

THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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I'm Getting Better!

Most of the best stories and sermon illustrations we preachers use come from either Fred Craddock or William Willimon. Honestly, unless I'm reading a story in one of their books or other publications, I don't always know which of the two it came from. And for all I know, they quoted each other!

One or the other of them told this story about a pastor visiting a sick church member in the hospital. She was in pretty bad shape, so the pastor took her hand and offered a prayer for her healing. The second he said, "Amen," the sick woman jumped up out of the bed and started yelling.

"I'm healed! I'm healed! Hallelujah! It's a miracle!"

The doctors came in and confirmed that she was no longer ill, and she started getting ready to go home. Meanwhile, the preacher went out to the parking lot, leaned against his car, looked skyward, and said, "Don't you *ever* do that to me again!!"

When we pray for someone to be healed, do we expect it to happen? I think we mainline Christians have mixed feelings about this. On the one hand, we believe that God can work miracles, of course; but on the other hand, we value modern science—and science says miraculous healings that can't be explained any other way are rare.

We sort of look askance at "faith healers" who have had programs on television or who hold huge revival-style meetings where people come forward and the preacher puts hands on the person. So many of those, it seems, have been exposed as frauds, with "healings" of people who are not actually sick or disabled, but planted in order for it to *appear* dramatic healings have taken place. Worse, some folks have promised healing when people send them money.

With that said, is there a place in mainline Christianity for healing prayers and services? At General Assembly last month, one of the most powerful moments in worship was when our various Regional Ministers were stationed around the arena and people were invited to go to any one of them for healing prayer. The lines were long. Prayers were whispered, hands were laid on, and tears were shed. But did anyone go away healed? I didn't go up for prayer; if I had, could a Regional Minister's prayer have restored the cartilage in my ruined knee?

I guess I sort of believe the ability to heal bodies is a gift given to those who are called to ministries as doctors, nurses, and physical therapists. And I think the healing of mental and emotional illnesses is something we should call in trained professionals to do. I don't have training or experience in counseling or psychotherapy, so I could well do more harm than good if I tried to heal such illnesses.

But even so, I'm not convinced there is no place for prayers for healing, outside of prayers offered at hospital bedsides that include requests for caregivers to act with wisdom, compassion, and skill. There are lots of different kinds of healing, and doctors aren't necessarily qualified in those, any more than I or an Elder in the church who hasn't received medical training would be qualified to prescribe medicine or perform surgery. And the Book says we are to pray for our friends and kinfolk who are sick. (See James 5:13-16.) So let's do that.

I have been thinking and praying about whether we should offer a service of healing prayer here, just once or as a regular practice. I'd welcome your input about this as you also think and pray about it.



September Serving Schedule

September 1
 Elder: Diana Rich
 Scripture: Carol Ann Winburn

9:30 a.m. Worship
 Deacons: Derek Lile and Jennifer Schmehl
 Greeter: John & Judy Daniel

September 8
 Elder: John Daniel
 Scripture: Shawn Quick

9:30 a.m. Worship
 Deacons: Lucille Munday & Alan Munday
 Greeter: Paula Shaffer/Carol Roberts

September 15
 Elder: Phyllis McBrayer
 Scripture: Jennifer Schmehl

9:30 a.m. Worship
 Deacons: Denise Burch and Kathy Wood
 Greeter: Ed & Sue Ann Steele

September 22
 Elder: Shawn Quick
 Scripture: Chuck Lewis

9:30 a.m. Worship
 Deacons: Dorothy Carter and Judy Daniel
 Greeter: Judy Taylor

September 29
 Elder: Shawn Quick
 Scripture: Carol Lewis

9:30 a.m. Worship
 Deacons: Judy Colburn and Carol Lewis
 Greeter: Chuck and Carol Lewis

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

2—Rebecca Heckadon
 5—Matthew Silvers
 9—Nancy Simpson
 13—Frosti Tiona
 18—Carol Hedrick
 20—Patsy Lodge
 21—Michael Wood
 25—Greg Bartimus
 26—Ellen Brinyark
 28—Danielle Rolph
 29—Eula Ghere
 29—McKayla Hines

Anniversaries

1—Larry & Denise Burch
 4—Steve & Carol Hedrick
 9—Fred & Mary Haworth

Budget

July Income
 \$13,343.17

July Expenses
 \$11,233.81

Year-to-date Income
 \$670,40.55

Year-to-date Expenses
 \$68,362.14

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

Attendance

Date	Sunday School		Worship
July 28	Life Group—0 Elementary—0	Officers—0 Total—0	57
August 4	Life Group—0 Elementary—0	Officers—0 Total—0	48
August 11	Life Group—0 Elementary—0	Officers—0 Total—0	39
August 18	Life Group—0 Elementary—3	Officers—0 Total—3	53

Important Dates

02—Labor Day
 05—PDO Starts!
 10—Women's Group
 12—PDO
 12—Elder's Meeting
 15—Board Meeting
 17—Community Café
 19—PDO
 26—PDO

September 2019

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

Upcoming Sermons

September 1

Message: "Clapping in Church"

Scripture: Psalm 148

What I was thinking: We conclude the summer series on Psalms with a word study, featuring one of the most important Hebrew words in the Bible.

September 8

Message: "The Way It's Supposed to Be"

Scripture: Genesis 2:4-25

What I was thinking: In Genesis 2 we find out how God intended for humanity to live, in relationship with one another, with creation, and with God. Something went wrong, though. What do we do now?

September 15

We will have a guest speaker

September 22

Message: "Blessed and Broken"

Scripture: Genesis 32:22-32

What I was thinking: The night before he is to meet his estranged brother Esau for the first time in years, Jacob spends the night wrestling with someone. The text isn't totally clear who his opponent is, but we have some idea based on the conversation they have afterwards.

September 29

We will have a guest speaker.





YEE-HAW VBS 2019

August 7 and 9, 2019 the FCC of Butler was transformed into a frontier adventure for 31 students and 26 helpers as everyone learned about, and celebrated "God Gives Great Gifts".

The service project this year was collecting school supplies to be used for local students as needed. In addition to the school supplies collected, \$143.62 in offering was also donated to purchase items needed.

It was a great VBS and I have received lots of very positive comments from VBS students, helpers and parents. The kids enjoyed a cow balloons cattle drive, visits from Rawhide McSpur, great Bible stories, fun games, some pretty neat crafts, exciting Bible moo-sic (songs), and delicious food at the Chuckwagon Café.

I want to thank everyone involved in making this VBS fun, exciting, and successful.

Carol Roberts, 2019 VBS Director

YOUTH GROUPS AT FCC

As noted earlier this year, one of the volunteer leaders has stepped down and the church is in need of finding a replacement. Depending on the number of youth attending (and ages) it is possible two additional leaders are needed. A short meeting was held following the board meeting on Sunday and the following was decided:

1. The youth will meet on Sunday evenings at 6:00 for one hour. Starting September 8, 2019.
2. It is hopeful to have three groups: CYF (grades 9-12) lead by Shawn Quick.

Chi Rho (grades 6-8) no leader yet. And JYF (grades 3-5) no leader yet.

If you are interested in helping by taking a leadership (or co-leadership) role, please see Carol Roberts, Shawn Quick, or Rev. Sharla Hulsey. Leader training, coaching, mentoring, or other assistance will be provided as needed.

DISCIPLE'S WOMEN GROUP

Thoughts & Prayers

Aimee Daniel Breiner, Barbara Walsh, Bill Cumpton, Caleb Hoffard, Carl Shubert, Cheryl Cumpton, Dennis Shannon, Deloris Baldwin, Ed Perkins, Gary Coffman, Gary Studards, Jamie Hibbs, Jill Tiona, Kay Haile, Jerry Steuck, Keera Brockman, Kenny Hunt, Larry Winburn, Lona Grosshart, Pat Arnold, Rachel Bittencourt, Rhonda Yarick, Sam McCombs, Shirley Berry, Sharon Jones, Tracy Clayton, Tylor Smading, Verna Kooker

After a 2 month summer break, the Disciples Women will resuming their meetings on Tuesday, September 3rd.

This will be a Welcome Back – Fall Kick-off salad dinner at 6:00 in the FCC Fellowship Hall. Please see Judy Taylor, Candi Agnew, or Carol Roberts if you have questions. Bread, drink, and table service will be provided.

Board Minutes

August 18, 2019

Pending Board Approval

Board members present: Deacons- Judy Daniel, Judy Colburn, Carol Roberts, Mike Studards, Kathy Wood, and Alan Munday. Elders-Phyllis McBrayer, Shawn Quick, Dolly Studards, Don Malan, and John Daniel.

Others present: Rev. Sharla Hulse, Everett McBrayer, and Gary Coffman.

Alan Munday called the meeting to order at 10:44 AM. Shawn Quick opened with prayer.

The agenda was adopted with corrections and additions on motion of Kathy Wood and second by Carol Roberts.

The minutes of the 07-21-19 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented on motion of Judy Daniel and second by Judy Colburn.

Financial Reports: July 2019 financial reports including Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Budget Performance sheets were reviewed. John Daniel made a few comments on these reports. He noted there was an 'in and out' transaction of \$2500 to the Endowment Fund. The financial reports were approved on motion of Judy Colburn and second by Dolly Studards. Full reports are available in the church office.

Ministers' Report: Rev. Hulse reviewed her written report noting a very interesting session on refugee simulation workshop at the General Assembly she attended in July. Her report included numerous meetings and activities she has been involved in, i.e. led Bible Adventures at VBS, church camp counselor for one week, hospital visitations, + others and she noted some dates she will be gone in September. Her full report is available in the church office.

Old Business:

Security Issues: Don Malan reported he has not discussed with Ed Perkins, the possibility of securing a concave mirror to place in an area that would make easy observation of the front double glass doors. This is being considered to increase security during church services. We hope to have a report next month.

Sanctuary Lighting: It was announced in church a few weeks back that Kathy Wood donated the money to replace all the remaining sanctuary lightbulbs with LED bulbs, thus "Adopt a Chandelier" campaign was not needed. Bollweg Electric will be certain the dimmer switches are functional on the new lighting.

Repair on North Wall of Basement: Everett McBrayer noted he has talked with Jimmy Herrel and the work should begin soon to repair the drainage problem along the outside area of the basement north wall, when the ground is dry enough.

New Business.

Nominating Committee: Alan Munday requested 3 or 4 volunteers from the board to serve on this committee. Volunteers included: Carol Roberts, Chair, Phyllis McBrayer and Judy Colburn. Alan will get members from the congregation. The nominations are to be presented to the board at the September 15th board meeting.

Pastoral Support: This committee met in August. The rotation list to serve on this committee is as follows: 3 years: Mary Coffman and Chuck Lewis. 2 years: John Daniel (chairman) and Lucille Munday. 1 year: Jennifer Schmehl and Carol Ann Winburn. This group will meet at least 4 times a year.

Committee Reports

Education –

VBS: Carol Roberts reported that 31 students attended and total dollars collected was \$143.62. This money and all the school supplies were donated to the Carpenters Cup who organized the distribution of donations to school children this year.

Youth: With the resignation of one of the volunteer leaders from last year, there is only one leader to begin this 2019-2020 year. Shawn Quick has the CYF (grades 9-12). Leaders are still needed for Chi Rho (grades 6-8) and JYF (grades 3-5).

Board Minutes—Continued

Disciples Women: This group is scheduled to start meeting again in September. The committee to plan this “Welcome Back” meeting/meal will meet Monday 8/19. All details will be in the newsletter and next Sundays bulletin.

Worship: Phyllis McBrayer mentioned:

A thank you to all who helped with VBS this year.

This committee needs to meet soon.

Community Café is at FCC on 8/20/19 and she is still working on getting a few donations for the sack lunch menu.

Closing Prayer: Rev. Sharla Hulseley closed the meeting with prayer.

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

Submitted by: Carol Roberts, Secretary

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)

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Return Service Requested

The Messenger

