



THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

11 W. Pine, Butler, MO 64730

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Blessings of the Season

I think there is wisdom in beginning the holiday season with Thanksgiving—with a day specifically devoted to counting blessings and giving thanks. For many of us the season between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day is exceptionally busy and can also be a time when we're especially anxious—anxious about making sure we buy the right gifts for our loved ones, anxious about all the special events we feel we must attend, anxious about coordinating everybody's schedules and dietary needs at our holiday gatherings, anxious about the cost of it all.

Experts—even those who aren't at all religious—have told us that stopping regularly to give thanks is good for our mental health. It helps us to put the difficulties and anxieties of life in perspective and keep us from falling into despair.

Not only that, but when we focus on what we have to be grateful for, it allows us to avoid giving in to the "gotta do more, gotta be more" (h/t to *Dead Poets Society*) mentality that is all around us, especially in social media and advertising. Social media tends to show us others' "highlight reels," everybody posting a picture of themselves at their best, while we're all painfully aware of our own "bloopers reels," and how much we can't even begin to live up to those carefully curated images. Advertising is all about convincing us we aren't good enough, rich enough, beautiful enough, stylish enough, whatever, and that people won't love us unless we give them the perfect (i.e., *expensive*) gifts. It's easy to fall into anxiety and despair if we take those messages to heart and let them dictate our behavior during the holiday season.

So we begin the season with a day of thanksgiving; but I would argue we'd do well to carry that spirit into every day of the season, to take a minute at the end of each day to look back over the day and find something for which we can give thanks. We might find that we can cope with the busyness and stress a whole lot better when we do that.

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



December Serving Schedule



December 1

Elder: Carol Roberts

Deacon: Steve Hedrick & Bob Thomas

Greeter: Carol Roberts

Scripture Reader: Shawn Quick

December 8

Elder: Shawn Quick

Deacon: Carol Hedrick & Lyssa Lile

Greeter: Carol Hedrick

Scripture Reader: Carol Hedrick

December 15

Elder: John Daniel

Deacon: Judy Daniel & Sally Bremer

Greeter: Peggy Thomas

Scripture Reader: Jennifer Schmehl

December 22

Elder: Diana Rich

Deacon: Derek Lile & Jennifer Schmehl

Greeter: Lile family

Scripture Reader: Lyssa Lile

December 29

Elder: Don Malan

Deacon: Kathy Wood & Peggy Thomas

Greeter: Bob Thomas

Scripture Reader: Shawn Quick

Communion Preparer: Carol Hedrick

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

Sound Techs: Phyllis McBrayer, Dianna Silvers, Justin Quick



- 3 Dianna Silvers
- 3 Noah Lile
- 3 Patsy Quick
- 4 Gary Coffman
- 10 Ruth Weil
- 12 Michael White
- 18 Phyllis McBrayer



- 18 Gary & Mary Coffman



ATTENDANCE



| Date | In-Person Worship | Online * |
|-------|----------------------|----------|
| 10/27 | 32 | 11 |
| 11/3 | 36 | 8 |
| 11/10 | 41 | 2 |
| 11/17 | 33 | 7 |

BUDGET

October Income

\$9,533.79

October Expense

\$9,877.68

YTD Income

\$97,059.59

YTD Expense

\$107,390.93

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"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 \$5,819. 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 10th through December 15th. 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!



MEMBERSHIP FELLOWSHIP



Join us for soup and sandwiches! Warm your soul with a delicious bowl of soup and great company! Sunday, December 8 after worship (approx. 10:45 a.m.) in the FCC Fellowship Hall.

OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

In December we will be collecting children's hats & gloves for the Grade school & Pre-school. Please bring donations to the church. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

On December 24 at 6:30 pm, join us for a candlelight service of carols and readings. Come and experience the true spirit of Christmas with your loved ones.



IMPORTANT DATES

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ➤ <u>DISCIPLES WOMEN</u> Tuesday, Dec. 3 @ 6:30 p.m. | ➤ <u>COMMUNITY CAFÉ</u> Tuesday, Dec. 17 @ 5:30 pm | ➤ <u>YOUTH GROUP</u> Wednesdays @ 6 p.m. |
| ➤ <u>FELLOWSHIP LUNCH</u> Sunday, Dec. 8 after worship | ➤ <u>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE</u> Tuesday, Dec. 24 @ 6:30 p.m. | ➤ <u>CHOIR PRACTICE</u> Wednesdays @ 7 p.m. |
| ➤ <u>BOARD MEETING</u> Sunday, Dec. 15 after worship | ➤ <u>CHRISTMAS/OFFICE CLOSED</u> Wednesday, Dec. 25 | |

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS - Sympathy to the families of Cheryle Crabtree, Kathie Garren, Frank & Deloris Baldwin, Zeb Robertson, Charles Cole, and Robert Christopher.

Current & Ongoing

- ◆ Laura Brown, Kathy Bunch, Karen Clark, Carrol & Pam Dodds, Susie French, Jess Grizzell, Hoffard family, Missy Lancaster, Bill Perkey, Doug Rudy, Mike Studards, Williams/More family, Dana Young, Eunice Cobb, Shelby Duffield, Mary Fernelli, Vickie Fowler, Lona Grosshart, Bill Hulse, 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
- ◆ Rick Warren





December



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-----------|---|---|-----------|--|-----------|
| 1 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM LIFE GROUP | 2 | 3 6:30 DISCIPLES WOMEN | 4 6 PM YOUTH GROUP 7 PM CHOIR PRACTICE | 5 | 6 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES | 7 |
| 8 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:45AM SOUP & SANDWICHES FELLOWSHIP | 9 | 10 | 11 12PM ROTARY CLUB LUNCHEON 6 PM YOUTH GROUP 7 PM CHOIR PRACTICE | 12 | 13 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES | 14 |
| 15 9:30AM WORSHIP (Christmas Offering) 10:30AM BOARD MEETING | 16 | 17 5:30PM COMMUNITY CAFÉ | 18 6 PM YOUTH GROUP 7 PM CHOIR PRACTICE | 19 | 20 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES | 21 |
| 22 9:30AM WORSHIP (Christmas Offering) 10:30AM LIFE GROUP | 23 | 24 6:30PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE | 25 OFFICE CLOSED  | 26 | 27 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES | 28 |
| 29 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM LIFE GROUP | 30 | 31 |  | | | |

Upcoming Sermons



December 1, 2024 (1st Sunday of Advent)

Scripture: Romans 8:18-25

Responsive Reading: The "O" Antiphons

Advent Theme: Hope

Title: "The waiting is the hardest part."

What I was thinking: Christ was born, lived, died, and was raised. Christ will come again...but in the meantime, things are not as they should be. What do we do with that?

December 8, 2024 (2nd Sunday of Advent)

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Responsive Reading: Luke 1:68-79

Advent Theme: Peace

Title: "Too Much Information"

What I was thinking: How much television and social media do you consume on any given day? Are the voices you hear there speaking God's truth, or something else? How do we find peace when there's such cacophony around us?

December 15, 2024 (3rd Sunday of Advent)

Scripture: Philippians 4:4-9

Responsive Reading: Luke 1:46-55

Advent Theme: Joy

Title: "What on earth is there to be happy about?"

What I was thinking: There's enough bad news, enough anxiety, enough fear and grief and pain in this world that it sometimes seems wrong to rejoice. Would Paul agree?.

December 22, 2024 (4th Sunday of Advent)

Scripture: Colossians 1:15-20

Responsive Reading: Exodus 34:4-6

Advent Theme: Love

Title: "In the Flesh"

What I was thinking: Incarnation is one of the most important themes in Christian theology. What does it have to do with love?

December 29, 2024 (1st Sunday of Christmas)

Scripture: Luke 2:21-38

Responsive Reading: Luke 2:29-32

Theme: The Holy Family encounter two prophets at the Temple

Title: "Nunc Dimittis"

What I was thinking: Simeon and Anna, an ancient man and woman who both had the gift of prophecy, encountered Jesus with his parents when they came to dedicate him at the Temple. What did they say and do, and what could we learn from them?



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Congregational Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2024

Shawn Quick called the meeting to order.

NEW BUSINESS:

The proposed 2025 budget was presented.

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Administrative salaries | \$85,447.00 |
| Administrative expenses | \$11,310.00 |
| Education | \$0.00 |
| Building Maintenance | \$26,460.00 |
| Worship | \$0.00 |
| Membership | \$283.00 |
| Evangelism | \$0.00 |
| Outreach | \$0.00 |
| <i>Total Expenses</i> | <i>\$123,500.00</i> |

2. The list of nominations for deacons, elders, board officers, endowment trustees and pastoral support committees was presented.

Deacons:

(3 years) thru 2027
 Carol Lewis
 Judy Colburn
 Everett McBrayer
 Carol Hedrick

Officers for 2025:

Board Chair: Carol Roberts
 Vice Chair: Chuck Lewis
 Secretary: Jennifer Schmehl
 Treasurer: Carol Lewis
 Fin. Sect: Diana Rich

Elders:

(2 years) thru 2027
 Phyllis McBrayer
 Justin Quick

Endowment Trustee:

(3 years) thru 2027
 John Daniel
 Carol Ann Winburn

Pastoral Support Committee:

(3 years) thru 2027
 Mary Coffman
 Shawn Quick

Shawn Quick asked if there were any comments or questions. None were voiced so he asked that each member complete their ballot.

The Ballots were collected. No further business was brought before the meeting and the meeting was adjourned.

POST MEETING INFORMATION:

Vote count:

2025 budget: Yes 28 No 0
 2. 2025 Nominations: Yes 28 No 0





**First Christian Church
Board Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2024**

Board members present: Deacons- Carol Hedrick, Judy Daniel, Kathy Wood, Peggy Thomas, Don Cole, Steve Hedrick, and Bob Thomas. Elders-Diana Rich, Don Malan, Chuck Lewis, John Daniel, and Carol Roberts. Treasurer-Carol Lewis. Others present: Rev. Sharla Hulse, Phyllis McBrayer, Everett McBrayer, and Carol Ann Winburn.

Chuck Lewis, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:43 AM. John Daniel opened with prayer.

After review and additions, the agenda was adopted on motion of Diana Rich and second by Judy Daniel.

The minutes of the Congregational Meeting of 11-3-24 and the minutes of the 10-20-2024 regular Board Meeting were reviewed. There was one correction to the Congregational minutes. On the nominations for Elders, it should have said 3 years not 2 years. After this correction, both sets of minutes were approved on motion of John Daniel and second by Kathy Wood.

Financial Reports: The October 2024 Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet financial reports, as of 10-31-2024, were reviewed by Carol Lewis, Treasurer. She noted the October income of \$9,533.79 and expense of \$9,877.68. Year-to-date income of \$97,059.59 and Y-T-D expenses of \$107,390.93. The October report was approved on motion of Diana Rich and second by Kathy Wood. The full reports are available and may be reviewed in the Church office.

Ministers' Report: Rev. Hulse reviewed her November report that was included in the Board packet. She noted activities from November including meetings attended, several telephone calls, texts, and in-person conversations. She noted that Morning Prayer continues via Facebook Live at 7:00. She reminded everyone of the Thanksgiving Service on November 24th at the Ohio Street Methodist Church. She expressed a big "Thank You" to Carol Ann Winburn for organizing pulpit supply last week. She reminded everyone of the winter weather policy, and flu and cold season are here. Her full report is available and may be reviewed in the Church office.

OLD BUSINESS:

Printer/Copier Proposal Update: It was reported that Adm. Assistant Lyssa Lile made contact with 360 Document Solutions, as requested. She was able to secure basically the same printer/copier at much more affordable price that fits in the proposed budget. A detail sheet is included with these minutes.

Changes to Insurance/Deductibles: Chuck Lewis reported he has talked with the insurance representative but details for next year are not available until after the rates are set. This should be completed soon, and the representative will set up a time to discuss after that is complete. Chuck Lewis will notify Shawn Quick, Carol Roberts, and Sharla Hulse to meet and discuss. He stated if others are interested in meeting to let him know.

Liability Forms from groups using FCC (requested by insurance carrier): Securing the form will be finalized after meeting the insurance representative later in December.

Update on Concrete parking bumpers for parking lot: Nothing new to report. Everett McBrayer is still checking into options.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business was brought to the board today.

Board Minutes Continued

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Outreach- Phyllis McBrayer noted that FCC will host the Community Café on 11-19-24. She noted that FCC is collecting 460 pounds of potatoes. 260 pounds for the family food baskets distributed by Carpenter's Cup and 260 pounds for the community Thanksgiving meal that will be available Thanksgiving Day coordinated and organized by Judge Julie Highley.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Carol Roberts noted that all Elders and Deacons should be prepared to stay for a very quick meeting after the December Board to elect a Chair for each group.

Adjournment: With no further business brought to the Board, the meeting adjourned on motion of Carol Roberts and second by John Daniel at 11:07 am.

Closing Prayer: Rev. Sharla Hulseley closed the meeting with prayer.

Submitted by: Carol Roberts, Secretary



WE GIVE...THANKS

God of All Wonders and Mercies ~
We give ourselves headaches over the simplest things.
Thanks be for a God of covenant hope and eternal promises.

Savior of our Now and our Days To Come ~
We give too little attention to what you have already done, fretting only about what will happen next, worrying over what will be.
Thanks be for a Savior revealing blessing and renewing strength as each step comes.

Holy Spirit and New Life ~
We give our energy to what seems urgent and must-do.
Thanks be for a sweet Spirit guiding us again and again to all of Life's possibility.

When we forget who we are, we give thanks for One Who Forgives.
When we lose sight of the road ahead, we give thanks for our Guide and Friend.
When we catch a glimpse of holy goodness - awe, beauty, joy, mercy, grace - we give thanks for the Holy whose Goodness never ends.

May we be faithful to the One who created us and knows us best.
May we live with care and generosity for the good of each one, all together.
May we speak, serve, pray, wait, give, and work, believing that the one who has begun a good work in us will indeed see it through.

We give thanks. Amen.





Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 24 @ 6:30 p.m.

**First Christian Church
11 W. Pine St.
Butler, MO 64730**





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

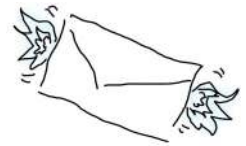
Church Phone: 660-679-3066
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Web: fccbutler.org

Return Service Requested

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



THE MESSENGER



Weather Cancellation Policy

If the Weather Is Bad...

...the pastor and board chair will decide together whether we will have worship. We will ask Everett for input as well. A decision will be made by 7 a.m. Sunday. We'll then contact the following news sources:

- WDAF (Fox4)
- KSHB (Channel 41)
- FM-92.1 and their website (www.921news.com), and Facebook (92.1 News Now)
- Bates County Live



Cancellation information will also be posted on the church's Facebook page (facebook.com/FCCButlerMO). If you haven't seen or heard anything by 8 a.m. (to give the media outlets time to post the information), you can assume we'll go on as usual; but please use your common sense about whether you believe it's safe to get out. We would rather have you stay home and be safe than try to get here and have an accident or a fall. If worship is cancelled, all other Sunday activities (including Sunday school and any meetings) will also be cancelled.

On weekdays, if Butler's school has cancelled classes, the church will be closed and all activities for that day will be cancelled.