



# THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

11 W. Pine, Butler, MO 64730

Phone: 660-679-3066 Email: admin@fccbutler.org

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## Giving Thanks

It's been said—and I know you've heard this from me before—that Thanksgiving is the USA's most religious holiday. Easter (and, arguably, Christmas) is the most *Christian* holiday, yes; but people of all faiths give thanks to the god or gods they believe in. Setting aside a day to do this means that people of all faiths—and no faith at all—are spending time on this important task at the same time. That's powerful!

I would argue, though, that it isn't enough just to give thanks on one day in November. Our country is awash in anxiety right now—we worry about the economy, the election, international affairs, crime, and any number of other things. Even when we're not as anxious about big things, every day advertising plays on our imagined inadequacies: we're told we could be wealthier, better looking, younger, more popular, you name it, if we would just buy certain products, wear certain clothing, drive certain cars, invest our money in certain ways. All of this wears us down and makes us feel like everything is terrible and our efforts to improve anything are little more than arranging the deck chairs on the *Titanic*.

The antidote is to stop regularly and *give thanks*. Even in the midst of anxiety, disaster, grief, or any of the other things common to humanity, we can—if we look—find something for which we're grateful. Maybe we're in the midst of keeping vigil with a sick loved one, and when we drag our exhausted selves home for a shower and a bite to eat, we find that someone has mowed our yard. Or we've got a lot of month left at the end of our money, and Community Café offers a meal we don't have to pay for. Perhaps it's just a normal, uninteresting period in our lives, where we feel like we're just slogging through the everyday chores, and a quiet moment is interrupted by a cardinal singing outside the window. Or we're having a tough day at work, and someone unexpectedly offers a kind word.

During the month of November, I invite each of us to spend a moment looking for blessings and giving thanks for them. Yes, give thanks to God, of course—but we know that God works through human beings, so if someone has done something that has blessed you, thank them, too! Write a letter. Make a phone call.

And let's not just stop this on November 30. Keep paying attention and you may find you're blessed beyond what you'd ever thought. Give thanks all the time.

Then take one more step: Be a blessing to someone else. What might you do to lighten someone else's burden? How can you offer a helping hand? When might a word of kindness from you make all the difference? Make your life one for which others give thanks!

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



# Serving Schedule



## November 3

**Elder:** John Daniel

**Deacon:** Judy Daniel & Sally Bremer

**Greeter:** Bob Thomas

**Scripture Reader:** Carol Hedrick

## November 10

**Elder:** Diana Rich

**Deacon:** Derek Lile & Jennifer Schemhl

**Greeter:** Chuck & Carol Lewis

**Scripture Reader:** Jennifer Schmehl

## November 17

**Elder:** Don Malan

**Deacon:** Kathy Wood & Peggy Thomas

**Greeter:** Judy Daniel

**Scripture Reader:** Phyllis McBrayer

## November 24

**Elder:** Chuck Lewis

**Deacon:** Don Cole & Gary Coffman

**Greeter:** Carol Hedrick

**Scripture Reader:** Carol Hedrick

**Communion Preparer:** Phyllis McBrayer

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

**Sound Techs:** Phyllis McBrayer, Dianna Silvers, Justin Quick

- 2 Kathy Bunch
- 2 Steve Hedrick
- 10 Larry Burch
- 11 Jeanie Bartimus
- 15 Lyssa Lile
- 17 Joan Swann
- 19 Dale Kinsmen
- 24 Carol Lewis
- 24 Judy Taylor
- 25 Mary Mae Lewis
- 29 Sandee Hubbard

## *Anniversary*

- 11 Don & Debbie Cole

## ATTENDANCE

Date	In-Person Worship	Online *
9/29	32	13
10/6	40	5
10/13	34	3
10/20	33	6

## BUDGET

### September Income

\$9,056.56

### September Expense

\$11,977.44

### YTD Income

\$87,525.80

### YTD Expense

\$97,513.25

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

At the September Board meeting, some needs were discussed. As a result of the information in the October Messenger newsletter, a food processor and Lenten candle holder have been donated. Thanks for these donations! There is still a need for Bibles to be used by the youth group and a large-print paperback hymnal for the organist. If you can help with these needs, please contact the church office.

### OUTREACH DEPARTMENT



For November, we will be collecting 460lbs of russet potatoes for the Community Food Pantry. Donations can be either 5lb or 10lb sacks of potatoes.

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 \$5,434. Please note on your donation that it is for the “Ketch-up” campaign. Thank you for your continued support!



THE DISCIPLES WOMEN will have a file box in the front foyer this Christmas for exchange of Christmas cards within our congregation. The box will be available from November 10<sup>th</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup>. There is a deadline to make sure our homebound members receive their cards prior to Christmas. Please be sure to check the box each Sunday to see if you have received a card. Everyone is invited to exchange Christmas greetings!

Lyssa will be on vacation/out of the office, Nov. 18-21.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| ➤ <u>ALL SAINTS DAY</u><br>Sunday, Nov. 3                | ➤ <u>BOARD MEETING</u><br>Sunday, Nov. 17 after worship | ➤ <u>THANKSGIVING/OFFICE CLOSED</u><br>Thursday, Nov. 28 |
| ➤ <u>DISCIPLES WOMEN</u><br>Tuesday, Nov. 5 @ 6:30 p.m.  | ➤ <u>LYSSA VACATION</u><br>November 18-21               | ➤ <u>YOUTH GROUP</u><br>Wednesdays @ 6 p.m.              |
| ➤ <u>ELDERS MEETING</u><br>Sunday, Nov. 10 after worship | ➤ <u>COMMUNITY CAFÉ</u><br>Tuesday, Nov. 19 @ 5:30 pm   | ➤ <u>CHOIR PRACTICE</u><br>Wednesdays @ 7 p.m.           |

## THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

- Sympathy to the families of Aeron Hicks, Roger Hunt, Bill Craven, Frank & Deloris Baldwin, and Zeb Robertson.

### Current & Ongoing

- ◆ Adrian UMC, The Hoffard family, Kathy Bunch, Carrol & Pam Dodds, Kathie Garren, JM (Jess) Grizzell, Missy Lancaster, Bill Perkey, Christina Stockwell, Marian Williams, Dana Young, Eunice Cobb, Shelby Duffield, Vickie Fowler, Lona Grosshart, Bill Hulsey, Lori Koepsel, Alan & Christy Lockard, Pat & Terry Lodge, Charlie Padgham, Danny Ross, and Jace Zembsch.

### At Home

- ◆ Julie Lewis
- ◆ Linda Wix

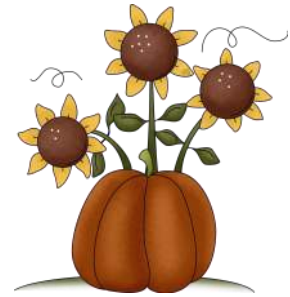
### Currently Serving in the Military

- ◆ Everett Chapman
- ◆ Jordan Lopez
- ◆ Jordan Olson





# November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> <b>ALL SAINTS DAY</b>  9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS</b> <b>TIME ENDS</b> 9:30AM WORSHIP (All Saints) (Congregational Meeting) 10:30AM LIFE GROUP	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>6:30</b> <b>DISCIPLES</b> <b>WOMEN</b>	<b>6</b> <b>6 PM</b> <b>YOUTH GROUP</b> <b>7 PM</b> <b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>9AM – 12PM</b> <b>SON SHINE</b> <b>LADIES</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:30AM WORSHIP (Rev. Joe Mack) (Thanksgiving Offering) 10:30AM <b>ELDERS MEETING</b>	<b>11</b> <b>VETERANS DAY</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>6 PM</b> <b>YOUTH GROUP</b> <b>7 PM</b> <b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>9AM – 12PM</b> <b>SON SHINE</b> <b>LADIES</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30AM WORSHIP (Thanksgiving Offering) 10:30AM <b>BOARD MEETING</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>5:30PM</b> <b>COMMUNITY</b> <b>CAFÉ</b>	<b>20</b> <b>6 PM</b> <b>YOUTH GROUP</b> <b>7 PM</b> <b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>9AM – 12PM</b> <b>SON SHINE</b> <b>LADIES</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM LIFE GROUP	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## Upcoming Sermons

### **November 3, 2024 (Proper 26)**

Scripture: Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1—4:11 (RCL: Epiphany 3, Year B)

Responsive Reading: Jonah 2:2-9

Theme: The parable of Jonah

Title: “More Than a Fish Story”

*What I was thinking:* Most of us know about “Jonah and the whale.”

But if we stop there, we miss the point of the book, which reads like a parable.



### **November 10, 2024 (Proper 27)**

*Sharla on vacation/Joe Mack, preaching*

### **November 17, 2024 (Proper 28)**

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-10 (RCL: Trinity Sunday, Year B; Epiphany 5, Year C)

Psalm: 138

Theme: The call of Isaiah

Title: “Put in your earplugs, put on your eyeshades...”

*What I was thinking:* Isaiah 6:1-8 has been used in many an ordination service, and is often held up as an example of faithful response to God’s call. But it’s only *after* Isaiah says “yes” that God lets him know what he’s in for.

### **November 24, 2024 (Proper 29/Christ the King)**

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34 (RCL: )

Psalm: 119:97-104

Theme: Jeremiah promises a new covenant

Title: “Open Heart Surgery”

*What I was thinking:* The Words of Institution for Communion—from Jesus in the Gospels and from Paul in 1 Corinthians 11—take on a fuller meaning if we hear them with this passage from Jeremiah in mind.



#### **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](http://fccbutler.org).

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**October 20, 2024**

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

Shawn Quick, chairman, called the meeting to order at 1049. Opening prayer was given by Carol Roberts. The meeting agenda was reviewed and Property, Worship and Memorials were added under Committee/Department Reports. Don Malan made the motion to approve the agenda with those additions, seconded by Carol Hedrick and approved unanimously.

The minutes of the September 15th meeting were reviewed by the board members. Rev. Hulsey made the correction of "Advent candelabra" to "Lenten candelabra". Carol Roberts made the motion to approve the minutes with that correction, seconded by John Daniel and approved unanimously.

**Financial Reports**—The Financial Reports were reviewed by Carol Lewis. The Profit and Loss Budget Performance report showed a total income of \$9,056.56. Total expenses was \$11,977.44 which gave a net income of -\$2920.88. The Balance Sheet shows total assets at \$50,423.91, but \$35,345.78 is still owed to the total restricted funds so the total assets is actually \$14,998.15. The Christian Church Foundation account statement was reviewed with no comment or discussion. The full report of each is available in the church for review. After some discussion, Chuck Lewis made the motion to accept the financial reports, seconded by Diana Rich. The reports were approved unanimously.

**Minister's Report**—Reverend Hulsey reviewed her report. She listed her activities which included conversations with members, attendance at Aaron Hicks funeral service, participation at the Ministerial Alliance's booth at Huckster's Day, and attendance at the meetings of the Nominating Committee, Ministerial Alliance, and Elders. She reported that the Ministerial Alliance will hold a community Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 24th at 5:30 pm. The free will offering will go entirely to the United Methodist Church in Adrian which suffered a devastating fire recently. Plans for an article on stewardship written by some of our Elders and church officers will be placed in the monthly newsletter. These articles need to be in the church office by the Thursday after each board meeting. She again reminded everyone who is participating in worship service to be sure to use the microphone when speaking and to stand in front of the Communion table. This will improve the quality of the video of each service and the audio of those with hearing aids. She stated that she will be gone October 26 for an all day singing event and November 8-10 on vacation.

**Old Business**—There was no old business.

**New Business**—John Daniel requested that we first review the Printer/Copier proposals and RING updates so that the budget proposal will make sense.

Printer/copier proposal—Lyssa Lile stated that our lease contract with GFI Digital expires in February 2025. The company needs to know our intent for renewal by November 4, 2024. The current cost of the 60 month lease with GFI is \$330.90 per month. This will increase yearly (first increase will be to \$374.00/month). This printer/copier includes fax capability, which Lyssa states is seldom used. The cost of a new printer/copier from GFI would be \$330.00 per month with out fax and \$340.00/month with fax. She then reviewed a bid from 360 Document Solutions. The cost of a 63 month lease is \$289.00/month with no annual increase. We don't have 360's bid for a printer/copier without fax. Lyssa will obtain this. She did mention that if we go without fax, this will decrease the monthly phone bill also. John Daniel made the motion that we NOT renew the contract with GFI. Diana Rich seconded and motion passed unanimously. John Daniel then made a motion for the board chairman to appoint a committee to determine the needs of equipment of the church office. Carol Roberts seconded and it passed unanimously. Further discussion that the people working with the equipment in the office be on the committee with the following people named: Lyssa Lile, Rev. Sharla Hulsey, John Daniel, Shawn Quick and Diana Rich. They are to report at the November 4th board meeting.

Ring update—Lyssa reported that our RING protection plan currently included 24 hour monitoring for \$100.00 per year. After March 1, 2025 the 24 hour monitoring will not be included for the \$100.00 fee. Instead it will be separate

### *New Business Cont.*

for an additional \$99.99. So our total RING bill will go to \$199.00 per year if we want the 24 hr. monitoring. After discussion, it was decided to pay the extra for the monitoring for \$199.99 per year. A member of the board volunteered to pay that \$199.99 for a year of RING service with 24 hr. Monitoring. Carol Roberts made the motion that the board accept this offer, seconded by John Daniel and approved unanimously. The board extends it's sincere thanks to the board member for this generous offer.

2025 budget proposal—Copies of the proposed 2025 church budget were included with the board packet for review by board members. John Daniel stated that the total income budgeted for 2024 was \$134,153.32. Actual income from the last 12 months was \$120,128.83. In light of that, he stated the committee budgeted total expenses for 2025 to be as close to \$120,128.83 as possible. The total expense budget for 2025 is \$123,500.00. John informed the group that the property committee needs to explore current insurance deductible amounts and see if a higher deductible would be possible and if it would lower the insurance premium we currently pay. With no money budgeted for Worship supplies Lyssa Lile questioned how to pay for the worship supplies that are needed. John said to bring what is needed to the board and that the board may have some hard decisions to make. We also may need to act and find ways to get the money that is needed. After some discussion, John moved that we accept the budget for 2025, seconded by Don Malan. Approved unanimously.

Nominating Committee Proposal—Before the nominations were discussed, Carol Roberts, committee chair, stated that 2 of the nominees should go off of the board this year according to church by-laws, but have accepted positions for next year. Carol states according to the church by-laws, this is acceptable if ok'd by the board. Carol Roberts made the motion to allow these 2 people to remain on the board for another year. John Daniel seconded, passed unanimously.

A list of the recommendations for nominees was given to board members to review. Changes made to the list was to remove "in red" from the instructions as they were not color copies, and to correct the spelling of Derek Lile's name. Carol Roberts made the motion to accept the recommendations, seconded by John Daniel. Motion carried unanimously. (See attached list).

### **Reports from Committees and Departments—**

Property—Everett McBrayer reported that the water leak in the Choir Robe room was determined to be overflow of the furnace reservoir box. Kershner HVAC cleaned out the pipe to unplug it. Works well now.

Chuck Lewis then stated he had received an email from the insurance company that revealed that our deductible for several items will change. Also we need liability forms for groups that use the church ie, Community Cafe, SonShine Ladies, 4-H etc. John Daniel again stated that the committee needs to explore these deductibles to see if changes can be made. Shawn Quick added that we actually need a policy review with the insurance company. Chuck agreed to contact the company to schedule this. Discussion about when this should be done, before or after the rate changes. Chuck will ask the insurance company when would be a good time to do this.

Worship—Carol Ann Winburn stated that we very much appreciate Shawn Quick filling in at the pulpit for us when Rev. Hulseley is gone, but we need to give him a break. When Rev. Hulseley is gone next month on vacation, Carol Ann would like for Joe Mac, a retired pastor of the Legacy Christian Church, to speak. Carol Anne states with our budget such as it is, a member of the church has stepped forward and donated \$150.00 to the Pulpit Supply for this purpose. The board acknowledges and appreciates this donation.

Memorials—Judy Daniel, committee chair, stated that after making our "wish list" known, a church member has graciously donated a food processor for the kitchen. Sharla also states that another church member has volunteered to pay for the Lenten service candelabra that is also on the wish list. Once again, the board acknowledges these donations from members and is very appreciative of them.

Property—Everett McBrayer states he forgot to mention that some of the concrete parking bumpers on the east side of the church are broken and need removed and/or replaced. He is to check into this and present options for a low fence or other barrier for parking.

**Adjournment**—There being no further business brought to the board, Don Cole made the motion to adjourn. Bob Thomas seconded, passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1205.

Respectfully submitted  
Jennifer Schmehl, Board Secretary



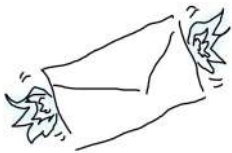


First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
11 W. Pine Street  
Butler, MO 64730

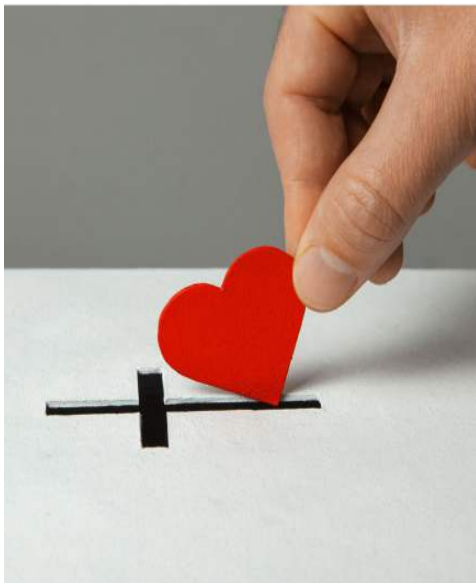
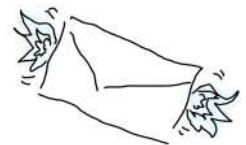
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Web: fccbutler.org

Return Service Requested

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



# THE MESSENGER



The reason why I give my offering is as I found out that when you give a portion of your earnings that God will always provide enough to live our lives as a witness and a testimony for Him in our acts of kindness to others. Jesus in Mark 12:41-44 talks about how the widow gave all she had two copper coins, but it was her faith in God that she would be provided for to live out her life and be an example to us all in how we should give.

I believe if we follow the example of the widow and give all that we can to God in return He will give us all we need and so much more, we shouldn't give depending on how we like the preacher or if they had a good sermon that Sunday. We should give to God for He will provide our every need.

Give from your heart and not how good the sermon is that Sunday.

God Bless,  
Shawn Quick