



THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

11 W. Pine, Butler, MO 64730

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“...but is it preaching?”

My most recent class (which isn't quite over; I'm still working on the final paper) was called “Preaching Across Platforms.” I went into it without the slightest idea what that title meant. What is a *platform*? I wondered. And how does one go about preaching *across* platforms?

I'm still not sure I fully understand what preaching *across* platforms means. I guess I'm just a bit too much of a language stickler; *across* to me indicates a path from one to the other, and that's not really what we worked on in class. What the class was trying to get us to think about is whether preaching can take place in other formats or settings besides a sermon, delivered in a sanctuary, during a worship service. First we had to determine what we think *preaching* is. Then we needed to identify other *platforms* where we might be called on to speak, and then answer the question whether such speaking moments can be considered preaching. By *platforms* the professor meant other settings or styles; in class we each had to deliver a proclamation in another platform. We had two poems—one as though delivered at a reading focused on poems based on Biblical texts, the other a “slam” (competition) poem—a simulated podcast, and a mini-TED talk. (A TED talk has a person speaking for 20-30 minutes on a topic of interest; if you go online you can find them on all sorts of subjects. My classmate had to call his a “mini” TED talk because we weren't given that much time to speak.) Can those be considered preaching?

My final paper focuses on two other platforms: a Memorial Day observance at a local VFW post and the memorial lesson that takes place at annual Sacred Harp singings and conventions. Are they preaching? How do we know? As with myself, my three classmates, and our professor, each person has a different definition of *preaching* and what an appropriate setting for preaching might look like.

But this isn't just a topic we preachers need to think about. All Christians have opportunities to *proclaim* their faith, to talk about what Jesus has meant for us, and I'm still Baptist enough to believe it's important that all Christians do so whenever and however we're able. Are there settings in which that's okay and others in which it isn't? Are there places where we would be quite comfortable making such a statement, and others where we wouldn't be? How do we know? How do we tailor our proclamation for different settings? If you were giving a testimony during a worship service, would you say something different from what you might say if you were talking to young people around a campfire? Would you say something different if your proclamation opportunity came in a conversation with a friend?

As we move toward Easter, toward that greatest proclamation of all—the Lord is risen indeed!—let's all think about the times and places where we might take a chance and share our faith.

Sharla



MARCH

Serving Schedule



March 3

Elder: Diana Rich

Deacon: Derek Lile & Jennifer Schmehl

Greeter: Carol Hedrick

Scripture Reader: Carol Hedrick

1 Chuck Lewis

3 Bob Thomas

7 Alan Munday

8 Louise Foster

22 Carol Roberts

March 10

Elder: Don Malan

Deacon: Kathy Wood & Peggy Thomas

Greeter: Carol Roberts

Scripture Reader: Lyssa Lile

March 17

Elder: Chuck Lewis

Deacon: Don Cole & Gary Coffman

Greeter: Peggy Thomas

Scripture Reader: Phyllis McBrayer

HAPPY Anniversary

1 Mike White & Sharla Hulsey

21 Don & Juanita Huenefeldt

27 Greg & Jeanie Bartimus

March 24

Elder: Shawn Quick

Deacon: Steve Hedrick & Bob Thomas

Greeter: Bob Thomas

Scripture Reader: Shawn Quick

March 31

Elder: Carol Roberts

Deacon: Carol Hedrick & Lyssa Lile

Greeter: The Lile family

Scripture Reader: Lyssa Lile

Communion Preparer: Carol Hedrick

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

Sound Techs: Phyllis McBrayer, Dianna Silvers, Justin Quick



BUDGET

January Income

\$20,200.00

January Expense

\$8,916.77

YTD Income

\$20,200.00

YTD Expense

\$8,916.77

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



ATTENDANCE



Date	In-Person Worship	Online *
1/28	40	5
2/4	34	5
2/11	32	4
2/18	37	3

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

The Outreach Department invites us to support the Community Food Pantry with our donations. This March, let's focus on cereal, cereal bars, granola, and oatmeal. 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 was 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. Currently, we have raised \$3,438. 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.

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

MEMBERSHIP FELLOWSHIP



Join us for a Baked Potato Bar! Come enjoy delicious toppings and great company!

Sunday, March 3 after Worship (approx. 10:45 a.m.) in the FCC Fellowship Hall.

IMPORTANT DATES

- DISCIPLES WOMEN
Tuesday, March 5
@ 6:30 pm
- ELDER'S MEETING
Sunday, March 10
after worship
- PALM SUNDAY – March 24
- LENTEN SERVICE @ FCC
Wednesday, March 6
@ 5:30 pm
- BOARD MEETING
Sunday, March 17
after worship
- EASTER SUNDAY – March 31
- COMMUNITY CAFÉ
Tuesday, March 19
@ 5:30 pm
- YOUTH GROUP
Wednesdays @ 6 pm
- CHOIR PRACTICE
Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

- Sympathy for the families of Gene Morrison, Glenn Casto, Patricia McGuire, Jeanne Galloway, and Larry Smalley

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, Bill Hulsey, Mary Irvin, Lori Koepsel, Lois McCormick, Dan & Barta Milligan, Charlie Padgham, Debbie Powell, Megan Scrivner, Jesse Stalker, Mary Ann Thornton, and Nick Vaughn.

At Home

- ◆ Julie Lewis
- ◆ Linda Wix

Currently Serving in the Military

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





March



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING - MARCH 24 & 31 https://fccbutler.org/donate/</p> <p>The Easter Offering supports General Ministries of the Church. General ministries serve across the United States and Canada, and around the world. General Ministries also partner in ministry with a variety of far-reaching and unique organizations.</p>					1	2
3 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:45AM BAKED POTATO BAR	4	5 6:30PM DISCIPLES WOMEN	6 5:30 PM LENTEN SERVICE @ FCC 7:15PM CHOIR PRACTICE	7	8 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	9
10 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM LIFE GROUP ELDERS MEETING	11	12	13 5:30 PM LENTEN SERVICE @ NAZARENE 6PM YOUTH GROUP 7:15PM CHOIR PRACTICE	14	15 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	16
17 9:30AM WORSHIP (WEEK OF COMPASSION) 10:30AM BOARD MEETING	18	19 5:30PM COMMUNITY CAFÉ	20 5:30 PM LENTEN SERVICE @ NAZARENE 6PM YOUTH GROUP 7:15PM CHOIR PRACTICE	21	22 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	23
24 / 31 PALM SUNDAY/ EASTER 9:30AM WORSHIP (EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING) 10:30AM LIFE GROUP	25	26	27 6PM YOUTH GROUP 7:00PM CHOIR PRACTICE	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY	29 GOOD FRIDAY 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	30



Upcoming Sermons

March 3, 2024 (3rd Sunday in Lent)

Scripture: Mark 10:32-52 (RCL: Proper 24 & 25, Year B)

Psalm: 34:11-14

Theme: Bartimaeus receives his sight

Title: "The Way of the Cross"

What I was thinking: Our reading today includes a third passion prediction and a healing story. There is a tantalizing detail in the story that is worth exploring.

March 10, 2024 (4th Sunday in Lent)

Shawn Quick, preaching

Scripture: Mark 12:28-44 (RCL: Proper 26 & 27, Year B)

Psalm: 89:14

Title: "The Greatest Commandment"

March 17, 2024 (5th Sunday in Lent)

Scripture: Mark 13:1-27 (RCL: 1-8, Proper 28; 24-37, Advent 1, both Year B)

Psalm: 102:12-17

Theme: Mark's "little apocalypse"

Title: "It's the end of the world as we know it"

What I was thinking: Mark 13 is Jesus' description of the end-times. What does it mean for us, when we have been waiting for centuries?

March 24, 2024 (Palm Sunday)

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

Psalm: 118:25-29

Theme: The triumphal entry and an anointing

Title: "I am your king."

What I was thinking: We were given two text options for today in the Narrative Lectionary. I'm choosing both and thinking about what, when seen together, they tell us about Jesus.

March 31, 2024 (Easter Sunday)

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8

Psalm: 118:21-27

Theme: The shortest resurrection story

Title: "I went to a fight and a hockey game broke out."

What I was thinking: The original ending of Mark is at verse 8. Everything after that was added later—because the early church found his resurrection narrative unsatisfactory when compared to the ones in the other three Gospels. Why?

First Christian Church Board Meeting Minutes February 18, 2024

Board members present: Deacons-Carol Hedrick, Lyssa Lile, Judy Daniel, Derek Lile, Jennifer Schmehl, Kathy Wood, Peggy Thomas, Gary Coffman, Steve Hedrick, Bob Thomas. Elders- John Daniel, Carol Roberts, Shawn Quick, Chuck Lewis. Voting member-Carol Lewis. Others present-Rev. Sharla Hulsey, Carol Ann Winburn, Everett McBrayer, Phyllis McBrayer.

Shawn Quick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:38 am. Chuck Lewis opened with prayer.

After review and additions, the agenda was unanimously adopted on a motion made by Judy Daniel and second by Carol Roberts.

The minutes of the January 21, 2024 meeting were included in the board packet and reviewed by members present. They were unanimously approved after the motion was made by John Daniel and seconded by Gary Coffman.

Financial Reports: The Profit and Loss report for January was reviewed by Carol Lewis. She states we had a very good month with a total income of \$20,200.00 and a net income of \$11,283.23. John Daniel noted that in January, people often give their offerings for the whole year, resulting in higher than normal income. The Balance Sheet was then reviewed. A motion to accept the Financial reports was made by Chuck Lewis, second by Kathy Wood and unanimously passed.

Minister's Report: Rev. Hulsey reports several telephone, text and in-person conversations with members, non-members and youth. She noted several meetings she attended, and a funeral and visitation she participated in. She reviewed the schedule for upcoming Lenten services and services for Holy Week.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dept. Chairs: Shawn Quick presented the list of Dept. Chairs for 2024. Carol Roberts reminded us that the Pastoral Support and Memorial Gifts committees need to meet to elect committee chairperson and to re-establish regular meetings.

North Wall: Chuck Lewis said that he talked with the painter and was told that he would begin in 2-3 weeks.

Kitchen Mats: Everett said he was going to check with Heckadon Auction about the floor mats they had.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lyssa Lile spoke of the Butler Chamber of Commerce Membership Renewal and Volunteer Opportunities letter that she received and included in the board packet. The annual fee is \$100.00. A motion made by Carol Roberts, seconded by Chuck Lewis, to renew our membership passed unanimously. John Daniel volunteered to help the Chamber with the annual Christmas Parade. Rev. Hulsey agreed to speak at one of the Chamber's meetings if they wanted her to.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Membership: Carol Roberts states the fellowship subcommittee met and planned the activities for the year. Shawn Quick stated it would be nice if some of our members who don't regularly come to church or are home-bound would be able to attend our fellowship dinners. Jennifer Schmehl stated that perhaps offering a ride to some of those members would enable them to attend.

Endowment: John Daniel mentioned that the statement for the Church's endowment fund (included in this month's packet) revealed that many of our investments are very conservative. He suggested the committee meet and look into maybe changing to more aggressive funds.

Other Business: There being no further business brought to the attention of the board, the meeting was adjourned on the motion by Carol Roberts, with second by Chuck Lewis.

Respectfully submitted by: Jennifer Schmehl, Secretary.





First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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Return Service Requested

Pastor Sharla Hulse

revsharkie@gmail.com

Lyssa Lile, Admin. Asst.

admin@fccbutler.org



THE MESSENGER



*"For my yoke is easy,
and my burden is light."*

-Matthew 11:30

