



# THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

11 W. Pine, Butler, MO 64730

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I just might make it...

I thought you might like an update on my Doctor of Ministry program. I've been taking classes twice a year since the summer of 2020 (with the exception of January of 2022, when I was recovering from knee replacement). The program calls for three foundation courses—every doctoral student takes these—and then four courses in the area in which we specialize. For me that's preaching. Each class includes a weeklong "intensive," in which we attend all-day sessions for a week. Before and after the intensive we have more work to do, including reading and some writing assignments of various lengths. We also take a Saturday morning project development seminar (also via Zoom) most terms.

I've now completed all these classes, other than two of the six Saturday morning sessions, and am moving into the project phase. Each project includes an "act of ministry," which in my case will involve preaching. This summer I'll be writing up a proposal and getting it approved by my advisor. Next will be actually doing the act of ministry, evaluating it, writing a report, and presenting it for final approval.

The actual substance of my project is at this point still taking shape, but I am hoping to explore how preachers can help congregations and communities resist anti-Semitism. Every time I look at the news here lately, I recognize how timely the topic is. Anti-Semitism was already on the rise before the Hamas attack on Israel last October, but since then it seems to be increasing even more.

I'm not going to get into the politics of the Israel-Hamas conflict or the situation facing the Palestinian people, or how leaders in the U.S. are responding to the conflict, because that is a current topic that may or may not remain timely. But anti-Semitism is always timely, unfortunately.

I have a hypothesis that one reason for the recent increase in anti-Semitism is that so many years have passed since 1945 that people who remember the Holocaust, who saw the horrors of the Nazi death camps, are very elderly or have died. After 1945 many Christians came to realize how our Biblical interpretation, preaching, and teaching have contributed for centuries to anti-Semitic attitudes and violence. We recognized a need to be a great deal more careful how we present the Gospel and how we handle certain Biblical texts that seem to blame Jews for Jesus' death. But so much time has gone by that the collective memory of the Holocaust is fading, and with it our commitment to, as the title of one of the books on my shelf puts it, *Preaching the Gospels Without Blaming the Jews*. My hope is to remind us all that even when we have the best of intentions, our careless words—especially in the pulpit—can do immense harm. I want to help us refocus on Jesus' Greatest Commandments (which Jesus did not invent out of whole cloth, but came out of the Hebrew Scriptures, Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18, respectively), remembering that we Christians are grafted onto the family tree that God began with Abraham and Sarah, and that our Jewish neighbors are among those we are commanded to love.

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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FAITH ADVENTURES YOUTH CAMP

*Camp Galilee in El Dorado Springs Missouri*

#### Camp 2024



Try It (grades K - 2<sup>nd</sup>); July 25 - 26  
JYF (grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>); July 22 - 26  
Chi Rho (grades 6<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup>); July 22 - 26  
CYF (grades 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>); July 22 - 26

Contact the church office for a camp registration form. *All forms need to be returned to the church office by June 1<sup>st</sup>.*

### OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

This May, we will be supporting the Community Food Pantry with donations of *lunch type food items*. Examples: canned tuna/chicken, peanut butter, jelly, ramen, canned soup, and canned pasta (Chef Boyardee). Bring donations to the church throughout the month. Thank you!

### MEMBERSHIP FELLOWSHIP



Join us for a Taco Bar! Come enjoy delicious tacos and great company!

Sunday, May 5 after Worship  
(approx. 10:30 a.m.) in the FCC Fellowship Hall.

### “KETCH-UP” CAMPAIGN

The Stewardship Committee is starting a “Ketch-up” campaign to help replenish the FCC reserve fund. The goal is \$20,000. Currently, we have raised \$4,198.00. Please note on your donation that it is for the “Ketch-up” campaign. Thank you for your continued



### VBS

**Dates:** July 17 & 18

**Time:** 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

**Grades:** 4 years of age through the completion of 5th grade



## IMPORTANT DATES

- FELLOWSHIP TACO BAR  
Sunday, May 5  
@ 10:45 am
- DISCIPLES WOMEN  
Tuesday, May 7  
@ 6:30 pm
- BOARD MEETING  
Sunday, May 19  
after worship
- COMMUNITY CAFÉ  
Tuesday, May 21  
@ 5:30 pm
- MEMORIAL DAY/OFFICE CLOSED  
Monday, May 27
- YOUTH GROUP  
Wednesday, May 1, 8, & 15  
@ 6 p.m.
- CHOIR PRACTICE  
Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm

## THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

### Current & Ongoing

- ◆ Jenny Allen, Neoma Anderson, Greg Bartimus, Kathy Bunch, Eunice Cobb, Caroll Dodds, Shelby Duffield, Marilyn Eneff, Linda Fairman, Louise Foster, Vickie Fowler, Floyd & Winifred Gaston, Art & Carolyn Ghys, Lona Grosshart, The Hoffard family, Bill Hulse, Mary Irvin, Lori Koepsel, Pat & Terry Lodge, Don Malan, Carol McCanles, Lois McCormick, Marvin McElwain, Karen Middleton, Debbie Powell, Nancy Schneider, Megan Scrivner, Jesse Stalker, Mary Ann Thornton, Nick Vaughn, Roger Watts

### At Home

- ◆ Julie Lewis
- ◆ Linda Wix

### Currently Serving in the Military

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





# May



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6PM YOUTH GROUP 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE	2	3 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	4
5 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:45AM TACO BAR	6	7 6:30PM DISCIPLES WOMEN	8 6PM YOUTH GROUP 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE	9	10 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	11
12 MOTHER'S DAY 9:30AM WORSHIP (PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING) 10:30AM LIFE GROUP	13	14	15 6PM YOUTH GROUP 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE	16	17 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	18
19 PENTECOST 9:30AM WORSHIP (PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING) 10:30AM BOARD MEETING	20	21 5:30PM COMMUNITY CAFÉ	22 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE	23	24 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	25
26 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM LIFE GROUP	27 Memorial Day  OFFICE CLOSED	28	29 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE	30	31 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	



## Upcoming Sermons

### **May 5, 2024 (6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)**

*Scripture:* 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (RCL: Epiphany 4, Year C)

*Psalm:* 71:1-3, 5-6, 16

*Theme:* The “love chapter” in context

*Title:* “What’s Love Got to Do with It?”

*What I was thinking:* We’re familiar, of course, with the “love chapter,” but it’s in the midst of a letter. If we look at its place in that letter, it might make our understanding that much richer.

### **May 12, 2024 (7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)**

*Scripture:* 1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-58

*Psalm:* 139:7-12, 17-18

*Theme:* What Paul said about death and resurrection

*Title:* “Our Last Enemy”

*What I was thinking:* 1 Corinthians 15 is a long discussion of Paul’s understanding of death and resurrection in light of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### **May 19, 2024 (Pentecost)**

*Scripture:* 1 Corinthians 12:1-13 (RCL: Pentecost, Year A; Epiphany 2, Year C)

*Responsive Reading:* Joel 2:23, 28-32a

*Theme:* The role of the Holy Spirit in Christians’ lives

*Title:* “We’re one, but we’re not the same”

*What I was thinking:* Paul begins chapter 12 with an indication that he’s answering a question the Corinthians have asked him. “Now concerning spiritual gifts...” What might Paul be trying to accomplish here, and what lesson can we draw from what he says to the fractious Corinthian church?

### **May 26, 2024 (Trinity Sunday)**

*Scripture:* Psalm 119:145-152; Matthew 14:13

*Psalm:* 63:1-7

*Theme:* The spiritual discipline of meditation

*Title:* “Sometimes I sits and thinks...”

*What I was thinking:* This summer I’m going to focus on twelve “spiritual disciplines,” practices that can help us deepen our relationship with God and how we live our faith every day. The first one is meditation, something that the world around us associates most commonly with eastern religions; but Christian meditation is something a bit different.

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

Board members present: Deacons-Judy Daniel, Jennifer Schmehl, Peggy Thomas, Gary Coffman, Bob Thomas. Elders-John Daniel, Carol Roberts, Diana Rich, Shawn Quick, Chuck Lewis. Voting Member, Carol Lewis. Others present-Rev. Sharla Hulseley, Carol Ann Winburn, Everett McBrayer.

Shawn Quick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:39am. Chuck Lewis gave the prayer. After review and additions, the agenda was unanimously approved after a motion made by John Daniel and seconded by Diana Rich.

The minutes from the March 17, 2024 board meeting were reviewed by the members present. A motion was made by Judy Daniel and seconded by Gary Coffman to accept the minutes and was unanimously approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS—**

The Profit and Loss Budget Performance was reviewed by Carol Lewis. March showed a total income of \$9,589.20. Total expenses was \$12,271.59 which resulted in a net income of -\$2,682.39. Carol mentioned that the churches quarterly insurance of approximately \$2,000.00 was paid. Year To Date showed a total income of \$36,797.57 with expenses year to date of \$31,28.36, which resulted in a profit of \$5,549.21. The Balance Sheet was reviewed. Motion was made by Bob Thomas to accept the financial reports and seconded by Chuck Lewis. Motion passed unanimously.

**MINISTER'S REPORT—**

Rev. Hulseley reviewed her activities this past month. She added that she attended the Faith Adventures Camp rally on April 14 and really enjoyed it. She has learned that she will not have to travel to Tulsa in June for class. The Food Pantry is in need of volunteers that can do heavy lifting. They also are looking for someone with experience with financial development and fund-raising for non-profit agencies to help them establish a comprehensive program for the Food Pantry.

**OLD BUSINESS—**

Kitchen mats—Sharla said she has been looking but hasn't found any reasonably priced mats yet. She will keep looking.

**NEW BUSINESS—**

The storage space lease is due to be renewed. Don Malan rents it, and needs to sign the contract to renew. Diana Rich will take the contract to Don. Carol Roberts moved that we accept the lease renewal pending Mr. Malan's signature, seconded by Carol Lewis and passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS—**

Everett McBrayer reported that Kershner Heating and Cooling had come to do some repairs on the furnace. They also did routine maintenance.

He then questioned where the property lines are on the lot south of the church that the storage building is on. He said the adjoining business has moved their dumpster on to our parking lot. After some discussion, Gary Coffman will speak with Mary Coffman to see if she can determine those boundaries. If she cannot, then the county surveyor can probably advise us.

*Board Minutes Cont.*

Before adjourning, Shawn directed the board's attention to the last 2 pages in the Board packet. John Daniel reviewed the Christian Church Foundation account statement with the Board.

Carol Roberts stated that Owen is going to Washington D.C. in June for the Educator Rising national conference as a result of winning 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place at the state level. He asked if the church could do a bake sale to help him raise funds for his room and board while there. It was decided to not do a bake sale but instead have a donation bucket at the upcoming Taco lunch and see what that brings. Several members indicated that we would definitely help him with this. Carol also stated that there had been mention of Disciples Women's group possibly helping with that.

**ADJOURNMENT—**

There being no further business, Gary Coffman made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Carol Roberts. Approved unanimously at 1116.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Schmehl, Sec.



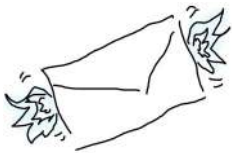


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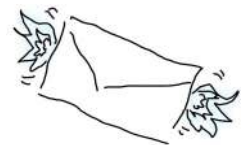
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Return Service Requested

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



# THE MESSENGER



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*“He is the reflection of God’s glory  
and the exact imprint of God’s very  
being, and he sustains all things by  
his powerful word.”*

*-Hebrews 1:3a*

