



THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

11 W. Pine, Butler, MO 64730

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

Resolutions

I'm not a huge fan of New Year's resolutions. Most of them seem to come from a place of guilt about our holiday celebrations. We might think we spent too much, so we resolve to put ourselves on a strict budget going forward. We might think we ate too much, so we resolve to begin a serious diet and exercise program. We might think we drank too much, so we resolve to observe "Dry January." All these resolutions are reactive—they are ways for us to alleviate the feeling that we had too good a time over the holiday season.

It is natural to want to make changes in our lives at major milestones like the start of a new year. But I'd argue that the kind of major, guilt-induced resolutions a lot of people make at this time of year aren't sustainable—which leads to more guilt, more feelings of failure and inadequacy. It might be better to think about resolutions in a different way.

A colleague of mine on Facebook suggested making *fun* resolutions. Resolve to do things we find enjoyable, things that make us happy. Last year my New Year's resolution was to follow college basketball. I might not have followed it as closely as some—my complete disaster of a March Madness bracket is evidence of that—but I enjoyed watching games, getting to know some key players on key teams, learning some terminology that I wasn't familiar with before.

What is a *fun* resolution you could make? Is there something you've always wanted to learn to do, but haven't made the time, or felt like it was frivolous or unnecessary? Was there something you used to enjoy doing, but you haven't done it in a long time because you got too busy doing other things?

Or maybe we could look at making resolutions as a spiritual exercise. What is one spiritual practice you'd like to make part of your life? How can you follow the Greatest Commandments (love God and love your neighbor) in your daily activities? Is there someone you need to forgive—even if a broken relationship can't be mended, could you ask God's help in letting go of your own hurt and anger? Might it be good to resolve to offer yourself more grace as you go about your daily business?

Rather than resolutions that *react* to our ending the year with revelry and unusual spending, what if we resolve instead to *act* in ways that glorify God and make us more like Christ?

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Serving Schedule



January 5

Elder: Phyllis McBrayer

Greeter: Carol Hedrick

Deacon: Jennifer Schmehl & Don Cole

Scripture Reader: Carol Hedrick

January 12

Elder: Justin Quick

Greeter: Peggy Thomas

Deacon: Judy Colburn & Steve Hedrick

Scripture Reader: Lyssa Lile

January 19

Elder: Diana Rich

Greeter: Carol Roberts

Deacon: Derek Lile & Peggy Thomas

Scripture Reader: Phyllis McBrayer

January 26

Elder: Don Malan

Greeter: Judy Taylor

Deacon: Carol Lewis & Bob Thomas

Scripture Reader: Carol Lewis

Communion Preparer: Carol Hedrick

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

Sound Techs: Phyllis McBrayer, Dianna Silvers, Justin Quick

- 2 Allan Bopp
- 3 Robin Carter
- 4 Denise Burch
- 6 Julie Lewis
- 11 Weston Colburn
- 18 Lucille Munday
- 20 Ed Perkins
- 21 Shawn Quick
- 22 Justin Quick

HAPPY Anniversary

- 11 Ed & Lynda Perkins
- 12 Terry & Candi Agnew
- 18 Dorothy & Robin Carter
- 25 Jennifer & Oscar Schmehl

ATTENDANCE

Date	In-Person Worship	Online *
11/24	31	8
12/1	34	3
12/8	40	4
12/15	42	8
12/22	52	6

BUDGET

November Income

\$7,697.61

November Expense

\$9,336.44

YTD Income

\$104,757.20

YTD Expense

\$116,727.37

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

As part of our ongoing efforts to support those in need, we are reaching out to ask for your help in contributing to our local Food Pantry. There is an ongoing need for essential paper products that can make a big difference for families in our community.



We are currently seeking donations of the following items:

- Kleenex (facial tissues)
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper

Bring your donations to the church throughout this month. Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

We are excited to share an update on our "Ketch-up" Campaign to help replenish the FCC Reserve Fund. As we all know, a strong reserve fund ensures that we can continue to serve our community and support our mission for years to come.



Campaign Goal: \$20,000

Amount Raised So Far: \$7,076

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far! Your generosity is helping us move closer to our goal, and we're grateful for each and every donation. If you haven't yet had a chance to participate, there is still time to help us reach our target. Every dollar counts and will make a significant impact. You can contribute online or through the offering plate during services. Together, we can "ketch-up" and reach our goal to strengthen the future of FCC. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our church family!

IMPORTANT DATES

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ➤ <u>NEW YEAR'S DAY/OFFICE</u>
<u>CLOSED</u>
Wednesday, Jan. 1 | ➤ <u>DISCIPLES WOMEN</u>
Tuesday, Jan. 14 @ 6:30 p.m. | ➤ <u>YOUTH GROUP</u>
Wednesdays @ 6 p.m. |
| ➤ <u>ELDERS MEETING & DEACONS</u>
<u>MEETING</u>
Sunday, Jan. 12 after worship | ➤ <u>BOARD MEETING</u>
Sunday, Jan. 19 after worship | ➤ <u>CHOIR PRACTICE</u>
Wednesdays @ 7 p.m. |
| | ➤ <u>COMMUNITY CAFÉ</u>
Tuesday, Jan. 21 @ 5:30 p.m. | |

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS - Sympathy to the families of Louise Foster and Joan Swann.

Current & Ongoing

- ◆ Nora Carver, Landon Cole, Caroll & Pam Dodds, Susie French, Hoffard family, Jacqueline Hough, Everett McBrayer, Nick McBrayer, Bridget Merryfield, Julie Snell, Mike Studards, Greg Swearingen, Travis Todd, Sam Wheeler, Kathy Bunch, Eunice Cobb, Shelby Duffield, Vickie Fowler, JM Grizzell, Lona Grosshart, Bill Hulsey, Lori Koepsel, Missy Lancaster, Alan & Christy Lockard, Pat & Terry Lodge, Charlie Padgham, Bill Perkey, Danny Ross, Dana Young, and Jace Zembsch

At Home

- ◆ Julie Lewis
- ◆ Linda Wix

Currently Serving in the Military

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

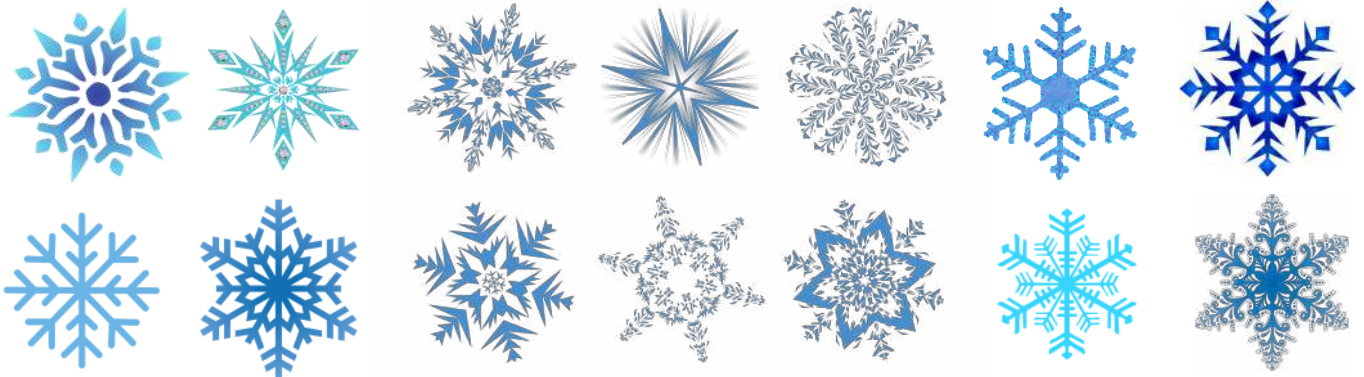




January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED 7 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	2	3 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	4
5 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM LIFE GROUP	6	7	8 6 PM YOUTH GROUP 7 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	9	10 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	11
12 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM ELDERS MEETING DEACONS MEETING	13	14 6:30PM DISCIPLES WOMEN	15 6 PM YOUTH GROUP 7 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	16	17 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	18
19 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM BOARD MEETING	20	21 5:30PM COMMUNITY CAFÉ	22 6 PM YOUTH GROUP 7 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	23	24 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	25
26 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM LIFE GROUP	27	28	29 6 PM YOUTH GROUP 7 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	30	31 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	



Upcoming Sermons

January 5, 2025 (2nd Sunday of Christmas)

Scripture: Luke 2:41-52 (RCL: Christmas 1, Year C)

Psalm: Psalm 148

Theme: The boy Jesus in the temple

Title: “Don’t Be Clever”

What I was thinking: When Jesus’ family went to Jerusalem for Passover when he was twelve, he stayed behind in the temple until his parents missed him and went back for him three days later. His response to their relieved scolding can’t have sounded very divine to them.

January 12, 2025 (1st Sunday after Epiphany/Baptism of Jesus)

Scripture: Luke 3:1-22 (RCL: Advent 2 & 3 and Epiphany 1, Year C)

Psalm: 51:6-17

Theme: John’s baptism and message

Title: “Actions Speak Louder than Words”

What I was thinking: In this passage, before Jesus came to be baptized, we hear a bit of the message John the Baptist came preaching.

January 19, 2025 (2nd Sunday after Epiphany)

Scripture: Luke 4:14-30 (RCL: Epiphany 3 & 4, Year C)

Psalm: 146

Theme: Jesus’ sermon at Nazareth

Title: “Go On, Git!”

What I was thinking: Jesus goes back to his hometown and attends synagogue services. As a visiting rabbi, he is invited to speak; but what he says isn’t especially well-received.

January 26, 2025 (3rd Sunday after Epiphany)

Scripture: Luke 5:1-11 (RCL: Epiphany 5, Year C)

Psalm: 90:14-17

Theme: The call of the first disciples

Title: “What kind of bait do you use to catch people?”

What I was thinking: Luke pairs Jesus’ call to his first disciples with the story of the miraculous catch of fish, which shows up at the very end of the Fourth Gospel. What does it mean to fish for people, and is it something we’re all expected to do?

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Board Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2024

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

Shawn Quick, chair, called the meeting to order at 1045, and opened with prayer.

After review and additions, the agenda was unanimously approved after a motion by Carol Roberts, seconded by Diana Rich.

The minutes of the November 17, 2024 meeting were reviewed. There being no corrections a motion made by Carol Roberts, seconded by Judy Daniel to approve the minutes. They were approved unanimously.

Financial Reports: The November financial reports were reviewed by Carol Lewis, Treasurer. She noted the November income of \$7,697.61 and expense of \$9,336.44.

Y-T-D income is \$104,757.20 and Y-T-D expenses of \$116,727.37. The November report was approved on motion by Diana Rich and second by Carol Hedrick. Phyllis McBrayer, chair of the Outreach Committee reported that Moulten Trust fund money has been received and distributions are being made. John Daniel stated that the Financial Statements are being changed and will look different in January. Carol Lewis also reported that the "Ketchup" fund is at \$6,076.80. The full reports are available and may be reviewed in the church office.

Minister's Report: Rev. Hulsey reviewed the Pastor's report that is included in the board packet. She noted activities in Dec. including meetings attended, Frank and Delores Baldwins graveside service, telephone calls, texts and in-person conversations. She said that she had been ill a few days and missed Disciple Women's group and choir practice that week. She mentioned that the Ministerial Alliance is already thinking about Lenten services. She noted that Everett McBrayer will be having surgery on Dec 18, but she feels we have everything covered during the time he will be absent.

OLD BUSINESS—

Changes to insurance/deductible : Chuck Lewis stated that he had been in contact with the insurance company and that the new rate will increase \$267.00/quarter. He will call the agent to schedule a meeting in January.

Liability forms: This will be tabled until the above mentioned meeting.

Update on concrete parking bumpers for parking lot on east side of church; Everett stated that Don Cole knows someone who has the equipment to do this but won't do it until spring.

NEW BUSINESS—

2025 Department/Committee Chairs—Carol Roberts presented the list of Department and Committee chairs for 2025. No action is needed. The list is available in the church office for review.



Outside door to elevator—Phyllis McBrayer reported that as she was loading potatoes to take to the Sr. Center for the Thanksgiving dinner the glass in the outside door to the elevator accidentally was broken. She offered her apologies and stated that she would pay for it. Everett stated they got 2 bids: one from MBP auto glass for over \$600.00 and a second one of \$486.56 from Butler Glass Co. We will use Butler Glass Co. and will be paid from budgeted building maintenance funds.

Shawn then thanked the board for this past year and Good Luck to Carol Roberts, board chair for 2025.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Diana Rich, seconded by John Daniel. Adjourned at 11:20.

Submitted by Jennifer Schmehl, Board Secretary

Weather Cancellation Policy In the Event of Inclement Weather...

The decision to cancel worship services will be made jointly by the Pastor and Board Chair, with input from Everett. A final decision will be made by 7:00 AM on Sunday morning. We will communicate cancellations through the following channels:



- **WDAF (Fox4)**
- **KSHB (Channel 41)**
- **FM 92.1** and their website (www.921news.com), as well as their Facebook page ([92.1 News Now](https://www.facebook.com/92.1NewsNow))
- **Mid America Live/Bates County Live**
- The church's **Facebook page**: [facebook.com/FCCButlerMO](https://www.facebook.com/FCCButlerMO)

If you have not seen or heard any updates by **8:00 AM** (to allow media outlets time to post the information), you can assume that worship will proceed as scheduled. However, please use your judgment about whether it's safe to travel. Your safety is our priority, so if conditions are hazardous, we encourage you to stay home. In the event of a service cancellation, all other Sunday activities—including Life Group and meetings—will also be cancelled.

Weekday Closures:

If Butler schools are closed due to inclement weather, the church will also be closed, and all scheduled activities for the day will be cancelled.



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.



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

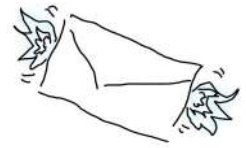
Church Phone: 660-679-3066
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Web: fccbutler.org

Return Service Requested

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



THE MESSENGER



The word "stewardship" often makes people cringe, but we need to keep in mind all that the Lord has entrusted to us. Our priorities deserve regular reflection and realignment. For instance, where would we be without our church family? Life offers no true "free" gifts, and we are so blessed by the love, camaraderie, and deep friendships found within our church community. There is no better place to form lasting relationships and to share in our love for the Lord. As we plan our personal budgets for the year, let's remember these priceless blessings and honor them in our decisions.

-Diana Rich

