

THE MESSENGER



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

11 W. Pine, Butler, MO 64730

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

<https://fccbutler.org>

To the Extreme?

Extreme is a useful word, helping us to describe pain that is more than we can endure, for instance, or kindness that goes above and beyond the call of duty. But stick an *-ism* on just about anything, and you are talking about a system of belief, a worldview, a way of acting that can be quite dangerous. This is definitely true in the case of *extremism*.

On Easter Sunday a number of churches and hotels in Sri Lanka were bombed. The culprit has not been officially identified, but many suspect a local Islamist extremist group. Extremists acting alone, or affiliated with groups, have carried out attacks on mosques (like the one a few weeks back in Christchurch, New Zealand), synagogues (Tree of Life in Pittsburgh last October), and churches (Mother Emmanuel AME a few years back, and more recently three historic black churches in Louisiana), as well as many other places. Extremists target people of different faiths, different ethnicities, different races, sometimes even those whose political beliefs don't line up with what the extremist deems acceptable.

Some aspects of modern life fan the flames of extremism in ways that may not have been possible even thirty years ago. Many critics lay the blame for the recent rise of extremism squarely at the feet of the internet, particularly social media such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, and other platforms. But suspicion of "the other" is part of our nature. Social media just makes it possible for folks to connect with others who share our suspicions and maybe to push one another to more extreme views and actions. As one Sri Lankan official said, "The germs are ours, but [social media] is the wind, you know?"

What can we do about extremism and how social media aggravates and spreads it?

I cannot, personally, do a thing to stop extremists from bombing churches or shooting people in a mosque or synagogue. But I can attend to the log in my own eye. I can think before I post something hateful or a heated response to something hateful another person has posted. I can stop myself and think about what I'm saying if I find myself starting to disparage someone who doesn't believe, look, or pray the same way as I do. I can take breaks from social media. I can choose a day each week when I will stay off Facebook and Twitter (your preferred platforms may vary) entirely, and focus instead on the people around me. Perhaps Sunday is a good day for that.

And when I am on social media, I can seek out users and groups that are more positive. I belong to a number of pet-related Facebook groups, most of which are focused on the cute things our cats and dogs have done. That may not be your thing, but perhaps you can find other groups that are relevant to your particular interests. There are similar groups on Twitter, and there are some users on social media whose main focus is spreading kindness and positivity. Tank Schottle, a Special Olympian who lives in Texas, is one such breath of fresh air on Twitter.

Perhaps if everyone on social media took a break now and then, thought before we posted, and sought out those who lift folks up rather than those who only tear others down, social media could be a place where extremism is more often defused than fueled. It can't hurt to try.

The Pastor's

TRAIN



OF THOUGHT

Sharla



Birthdays

01—Marcia McElwain
 02—Kenneth Austin
 03—Joe Fuller
 07—John Golladay
 09—Fred Haworth Jr.
 11—Sandy Hough
 14—Jim Adams
 14—Keagen Robinson
 15—Crissy Tiona
 17—Julie Davis
 20—Leota Hunt
 21—Larry Winburn
 21—Steve Lewis
 28—Jayce Ghere
 29—Bobby Foster
 30—Jessica Burch
 31—Lyndell Colburn

May Serving Schedule

May 5

Elder: John Daniel
 Scripture: Judy Daniel

9:30 a.m. Worship

Deacons: Judy Colburn and Carol Lewis
 Greeter: Derek & Lyssa Lile

May 12

Elder: Dolly Studards
 Scripture: Alan Munday

9:30 a.m. Worship

Deacons: Carol Roberts and Mike Studards
 Greeter: Peggy Thomas

May 19

Elder: Diana Rich
 Scripture: TBA

9:30 a.m. Worship

Deacons: Derek Lile and Jennifer Schmehl
 Greeter: Carol Hedrick

May 26

Elder: Shawn Quick
 Scripture: Jennifer Schmehl

9:30 a.m. Worship

Deacons: Lucille Munday and Alan Munday
 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

Anniversaries

02—Tom & Judy Taylor
 12—Jim & Nancy Simpson
 30—David & Christine Berry

Budget

March Income
 \$8,705.32

March Expenses
 \$24,757.40

Year-to-date Income
 \$9,163.67

Year-to-date Expenses
 \$26,904.31

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

Attendance

Date	Sunday School		Worship
April 7	Life Group—7 Elementary—3	Officers—0 Total—10	59
April 14	Life Group—0 Elementary—0	Officers—0 Total—0	50
April 21	Life Group—0 Elementary—0	Officers—0 Total—0	60

Important Dates

07—Disciples Women
 12—Mother's Day
 19—Elders Meeting
 20—Board Meeting
 21—Community Café
 27—Memorial Day

May 2019



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

Upcoming Sermons

May 5

Message: "From Our Doorsteps to..."

Scripture: Acts 10:1-48

What I was thinking: Peter, an observant Jew, would have carefully followed this faith's rules about what he could and could not eat. In a vision, God challenges him to a new way of thinking—and not just about food.

May 12

Message: "We're Not Gods!"

Scripture: Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18

What I was thinking: When the Gospel was being shared just with Jews, the missionaries and teachers could speak to them in a common language and trust they would understand references to the stories of the Hebrew Bible. But as Paul and Barnabas moved into the Gentile world, they encountered people with a completely different worldview. How they proceeded may help us figure out how to share the Good News with our own changing world.

May 19

Message: "The Gospel According to Paul"

Scripture: Romans 1:1-17

What I was thinking: Paul wrote to the church in Rome as he prepared to travel there. He wrote to greet his friends who were there, and to introduce himself to those who hadn't yet met him. Paul was not, as a rule writing systematic theology; but his letter to the Romans comes close. From today through Pentecost, we will spend some time trying to understand this difficult but important part of the Bible.

May 26

Message: "Before you even knew you needed it..."

Scripture: Romans 5:1-11

What I was thinking: In this chapter of Romans, Paul explains the meaning of Jesus' death for all of us, and begins to talk about its implications for our lives.





Dessert Auction!!

It's time for the Dessert Auction again! A lunch will be served after worship on **May 19** and the Dessert Auction will follow. This event is a fundraiser to help send our youth to summer camp as well as our VBS program. Make your favorite dessert and bring it to the auction. Make sure you bid often and bid high to make sure you take home your favorite dessert! This is a fun memorable event you don't want to miss!!

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.

Disciples Women

The next Disciples Women Group will meet on May 7th at 6:30 pm in the adult Sunday School Room. Judy Colburn will bring the refreshments and the devotional at this meeting.



Thoughts & Prayers

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

April 14, 2019

Pending Board Approval

Board members present: Deacons- Dorothy Carter, Judy Colburn, Carol Lewis, Carol Roberts, Derek Lile, Jennifer Schmehl, Lucille Munday, Kathy Wood, and Alan Munday. Elders-Phyllis McBrayer, Shawn Quick, John Daniel and Diana Rich, and member Don Malan. Others present: Everett McBrayer.

Alan Munday called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM. Alan Munday opened with prayer.

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

The minutes of the 03-24-19 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented on motion of Lucille Munday and second by Judy Colburn.

Financial Reports: March 2019 financial reports including Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Budget Performance sheets were reviewed and approved on motion of Jennifer Schmehl and second by Judy Colburn.

Minister Report: Rev. Hulseley was not present, but submitted a written report noting numerous activities, meetings, and hospital visits. She noted several past and future Lenten service activities. She thanked Shawn Quick for filling the pulpit today while she attended a family memorial service. A full report is available in the church office.

Old Business

Church Security: After discussion of several options, it was approved to buy a concave mirror to place in an area that would make easy observation of the front double glass doors on motion of Carol Roberts, and second by Phyllis McBrayer. Don Malan volunteered to talk with Ed Perkins about possible availability of a mirror.

Enhance current hearing devices project:

Shawn Quick reported that one member of the congregation is still having a problem with static, from the microphone the minister uses. Unsure if Rev. Hulseley called the company rep. requesting input for resolution. Phyllis McBrayer did change the minister's headset to channel #6 (from 5). There was further discussion about possible need to buy a new headset for the minister and other new mics might be needed.

Debit card vs. credit card: Rev. Hulseley was not present to discuss this. Carol Roberts volunteered to check with Devon, Administrative Assistant tomorrow to seek her assistance to complete this task.

Repair of North Wall: . Everett McBrayer has had trouble getting additional bids. He presented the bid from Herrell Construction Inc. (HCI) . Everett reported that the bid received from HCI dated 3-5-18 is still good. This for the area on the north side of the church: Pull all bushes, dig out dirt, Pour 4" slab of concrete from basement wall to the sidewalk, rebar, put elbow pipe on gutters, and haul off all 'dig-out' for a cost of \$4247. John Daniel made a motion to accept this bid and take money for this repair from the "Restricted Funds- Building & Memorials" line item. Second by Dorothy Carter. Motion passed with no objections.

New Business.

There was no new business reported.

Board Minutes—Continued

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. Mother's Day will be observed May 12th.

> **Easter activities** being planned include: Palm Sunday observation today, Maundy Thursday Service with the Methodist Church on April 18 at FCC. Phyllis needed 2 volunteers to serve communion Carol Roberts and Don Malan volunteered. 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. Reminder: Due to this being board meeting time, the May board meeting has been moved to Monday evening May 20th at 6:00 pm.

Christian Education Carol Roberts reported there will be an initial 2019 VBS meeting after Easter. Shawn Quick reported the last youth meetings will be May 15th. There will be 4 youth and Faith Adventures camp leaders going to a Spring Camp Rally on May 28th. It is anticipated that those 4 youth will be attending camp this year.

Closing Prayer: Shawn Quick closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment: With no further business brought to the board, the meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM on motion of Don Malan and second by Derek Lile.

Submitted by: Carol Roberts, Secretary



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

