



THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

11 W. Pine, Butler, MO 64730

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That Unpleasant Subject...

We've heard criticisms that "all churches do is ask for money," which leaves many church leaders uncomfortable even bringing the subject up. But do you know what subject Jesus devoted the most teaching time to? You guessed it: money and our relationship with it.

I don't believe it's right for a pastor to know the exact amounts their church folks are giving. The temptation is too great to treat people better if their offerings are large, even if we're determined not to do that. That being said, though, since pastors are in some way representatives of Jesus, we can't simply avoid the subject of money entirely. He didn't, so we can't.

That's why I need to talk with you about this uncomfortable subject. You'll have seen the "ketch-up" progress sign in the sanctuary over the last several months. The purpose of the "ketch-up" campaign is to rebuild the cushion we have had in reserve to cover large expenditures like the new HVAC units we had to put in a year or so ago. The reserves also include such things as our memorial funds and the funds we use to send our kids to camp every summer. But since our giving has been down for some time, we are having to draw on those reserves just about every month. That means the reserves are not being rebuilt; whatever is brought in through the "ketch-up" campaign simply reduces the amount we have to take out of our reserves. Ideally, to avoid having to draw on the reserves, we need to have around \$10,000 in income every month. We've been falling short of that pretty substantially for some time.

At this point our reserve funds have dwindled to a point where we may soon not have any cushion to cover a shortfall in our giving. If we get to that point, we will have to make some very hard decisions, and our presence and ministry in our community will suffer.

I do not write this to create panic, but to make you aware of our situation so that we can pull together and, with God's help, bring our finances to a healthier place. In my previous church, someone sat down and figured out that if *everyone* in the church gave a pretty minimal amount (around \$15 per week, if I remember correctly), we would have more than enough income to do everything we wanted to do as a congregation. I would suspect the same would be true for us.

It's possible, however, that there are folks in the congregation for whom even a minimal amount would present a hardship. Because of that, everyone who *can* give more, *should* consider giving more, including myself—and anyone who *can* give but currently *isn't* should prayerfully consider starting to give. What if each of us were to increase our weekly or monthly offering by 10%? That would mean someone who is currently giving \$20 would increase it to \$22; someone giving \$50 would give \$55; and so forth. It's a small enough increase that we might not even notice it, but it would make a great difference for the church's mission.

Above all, no matter how much we're able to give, there is one thing we can *all* do: pray. Pray for the church, for our ministries in the community. Pray that God will provide. God knows our needs, and God will take care of us. But it turns out that God generally works through other people—through us. It may be that God provides for our church by moving our hearts and our spirits to give generously.

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



October
Serving Schedule



October 6

Elder: Don Malan
Deacon: Kathy Wood & Peggy Thomas
Greeter: The Lile family
Scripture Reader: Jennifer Schmehl

October 13

Elder: Chuck Lewis
Deacon: Don Cole & Gary Coffman
Greeter: Peggy Thomas
Scripture Reader: Carol Hedrick

October 20

Elder: Shawn Quick
Deacon: Steve Hedrick & Bob Thomas
Greeter: Carol Roberts
Scripture Reader: Shawn Quick

October 27

Elder: Carol Roberts
Deacon: Carol Hedrick & Lyssa Lile
Greeter: The Lile family
Scripture Reader: Lyssa Lile

Communion Preparer: Judy Daniel

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

Sound Techs: Phyllis McBrayer, Dianna Silvers, Justin Quick

- 2 Knox Silvers
- 3 Candi Agnew
- 4 Lynda Perkins
- 16 Misty Foster
- 18 Jacqueline Hough
- 19 Nathan Agnew
- 20 Kathy Wood
- 25 Bethanie Cole
- 27 Nora Carver

Anniversary

- 20 Allan & Billie Bopp



ATTENDANCE



Date	In-Person Worship	Online *
9/1	28	5
9/8	29	8
9/15	41	5
9/22	45	7

BUDGET

August Income

\$6,969.36

August Expense

\$9,076.77

YTD Income

\$78,469.24

YTD Expense

\$85,535.81

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

At the September Board meeting, some needs were discussed. These were a food processor for the kitchen, a flat-bed truck dolly to assist with moving heavy items, and new Bibles for our youth group to use.

If you can help with any of these needs, please contact the church office.



OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

For October, we will be collecting monetary donations for the Community Food Pantry. Bring donations to the church. Thank you!



“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 \$5,210. Please note on your donation that it is for the “Ketch-up” campaign. Thank you for your continued support!



Our offering plate is now online!

First Christian Church is excited to offer an easy and secure way to give to our church online. We are using Givelify's online giving, which allows you to give safely in just a few clicks. Find us in the Givelify app or give online at fccbutler.org.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **DISCIPLES WOMEN**
Tuesday, Oct. 1 @ 6:30 p.m.
- **ELDERS MEETING**
Sunday, Oct. 13 after worship
- **YOUTH GROUP**
Wednesdays @ 6 p.m.
3rd—12th grade
- **COLE HAYRIDE & WEENIE ROAST**
Saturday, Oct. 5 @ 5 p.m.
- **COMMUNITY CAFÉ**
Tuesday, Oct. 15 @ 5:30 pm
- **CHOIR PRACTICE**
Wednesdays @ 7 p.m.
- **BOARD MEETING**
Sunday, Oct. 20 after worship

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

- Sympathy to the families of Rev. Vernon Maxted, Roger Watts, Roger Hunt, and Carol McCanles

Current & Ongoing

- ◆ Jess Grizzell, The Hoffard family, Jack Daniel, Ben Elliott, Missy Lancaster, Bill Perkey, Danny Ross, Kathy Bunch, Eunice Cobb, Carol Dodds, Shelby Duffield, Vickie Fowler, Lona Grosshart, Bill Hulsey, Lori Koepsel, Alan & Christy Lockard, Pat & Terry Lodge, Charlie Padgham, Jace Zembsch

At Home

- ◆ Julie Lewis
- ◆ Linda Wix

Currently Serving in the Military

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





October



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30 PM DISCIPLES WOMEN	2 6 PM YOUTH GROUP 7 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	3	4 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	5 5PM COLE HAYRIDE & WEENIE ROAST
		6 9:30AM WORSHIP (RECONCILIATION SPECIAL OFFERING) 10:30AM LIFE GROUP	7	8	9 6 PM YOUTH GROUP 7 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	10
13 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM ELDERS MEETING	14	15 5:30PM COMMUNITY CAFÉ	16 6 PM YOUTH GROUP 7 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	17	18 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	19
20 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM BOARD MEETING	21	22	23 6 PM YOUTH GROUP 7 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	24	25 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	26
27 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM LIFE GROUP	28	29	30	31		



Upcoming Sermons

October 6, 2024 (Proper 22)

Scripture: Exodus 32:1-14 (RCL:)

Responsive Reading: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Theme: The golden calf incident

Title: “Moses was shamefully late!”

What I was thinking: Moses spent a long time with God at the top of Mount Sinai—so long, in fact, that the people grew anxious. Predictably, as frightened and anxious people do, they made a bad decision.

October 13, 2024 (Proper 23)

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-17 (RCL:)

Responsive Reading: Psalm 89:20-37

Theme: God promises David a dynasty

Title: “Our house is a very, very, very fine house”

What I was thinking: This passage revolves around two meanings of the word “house.” David had one of them in mind, but God was thinking of the other.

October 20, 2024 (Proper 24)

Scripture: 1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:27-30, 41-43 (RCL:)

Responsive Reading: Psalm 84:1-4

Theme: Dedication of the Jerusalem Temple

Title: “A Mixed Blessing”

What I was thinking: Solomon built the Temple that God didn’t allow his father David to build. It was a great achievement for the king, but things weren’t perfect below the surface.

October 27, 2024 (Proper 25)

Scripture: 1 Kings 17:1-24 (RCL: Proper 5, Year C)

Responsive Reading: Psalm 146:5-9

Theme: Two miracles of Elijah

Title: “Hopeless”

What I was thinking: God sends Elijah to a foreign widow who is at the end of her rope; during his sojourn with her and her son he works two miracles.



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Board Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2024

Board members present: Deacons: Carol Hedrick, Lyssa Lile, Judy Daniel, Derek Lile, Jennifer Schmehl, Peggy Thomas, Gary Coffman, Steve Hedrick, Bob Thomas. Elders: John Daniel, Carol Roberts, Diana Rich, Don Malan, Shawn Quick, Chuck Lewis. Others present: Carol Lewis, Reverend Sharla Hulseley, Carol Ann Winburn, Everett McBrayer, Phyllis McBrayer.

Shawn Quick, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:35. Prayer was given by Chuck Lewis. The agenda for the meeting was reviewed and Membership, Memorial, Property, and Outreach committee reports were added. Motion to approve with those additions was made by Diana Rich, seconded by Carol Hedrick and approved unanimously.

The minutes of the August 18, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Chuck Lewis stated that under the property committee report, the sentence reading "He said he could recommend a company to have the septic tank cleaned out for \$400.00." should read, "He said he could come and clean out the main line for \$400.00." With that correction, the minutes of the August 18, 2024, meeting were approved after a motion by Diana Rich, seconded by Carol Hedrick.

Financial report—Carol Lewis then reviewed the August 2024 Financial Reports. On the Profit and Loss Budget Performance report, Carol stated that the church's total income for August 2024 was \$6,969.36 with a budgeted amount of \$11,179.44. Total expenses for August 2024 was \$9,076.77 resulting in a net income of -\$2,107.41. Year to date (YTD) budgeted amount is \$89,435.55 with actual amount of \$78,469.24. The Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2024, shows that while total Restricted Funds is \$50,263.96, \$32,410.88 is owed to special projects so the actual amount in Restricted funds is \$17,853.10. Carol Roberts remarked that we really didn't need to talk about the budgeted amount as that really doesn't matter. What matters is we have \$17,000.00 with which to pay bills. Shawn reminded all to keep this in mind while preparing the budget for 2025. Sharla stated that we need to tell the congregation that the Ketchup campaign needs funding. Motion was made by Lyssa Lile to accept the financial reports, seconded by Chuck Lewis. This motion passed unanimously.

Minister's report—Reverend Hulseley then reviewed her report. She reports her usual conversations with members via telephone, online and in person including home visits. She had the pleasure of officiating at a wedding this past week, as well as attending meetings of the Ministerial Alliance and the Food Pantry. She made note that while viewing last week's church service on Facebook, she noticed that everyone that speaks during the service needs to use a microphone. Even if you think it is not necessary, it is for the people with hearing aids using the hearing loop. She is planning to be gone October 26 for a singing event but will be back for services on October 27th. She also will be gone the weekend of November 8-10 for a family vacation. Finally, she stated that Justin Quick requests that the worship leaders, including scripture readers and stewardship readers stand directly in front of the communion table to improve the live stream video.

Old business—Conexon Connect—Lyssa Lile reported that she contacted the service and that they said long distance calls were included in the \$39.95 per month fee. It also includes a modem. She stated that the representative did not know what the price would be after the 36-month agreement time. For telephone, fax and internet services the cost will be approximately \$150.00 per month. These services currently cost about \$220.00 per month. Motion was made by Carol Roberts to switch to Conexon Connect, seconded by Diana Rich. Motion carried unanimously.

New business—Church security—Carol Roberts passed out a handout with a new security plan for the church. There had been 2 incidents recently where a person had been found in the church during Sunday worship without anyone's knowledge of their being here. Apparently, the alarm and camera on the front glass door (which is unlocked during services) was not working due to the internet service being disrupted which disabled the alarm. The plan is as follows:

1. Everyone needs to be aware and notice that the "door open" chime sounds as you enter the church. If not, immediately notify Everett McBrayer, Chuck Lewis, or Rev. Sharla.

New Business cont.

2. Form a short-term Security Committee to review all details of the situations and make suggestions or proposal going forward....committee suggestion would be Everett McBrayer, Chuck Lewis, Lyssa Lile, Carol Roberts and any others that want to volunteer, and ex-officio of Board Chair Shawn and Rev. Sharla.

Everett McBrayer also commented we should all make sure the door is fully shut when entering or leaving.

Carol Roberts stated that this plan is her motion to the board, seconded by Diana Rich. Approved unanimously. Don Malan then asked which doors are locked during services and Carol stated the north door is sometimes locked, sometimes not, and the west glass doors are unlocked. He asked what the people wanted, and Carol stated one wanted food and the other to wash up.

Nominating committee—Carol Roberts then passed around another handout for the board. The handout listed the 4 church board members and the 4 members of the congregation for the nominating committee. They are Church Board members (on the boarding 2025)—Chuck Lewis, Jennifer Schmehl, Don Malan, Gary Coffman. Congressional members (not on the board in 2025)—Carol Roberts (Chair) John Daniel, Lyssa Lile, Carol Lewis. Motion to approve these committee members made by Carol Hedrick, seconded By Judy Daniel, passed unanimously. Shawn will take these nominations to the congregation next Sunday.

2025 Budget timeline—Shawn Quick reminded everyone that the deadline to turn in your department's budget is in 2 weeks, (end of September). You can put the budget in Shawn's mail slot in the church office. Shawn again reminded everyone of the financial reports. John Daniel stated that the revenue is actual money collected, and that the Stewardship committee will keep this in mind.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership—Carol Roberts reported that next Sunday the 22, there will be a potluck dinner in the fellowship hall after morning worship. She stated that all the food had been donated and no money was spent.

Memorial—Judy Daniel reported that the committee had identified some of the church's needs.

- New youth Bibles
- Flatbed truck dolly
- Large print Chalice hymnal for accompanist Mary.
- Food processor for the kitchen
- candelabra for Advent service

Some discussion about the necessity of some of these items ensued. Judy stated that we could certainly find other ways to meet these needs in light of the current budget. Sharla stated that we should be in prayer about this. Carol Lewis suggested putting this list in the newsletter in hopes of finding someone to donate. Don Malan then suggested the consideration of fund raising such as chili or bean supper.

Property—Chuck Lewis reported that he received a bid of \$425.00 to “pump out the septic tank”. He also stated that Jim Daniel recommended that we “clean out the mains” twice a year for \$400.00. Sharla suggested that Chuck add that to the property departmental budget. Don Malan recommended we get a bid from Adrian plumbing also. Judy Daniel then stated in regard to Chuck's report this morning, “Jim Daniel” should really be “Jimmy Daniel, of R&R plumbing”. Correction made.

Outreach—Phyllis McBrayer thanked everyone for contributing to our monthly projects. She also mentioned that we get donations from the Community Cafe board for paper products and some food for our Community Cafe meals.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Carol Roberts to adjourn, seconded by Don Malan and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Jennifer Schmehl
Board secretary





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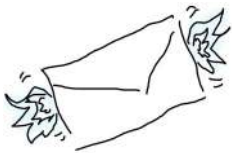
Return Service Requested

Pastor Sharla Hulse

revsharkie@gmail.com

Lyssa Lile, Admin. Asst.

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THE MESSENGER



*“Ask the Lord of the harvest to send
out laborers into his harvest.”*

- Matthew 9:38

