

THE MESSENGER



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Curiouser and Curiouser

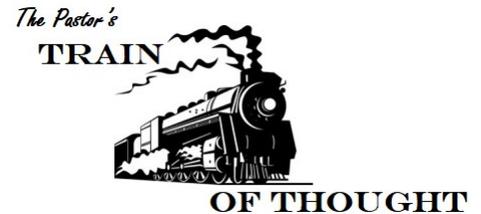
I get daily e-mails from some interesting sites. In addition to daily headline summaries from the two newspapers I subscribe to online, I get a daily "brain workout" from Curious.com; a digest of stories about obscure sites, foods, or travelogues from Atlas Obscura; a daily "good word" from Alpha Agora; and a daily posting from Irish Central with news and opinion stories of interest to Irish and Irish-American people. (No, I'm not Irish; but I have yet to find "Scottish Central" or "Welsh Central.")

A couple weeks ago Irish Central had a link to a story about the oldest known map of the British Isles. It was made by Ptolemy in 140. I have spent quite a lot of time and bandwidth with that map, along with a modern map, trying to figure out where some of the sites were. (Turns out most of them are completely unknown, even to the experts.) That took me to a series of maps of Britain before, during, and after it was part of the Roman Empire; and to a site with a basic chronology of all the rulers of Britain from prehistory up through when the Angles and Saxons moved in. That was quite a rabbit hole I wandered into, and I'd probably still be down there if not for the reality that I have a job and a houseful of hungry cats, not to mention a husband who seems to think he should have meals and clean clothes on a regular basis.

Experts say that there are a few things we can do that will keep our minds healthy and flexible for as long as possible. I remember hearing years ago about a group of elderly nuns somewhere who had been teachers and were still reading and teaching clear up into their 80s and 90s. When the Mother Superior of the community died, scientists wanted to know why it was that they were still so sharp mentally at their ages, so they took her brain and studied it. It turns out that it was absolutely eaten up with Alzheimer's disease. In her everyday life, she had shown no signs of dementia whatsoever. Her continued studying and teaching had kept her mind flexible and sharp even as the disease demolished her brain.

I can't say that's true for every person, but I do think that our brains are like every other part of us: we are healthier and more flexible when we exercise. Like any other exercise, we start where we are. Not everybody wants or needs to learn Welsh, as I am doing; not everybody wants or needs to study world maps from Roman times and the Middle Ages. But can you work a puzzle—word search, crossword, or even a jigsaw puzzle? Can you memorize Scripture? Can you learn a song or a new craft? If you know where to look, there is even some good educational programming on television. (You have my permission to skip anything about "ancient aliens" or how visitors from outer space built the Great Pyramids.) Or there are really good podcasts about almost any subject you could think of.

Our minds are gifts from God, just like our bodies and our skills and our possessions. We are called to be good stewards of all of God's gifts, to take the best care possible of what has been entrusted to us. Plus, remember that when Jesus quoted the Greatest Commandment from Deuteronomy 6:4-5, he added something. In the original it says, "You shall love God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your might." Jesus also says we are to love God "...with all [our] mind." Of course one way of doing that is by studying Scripture; but there are plenty of other ways to use our minds that bring glory to God. How can you love God with your mind this month?



Sharla



July Serving Schedule

July 7

Elder: Phyllis McBrayer
Scripture: Shawn Quick

9:30 a.m. Worship

Deacons: Derek Lile, Jennifer Schmehl
Greeter: Louise Foster

July 14

Elder: John Daniel
Scripture: Don Malan

9:30 a.m. Worship

Deacons: Lucille Munday, Alan Munday
Greeter: Dale Kinsmen

July 21

Elder: Dolly Studards
Scripture: Jennifer Schmehl

9:30 a.m. Worship

Deacons: Denise Burch, Kathy Wood
Greeter: Peggy Thomas

July 28

Elder: Diana Rich
Scripture: Carol Hedrick

9:30 a.m. Worship

Deacons: Dorothy Carter, Judy Daniel
Greeter: Carol Hedrick

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

05—Rick Borum
10—Dwain Russell
10—JoDee Fink
10—Melissa MoConkay
12—Sandy Hines
18—Donna White
19—Ted Bunch
20—Everett McBrayer
20—Pam Winburn
22—Diana Rich
22—Mildred Wood
24—Dax Rolph
30—Samantha Fink

Anniversaries

07—Steve & Julie Lewis
29—Alan & Lucille Munday

Budget

May Income
\$11,622.84

May Expenses
\$7,816.16

Year-to-date Income
\$43,916.52

Year-to-date Expenses
\$48,562.84

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

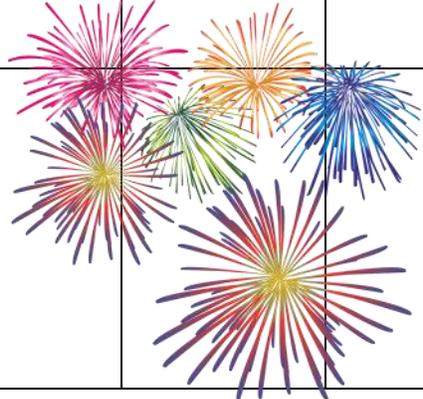
Attendance

Date	Sunday School		Worship
May 26	Life Group—0 Elementary—0	Officers—0 Total—0	43
June 2	Life Group—0 Elementary—0	Officers—0 Total—0	53
June 9	Life Group—6 Elementary—5	Officers—2 Total—13	51
June 16	Life Group—0 Elementary—0	Officers—0 Total—0	45
June 23	Life Group—0 Elementary—0	Officers—0 Total—0	33

Important Dates

04—Independence Day
16—Community Café

July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 	5	6
7 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11 Life Group	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11 Life Group	15	16 5:30-6:00 p.m. Community Café	17	18 6 pm Elders	19	20
21 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 11 pm Board Meeting	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11 Life Group	29	30	31			

Upcoming Sermons

July 7

Message: "Babes in Arms"

Scripture: Psalm 131

What I was thinking: Psalm 23 is the most familiar of the Psalms of trust, but it's worth taking time to look at a less-well-known one. Psalm 131 speaks with a pretty unique voice.

July 14

Message: "I really Blew It This Time"

Scripture: Psalm 51

What I was thinking: Recognizing that we are human and we make mistakes, the Scriptures and the Church provide ways we can set ourselves right with God when we do mess up. One way is by praying the seven Penitential Psalms, of which Psalm 51—attributed to David after the incident with Bethsheba and Uriah—is the best-known.

July 21

We will have a guest speaker.

July 28

Message: "Now I know My ABCs"

Scripture: Psalm 34

What I was thinking: Some of the Psalms are written using a structure called "acrostic," in which the lines begin with the letters of the Hebrew alphabet in succession. What is the point of such a structure?

Disciples Women

Reminder: The Disciples Women will not be meeting in July or August. We will start back in September with a special event being planned.

Save Your Best Choice UPC

Labels!

Please save all your Best Choice UPC labels and turn them in to the church. There is a box in the foyer to collect the labels. For us to get proper credit, please make sure you have the full label with the numbers.



Save the Date!

We will have a concert by Duke Mason August 25th at 2 pm.

Festival of Sharing

In the light of all the flooding around the country, our congregation will be putting "CWS Cleanup Buckets" for Festival of Sharing this year. A box will be placed in the foyer to place your items. Deadline to have your items in is September 8, 2019. The Disciple Women's group will put the buckets together and deliver them to the collection center. The items to be collected are listed below.

- 5 gallon new resealable bucket with lid
- 1 bottle of liquid household cleaner (12-16 oz.)
Must be water mixable (no Spray bottles)
- 1 non aerosol insect repellent (6-9 oz.)
- 1 scrub brush (plastic or wooden)
- 1- 100 ft OR 2- 50 ft Clotheslines
- 1 pair work gloves (cotton w/ leather palm or all leather)
- 48-50 clothespins
- 5 dust masks
- 2 pairs non-surgical latex gloves. Should be durable for multiple uses. (remove packaging)
- 1- 50 oz. OR 2- 25 oz. liquid laundry detergent (bottle(s) only)
- 1 liquid disinfectant dish soap (16-28 oz.)
- 18 reuseable cleaning (i.e. easy wipes)
- 4- scouring pads
- 7 sponges, including 1 large sponge
- 26-48 heavy-duty or contractor type trash bags sized 30-45 gallon in a roll (remove cardboard packaging)

Thoughts & Prayers

Aimee Daniel Breiner, Barbara Walsh, Caleb Hoffard, Carl Shubert, Cheryl Cumpston, Dennis Shannon, Gary Coffman, Gary Studards, Jamie Hibbs, Jill Tiona, Kay Haile, Keera Brockman, Lona Grosshart, Pat Arnold, Paul Miller, Rachel Bittencourt, Rhonda Yarick, Sam McCombs, Shirley Berry, Sharon Jones, Tracy Clayton, Verna Kooker



Mark Your Calendars

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for August 7 & 8th starting a 5:30 pm—8:30 pm. There will be a small meal for the kids at the start of VBS. A closing program will be on August 9th at 7 pm.

VBS Help Needed for Parade

The VBS is planning to have a float in the Bates County Fair Parade on Tuesday, July 9th. We want to distribute bottled water again this year and would like to get donations from church members. Please have your water at the church by Sunday, July 7th. Thank you for your support.

Candlelighters Needed!

We need volunteers to help with candle lighting during worship. If your child is interested in helping, please contact Carol Lewis.

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

June 23, 2019

Pending Board Approval

Board members present: Deacons- Dorothy Carter, Judy Colburn, Carol Lewis, Carol Roberts, Mike Studards, Jennifer Schmehl, Lucille Munday, Denise Burch, and Alan Munday. Elders-Phyllis McBrayer, Shawn Quick, Dolly Studards, and Diana Rich. Others present: Rev. Sharla Hulseley and Everett McBrayer.

Alan Munday called the meeting to order at 10:43 AM. Diana Rich opened with prayer.

The agenda was adopted with additions on motion of Diana Rich and second by Shawn Quick.

The minutes of the 05-20-19 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented on motion of Shawn Quick and second by Dorothy Carter.

Financial Reports: May 2019 financial reports including Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Budget Performance sheets were reviewed and approved on motion of Dorothy Carter and second by Diana Rich. There was a letter from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Office of the General Minister and President noting a summary of our congregational remittances to the mission funds of the church. No action was required. Full reports are available in the church office.

Minister Report: Rev. Hulseley submitted a written report noting activities, meetings, and office visits. She noted that she will be attending General Assembly in Des Moines, Iowa July 19-24. She stated our church can have two more delegates. She encouraged any interested member to contact her or the church office. Her full report is available in the church office.

Old Business:

Security Issues: Don Malan was not present to report an update on the availability of a concave mirror to place in an area that would make easy observation of the front double glass doors. This is being considered in an effort to increase security during church services. We hope to have a report next month.

Pastoral Support Committee: After consultation with Rev. Hulseley, Alan Munday presented the following names for the Pastoral Support Committee: John Daniel, Lucille Munday, Carol Ann Winburn, Mary Coffman, Chuck Lewis, and Jennifer Schmehl. As Board Chair, Alan Munday will be ex-officio. These names were approved on motion of Carol Roberts and second by Diana Rich. Alan noted they will determine rotation years at their first meeting, as two will be for 3 years, two will be for 2 years, and two will be for 1 year.

2019 Music Concert at FCC: Diana Rich noted she has tentative arrangements made for Duke Mason to come to FCC-Butler on August 25th at 2:00 PM. This will be open to the public and a free-will offering will be taken. This was approved on motion of Lucille Munday and second by Judy Colburn.

New Business.

Elevator Issues: Everett McBrayer reported that Tuesday night after Community Café someone got stuck in the elevator. Manual manipulation was required to get the doors open and the person out. Further investigation noted a cracked capacitor that has now been replaced by Bollweg Electric. It is suspected this has caused problems for a while despite routine inspections that are completed on the elevator. Everett noted some pins on the doors also need replaced to make the elevator safe to use. He will continue working on this project to assure completion.

Board Minutes—Continued

Committee Reports

Education – Youth- Camp: It was noted that 5 young people are attending camp this summer.

VBS: FCC plans to have a float in the Bates County Fair Parade on July 9th and distribute bottled water again this year. A request will be made to the congregation for donations.

Property: See New business (Elevator) above.

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

Adjournment: With no further business brought to the board, the meeting adjourned at 11:12 AM on motion of Phyllis McBryer and second by Dorothy Carter.

Submitted by: Carol Roberts, Secretary



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Return Service Requested

The Messenger

