faith as "eternal fire insurance." The idea is that we accept Jesus as our Savior in order to avoid burning in Hell after we die. That's it. It's conversion by fear. And I'm sorry, but fear may be a powerful motivator in the moment, but it's not sustainable in the long run. Either you lose interest when you stop being afraid, or else you have to keep that fear going—which can make it into an idol, something that stands in the place in our lives that only God should occupy.

We could think about our faith as a different kind of "insurance." (I know this metaphor isn't perfect, because literal fire insurance doesn't mean our houses will never catch fire, and actual life insurance doesn't mean we will never die; but bear with me.) Remember in John 3:16, Jesus said that if we believe in him we will have eternal life. And in John 10:10 he says, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." So when we choose to follow Jesus, we aren't getting fire insurance; we're getting life insurance. And unlike the life insurance we buy here on earth, which we hope to have pay out to our loved ones when we pass on, the life insurance we get from Jesus does indeed guarantee that we will live forever—long after our bodies give out and we physically die.

Christian faith as fire insurance can only start after we die—and we may have to spend our whole lives anxious about whether or not this benefit will actually pay out. What if we find out after we're dead that we missed the mark somewhere and that insurance is no good? Therefore, we have to grit our teeth and follow all of the rules perfectly, and we have to spend a lot of time and energy making sure others do, too.

But if we think of following Jesus as a type of life insurance, then we can live a different way. The best part of this life insurance is that we don't have to wait till we actually die for it to pay out! Our "abundant life" begins the second we become a disciple of Jesus Christ. It isn't a life of material abundance, necessarily; the abundant life we receive in Jesus is a life of abundant joy, love, grace, kindness, *and courage*—after all, if we no longer have to fear death, what else can really hurt us?

Sharla



April Serving Schedule

April 7

Elder: Dolly Studards
Scripture: Jennifer Schmehl

9:30 a.m. Worship

Deacons: Lucille Munday, Alan Munday,
Dorothy Carter, & Judy Daniel
Greeter: Dale Kinsmen

April 14

Elder: Diana Rich
Scripture: Carol Roberts

9:30 a.m. Worship

Deacons: Judy Colburn, Carol Lewis, Carol
Roberts, & Mike Studards
Greeter: Gary Coffman

April 21

Elder: Shawn Quick
Scripture: Carol Hedrick

9:30 a.m. Worship

Deacons: Derek Lile, Jennifer Schmehl,
Lucille Munday, & Alan Munday
Greeter: Judy Taylor

April 28

Elder: Phyllis McBrayer
Scripture: TBA

9:30 a.m. Worship

Deacons: Denise Burch, Kathy Wood,
Dorothy Carter, & Judy Daniel
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

04—Don Huenefeldt
09—Will Lewis
11—Adaleigh Embrey
12—Izaya Lile
20—Andrea Wood
20—Irene Adams
27—Nathan Hines
28—Kelly Duckworth
28—Lydia Lile

Anniversaries

18—Everett & Phyllis
McBrayer
20—Jerry & Kathy Wood
27—Ed & Sue Ann Steele

Budget

February Income
\$7,309.71

February Expenses
\$9,115.24

Year-to-date Income
\$16,052.08

Year-to-date Expenses
\$20,344.12

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

Attendance

Date	Sunday School		Worship
February 24	Life Group—7 Elementary—0	Officers—0 Total—7	49
March 3	Life Group—0 Elementary—0	Officers—0 Total—0	24
March 10	Life Group—0 Elementary—6	Officers—0 Total—6	51
March 17	Life Group—10 Elementary—7	Officers—2 Total—19	58
March 24	Life Group—11 Elementary—1	Officers—0 Total—12	45

Important Dates

02—Disciples Women
14—Elders Meeting
14—Board Meeting
16—Community Café
18—Maundy Thursday
21—Easter



April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 April Fools Day	2 6:30 p.m. Disciples Women	3 6-7 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Choir Practice	4 9 a.m. PDO	5	6
7 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	8	9	10 6-7 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Choir Practice	11 9 a.m. PDO	12	13
14 Palm Sunday 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Board Meeting  5 pm Elders	15	16 5:30-6:00 p.m. Community Café	17 6-7 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Choir Practice	18 9 a.m. PDO 6:30 Maundy Thursday	19	20
21 Easter 8:00 Sunrise Service 8:30—9:30 Breakfast 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 	22	23	24 6-7 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Choir Practice	25 9 a.m. PDO	26	27
28 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	29	30				



Upcoming Sermons

April 7

Message: "The Final Exam"

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

What I was thinking: It appears that those who passed the final exam didn't know why they passed, and the same seems to be true for those who failed. What does that tell us about how we are to live as Jesus' followers?

April 14

Message: "The King is a Trick Rider"

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-17

What I was thinking: When Jesus enters Jerusalem it's the beginning of the end for him. The story is full of Old Testament references that help us understand what he's doing and why.

April 21

Message: "When the Irresistible Force Meets the Immovable Object"

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

What I was thinking: Our community Lenten services have related to the imagery of stones. On Easter we encounter another stone—the one that sealed Jesus' tomb.

April 28

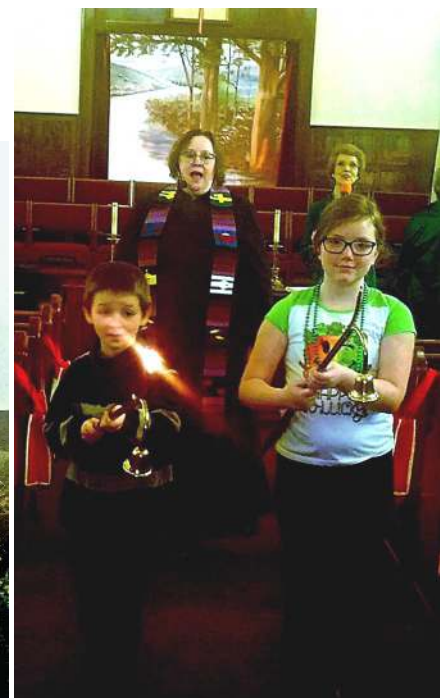
Message: "Azugoes"

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

What I was thinking: The Great Commission is Jesus' final instructions to his disciples. It comes with a promise, but in Matthew's version it does *not* end with ascension.

St. Patrick's Day

Thank you to everyone who dressed in green on St. Patrick's Day!!



IMPORTANT!

If you did not get your picture taken for the Church Directory but you would like your information included in the directory, please contact the Church Office **BEFORE** April 4th. We will need to double check your address and phone information at that time. Call 660-679-3066 or email admin@fccbutler.org. If you do not let us know, your information will not be published. Thank you!

Youth Camp

Any kids interested in going to Youth Summer Camp, please talk to Carol Lewis. Carol has the forms for sign up. These forms need to be returned to the Carol or the church office **BEFORE** June 30th. We will be holding a Dessert Auction on May 19th to help sponsor the kids who would like to go.



2019 Easter Services

Sunrise service will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday. Breakfast will be served from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.. We will still have regular worship at 9:30 a.m. however, there will be no Life Group afterwards.

Thoughts & Prayers

Aimee Daniel Breiner, Barbara Walsh, Bob Brownback, Caleb Hoffard, Carl Shubert, Dennis Shannon, Galen Robertson, Irene Welliever, Jamie Hibbs, Jill Tiona, Kay Haile, Keera Brockman, Lona Grosshart, Mae Hodgson, Pat Arnold, Paul Miller, Rachel Bittencourt, Rhonda Yarick, Sam McCombs, Vanessa Coon, Verna Kooker



YOUTH LEADERS NEEDED

Carol Lewis will be resigning as Youth Leader after this school year. We will need 2 new Youth Leaders for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year. One leader will teach our elementary aged kids and one leader will teach our junior high aged kids. Please contact Carol Roberts if you are interested.

Board Minutes

March 24, 2019

Pending Board Approval

Board members present: Deacons- Judy Colburn, Carol Lewis, Carol Roberts, Mike Studards, 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 Carol Hedrick.

Alan Munday called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Alan Munday opened with prayer.

The agenda was adopted with additions on motion of Shawn Quick and second by Judy Colburn.

The minutes of the 02-17-19 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented on motion of Shawn Quick and second by John Daniel.

Financial Reports: January and February 2019 financial reports including Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Budget Performance sheets were reviewed and approved on motion of Diana Rich and second by Mike Studards.

Minister Report: Rev. Hulseley presented her monthly report. A full report is available in the church office. She noted several past and future Lenten service activities. She noted some educational in-services she will be attending. She thanked Shawn Quick for filling the pulpit on March 10th.

Old Business

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

Enhance current hearing devices project:

Shawn Quick reported that one member of the congregation is still having a problem with static, especially from the microphone the minister uses and not being able to hear choir voices as a group. A lot of discussion was centered around the different mics used and the variations of quality noted from each. After all discussions, it was decided to: 1) Rev. Hulseley will call the company rep. requesting input for resolution, 2) Phyllis McBrayer will try changing the minister's headset to channel #6 (from 5) and 3) Possible need to add more mics for the choir and maybe for the congregation.

Church Directory: Carol Hedrick reported the revised directory proof was received, and now needs input on the listing of members who did not get pictures taken. Clipboards will be distributed on March 31 and a note put in the bulletin inquiring if others want to be listed in the directory. The final revisions for this printing need to be submitted back to the company by April 4th.

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: It was reported that the bid received from Jimmy Herrell is still good. Everett McBrayer has had trouble getting additional bids. He will continue to work on this and report back.

Reminder of April Meeting Date: Since Easter is the 3rd Sunday in April, the Board Meeting was changed last month to be held one week early on April 14th.

Board Minutes—Continued

New Business.

Time for Board Meetings in the future: Alan Munday reported that he received several positive comments about the board meeting being held immediately following church service in February. After discussion, it was approved to change future meeting to that time slot on motion of Don Malan and second by Phyllis McBrayer.

Resignation of one Youth Leader: A letter was read from Carol Lewis in which she is resigning from her position as one of the leaders of the FCC Youth Group that meets on Wednesday evenings. This will be effective at the end of this school year in May 2019. Her resignation was accepted with regrets on motion of Carol Roberts and second by Shawn Quick. It was then noted that more voluntary leaders are needed to assist with the groups. 2 or 3 more leaders are needed.

Fire Dept.: A letter was read by Alan Munday from the Butler Fire Department requesting financial support to assist with the purchase of safety material from the National Fire Safety Council that can be distributed within our community. After discussion, it was decided to not participate in this project on motion of Lucille Munday and second by Dolly Studards.

Committee Reports

Worship: Phyllis McBrayer reported on numerous activities planned: The food for Community Café on 04/17 will be furnished by Mid-West Lumbar, several Lenten services/activities are still being planned for FCC. Phyllis thanks those who wore Green on St. Patrick's Day.

> **Easter activities** being planned include: Palm Sunday observation on April 14, Maundy Thursday Service with the Methodist Church on April 18, Easter Sunday April 21- start at 8:00 am with Son Rise Service, breakfast 8:30 to 9:30, Church at 9:30.

> **The dessert auction** to assist youth with the cost of camp and VBS is set for May 19 immediately following church. Due to this being board meeting time, the May board meeting will be moved to Monday evening May 20th at 6:00 pm. This was approved on motion of Carol Roberts and second by Don Malan.

Closing Prayer: Diana Rich closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment: With no further business brought to the board, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM on motion of Don Malan and second by Dolly Studards.

Submitted by: Carol Roberts, Secretary



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Return Service Requested

The Messenger

