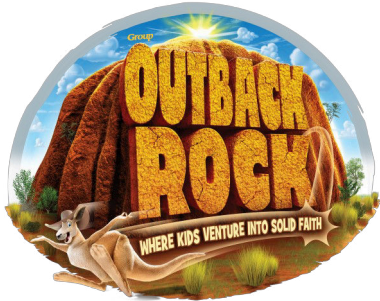


PRAY FOR OUR KIDS

"Jesus, we pray that through VBS, kids in our community will grow in their relationship with you. We ask that you begin to break down any walls that might be preventing their young hearts from receiving your love. We ask that the truth of who you are sinks deep into their hearts. Let them leave knowing who you are and the overwhelming, joyful love you have for each and every one of them. May the impact of VBS last a lifetime."



Dates: Wednesday, July 17 & Thursday, July 18

Time: 5:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.



July 7, 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
Website: fccbutler.org
Facebook: [@FCCButlerMO](https://www.facebook.com/FCCButlerMO)

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, July 7, 2024

Joys and Concerns

Sharla Hulsey

In order to respect privacy, joys and concerns will be discussed before the public livestream. If you need to add someone, please fill out a prayer request form and place in the offering tray as it is passed.

Welcome and Announcements

Diana Rich, 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 and click the Register Attendance button.

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude

Mary Coffman

Bringing the Light of Christ into the Sanctuary

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

Diana Rich & Congregation

L: We are gathered in the LORD's house on the LORD's day.

P: We hope to meet the LORD our God here.

L: Some of us have gathered filled with joy.

P: We will praise the LORD our God!

L: Some of us are tired and discouraged.

P: The LORD our God will restore and renew us.

L: We all are gathered together here to worship God.

P: Let us listen for a word from the LORD.

*Opening Hymn

Blue Hymnal #573 (all)

"God of Our Fathers"

*Invocation

Diana Rich & Congregation

Come now to be among us, LORD our God. Help us to quiet our minds and hearts and to be open to your voice, in whatever form it may take. Speak to us this morning through our singing, our silences, the reading and proclaiming of your Word, our gathering at Christ's table. Move us to respond and to go into the world with renewed energy to serve you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer Hymn

Blue #574 (all)

"If My People's Hearts Are Humbled"

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

Diana Rich & Congregation

Psalm 42:1-2, 11; 43:3-5 (*United Methodist Hymnal*)

L: As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so longs my soul for you, O God.

**P: My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.**

**When shall I come and behold
the face of God?**

L: Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?

**P: Hope in God whom again I shall praise,
my help and my God.**

L: O send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me,
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling!

**P: Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy;
and I will praise you with the lyre,
O God, my God.**

L: Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?

**P: Hope in God whom again I shall praise,
my help and my God.**

Special Music

Mary Coffman, Phyllis McBrayer,

Lynda Perkins

"A Patriotic Medley"

Scripture

Carol Lewis

1 Kings 19:1-18

Message

Sharla Hulsey

"Alone"

Invitation to Discipleship

Sharla Hulsey

*Invitation Hymn Blue #571 (vv. 1, 2, 4)
"My Country, 'Tis of Thee"

Musical Interlude Mary Coffman

Offering Meditation Diana Rich

Tithes & Offerings Diaconate
Offering trays will be passed in the pews.

*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 Diana Rich

Call to Communion Sharla Hulsey

Communion Hymn Blue #321 (vv. 1-3)
"According to Thy Gracious Word"

Words of Institution Sharla Hulsey

Communion Prayer Diana Rich

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 Blue #569 (v. 4)
"Battle Hymn of the Republic"

* Please rise as able

SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Sharla Hulsey

Greeter: Carol Hedrick

Elder: Diana Rich

Scripture Reader: Carol Lewis

Deacons: Carol Hedrick,
Jennifer Schmehl

Choir Director: Carol Ann Winburn
Accompanist: Mary Coffman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **OUTREACH MISSION**

This July, we will be supporting the Carpenter's Cup and Bates County Health Center's Back to School Project with crayons, colored pencils, Kleenex, and backpacks. Bring donations to the church. 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.

• **PICNIC POTLUCK** - Today after worship

• **COMMUNITY CAFÉ** - Tuesday, July 9 at 5:30 p.m. Hosted by Ohio St. United Methodist Church at FCC.

• **WOMEN'S RETREAT AT LAST HARVEST COWBOY CHURCH**

- All women are invited to join.
- Saturday, July 13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• **COMMUNITY CAFÉ** - Tuesday, July 16 at 5:30 p.m.

• **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

- Wednesday, July 17 & Thursday, July 18 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- 4 years of age to the completion of 5th grade
- Pre-register online at fccbutler.org

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, July 7:	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:45 a.m.	Picnic Potluck
Tuesday, July 9:	5:30 p.m.	Community Café
Friday, July 12:	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Son Shine Ladies
Saturday, July 13:	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Women's Retreat

NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, July 14:	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:45 a.m.	Elders Meeting
Tuesday, July 16:	5:30 p.m.	Community Café
Wednesday, July 17:	5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	VBS
Thursday, July 18:	5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	VBS

PRACTICING SOLITUDE

“...without solitude it is virtually impossible to lead a spiritual life” (Henri Nouwen).

Adele Ahlberg Calhoun, in her *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, says solitude is a “container discipline” for practicing other disciplines. She says, “The practice of solitude involves scheduling enough uninterrupted time in a distraction-free environment that you experience isolation and are alone with God.

If you are interested in practicing this discipline, it might be worthwhile to begin by reflecting on the following questions:

- ◆ How and when do you resist or avoid being alone?
- ◆ What tends to pop into your mind when you are alone?
- ◆ What do you resort to doing when alone?
- ◆ What troubles you or makes you antsy about being alone?
- ◆ When have you felt most comfortable being alone? Most uncomfortable?
- ◆ What sense of God do you have when you are alone?

Calhoun offers the following suggestions of ways to practice the discipline of solitude.

- ◆ In a place where you can’t be interrupted, intentionally place yourself in the presence of God. Recognize that the Lord is as near as your own breathing. Inhale God’s breath of life; exhale all that weighs on you. Simply be alone with God. When it is time to return to others, leave the presence of God gently. Carry the sense of being alone with God with you into the next thing.
- ◆ Spend fifteen minutes or more alone with God. You can do an activity if you wish: walk, run, drive, iron. Dedicate the time ahead of you to God. After the time is up, consider how it was for you to be alone with God. Was it hard? Good? Did God speak to you in any way?
- ◆ Make the time you spend in the shower each day your alone time with God. Present yourself to your Creator—all of your body, all of the dirt that has accumulated in your soul, all that God has made you to be. Let the water from the shower remind you of the water of life that nourishes and changes you. Let the warmth touch you with love. If you like a cold shower, let the bracing impact call you to live your life to the full. Offer yourself to God for the day. Thank him for the alone time he spends with you.

- ◆ Set aside half a day for time alone with God. Go to a retreat center, quiet chapel, or park. Don’t stay in your home. Take only your Bible.

The Dark Night of the Soul

Practicing solitude means that we will inevitably enter at some point what St. Juan de la Cruz (John of the Cross) calls “the dark night of the soul.” It’s a time when we might find ourselves wondering if God is truly present, or if our solitude is truly isolation even from our Creator. However, it’s a time when, though we may *feel* God isn’t present, God is closer to us than even our own breath.

Think of the prose poem “Footprints.” The narrator asks why God abandoned them during their times of greatest need, and was reassured that the reason there was only one set of footprints at those times was that God was carrying them.

Rather than dreading the dark night of the soul, consider these words from Richard Foster:

When God lovingly draws us into a dark night of the soul, there is often a temptation to seek release from it and to blame everyone and everything for our inner dullness. The preacher is such a bore. The hymn singing is too weak. The worship is so dull. We may begin to look around for another church or a new experience to give us “spiritual goose bumps.” This is a serious mistake. Recognize the dark night for what it is. Be grateful that God is lovingly drawing you away from every distraction so that you can see him clearly. Rather than chafing and fighting, become still and wait.