

# THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

11 W. Pine, Butler, MO 64730

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



## We Need a Shepherd!

For the last few weeks I've been working on a major paper for my latest D.Min. class. It's an exegetical paper—a paper in which I look at a passage of Scripture from a number of different angles in order to draw meaning from it—on Ezekiel 34:1-10. That may not be a familiar passage to you; even some scholars who have devoted their lives to studying the Hebrew Prophets, like Rabbi Heschel, have shorted the book of Ezekiel. Many of us don't know much from Ezekiel beyond his vision of the valley of dry bones in chapter 37.

Many scholars think that, perhaps even more than the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, Ezekiel 34 informs Jesus' referring to himself as "the Good Shepherd." Ezekiel 34 is God's condemnation of *bad* shepherds—of leaders excessively concerned with accumulating wealth at the expense of those they were supposed to be serving. Knowing this makes it a little easier to understand why the religious leaders who heard Jesus refer to himself in this way were offended. It's as though he were saying, "I am the Good Shepherd—and you're not!"

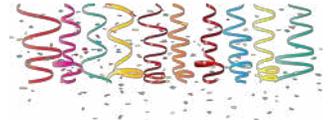
The image of leaders—kings, mainly—as shepherds of their people is one that was well-known in all of the Ancient Near East—Mesopotamia (including Babylon and Assyria) and Egypt and everywhere in between. Gods were also often referred to as shepherds (as our God is in Psalm 23). Of course, if our gods and our leaders are supposed to be shepherds, that means we're all sheep.

I'm a city girl, so all I know about sheep is what I've read or been told. But what it boils down to is that domestic sheep cannot survive without a shepherd. They tend to go astray and get lost; they have to be sheared regularly; they cannot protect themselves from predators. How are we like sheep, we who believe ourselves to be quite capable of taking care of ourselves?

The question is, *are* we quite capable of taking care of ourselves? Aren't there times when the circumstances we face are quite beyond our ability to handle them? Aren't there times when we make mistakes that put us in situations we need help getting out of? Those are times when we need a shepherd—and thankfully, we have one, a Good Shepherd who seeks and saves us when we cannot save ourselves, who guides us and helps us stay on the right track, who restores us when our own strength fails.



# March Serving Schedule



## BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Chuck Lewis
- 3 Bob Thomas
- 6 Ruby Cummings
- 6 Teresa Berry
- 7 Alan Munday
- 7 Bill McGuire
- 8 Louise Foster
- 12 Brayden VanMeter
- 15 Lynette Clover
- 15 Michaela Boonstra
- 15 Quintan Agnew
- 21 Phyllis Simonin
- 21 Randy Winburn
- 22 Carol Roberts
- 23 Harold Weil
- 24 Edith Dilley
- 24 Suzie Wilson
- 27 Luke Rives

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Mike White & Sharla Hulsey
- 16 Bill & Julie McGuire
- 21 Don & Juanita Huenefeldt
- 27 Greg & Jeanie Bartimus

## BUDGET

**January Income**  
11,776.53

**January Expense**  
8,144.84

**YTD Income**  
11,776.53

**YTD Expense**  
8,144.84

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

### March 7

**Elder:** Don Malan  
**Deacon:** Peggy F. & Gary C.

**Greeter:** Judy Taylor  
**Scripture Reader:** Dianna Silvers

### March 14

**Elder:** Phyllis McBrayer  
**Deacon:** Kathy W. & Alan M.

**Greeter:** Everett McBrayer  
**Scripture Reader:** Carol Ann W.

### March 21

**Elder:** Shawn Quick  
**Deacon:** Jennifer S. & Denise B.

**Greeter:** Chuck & Carol Lewis  
**Scripture Reader:** Chuck Lewis

### March 28

**Elder:** Diana Rich  
**Deacon:** Chuck & Carol L.

**Greeter:** Carol Roberts  
**Scripture Reader:** Peggy Fuller

**Music Director:** Carol Ann Winburn — **Accompanist:** Mary Coffman  
**Sound Techs:** Phyllis McBrayer, Dianna Silvers, Justin Quick



## ATTENDANCE



| Date        | In Sanctuary Worship | Online Live Stream* |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| February 7  | 27                   | 10                  |
| February 14 | -                    | 24                  |
| February 21 | 27                   | 6                   |

*\*If you are joining Sunday worship via Facebook Live, let us know you are tuning in by leaving a comment on the live stream video or visit [fccbutler.org](http://fccbutler.org) and click the Register Attendance button.*



# March 2021



| Sunday  | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday  | Thursday | Friday | Saturday                   |
|---|--------|---------|--|----------|--------|----------------------------|
|   | 1      | 2       | 3<br>6 pm Youth Group                              | 4        | 5      | 6                          |
| 7<br>9:20 Prayer<br>9:30 Worship  | 8      | 9       | 10<br>6 pm Youth Group                             | 11       | 12     | 13                         |
| 14<br><i>Daylight Savings</i><br>9:20 Prayer<br>9:30 Worship<br><b>11:00 Elders Meeting</b> | 15     | 16      | 17<br><i>St. Patrick's Day</i><br>6 pm Youth Group | 18       | 19     | 20<br><i>Spring Begins</i> |
| 21<br>9:20 Prayer<br>9:30 Worship<br><b>11:00 Board Meeting</b>                             | 22     | 23      | 24<br>6 pm Youth Group                             | 25       | 26     | 27<br><i>Passover</i>      |
| 28<br><i>Palm Sunday</i><br>9:20 Prayer<br>9:30 Worship<br><i>Easter Special Offering</i>   |        |         |  |          |        |                            |

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- 14 Daylight Savings/ Elders Meeting
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 Spring Begins
- 21 Board Meeting
- 27 Passover
- 28 Palm Sunday



## Upcoming Sermons

### **March 7 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent)**

Scripture: Luke 15:1-32 (RCL: Lent 4 and Proper 19, Year C)

Psalm: 119:174-176

Theme: parables of lost sheep, coin, and son

Title: "Lost and Found"

*What I was thinking:* Jesus tells three parables here that have one point, but in which the stakes get higher with each telling. In all three he is saying something about who God is and how God relates to humanity.

### **March 14 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent)**

Scripture: Luke 19:19-31 (RCL: Proper 21, Year C)

Psalm: 41:1-3

Theme: parable of the rich man and Lazarus

Title: "The dogs treat me better than you do."

*What I was thinking:* Again we have a parable that seems to be making an obvious point, but at the very end we have a punch line we didn't expect.

### **March 21 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent)**

Scripture: Luke 18:31—19:10 (RCL: Proper 26, Year C)

Psalm: 84:1-4, 12

Theme: Zacchaeus

Title: "A Wee Little Man"

*What I was thinking:* This reading contains three vignettes; of the three, only the story of Zacchaeus isn't found in any other Gospel. This is another one of those familiar stories that we may have heard so many times we no longer hear it.

### **March 28 (Palm Sunday)**

Scripture: Luke 19:29-44 (RCL: Palm Sunday, Year C)

Psalm: 118:19-23

Theme: Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem

Title: "Tears of Triumph"

*What I was thinking:* Again, we have heard the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem many, many times. But Luke tells us something in his account that the other Evangelists don't.



## THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Sympathy to the families of John Park Winkler, Marcia McMurphy, and Deanna Barton.

### Current & Ongoing

- ◆ Darlene Adcock, Deloris & Frank Baldwin, Rachel Bittencourt, Joe & Jean Christopher, Lyndell Colburn, Herschel Ewing, Lona Grosshart, Caleb Hoffard, David & Pat Holiman, Denny Hubbard, Kenny Hunt, Sharon Jones, JC McHargue, Kevin & Pam Miller, Bill & Larry Neil, John Tucker, Dusty Warren

### At Home

- ◆ Bud Armstrong, Ruby Cummings, Eula Ghere, Julie Lewis

### Currently Serving in the Military

- ◆ Jordan Olson, Ryan Strong, Josh Thompson, Matt Thompson



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **FCC has received word that John Park Winkler has suddenly passed away.**  
He and Ruth were Co-Interim Pastors here at FCC from November 2012 to July 2014. If you would like to send a card to Ruth, her address is 7201 Astoria Ct. Watauga, TX 76148.
- ◆ **No Community Lenten Services**  
These services usually are the main support for the Butler Ministerial Alliance's crisis fund. With the cancellation of these service, please consider donating to the Butler Ministerial Alliance.
- ◆ **Youth group** will meet every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. , as long as school is in session. Open for children grades 3rd-12th. Masks are strongly recommended, but not required.
- ◆ **Home Communion**  
If anyone would like to be served Home Communion, please contact the church office, 679-3066.
- ◆ **Offering** may be given online via:  
Downloading the Givelify app on a smartphone or tablet. Instructions for using the app are on the [FCC website](#).  
Or go to the Donate tab on the [FCC website](#). Then select the blue Givelify square to access Givelify through your web browser. You will be directed to FCC's giving page.



# First Christian Church Board Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2021

Board members present: Deacons- Jennifer Schmehl, Kathy Wood, Alan Munday, Dale Kinsman, Chuck Lewis, Carol Lewis, Judy Colburn, and Everett McBrayer. Elders- Carol Roberts, Diana Rich, Don Malan, Justin Quick, Phyllis McBrayer, and Shawn Quick. Others present: Rev. Sharla Hulse, John Daniel, Judy Daniel, and Carol Ann Winburn.

Don Malan called the meeting to order at 10:33 AM. He then opened with prayer.

After additions, the agenda was adopted on motion of Alan Munday and second by Justin Quick.

The minutes of the 01-17-2021 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented on motion of Alan Munday and second by Shawn Quick.

**Financial Reports:** The January 2021 financial reports including Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Budget Performance sheets as of 01-31-2021 were reviewed, as well as all end-of-the-year numbers. John Daniel reviewed a few items noting year-to-date numbers. The financial reports were approved as presented on motion of Carol Roberts and second by Diana Rich. Full reports are available in the church office.

**Ministers' Report:** Rev. Hulse reviewed her attached report. She noted meetings she attended, visits/ conversations, and mentoring activities. She continues to do the morning prayers every day on Facebook Live. She noted that the Ash Wednesday did not get recorded with numerous participants due to the extreme cold but she did provide a short meditation on facebook live. She mentioned problems with her laptop and the possible opportunity to acquire one through Phillips University. Her full report is available in the church office.

## Old Business:

**Water Damage to sanctuary walls, and choir robe room ceiling Repair Update:** Everett McBrayer stated nothing additional has been done to the choir robe room as he does not know any additional resources to contact.

## New Business:

**Computer Use at Home for Worship Slide Preparation:** Phyllis McBrayer inquired about the possibility of her having access to a computer she could use to prepare church slides at home. Rev. Hulse said she will see if the correct program can be added to the existing laptop.

**Butler Chamber of Commerce:** An application from the Butler Chamber of Commerce was reviewed. The dues would be \$50/year. It was approved to join the Chamber on motion of Shawn Quick and second by Alan Munday.

**Hervina Wheeler:** Ms. Wheeler has contacted the church with an interest in performing a few hymns. After discussion it was decided to decline her offer on motion of Alan Munday and second by Carol Roberts.

## **New Business Cont.**

**Atronic Alarms Proposal (out of Springfield, MO):** After a recent fire alarm activation (but no fire), Everett found one of the smoke detectors had come loose from the case holding it on the ceiling. He noted they are all very old and the clips holding them are breaking. Atronic Alarms company responded to check out the faulty alarm and the entire system. They provided FCC with a bid to replace all 30 of the current (old) alarms throughout the church for a total of \$4,557.15. Everett noted the company will be willing to do this all at once or a few at a time. As they considered this an urgent situation, Rev. Hulseley and Everett McBrayer approved them to install 10 at that time for a cost of \$1,519.05. The Board approved to accept this bid for 30 (10 already installed) to be installed “as-needed” on motion of Phyllis McBrayer and second by Kathy Wood.

A question was asked inquiring which budget line item the money will be taken from. It was approved that John Daniel will be contacted to discuss the best option on motion of Diana Rich and second by Shawn Quick.

## **Department/Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Carol Roberts reported this department is busy with two sub-committee providing “connection” to the congregation and “hospitality” providing dinners, food, recognition and/or thank-you give-aways.

**Property:** Everett McBrayer noted there is a problem with the Motherboard (control board) with one of the furnaces. He is not aware yet what the cost will be to get this repaired. He will report back to the board with details next month.

**Outreach:** Phyllis McBrayer noted she is looking to possibly provide a free (drive-through) meal to the community.

**Endowment Fund:** Alan Munday noted the board packet contained a financial Statement of Transactions, Asset Review, and Account Summary from the Christian Church Foundation. This is for your information and review with no action required.

No other reports from committees/departments were given.

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

**Adjournment:** With no further business brought to the board, the meeting adjourned at 11:29 AM on motion of Carol Roberts and second by Justin Quick.

Submitted by: Carol Roberts, Secretary

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## **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

**Current donations: \$17,188**

**Goal: \$40,000**



# Souper Super Bowl Sunday



The Annual FCC Soup and Cracker Drive was held in early February in support of the Butler Food Pantry.



## Weather Cancellation Policy

If the Weather Is Bad...

...the pastor and board chair will decide together whether we will have worship. We will ask Everett for input as well. A decision will be made by 7 a.m. Sunday. We'll then contact the following news sources:

- WDAF (Fox4)
- KSHB (Channel 41)
- FM-92.1 and their website ([www.921news.com](http://www.921news.com)), and Facebook (kmam kmoe)
- Bates County Live

Cancellation information will also be posted on the church's facebook page ([facebook.com/FCCButlerMO](https://facebook.com/FCCButlerMO)).

If you haven't seen or heard anything by 8 a.m. (to give the media outlets time to post the information), you can assume we'll go on as usual; but please use your common sense about whether you believe it's safe to get out. We would rather have you stay home and be safe than try to get here and have an accident or a fall.

If worship is cancelled, all other Sunday activities (including Sunday school and any meetings) will also be cancelled.

On weekdays, if Butler's school has cancelled classes, the church will be closed and all activities for that day will be cancelled.



First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
11 W. Pine Street  
Butler, MO 64730

Return Service Requested

Church Phone: 660-679-3066

Fax: 660-679-5680

Email: [admin@fccbutler.org](mailto:admin@fccbutler.org)

Web: <https://fccbutler.org>

**Pastor Sharla Hulsey**

[revsharkie@gmail.com](mailto:revsharkie@gmail.com)



# THE MESSENGER



*“So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!”*

*— 2 Corinthians 5:17*

