



THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

11 W. Pine, Butler, MO 64730

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

“Our Bullheaded God”

Mike and I celebrate our 28th anniversary this month. I like to joke that we have made it this far out of sheer stubbornness—or, as my mom calls it, bullheadedness. We have been through quite a lot together: losses of family members, major moves, career changes, home remodeling, illnesses and surgeries, Mike’s retirement, you name it.

When two people are first in a relationship, everything is exciting and new. When one thinks of the other, they get a goofy grin on their face, how far away look in their eyes. They can’t wait to see one another.

But that wears off after a while. Then we’re left with the day-to-day stuff: dirty laundry, cooking and cleaning up, trying to live in the same house together, even when we don’t like each other very much.

That’s when that stubbornness kicks in. If you’re expecting that exciting, goofy feeling of your first few weeks or months together to last forever, you won’t make it. Eventually you have to rely on a commitment to hang in there, even when you don’t feel like it, to keep you going. One step at a time, one day at a time, and eventually you find yourself celebrating your 28th anniversary, or your 50th. It is sheer bullheadedness that got you there and it is sheer bullheadedness that keeps you going.

The Bible tells us that God loves us like that. The kind of love that God has for us is not that exciting goofy feeling where we can’t stand to be apart and we think about each other constantly. The kind of love God has for us is sheer bullheadedness, a commitment to hang in there no matter what happens. That is what we see throughout the scriptures. It is the love that is captured in the Greek word *agapē* or the Hebrew word *hesed*. Faithfulness and utter reliability.

How many years have you and God been together? What ups and downs, good times and hard times, sickness and health, has God gotten you through?

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



Serving Schedule



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 2

Elder: Diana Rich

Greeter: Lile family

Deacon: Derek Lile & Peggy Thomas

Scripture Reader: Lyssa Lile

March 9

Elder: Don Malan

Greeter: Judy Taylor

Deacon: Carol Lewis & Bob Thomas

Scripture Reader: Diana Rich

March 16

Elder: Chuck Lewis

Greeter: Peggy Thomas

Deacon: Carol Hedrick & Gary Coffman

Scripture Reader: Chuck Lewis

March 23

Elder: Shawn Quick

Greeter: Gary Coffman

Deacon: Everett McBrayer & Kathy Wood

Scripture Reader: Shawn Quick

March 30

Elder: Phyllis McBrayer

Greeter: Bob Thomas

Deacon: Jennifer Schmehl & Don Cole

Scripture Reader: Judy Daniel

Communion Preparer: Phyllis McBrayer

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

Sound Techs: Phyllis McBrayer, Dianna Silvers, Justin Quick

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 1 Mike White & Sharla Hulsey
- 21 Don & Juanita Huenefeldt
- 27 Greg & Jeanie Bartimus



ATTENDANCE



Date	In-Person Worship	Online *
2/2	34	4
2/9	32	3
2/16	37	7
2/23	28	8

BUDGET

January Income

\$13,945.12

January Expense

\$11,833.51

YTD Income

\$13,945.12

YTD Expense

\$11,833.51

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

We're thrilled to announce a new fundraiser to help send our kids to church camp this year! We will be using a *Cash Calendar* to raise the funds needed for this amazing opportunity.

How does it work?

- Each day on the calendar corresponds to a specific dollar amount.
- You can pick a date (or multiple dates) and make your donation for that day.
- The goal is to fill up the calendar, one donation at a time, and send our kids to camp!

Look for the calendar in the church foyer or reach out to the church office for more details and to get involved.

I can't thank you enough for your thoughtful prayers and the lovely cards you've sent during my recovery from my ankle injury. – Susie French

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Campaign Goal: \$20,000
Amount Raised So Far: \$7,286



Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far! Every dollar counts and makes a significant impact. You can contribute online or through the offering plate during services. Together, we can "ketch-up" and achieve our goal to strengthen the future of FCC. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our church family!

I am truly grateful for the prayers, cards, and delicious meals you've sent my way during my recovery from shoulder surgery. - Sharla Hulsey

Thank you for your thoughtfulness, your kindness, and your generous heart. The people of FCC are amazing. - Jacqueline Hough

IMPORTANT DATES

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| ➤ <u>DISCIPLES WOMEN</u>
Tuesday, Mar. 4 @ 6:30 p.m. | ➤ <u>ELDERS MEETING</u>
Sunday, March 9 | ➤ <u>YOUTH GROUP</u>
Wednesdays @ 6 p.m. |
| ➤ <u>ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE</u>
Wednesday, Mar. 5
@ 6:30 p.m | ➤ <u>BOARD MEETING</u>
Sunday, March 16 | ➤ <u>CHOIR PRACTICE</u>
Wednesdays @ 7 p.m. |
| | ➤ <u>COMMUNITY CAFÉ</u>
Tuesday, Mar. 18 @ 5:30 p.m. | |

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS –Sympathy to the family of Nora Carver

Current

- ◆ Mark Allison, Jacqueline Hough, Don Huenefeldt, Nick McBrayer, Bridget Merryfield, Boone Middleton, Julie Snell, Mike & Dolly Studards, Travis Todd, and Marian Williams

Currently Serving in the Military

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

Ongoing

- ◆ Kathy Bunch, Eunice Cobb, Caroll & Pam Dodds, 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, Greg Swearingen, Dana Young, and Jace Zombsch

At Home

- ◆ Julie Lewis and Linda Wix





March



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM LIFE GROUP	3	4 6:30PM DISCIPLES WOMEN	5 6PM YOUTH GROUP 6:30PM ASH WED. SERVICE @ FCC 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE	6	7 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	8
9 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM ELDERS MEETING	10	11	12 6PM YOUTH GROUP 6PM LENTEN SERVICE @ NAZARENE 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE	13	14 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	15
16 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM BOARD MEETING	17 	18 5:30PM COMMUNITY CAFE	19 6PM YOUTH GROUP 6PM LENTEN SERVICE @ NAZARENE 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE	20 	21 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	22
23/30 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM LIFE GROUP	24/31	25	26 6PM YOUTH GROUP 6PM LENTEN SERVICE @ FCC 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE	27	28 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	29

Upcoming Sermons

March 2 (Transfiguration)

Luke 9:28-45 (RCL: Transfiguration, Year C)

Theme: the transfiguration and what comes after

Psalm 36:5-10

March 9 (1st Sunday in Lent)

Luke 10:25-42 (RCL: Proper 10 & 11, Year C)

Theme: the Good Samaritan

Psalm 15

March 16 (2nd Sunday in Lent)

Luke 13:1-9, 31-35 (RCL: Lent 3, Year C)

Theme: true repentance

Psalm 122

March 23 (3rd Sunday in Lent)

Luke 15:1-32 (RCL: Lent 4 & Proper 19, Year C)

Theme: lost sheep, lost coin, lost child

Psalm 119:167-176



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Board Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2025

Board Members present: Deacons: Derek Lile, Jennifer Schmehl, Kathy Wood, Peggy Thomas, Gary Coffman, Bob Thomas, Carol Lewis, Judy Colburn, Everett McBrayer, Carol Hedrick. Elders: Diana Rich, Don Malan, Chuck Lewis, Phyllis McBrayer. Voting Member: Carol Roberts. Others present: Carol Ann Winburn, Lyssa Lile.

The meeting was called to order by Carol Roberts, chairperson. Carol also gave the opening prayer.

After review of the agenda, the following items were added under Committee Reports, Pastoral Support, Membership, Education, Outreach. Motion to accept the agenda with the additions was made by Don Malan, seconded by Justin Quick. Motion was approved unanimously.

The minutes of the January 19, 2025 meeting, included in the board packet, were reviewed. There being no additions or corrections, a motion to approve them was made by Judy Colburn, seconded by Kathy Wood; passed unanimously.

Financial Reports—The January 2025 Financial Reports were presented by Carol Lewis, treasurer. The Budget vs. Actuals: Budget 2025 report was reviewed. Carol L. stated that the total income for January was \$13,954.12 (budget \$10,291.67). The total expenses were \$11,833.51 (budget \$10,291.69). This resulted in a net income of \$2,111.61. Carol indicated that the December insurance premium was paid in January instead of December, per board direction. The Balance Sheet was reviewed. Complete financial reports are available in the church office for review. Don Malan made the motion to accept the financial reports, seconded by Phyllis McBrayer. Motion passed unanimously.

Minister's Report—There was no minister's report due to the medical leave of Rev. Hulsey.

Old Business—Update to changes to Insurance coverage. Chuck Lewis explained an email he received from our account manager at Sovereign Insurance Group. It stated that if we reduced the church's Functional Building Value, we would save \$1,316. However, we would lose flood and earthquake coverage. In addition, if we reduced the umbrella coverage from 10 million to 5 million, we would save \$582.00, and if we increase the deductible from \$2500.00 to \$5,000, we would save \$716.00. Our current total yearly premium is \$11,163.00; with these changes, this would be reduced by \$2600.00 for a total premium of \$8,563.00 yearly. After discussion about the loss of flood (only actual flooding, not to include a broken pipe or leaky roof) and earthquake coverage, a motion to make these changes to the church's insurance coverage was made by Phyllis McBrayer, seconded by Don Malan, passed unanimously. Don Malan also commended Chuck Lewis for gathering this information for the board.

Liability Forms/Facility Use Agreement—Carol Roberts reported that she is working on this but is not ready to present to the board. This will be tabled until the meeting in March.

New Business—

Chamber Of Commerce Membership—Lyssa Lile reported that the annual renewal of the church's membership is due at a cost of \$100.00. Motion made to renew our membership made by Phyllis McBrayer, seconded by Don Malan. Passed unanimously.

DSWA proposal—Carol Roberts informed the board of a letter the church received from DSWA Certified Public Accountants, stating that their services going forward would be preparation of payroll checks and payroll reports monthly, payroll tax returns quarterly, W-2s and or 1099s annually and QuickBooks Consultation as needed (no bookkeeping services). Their fees for these services will be \$215 per month and \$69 per month for QuickBooks Online subscription for a total of \$284 a month. We currently pay \$295/month for these services plus bookkeeping. Lyssa Lile stated our QuickBooks fee was a 2 yr promotional fee of \$20/month, but that will go up probably to \$69 as this offer expires this year. Lyssa Lile also reminded the board that she only works 16 hours per week, and does not have the time or desire to add payroll to her duties. After discussion and questions, Phyllis McBrayer made the motion to table this matter until we can have John Daniel of DSWA at the board meeting to answer questions and give us more information. Seconded by Don Malan, motion passed unanimously.

Committee/Departmental Reports—

Property—1) Chuck Lewis reported we received a letter from the city of Butler asking if the church had any lead pipes. Chuck said upon inspection, none of our pipes are lead. The enclosed form was filled out and returned to the city.

2) Chuck Lewis then reviewed an email he got regarding our elevator not passing inspection. He stated it has to have a working telephone in it to pass. Apparently ours was not connected during our recent change in phone service providers (Conexon). They stated they did not realize there was an elevator in the church. If Conexon fixes this, it would be \$100 per month but if the electricity is out, there is no phone service. The elevator service company explained that we could invest in a wireless device which involves an initial cost of \$1100 and a \$30 monthly fee. Chuck stated he is awaiting a bid from the elevator company. If we receive the bid this coming week, Carol Roberts gave notice that we would have a special board meeting on February 23, 2025 about this matter.

3) Everett McBrayer stated this past week the heat in the south wing was not working. The thermostat was replaced that fixed it.

Pastoral Support—Carol Roberts reported that this committee met and elected Shawn Quick as chairperson. They have scheduled future meeting.

Endowment—Carol Roberts stated that John Daniel and Carol Ann Winburn are the new members of this committee. Carol stated she will be contacting other members to schedule a meeting to elect a chairperson and schedule meetings.

Membership—Carol Hedrick reported that the fellowship breakfast this morning was well attended. They also provided a take home Valentine's treat for all that attended church.

Outreach—Phyllis McBrayer reported there will be no Community Cafe on February 18 due to predicted weather. She stated that she and Sharla are in the process of deciding what the outreach project will be next month.

Education—Phyllis McBrayer stated that she has been looking at materials for Vacation Bible School this year. She will have a committee meeting in March.

Adjournment—There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Diana Rich, seconded by Carol Hedrick. Passed unanimously. Closing prayer by Justin Quick, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Jennifer Schmehl
Board Secretary



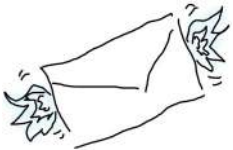


First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
11 W. Pine Street
Butler, MO 64730

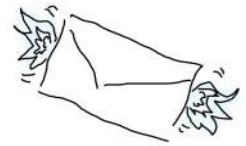
Church Phone: 660-679-3066
Fax: 660-679-5680
Web: fccbutler.org

Return Service Requested

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



THE MESSENGER



2025 LENTEN SERVICES — *“The Bible Speaks Today”*

- Services start at 6 p.m.
- A light meal will be served after each service.
- An offering will be received each night to benefit the Butler Ministerial Alliance’s emergency assistance fund.

March 12

Location: Church of the Nazarene
Preacher: Mary Love

March 19

Location: Church of the Nazarene
Preacher: Sharla Hulseley

March 26

Location: First Christian Church
Preacher: Julie Nelson

April 2

Location: Ohio Street United Methodist Church
Preacher: Jeremy Henderson

April 9

Location: First Christian Church
Preacher: Marla Kash