

THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

11 W. Pine, Butler, MO 64730

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The Pastor's

TRAIN



OF THOUGHT

This isn't what I planned to give up for Lent!!

As I write this, Don and I have just made the difficult decision to cancel our worship services for the last two Sundays in March. It's never ideal to call off church, but in order to "flatten the curve," as the experts are saying, slow the rate at which the COVID-19 virus is spreading so the hospitals aren't overwhelmed, we've got to do it.

A lot of the time we think about "giving up" something for Lent. Sunday worship isn't something we really expect to have to give up! But this year, for at least part of the season, we do. This will force us to think of different ways to stay connected to the church and to one another.

This is uncharted territory. It's as though we have been driven out into the wilderness, with no map and no experience we can draw on to understand what we should do. In times like these we might be helped by remembering the Exodus.

When Israel left Egypt, they were going somewhere they had never been. They did not know the way and they did not know what lay before them. What they *did* have was God's Presence, appearing before them as a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

We are in the midst of a crisis unlike anything most of us can remember, and we have no idea what our community, our country, and our world will be like when we eventually get through it. But like Israel as they traveled from Egypt to the Promised Land, what we *do* have is God's Presence. We can't see it like the pillar of cloud and fire, but God is with us.

God is with us, therefore we don't give in to panic, although we do take necessary precautions. God is with us, therefore we know we will get through. I invite us all to remember, whatever happens in the next days, weeks, and months, that God is with us. Let's all deepen our connection to God even as we must stay physically distant from one another.

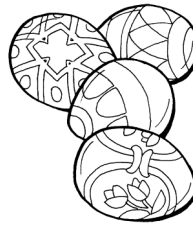
As this crisis unfolds, we can remain connected through our church's website and Facebook page, as well as the "old-fashioned" modes of phone calls and e-mails. Let's look out for one another. Run errands for a neighbor or fellow church member if they can't or shouldn't get out. Call and check in with people so we don't all feel so isolated. Send cards if you can. And above all, pray for one another, for those who get sick, for our health care providers and leaders.

God will bring us through this. Like Jacob at the Jabbok ford (Genesis 32), may this struggle end with a blessing.

Sharla



April Serving Schedule



April 5

Elder: Carol Roberts
Scripture: Shawn Quick

9:30 a.m. Worship

Deacons: Carol Hedrick, Chuck Lewis,
Dale Kinsman, Derek Lile
Greeter: Derek and Lyssa Lile

April 12

Elder: Diana Rich
Scripture: Don Malan

9:30 a.m. Worship

Deacons: Alan Munday, Jennifer
Schmehl, Lucille Munday,
Dianna Silvers
Greeter: Gary Coffman

April 19

Elder: Justin Quick
Scripture: Alan Munday

9:30 a.m. Worship

Deacons: Mike Studards, Denise
Burch, Kathy Wood, Peggy
Fuller
Greeters: Paula Shaffer

April 26

Elder: Don Malan
Scripture: Jennifer Schmehl

9:30 a.m. Worship

Deacons: Carol Hedrick, Chuck Lewis,
Dale Kinsman, Derek Lile
Greeters: Louise Foster



Music Director: Carol Ann Winburn — Accompanist: Mary Coffman
Sound Techs: Phyllis McBrayer, Dianna Silvers, Justin Quick
Communion Preparer: Carol Hedrick
Nursery Attendants: Jessika Blaser, Jakaila Rolph

Birthdays

4 Don Huenefeldt
9 Will Lewis
11 Adaleigh Embrey
12 Izaya Lile
20 Andrea Wood
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
\$8,738.69
February Expenses
\$7,996.57
YTD Income
\$16,732.13
YTD Expenses
\$17,323.83

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

Attendance

Date	Sunday School	Worship
March 1	Life Group—8 Elementary—5	Total—13 48
March 8	Life Group—9 Elementary—5	Total—14 52
March 15	Life Group—0 Elementary—0	Total—0 43
March 22		
March 29		

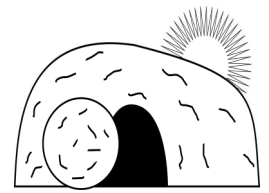
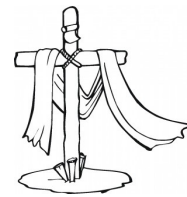
CANCELLED

Important Dates

5— Palm Sunday/ Elders Meeting
12— Easter
19— Board Meeting
21— Community Café

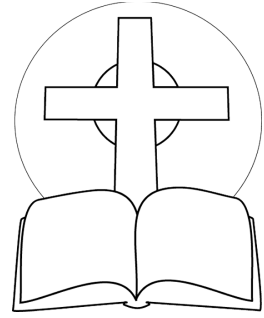


April 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ALL ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE			1 6:00 Youth Group 7:00 Choir Practice	2 9:00 PDO	3	4
5 Palm Sunday 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 Life Group 11:00 Elders Meeting	6	7	8 6:00 Youth Group 7:00 Choir Practice	9 Maundy Thursday 9:00 PDO	10 Good Friday	11
12 Easter 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 Life Group	13	14	15 6:00 Youth Group 7:00 Choir Practice	16 9:00 PDO 6:30 Community Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 Board Meeting	20	21 5:30 Community Café	22 6:00 Youth Group 7:00 Choir Practice	23 9:00 PDO 6:30 Community Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 Life Group	27	28	29 6:00 Youth Group 7:00 Choir Practice	30 9:00 PDO 6:30 Community Choir Rehearsal		

Upcoming Sermons



April 5 (Palm Sunday)

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11; 14:3-9 (RCL: 11:1-11, Palm Sunday, Year B)

Theme: Jesus enters Jerusalem and is anointed at Bethany

Title: “King of Fools”

What I was thinking: The Roman world knew of triumphal entries, in which a conquering hero would lead a parade into a city after winning some great victory. Is this what Jesus was doing? And what was the woman who anointed Jesus at Bethany doing?

April 12 (Easter)

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8

Theme: The resurrection according to Mark

Title: “...wait...what?”

What I was thinking: Mark’s version of the Easter story is the shortest, and possibly the earliest, of the Gospel accounts. (Paul’s account in 1 Corinthians 15 is probably earlier still.) It ends so abruptly and, frankly, unsatisfyingly that editors felt the need to add to it. What do these eight verses have to say to us?

April 19 (2nd Sunday of Easter)

Scripture: Acts 1:1-14 (RCL: Ascension, all years; vv. 6-14, Easter 7, Year A)

Theme: The immediate aftermath of Easter

Title: “Catching Flies”

What I was thinking: Luke begins Acts with a quick recap of his Gospel, then moves to Jesus’ ascension and the disciples’ reaction to it. What did Jesus tell them to do, and what can we learn from them?

April 26 (3rd Sunday of Easter)

Scripture: Acts 3:1-10

Theme: Peter and John heal a crippled man

Title: “I haven’t got any money”

What I was thinking: As we did back on March 15, this Sunday we will focus on stewardship. Most of the time we think about stewardship in terms of the money we can give; this can leave us feeling inadequate if we can’t give much money, or have no money to give at all. Is there a different way to think about stewardship?

Thoughts & Prayers

- ◆ Sympathy to the family of Louise Hancock
- ◆ Aimee Daniel, Bill Adcock, Bill Cumpton, Carl Shubert, Darlene Adcock, Dennis Shannon, Dusty Warren, Frank Morris, Gary Studards, Jamie Hibbs, Kay Haile, Kenny Hunt, Lona Grosshart, Madison Tippie, Rachel Bittencourt, Rhonda Yarick, Sharon Jones, Tylor Smading, JC McHargue, Maggie Hubbard, Sam McCombs, and Vanessa Coon.

Faith Adventures Camp

- ◆ Camp Hebron in Pittsburg, MO
 - CYF (completed 9th-12th grade) July 27-31
 - Chi Rho (completed 6th-8th grade) July 27-31
 - JYF (completed 3rd-5th grade) July 27-31
 - Try-It (K-2 with accompanying adult) July 30-31
- ◆ Contact the church office for a form.
- ◆ **Forms must be completed and in the office by May 15, 2020**

Soup & Chili Lunch

- ◆ In order to slow the spread of COVID 19, the Soup & Chili Lunch that was to be held on March 29 is postponed. We will reschedule at a later date.
- ◆ Since this was a fundraising event, donations can be mailed to the church and designated to the building fund. A special offering will also be taken when we can meet in person for Sunday worship.

Sunday Worship

- ◆ Due to the limit of gatherings of 10 or more, in person Sunday worship is cancelled for 2 weeks.
- ◆ Hoping to resume on April 5 (Palm Sunday)
- ◆ Sharla and Lyssa will be in and out of the office during the week.
- ◆ Weekly messages and prayers will be posted on the church website (fccbutler.org) and Facebook page (@FCCBUTLERMO)
- ◆ Offerings can be mailed to the church

Disciples Women's Group

- ◆ Disciples Women will not meet in April.

Good Friday Service

- ◆ With the present circumstances, the combined Good Friday service at the Ohio Street Methodist church that was to be held April 10 is cancelled.



Board Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2020

Board members present: Deacons- Derek Lile, Jennifer Schmehl, Lucille Munday, Kathy Wood, Alan Munday, Dale Kinsman, and Chuck Lewis. Elders- John Daniel, Diana Rich, Don Malan, and Justin Quick. Others present: Rev. Sharla Hulsey, Carol Roberts, Everett McBrayer, and Phyllis McBrayer.

Don Malan called the meeting to order at 10:52 AM. Don Malan opened with prayer.

The agenda was adopted with additions on motion of Lucille Munday and second by John Daniel.

The minutes of the 02-16-20 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented on motion of Alan Munday and second by Justin Quick.

Financial Reports: The February 2020 financial reports including Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Budget Performance sheets as of 02-29-20 were reviewed. John Daniel reviewed a few items noting year-to-date numbers. The financial reports were approved as presented on motion of Lucille Munday and second by Chuck Lewis. Full reports are available in the church office.

Ministers' Report: Rev. Hulsey gave her report noting she has adjusted and increased her in-office hours in part due to her therapy schedule that could change due to COVID-19 PANDEMIC. She has assumed the position as president of the Ministerial Alliance. The community Lenten services have been postponed at this time. Details on about when these will be rescheduled will be shared as they are finalized. Her full report is available in the church office.

Old Business:

Water Damage to North Basement Wall, sanctuary walls, and choir robe room ceiling Repair Update:

Everett McBrayer noted he met with Robert Clardy about the water leaking in from the roof area. He gave a price quote of \$500 to repair this. No further bids on repair of the walls and ceiling. Everett will continue to get updates to the Board, as they are available.

Review Contract with Kershner Heating and Cooling: As requested, Everett provided an additional bid from Hoot Owl. This bid was somewhat incomplete as Everett stated it did not include all the things that were discussed. He will continue to work on getting clearer information on this bid. It was again noted that the current Service Agreement will automatically renew 7-20-2020 unless cancelled by 06-20-2020, thus a decision must be made at or before the May 2020 board meeting.

2020 Committee/Department Chair: Don Malan reported he still only has two positions left to fill. He hopes to have all in place soon

Christian Church Foundation Report: This report was attached. No discussion or action taken. Just an FYI report.

New Business:

Changes to Communion: A page of recommended precautions to use in the communion process and social distancing was presented for review and action by the board. These precautions were recommended by the Elders, Rev. Hulsey, and Deacon's Chairperson. These were approved on motion of Alan Munday and second by Jennifer Schmehl.

Elder to fill unexpired term: Due to the resignation of Dolly Studards as Elder, Don Malan presented the name of Carol Roberts to fill this term that will end 12-31-2020. This was accepted on motion of Lucille Munday and second by Justin Quick.

Department/Committee Reports:

Personnel: Lucille Munday reported that the Personnel committee met and reviewed applications for the Administrative Assistant position. Lyssa Lile was selected and has accepted this permanent part-time position.

Worship: Phyllis McBrayer noted several events that were being planned at FCC and within the community have been cancelled or postponed due to the Coronavirus and recommended social isolation, i.e. all Lenten Services and Community Café until further notice. It was decided to also postpone the 03-29-2020 Soup/Chili Dinner at FCC . It was recommended to have a “Special Offering” on that date for the Building Fund.

Property: **1) Replacement of Smoke Detectors:** Everett McBrayer noted that one smoke malfunctioned and required immediate replacement at \$90-\$100. All other facility replacements will be addressed later. **2) Fire Extinguishers:** Everett reported that all fire extinguishers need to be fixed and re-charged. He noted that some may need to be replaced.

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

Adjournment: With no further business brought to the board, the meeting adjourned at 11:22 AM on motion of Alan Munday and second by Justin Quick.

Submitted by: Carol Roberts, (acting) Secretary

2020 Building Fund Drive

The Stewardship Committee is having a building fund drive. There are many repairs that need to be made to our church. This year we are concentrating on the following repairs:

- Repair the north wall of the Fellowship Hall
- Repair the north wall of the Sanctuary
- Repair the ceiling in the Choir Robe Room
- Remove the wall in the Chapel to increase space and storage for PDO

We are hoping to raise \$40,000 for these repairs.

Some planned dates for fundraisers:

- April 23—Pancake Supper fundraiser, we plan to invite the public to this event.

HAPPY
Easter
HE IS RISEN

Matthew 28:6

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Return Service Requested

The Messenger

