



June 2, 2024 9:30 a.m.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**



11 W. Pine St.  
Butler, MO 64730  
660.679.3066

**Email:** [admin@fccbutler.org](mailto:admin@fccbutler.org)  
**Website:** [fccbutler.org](http://fccbutler.org)  
**Facebook:** [@FCCButlerMO](https://www.facebook.com/FCCButlerMO)

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, June 2, 2024

## Joys and Concerns

Sharla Hulsey

*In order to respect privacy, joys and concerns will be discussed before the public livestream. Please fill out a prayer request form and place in the offering tray during communion.*

## Welcome and Announcements

Don Malan, Elder

*If you are joining Sunday worship via Facebook Live, let us know you are tuning in by leaving a comment on the live stream video or visit [fccbutler.org](http://fccbutler.org) and click the Register Attendance button.*

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

Phyllis McBrayer

## WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

### Prelude

Mary Coffman & Lynda Perkins

*Bringing the Light of Christ into the Sanctuary*

### \*Call to worship (please rise as able)

Don Malan & Congregation

Psalm 70:1, 4

L: Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;

**P: O LORD, make haste to help me!**

L: Let all who seek you  
rejoice and be glad in you.

**P: Let those who love your salvation  
say evermore, "God is great!"**

### \*Opening Hymn

CH #25 (1,3,5)

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

### \*Invocation

Don Malan & Congregation

**O God, in Jesus Christ you have made a way for us to have an eternal relationship with you. We seek to follow him, to learn from him, to abide in his love. May your Spirit be at work within us, to keep us connected with the true Vine, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

### Prayer Hymn

CH #99 (All)

"O, How I Love Jesus"

### Silent Meditation

## Pastoral Prayer - "The Lord's Prayer"

Sharla Hulsey

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## Musical Interlude

Mary Coffman

## Responsive Reading

Don Malan & Congregation

Psalm 17:1-2, 6-8, 15 (JPS Translation)

L: Hear, O LORD, what is just;  
heed my cry, give ear to my prayer,  
uttered without guile.

**P: My vindication will come from You;  
Your eyes will behold what is right.**

L: I call on You;  
You will answer me, God;

**P: turn Your ear to me,  
hear what I say.**

L: Display Your faithfulness in wondrous deeds,  
You who deliver with Your right hand  
those who seek refuge from assailants.

**P: Guard me like the apple of Your eye;  
hide me in the shadow of Your wings...**

L: Then I, justified, will behold Your face;

**P: awake, I am filled with the vision of You.**

## Special Music

Adult Choir

"If My People will Pray"

## Scripture

Carol Hedrick

*John 15:1-7*

## Message

Sharla Hulsey

"Not a Vending Machine"

## Invitation to Discipleship

Sharla Hulsey

## \*Invitation Hymn

CH #545 (All)

"He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!"

## Musical Interlude

Mary Coffman

## Offering Meditation

Diana Rich

Tithes & Offerings

*Offering trays will be passed in the pews.*

Diaconate

\*Doxology

CH #47

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

Don Malan

Call to Communion

Sharla Hulsey

Communion Hymn

CH #420 (1,3,5)

“I Come with Joy”

Words of Institution

Sharla Hulsey

Communion Prayer

Don Malan

Distribution of the Elements

Diaconate

*Everyone is welcome at Christ’s Table. Those who are comfortable doing so, please come forward down the center aisle to partake at the table. Deacons will serve those who remain seated.*

**WE DEPART TO SERVE**

\*Benediction

Sharla Hulsey

*Taking the Light of Christ into the World*

\*Closing Hymn

CH #550 (1)

“There’s Within My Heart a Melody”

\* Please rise as able

**SERVING TODAY**

**Pastor:** Sharla Hulsey

**Greeter:** Carol Hedrick

**Elder:** Don Malan

**Scripture Reader:** Carol Hedrick

**Deacons:** Jennifer Schmehl,  
Peggy Thomas

**Choir Director:** Carol Ann Winburn

**Accompanist:** Mary Coffman

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

• **OUTREACH MISSION**

This June, we will be supporting the Carpenter’s Cup and the Bates County Health Center with donations for the Back to School Project. Our contributions will be crayons, colored pencils, Kleenex, and backpacks. Bring donations to the church throughout the month. Thank you!

• **KETCH-UP CAMPAIGN**

The Stewardship Committee started a “Ketch-up” campaign to help replenish the FCC reserve fund. The goal is \$20,000. Please note on your donation that it is for the “Ketch-Up” campaign.

• **VBS MEETING**– Tuesday, June 4 @ 5 p.m.

• **DISCIPLES WOMEN** - Tuesday, June 4 @ 6:30 p.m.

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**THIS WEEK’S EVENTS**

Sunday, June 2:	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Life Group
Tuesday, June 4:	5:00 p.m.	<b>VBS Meeting</b>
	6:30 p.m.	<b>Disciples Women</b>
Wednesday, June 5:	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Friday, June 7:	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Son Shine Ladies

**NEXT WEEK’S EVENTS**

Sunday, June 9:	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Life Group
Wednesday, June 12:	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Friday, June 14:	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Son Shine Ladies

## PRACTICING THE DISCIPLINE OF PRAYER

*It's probably fair to assume that if we're Christians, we are already praying. But if you feel a need to expand or improve your prayer habits, here are a few suggestions.*

- ◆ *Morning Prayer:* You can always join us on the livestream morning prayer on the church's Facebook page. It's live at 7 a.m. daily; if 7 a.m. doesn't work for you, the stream is available at any time of the day. We pray set prayers (the Lord's Prayer, the *Gloria Patri*), listen to Scripture, sing a hymn, and spend time in silence.
- ◆ *Fixed-hour prayer* is what people who live in monastic communities do. We don't have to live in such places to pray at set times of day. You might choose to pray every day at noon, or at some other time. I've heard of churches where everyone is asked to stop what they're doing and pray at 10, 2, and 4 (like on the old Dr Pepper bottles). Or you can pray the traditional "hours" monastic houses follow: Early morning, midday, vespers (around 5 p.m.), and compline (at the end of the day).
- ◆ *Pray the same prayer daily.* The Lord's Prayer is the obvious choice here. You might also choose the prayer of St. Francis (the one that starts with "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace...") You can find it in the Chalice Hymnal or online.
- ◆ *Breath Prayer:* We touched on this last week; a breath prayer is a short prayer, just a phrase or a single sentence, that we can repeat over and over to quiet our minds. Try praying the first line of the 23rd Psalm, breathing in with the first phrase and out with the second: "The LORD is my shepherd...I shall not want." You can make that part of your daily life, or try it before you begin a time of silent meditation. It might also be a good exercise for those times we all have when we wake up in the middle of the night and our worries seem much larger and more impossible to resolve than they do in the daylight. Say that one line from that one beloved psalm over and over as you let God look after your worries so you can rest.
- ◆ *"Arrow" or "bullet" prayers:* Send out a quick prayer in response to something you see or hear. If you hear the helicopter coming in to the hospital, pray for the crew, and for the person they're coming to get. If you hear sirens, pray for the situation. If you encounter somebody who is unpleasant or acting badly, it could be a sign they're struggling. Quickly and without making a scene, send up a prayer for them. These prayers don't have to be long or involved; just say, "God, be with them."

- ◆ *Intercessions:* Take the prayer list in the bulletin home with you. At your prayer time, go down through it and pray for each person named. You don't have to know them or know a whole lot about what they're dealing with to be able to pray for them. You might also pay attention to when a person comes into your mind; that could be God letting you know they need prayer. Stop what you're doing and pray for them. Again your prayers don't have to be long or fancy.
- ◆ *Use your imagination:* As you pray for a person or a situation, imagine the outcome for which you're praying—a sick person healed, a troubled home made peaceful. Or imagine Jesus' arms around the person. Imagine a situation beyond your control or ability to deal with in your hand, and lift that hand up to give it to God.
- ◆ *Prayer walking:* Take a stroll around your neighborhood. Stop to pray from time to time in front of houses, businesses, or whatever places are in the area. Pray for the people who live or work there, and for the ones who might visit or shop there.
- ◆ *Prayer of relinquishment:* This is what Jesus prayed at Gethsemane. He prayed for what he wanted, then said, "Not my will, but thine be done." Is there something in your life of which you need to let go? In prayer, turn it over to God.
- ◆ *Praying hymns:* If you leaf through a hymnal, you'll quickly notice how many hymns are actually prayers. Take one of them and make it your prayer, either singing it or reading it aloud.

There are many, many ways to pray; these are just a few of them. If you'd like to know more, ask and I'll help you explore others.