

THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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The Waiting Is the Hardest Part...

We've all been in situations where we've had to wait. Sometimes we're trying to leave the house to go somewhere as a family, and somebody is taking longer to get ready than the rest of us. Or somebody has information or an item we need in order to finish a task. Or we've had a medical test and need to know the results so we can make plans for the next steps. Or we're a kid and there are still quite a few days left before Santa comes.

Waiting can be uncomfortable, even if we're waiting for something positive. It just feels like things are out of our control. For those of us who like to be the captain of our own ship, not being in control is maddening.

Christians have been waiting for centuries for Jesus to return. The very first Christians believed it would happen in their lifetimes, but it didn't. When some of them died before Jesus returned, it caused a crisis of faith in those who were left. They wondered if the ones who had died were going to be left out of the new age the Second Coming would usher in. Or perhaps, some of them may have thought, the whole thing is a sham and Jesus isn't really going to come back. The people of the church Paul had founded in Thessalonica wrote to him to express their fears and seek some reassurance.

What he wrote back to them has come to be interpreted as describing an event many call "the Rapture of the Church." But we have to keep in mind that Paul wasn't writing systematic theology, so when we read something he wrote we need to be aware of who his original readers were and what situation he was addressing. Those who interpret 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 as predicting the Rapture may not be doing this. If we remember that the Thessalonian Christians were frightened that their peers who had already died would be left out of the age to come, we can see this passage as reassuring, not frightening, as the *Left Behind* books would have us believe.

Don't be afraid, Paul said. We're all waiting for something and we don't know when it will happen; but when it does, anybody who has died will be raised up and will meet Jesus first, and then the rest of us will also meet him. Paul ends the passage with the conjunction "therefore," which for Paul always marks the transition between theology and practice. "Therefore encourage one another with these words."

When we're waiting, and things feel out of control, what we need is encouragement. If you know someone right now who is waiting, do what you can to encourage them. Wait with them. Remind them of the hope we all have in Christ. Waiting is difficult, but as the old proverb says, a burden shared is a burden lightened. Bearing one another's burdens is part of what being the body of Christ is all about.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharla".



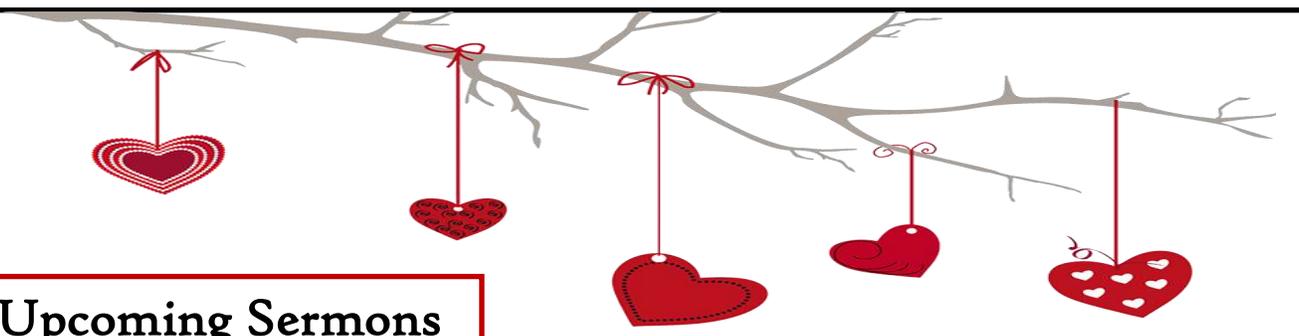
February 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30 pm Disciples Women	2 Groundhog Day 6 pm - 7 pm Youth Group 7 pm - 8:30 pm Choir	3	4 9 am - 12 pm SonShine Ladies	5
6 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School & Life Group	7	8	9 6 pm - 7 pm Youth Group 7 pm - 8:30 pm Choir	10	11 9 am - 12 pm SonShine Ladies	12
13 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School & Life Group 11:00 a.m. Elders Meeting	14 Valentine's Day 	15	16 6 pm - 7 pm Youth Group 7 pm - 8:30 pm Choir	17	18 9 am - 12 pm SonShine Ladies	19
20 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Board Meeting Week of Compassion	21 President's Day 	22	23 6 pm - 7 pm Youth Group 7 pm - 8:30 pm Choir	24	25 9 am - 12 pm SonShine Ladies	26
27 9:00 a.m. Breakfast Event 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School & Life Group Week of Compassion	28					

IMPORTANT DATES

- 1 Disciples Women
- 2 Groundhog Day
- 13 Elders Meeting
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 20 Board Meeting
- 21 President's Day
- 20-27 Week of Compassion
Special Offering
- 27 Breakfast Event



Upcoming Sermons

February 6, 2022 (5th Sunday after Epiphany)

Scripture: John 4:46-54

Psalm: 40:1-5

Theme: Another sign in Cana

Title: “Do you believe in coincidence?”

What I was thinking: Back in Cana a second time, Jesus heals the son of a royal official after challenging that official to believe even without signs and wonders. What can we learn from this story, which is similar to but still a bit different from parallel accounts in the other Gospels?

February 13, 2022 (6th Sunday after Epiphany)

Scripture: John 6:1-15, 25-59 (RCL: Proper 12-15, Year B)

Psalm: 34:1-10

Theme: John’s version of the Feeding of the Multitude

Title: “Eeewww!”

What I was thinking: The Feeding of the Multitude is one of the few stories that is found in all four Gospels. But unlike the others, John uses it as a jumping-off place for a controversy.

February 20, 2022 (7th Sunday after Epiphany)

Scripture: John 7:37-52 (RCL: Pentecost, Year A)

Psalm: 147:1-11

Theme: Jesus offers living water

Title: “Ho, Everyone Who Thirsts...”

What I was thinking: Jesus takes a verse from Isaiah and applies it to himself and his followers after him. What is his point?

February 27, 2022 (Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration)

Scripture: John 9:1-41 (RCL: Lent 4, Year A)

Psalm: 27:1-4

Theme: Healing of a man born blind

Title: “The Light of the World Is Jesus”

What I was thinking: This is one of the funniest stories in the whole Bible, in a biting, sort of sarcastic way. But what does it teach us?

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Sympathy to the families of Ruby Cummings, Kay Ward, Dean McGuire, Earl Anderson, Donita Ruch, Joyce Rich, and Cheryl Bagby.

Current & Ongoing

- ◆ Deloris & Frank Baldwin, Lyndell Colburn, Debbie Enos, Bob & Louise Foster, Larry Garren, Lona Grosshart, Caleb Hoffard, Wendy Huge, Michael Lemm, Tim Lemm, David Middleton, Jesse Rodriguez, Knox Silvers, Jeanine Stephenson, Kenny Stewart, Ruby Stotmeister, Will & Christian Tucker, Dusty Warren, Ann Widmer, Linda Wix.

At Home

- ◆ Bud Armstrong, Julie Lewis

Currently Serving in the Military

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS



• **Volunteers Wanted**

Needing 3 - 4 people to operate the camera for the Facebook Livestream. If interested contact the church office or Carol Ann.

• **Butler Ministerial Alliance Soup Sale**

- Order Pickup Saturday, February 5, 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Church of the Nazarene, 103 W. Nursery St.

• **Community Café cancelled through February**

- **Disciples Women** will meet February 1, 2022 at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Please use the north door. All women of the church are invited to attend. *Refreshments: Carol Roberts Devotional: Diana Rich*

• **“All-Church Breakfast/Coffee Time”**

The Membership Department/Hospitality Group will be having some fellowship breakfast/coffee events throughout the year in 2022. We hope to have one about every month. The first one is planned for February 27th at 9:00 AM (right before church) in the Fellowship Hall. The menu this month will be coffee, juice, coffee cakes, and muffins. We are hoping everyone will join us for the event on 02-27-2022.



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), and Facebook (kmam kmoe)
- Bates County Live

Cancellation information will also be posted on the church's Facebook page (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.

First Christian Church Board Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2022

Board members present: Deacons- Chuck Lewis, Carol Lewis, Judy Colburn, Gary Coffman, Lyssa Lile, Judy Daniel, and Sally Anton. Elders-Don Malan, Shawn Quick, Carol Roberts, and John Daniel. Financial Secretary-Diana Rich. Others present: Rev Sharla Hulsey and Carol Ann Winburn.

Chuck Lewis, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:38 AM. He then opened with prayer.

After review, the agenda was adopted on motion of Carol Roberts and second by Shawn Quick.

The minutes of the 12-19-2021 regular board meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented on motion of Shawn Quick and second by Don Malan.

Financial Reports: The December financial reports including Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Budget Performance sheets as of 12-31-2021 were reviewed, as well as all end-of-the-year numbers. Income in December \$7,563.26. Total Expenses in December \$12,272.03. Year to date income \$105,570.28 and year to date expenses \$111,650.12. The financial reports were approved as presented on motion of Don Malan and second by Judy Colburn. Full reports are available in the church office.

Ministers' Report: Rev. Hulsey reviewed the written report noting her return to work on December 20th following knee surgery. She reported on meetings she has attended, contacts made, and other church related activities. Other topics: Ministerial Alliance (MA) soup sale, MA hopes to hold Lenten services this year starting March 9th. She stressed the need for everyone to be careful with winter weather and Covid presenting safety threats. She said morning prayers continues on Facebook Live.

Old Business:

Property Follow-up from Servpro: Chuck Lewis presented a written estimate from Servpro for the clean-up and restoration to the areas effected on the north wall due to water damage. Per Chuck Lewis their estimate did not include all the rebuilding, as it would depend on their findings as the demolition occurs. Chuck also has a bid from Sisk Construction, LLC from Holden, Mo. After much discussion about possible increase expenses, possible asbestos and lead, this topic was tabled as Chuck was asked to get another bid if possible while trying to determine the best action needed.

Insurance Follow-up:

Don Malan reported that he did check with local insurance agencies, and none desire to write a policy for a church. He did get the name of Church Mutual Insurance in Wisconsin. He contacted their closest agent in Iowa, but after 2 months did not hear back. Thus, due to no other interested parties it was agreed to stay with our current insurance.

Follow Up - Community First Bank is listed as a mortgagee. It was determined this is incorrect as FCC has no mortgage. Judy Colburn, FCC Treasurer has contacted the bank and the insurance company. This is being corrected and FCC should receive the new policy with this removed. It was suggested that Judy Colburn contact the Records office and get documentation of this for our file at FCC.

New Business:

Outreach Monthly Payment 2022: The monthly payment schedule from DSWA noted that \$75 was to be paid to Ministerial Alliance quarterly, but \$750 is budgeted annually. A motion was made by Shawn Quick and seconded by Don Malan to have this adjusted and pay \$75 for 10 months to reach the annual \$750. Motion carried with one objection.

Chamber of Commerce Membership and Banquet:

Annual Membership Dues of \$50 are now payable. It was approved for FCC to remain members on motion by Judy Daniel and second by Don Malan.

Banquet is to be held in March. They have asked some CofC members to donate a basket for a Silent Auction fund raiser. After discussion, Carol Roberts volunteered for the Disciples Women group to provide this basket.

Tickets to the banquet are \$25. Lyssa Lile and her husband will plan to attend this with FCC paying for their tickets.

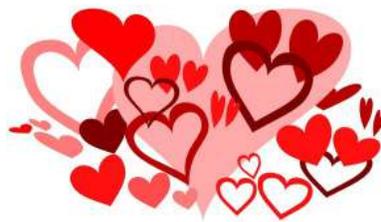
Department/Committee Reports:

Worship Department: Carol Ann Winburn reported that this department is planning a prayer event around Easter time. No details are available yet.

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

Adjournment: With no further business brought to the board, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM on motion of Carol Roberts and second by Shawn Quick.

Submitted by: Carol Roberts, Secretary



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

Total donations: \$28,985

Goal: \$40,000



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Pastor Sharla Hulsey

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*"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love."*

—1 Corinthians 13:13

*God
Love*