



# THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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## Your New Year's Resolution

Those of us who are computer literate know that default settings are what makes it possible not to have to reinvent the wheel every time we start a new document or internet session. Default settings are what the computer *always* does, unless it's told otherwise.

People also have default settings. Think about how you get ready for your day each morning. You likely do the same things in basically the same order every morning, unless something happens to throw you off. Or think about the way you shop at the grocery store. I'd bet that, for the most part, we all have an aisle or area we go to first, and move through the store in the same way from there on until we're done.

We might have default settings that guide how we relate to others. Most of us know somebody for whom immediately taking offense is a default. We might also know a person who defaults to gossip whenever they're in a conversation. And then there are folks who are in their own little world and barely notice or interact with anyone. That's a default setting, too.

I'm not a big fan of new year's resolutions that result from guilt about how we overindulged during the holiday season. Guilt just isn't a good motivator for lasting change, so a lot of the diets and exercise programs we start on January 1 have fallen by the wayside by February 1. If a person needs to eat better and exercise more, then we can start that at any time, and it should come out of a desire to feel better, not guilt over the number of Christmas cookies we consumed.

Instead, I would like to invite us all to undertake a different kind of resolution this year. This year, let's make kindness our default setting. As we make our way through the world, let's look for opportunities to be kind. They don't have to be huge or cost us a whole lot in money or time: maybe you notice that your checker at Walmart is having a tough day, so you give them a word of encouragement and a smile. Or someone is struggling with trying to carry too much stuff at once, so you offer to take some of it for them.

Imagine what the world could be like if everyone defaulted to kindness whenever we have the chance. Realistically, we know we can't make everyone be kind, but if each of us take every possible opportunity to be kind ourselves, it just might turn out to be contagious.

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



# Serving Schedule

## January 7

**Elder:** Carol Roberts

**Deacon:** Carol Hedrick, Lyssa Lile

**Greeter:** Carol Hedrick

**Scripture Reader:** Carol Hedrick

## January 14

**Elder:** John Daniel

**Deacon:** Judy Daniel, Sally Bremer

**Greeter:** Carol Roberts

**Scripture Reader:** Justin Quick

## January 21

**Elder:** Diana Rich

**Deacon:** Derek Lile, Jennifer Schmehl

**Greeter:** The Lile Family

**Scripture Reader:** Lyssa Lile

## January 28

**Elder:** Don Malan

**Deacon:** Kathy Wood, Peggy Thomas

**Greeter:** The Lile Family

**Scripture Reader:** Diana Rich

**Communion Preparer:** Carol Roberts

**Music Director:** Carol Ann Winburn — **Accompanist:** Mary Coffman

**Sound Techs:** Phyllis McBryer, Dianna Silvers, Justin Quick



## BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Allan Bopp
- 3 Robin Carter
- 4 Denise Burch
- 6 Julie Lewis
- 11 Weston Colburn
- 18 Lucille Munday
- 20 Ed Perkins
- 21 Shawn Quick
- 22 Justin Quick
- 27 Don Cole

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Ed & Lynda Perkins
- 12 Terry & Candi Agnew
- 18 Dorothy & Robin Carter
- 25 Jennifer & Oscar Schmehl
- 27 Chuck & Carol Lewis



## ATTENDANCE



Date	In-Person Worship	Online *
11/26	32	6
12/3	44	7
12/10	43	4
12/17	41	5
12/24	36	11

## BUDGET

### November Income

\$7,006.92

### November Expense

\$9,276.61

### YTD Income

\$103,177.42

### YTD Expense

\$116,383.79

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

The Outreach Department invites us to continue supporting the Community Food Pantry with our donations.

This month, let's focus on bringing paper products, like Kleenex, paper towels, and toilet paper.

Bring your donations to the church throughout this month. Thank you!



### "KETCH-UP" CAMPAIGN

The Stewardship Committee is starting a "Ketch-up" campaign to help replenish the FCC reserve fund, which has been needed throughout 2023 to cover basic operating expenses. In order to cover the deficit, we are asking for your help to reach our goal of \$20,000. Please note on your donation that it is for the "Ketch-up" campaign. Thank you for your continued support!



### ELDERS FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

Friday, January 5 at 6:30 p.m.  
Fellowship supper for 2023 & 2024 Elders and their significant others at John and Judy Daniel's house.



## IMPORTANT DATES

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| ➤ <u>NEW YEARS DAY/OFFICE</u><br><u>CLOSED</u> - Monday, Jan. 1  | ➤ <u>ELDERS MEETING</u><br>Sunday, January 14<br>after worship | ➤ <u>COMMUNITY CAFÉ</u><br>Tuesday, January 16<br>@ 5:30 pm |
| ➤ <u>DISCIPLES WOMEN</u><br>Tuesday, January 2 @ 6:30 pm         | ➤ <u>BOARD MEETING</u><br>Sunday, January 21<br>after worship  | ➤ <u>YOUTH GROUP</u><br>Jan. 10, 17, 24, & 31 @ 6 pm        |
| ➤ <u>ELDERS FELLOWSHIP SUPPER</u><br>Friday, January 5 @ 6:30 pm |  | ➤ <u>CHOIR PRACTICE</u><br>Wednesdays @ 7 pm                |

## THOUGHTS & PRAYERS - Sympathy for the families of Denise Hagberg, Russ Love, & Sarah Shoaf Koester

### Current & Ongoing

- ◆ Polly Allen, Greg Bartimus, Rob Carter, Joe Christopher, Eunice Cobb, Caroll Dodds, Shelby Duffield, Vickie Fowler, Joe & Peggy Fuller, Carolyn Ghys, Lona Grosshart, Marilyn Halliburton, Caleb Hoffard, Mary Irvin, Lori Koepsel, Mikey Lemm, Dan & Barta Milligan, Gene Morrison, Jaima O'Gradey, Hayley Patterson, Debbie Powell, Megan Scrivner, Jesse Stalker, Mary Ann Thornton, Bryce Triebel, and Nick Vaughn.

### At Home

- ◆ Julie Lewis
- ◆ Linda Wix

### Currently Serving in the Military

- ◆ Jordan Lopez
- ◆ Jordan Olson
- ◆ Rick Warren
- ◆ Matt Thompson

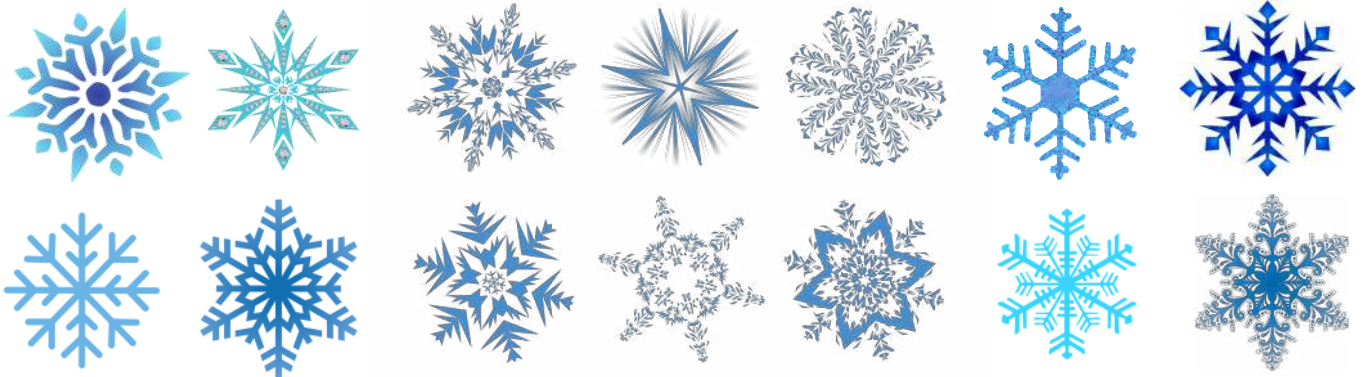




# January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>2</b>  <b>6:30PM</b> <b>DISCIPLES</b> <b>WOMEN</b>	<b>3</b>  <b>7PM</b> <b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>9AM – 12PM</b> <b>SON SHINE</b> <b>LADIES</b> <b>6:30PM</b> <b>ELDERS</b> <b>FELLOWSHIP</b> <b>SUPPER</b>	<b>6</b> <b>EPIPHANY</b>
<b>7</b> <b>9:30AM</b> <b>WORSHIP</b> <b>10:30AM</b> <b>LIFE GROUP</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>6PM</b> <b>YOUTH GROUP</b> <b>7PM</b> <b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  <b>9AM – 12PM</b> <b>SON SHINE</b> <b>LADIES</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>9:30AM</b> <b>WORSHIP</b> <b>10:30AM</b> <b>LIFE GROUP</b> <b>ELDERS MEETING</b>	<b>15</b> <b>MARTIN LUTHER</b> <b>KING JR. DAY</b>	<b>16</b>  <b>5:30PM</b> <b>COMMUNITY</b> <b>CAFÉ</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>6PM</b> <b>YOUTH GROUP</b> <b>7PM</b> <b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>9AM – 12PM</b> <b>SON SHINE</b> <b>LADIES</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>9:30AM</b> <b>WORSHIP</b> <b>10:30AM</b> <b>BOARD MEETING</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>6PM</b> <b>YOUTH GROUP</b> <b>7PM</b> <b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>9AM – 12PM</b> <b>SON SHINE</b> <b>LADIES</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>9:30AM</b> <b>WORSHIP</b> <b>10:30AM</b> <b>LIFE GROUP</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  <b>6PM</b> <b>YOUTH GROUP</b> <b>7PM</b> <b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b>			



## Upcoming Sermons

### **January 7 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord)**

Scripture: Mark 1:16-20; 2:13-17 (RCL: 1:16-20, Epiphany 3, Year B; 2:13-17, Epiphany 8, Year B)

Psalm: 62:5-8, 11-12

Theme: Jesus calls his first disciples

Title: "Follow Me"

*What I was thinking:* In Mark, the first four disciples Jesus calls to follow him are fishermen. The fifth is a tax collector, and his presence stirs up some controversy.

### **January 14 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany)**

*Sharla at school/Shawn Quick, preaching*

### **January 21 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany)**

Scripture: Mark 4:26-34 (RCL: Proper 6, Year B)

Psalm: 126

Theme: parables of the kingdom

Title: "Lazy Gardening"

*What I was thinking:* When Jesus tries to explain what the Reign of God he came to proclaim is like, he comes not with propositions and lectures, but with stories of everyday things—with a twist.

### **January 28 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany)**

Scripture: Mark 4:35-41 (RCL: Proper 7, Year B)

Psalm: 89:1-2, 5-9

Theme: Jesus stills a storm on the Sea of Galilee

Title: "Why are you sleeping when we're about to drown?!"

*What I was thinking:* The scene is reminiscent of the storm in Jonah 1, but with a very different outcome.

# First Christian Church Board Meeting Minutes December 17, 2023

Board members present: Deacons- Carol Lewis, Judy Colburn, Everett McBrayer, Gary Coffman, Lyssa Lile, Judy Daniel, Derek Lile, and Kathy Wood. Elders-, Phyllis McBrayer, Shawn Quick, Justin Quick, John Daniel, and Carol Roberts. Others present: Rev. Sharla Hulseley and Carol Ann Winburn.

Shawn Quick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:48 AM. He then opened with prayer.

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

The minutes of the Congregational Meeting of 11-5-23 were reviewed and approved on motion by Phyllis McBrayer and seconded by Kathy Wood. The minutes of the 11-19-2023 regular Board Meeting were reviewed and approved as presented on motion of Judy Daniel and second by John Daniel.

**Financial Reports:** The November 2023 Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet financial reports, as of 11-30-2023, were reviewed by Carol Lewis, Treasurer. She noted the November income of \$7,006.92 and expense of \$9,276.61. Year-to-date income of \$103,177.42 and Y-T-D expenses of \$116,383.79. The November report was approved on motion of Justin Quick and second by Everett McBrayer. The full reports are available and may be reviewed in the Church office.

**Ministers' Report:** Rev. Hulseley reviewed her December report that was included in the Board packet. She noted activities from November and December including meetings attended, several telephone calls, texts, hospital visits, in-person conversations. She noted that Morning Prayer continues via Facebook Live at 7:00. She reminded everyone of the Christmas Eve Service at 6:30. She expressed a big "Thank You" to all involved in the decorating the church for the Christmas season. She will be attending class in Tulsa in January. Shawn Quick will fill the pulpit January 14. Lenten Services are being planned by the Ministerial Alliance starting 02-21-24. Meals will be provided. More details to follow. Her full report is available in the and may be reviewed in the Church office.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Department/Committee Chairs:** Shawn Quick requested that 2023 Department and Committee chairs that have not prepared an "End of the Year" report highlighting their accomplishments to do so and put in his mailbox in the church office or give to him. He also noted he still needs 2024 Chairs for Christian Education and Evangelism Departments. He asked for volunteers or suggestions. Shawn will present the full list at the January Board meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Memorial/Gift Committee:** Judy Daniel, chair of this committee, noted she has received a request to replace the tall Christmas tree in the sanctuary. Everett McBrayer reports he is having trouble wiring it together each year. After much discussion a motion was made by Carol Roberts and seconded by Justin Quick to purchase a new tree for no more than \$1,000. This was approved. John Daniel stated he knows someone that might have access to get this at a lower price. Carol Roberts stated to be sure to check with the decorating group before purchasing.

**DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **Property-** Everett McBrayer reported he is researching the cost of new floor mats for the kitchen area. He will bring prices back in January for discussion.
- **Outreach-** Phyllis McBrayer noted at FCC will host the Community Café on 12-19-23 with ham (purchased by the Community Café Board) and side dishes. She reminded everyone the December FCC Outreach collection is cash donations for Coats for Kids. She also noted the Moulton Fund was been received and has now been distributed to 17 recipients. January Outreach collections will be paper products, and February will be soup and crackers.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

John & Judy Daniel reminded all 2023 and new 2024 Elders and spouses are invited to their home on January 5, 2024 at 6:30 pm for an End-of-Year fellowship get together.

**Adjournment:** With no further business brought to the Board, the meeting adjourned on motion of Justin Quick and second by John Daniel at 11:21 am.

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

Submitted by: Carol Roberts, Secretary

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**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 (92.1 News Now)
- 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)  
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Butler, MO 64730

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Return Service Requested

**Pastor Sharla Hulse**  
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**Lyssa Lile, Admin. Asst.**  
admin@fccbutler.org



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