



THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

11 W. Pine, Butler, MO 64730

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

Remember you are dust...

Lent starts early this year. The first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, falls on Valentine's Day this year. We'll have a service that night at 6:30, where we'll face the reality of our own sinfulness and mortality—and be assured of God's eternal love and grace.

On Ash Wednesday, we hear Scripture readings and sing songs that help us think about how we have fallen short of God's will for us. We receive ashes on our foreheads (or on our hands), to remind us that "we are dust, and to dust we shall return." We pray for God to forgive us and set us on a better path.

But since Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day this year, our service will focus even more than usual on God's love. A colleague of mine years ago, from a tradition that includes a prayer of confession followed by an assurance of pardon in worship every Sunday, argued that the words of assurance should come *before*, not after, the confession—in other words, we're able to come to God with our shortcomings *because* God is love and always ready to forgive. In our Ash Wednesday observance this year, we will reverse that order, perhaps even including the removal of the ashes that symbolize our sin before the service concludes.

Whether you attend Ash Wednesday or not (and I hope you do), I invite you to consider this question over the season of Lent: Do you know—really know—how much God loves you?

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



FEBRUARY

Serving Schedule



February 4

Elder: Chuck Lewis

Deacon: Don Cole & Gary Coffman

Greeter: Peggy Thomas

Scripture Reader: Carol Hedrick

3 Kimberly McGuire

4 Paula Brede

4 Terry Agnew

9 Beth Ann Davis

20 Chelsea McConkay

February 11

Elder: Shawn Quick

Deacon: Steve Hedrick & Bob Thomas

Greeter: Judy Taylor

Scripture Reader: Shawn Quick

February 18

Elder: Carol Roberts

Deacon: Carol Hedrick & Lyssa Lile

Greeter: The Lile Family

Scripture Reader: Lyssa Lile



February 25

Elder: John Daniel

Deacon: Judy Daniel & Sally Bremer

Greeter: Carol Roberts

Scripture Reader: Judy Daniel

1 A F & Deloris Baldwin

Communion Preparer: Phyllis McBrayer

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

Sound Techs: Phyllis McBrayer, Dianna Silvers, Justin Quick



BUDGET

December Income

\$15,215.33

December Expense

\$14,759.00

YTD Income

\$118,392.75

YTD Expense

\$131,142.79

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

ATTENDANCE

Date	In-Person Worship	Online *
12/31	38	5
1/7	41	9
1/14	-	-
1/21	34	7

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

The Outreach Department invites us to support the Community Food Pantry with our donations. This February, let's focus on *Soup and Crackers*. Bring you 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!



2024 LENTEN SERVICES — "The Kingdom of God"

- Services start at 5:30
- A light meal will be served after each service.
- An offering will be received each night to benefit the Butler Ministerial Alliance's emergency assistance fund.

February 21

Location: Ohio Street United Methodist Church
Preacher: Jeremy Henderson

February 28

Location: Ohio Street United Methodist Church
Preacher: Marla Kash

March 6

Location: First Christian Church
Preacher: Mary Love

March 13

Location: Church of the Nazarene
Preacher: Julie Nelson

March 20

Location: Church of the Nazarene
Preacher: Sharla Hulsey

IMPORTANT DATES

- DISCIPLES WOMEN
Tuesday, February 6
@ 6:30 pm
- ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
Wednesday, February 14
@ 6:30 pm
- COMMUNITY CAFÉ
Tuesday, February 20
@ 5:30 pm
- ELDERS MEETING
Sunday, February 11
after worship
- BOARD MEETING
Sunday, February 18
after worship
- YOUTH GROUP
Wednesdays @ 6 pm
- CHOIR PRACTICE
Wednesdays @ 7 pm

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

- Sympathy for the families of Glenn Casto, Gene Morrison, Mikey Lemm, and Joe Christopher.

Current & Ongoing

- ◆ Polly Allen, Greg Bartimus, Patricia Boyles, Eunice Cobb, Caroll Dodds, Brian Drebes, Shelby Duffield, Linda Fariman, Vickie Fowler, Joe & Peggy Fuller, Floyd & Winifred Gaston, Carolyn Ghys, Lona Grosshart, Marilyn Halliburton, Caleb Hoffard, Darcy Hoffard, Mary Irvin, Lori Koepsel, Dan & Barta Milligan, Charlie Padgham, Debbie Powell, 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





February



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 <i>Groundhog Day</i> 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	3
4 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM LIFE GROUP	5	6 6:30PM DISCIPLES WOMEN	7 6PM YOUTH GROUP 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE	8	9 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	10
11 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM LIFE GROUP ELDERS MEETING	12	13	14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 6PM YOUTH GROUP 6:30PM ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7:30PM CHOIR PRACTICE	15	16 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	17
18 9:30AM WORSHIP (WEEK OF COMPASSION) 10:30AM BOARD MEETING	19 <i>Presidents Day</i>	20 5:30PM COMMUNITY CAFE	21 6PM YOUTH GROUP 7:00PM CHOIR PRACTICE	22	23 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	24
25 9:30AM WORSHIP (WEEK OF COMPASSION) 10:30AM LIFE GROUP	26	27	28 6PM YOUTH GROUP 7:00PM CHOIR PRACTICE	29		



Upcoming Sermons

February 4, 2024 (5th Sunday after Epiphany)

Scripture: Mark 6:1-29 (RCL: Proper 9 & 10, Year B)

Psalm: 122

Theme: Rejection at Nazareth, sending of the Twelve, death of John the Baptist

Title: "...but his soul goes marching on"

What I was thinking: There is a lot in this reading, probably too much for one sermon. The question that comes to mind immediately is why these three stories are all included.

February 11, 2024 (Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration)

Scripture: Mark 8:27—9:8 (RCL: Proper 19, Lent 2, and Transfiguration, Year B)

Psalm: Psalm 27:1-4

Theme: Transfiguration and a passion prediction

Title: "That's not right!"

What I was thinking: Peter says he believes Jesus is the Messiah, but then Jesus reveals that the Messiah will suffer and die. Peter objects!

February 18, 2024 (1st Sunday in Lent)

Scripture: Mark 9:30-37 (RCL: Proper 20, Year B)

Psalm: 32:1-5

Theme: Another passion prediction

Title: "But then what happens?"

What I was thinking: This is the second of three passion predictions in Mark. Each time, the disciples make clear they do not understand what Jesus is telling them.

February 25, 2024 (2nd Sunday in Lent)

Scripture: Mark 10:17-31 (RCL: Proper 23, Year B)

Psalm: 19:7-10

Theme: Jesus and a wealthy man

Title: "Seriously?"

What I was thinking: Jesus encounters a rich man who wants to follow him, but he asks something of the man that seems impossible. The question comes to mind what Jesus might be asking of us that feels impossible.

**First Christian Church
Board Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2024**

Board members present: Deacons-Carol Hedrick, Jennifer Schmehl, Kathy Wood, Peggy Thomas, Gary Coffman, Steve Hedrick, Bob Thomas. Elders-Carol Roberts, Diana Rich, Don Malan, Shawn Quick. Voting Member-Carol Lewis. Others present-Rev. Sharla Hulseley, Carol Ann Winburn, Everett McBrayer, Phyllis McBrayer.

Shawn Quick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:37 am. He then opened with a prayer.

After review and additions, the agenda was unanimously adopted on the motion by Diana Rich and second by Kathy Wood.

The minutes of the December 17, 2024 regular Board Meeting were reviewed. Carol Roberts noted that the name of the meeting should be Board Meeting rather than Congregational Meeting. With that correction, the minutes were approved on the motion of Kathy Wood and second by Carol Hedrick.

Financial Reports: The December 2023 Profit and Loss Budget Performance report and the Balance Financial Sheets were reviewed by Carol Lewis, Treasurer. She noted that in the Profit and Loss report the expenses were greater than the income for the month. She noted a few reasons for this, including the Workmen's Compensation that was paid and the gas bill that reflects a payment for 3 months instead of one. However, the YTD expenses of \$131,142.79 is not that far from the yearly budget of \$131,928.96. Carol Roberts questioned that the "Ketchup" funds are being used to pay bills according to the report. She felt that this was not the reason that was given to the congregation for the fund raiser. Carol Lewis added that it all depends on the month we had, and December did have necessary expenses that necessitated the use of the Ketchup fund. Sharla stated that if the money was put into the restricted funds, we would just have to take it back out in order to pay bills. The Balance Sheet was reviewed with the notation that the Moulton Fund Trust of -\$3.00 was covered by a donation and should read \$0.00.

Minister's Report: Reverend Hulseley thanked Shawn for filling in for her in the pulpit on January 21, 2024. She stated he was supposed to do that last Sunday while she was away, however services were not held due to weather, so he agreed to do it for her today. She then reviewed her January report that was included in the Board packet. She noted that activities from December and January included meetings she attended and telephone, text and in person conversations she had. She reported that the Ministerial Alliance has set the dates for the Lenten services. We will be hosting on March 6. They have decided to do a meal with each service. Jennifer Schmehl questioned who would be in charge of the meal for FCC, and Phyllis McBrayer stated that the Outreach committee would do that. Reverend Hulseley then stated she was finished with the in-person portion of her class, but still has a paper due at a later date.

OLD BUSINESS

Department /Committee Chairs: Shawn reported that all have been filled and that we would receive a list of each committee and chair at next month's Board meeting.

Update—Painting of the North Wall: Chuck Lewis stated he talked with the painter who said he didn't want to start when it is so cold. He is to call when he is ready. Chuck stated that we will need to take down the rest of the wreaths and garlands. Phyllis McBrayer stated that she and Mary Coffman talked about that today and will do it soon. Chuck stated he could help if needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Carol Roberts asked if the purchase of the Christmas tree that was approved last month should be under old or new business. Shawn stated that this purchase was tabled for now.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

Property: Everett McBrayer states he has not checked into the cost of floor mats for the kitchen yet.

Education: Shawn reports that work has begun for Vacation Bible School. Phyllis McBrayer states that summer camp will be July 21-26. Rev. Hulsey mentioned that the Chalice Press has 1 program suitable for VBS that would be Disciple based. Phyllis McBrayer stated that Outback Rock has a 2 day program similar to that we've used before. She said we have a lot of the supplies needed to use that program which might be a money savings for us.

OTHER BUSINESS: Carol Ann Winburn stated that the December outreach project that benefitted "Coats for Kids" was very much appreciated. She stated that many of the congregation had already donated money prior to the December outreach project, and that our church congregation is a large supporter of the Coats for Kids project.

Adjournment: With no further business brought to the Board, the meeting adjourned on the motion of Carol Roberts and second by Carol Hedrick.

Closing Prayer: Reverend Hulsey closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted by: Jennifer Schmehl, Secretary

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 (92.1 News Now)
- 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.

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

revsharkie@gmail.com

Lyssa Lile, Admin. Asst.

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THE MESSENGER



*My God shall supply all your
need according to his riches in
glory by Christ Jesus.*

-Philippians 4:19

