



# THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

11 W. Pine, Butler, MO 64730

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## At-One-Ment

What does it mean that “Christ died for our sins” (1 Corinthians 15:3)? How does it work that Jesus’ death takes away our sins?

Many of us were raised to understand the *atonement* (this is the fancy word for being reconciled to God) as “Jesus taking the punishment we deserve.” It’s as though God were determined to kill us because of our sins, but Jesus got in the way so God killed him instead.

Christian theologians (and remember, every person who ever wonders what God is like is a theologian) have tried for centuries to figure out the atonement. The “penal substitution” theory of atonement, which is what I just described—Jesus taking the punishment we deserve for our sins—is actually a relatively new theory. Before that there were many others, popular at various times or in various cultures.

“Satisfaction” was a theory that was popular in medieval times, at the time when much of European society lived by codes of chivalry. The satisfaction theory is that God’s honor is offended by our sin, and Jesus’ death restores God’s honor on our behalf. Since we don’t typically think about human relationships that way nowadays, this theory has mostly fallen away. (I think it might be a useful theory if one were proclaiming the gospel to Klingons, but it’s not likely that will ever come up in real life.)

Another theory popular in the past was “ransom.” Any of us who’ve watched television have seen stories about people being kidnapped, and their loved ones being called on to pay ransom to get them back safely. The ransom theory of atonement is similar: We have been taken captive by sin (or by Satan, the personification of evil), and ransom must be paid for us to be set free and reunited with God. Jesus’ death pays the ransom.

A theory that has resonated in many times and places is known by the Latin name *Christus Victor*. This one portrays us as caught up in a cosmic battle between God and Satan—good versus evil—in which Christ, leading God’s forces, comes out victorious; he does this, paradoxically, by allowing the forces of evil to destroy him, after which God raises Jesus from the dead, which completely obliterates evil’s power.

I think each of these has its positive and negative points—but I think penal substitution, what many of us were raised with, may have more problems than some of the others. For one thing, it separates God from Jesus, as though they were two separate entities rather than two Persons of the Godhead (what we often call the Trinity). It sort of denies the Incarnation (Jesus is God, God’s very essence, in human form). Furthermore, it makes God appear abusive. *Someone* has to die as punishment for our sins, and God doesn’t really care who as long as some blood gets spilled. I have a hard time reconciling that with the idea that “God is love” (1 John 4:8).

What, then, do we do with the notion that “Christ died for our sins”? Do we have to throw it out if we can’t accept the penal substitution theory? Well, I don’t think so. Like I said, penal substitution is, in the history of Christian theology, a relatively new way of thinking about atonement. Perhaps there’s another way that makes more sense and is more in keeping with the whole witness of Scripture.

If, indeed, “God is love,” then the Bible, and the life of Jesus Christ, demonstrate to us what that means. What we find in the whole witness of the Bible is that God is willing to go to great lengths to repair the relationship between us and God, which we damage through our sin. John’s Gospel tells us that Jesus is God’s “Word made flesh,” God’s very essence (steadfast love and faithfulness, Exodus 34:6; translated into John’s Greek as *grace and truth*, John 1:14) in human form. Thus God, out of love, chose to take on human form, and even die, to restore that relationship.

God loves us *that much*. How do we respond to such incredible love?



# Serving Schedule



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### April 6

Elder: Justin Quick

Greeter: Carol Roberts

Deacon: Judy Colburn & Steve Hedrick

Scripture Reader: Carol Roberts

- 4 Don Huenefeldt
- 9 Will Lewis
- 11 Adaleigh Embrey
- 12 Izaya Lile
- 20 Andrea Baxter
- 26 Hayley Patterson
- 27 Nathan Hines
- 28 Kelly Duckworth
- 28 Lydia Lile

### April 13

Elder: Diana Rich

Greeter: Lile family

Deacon: Derek Lile & Peggy Thomas

Scripture Reader: Lyssa Lile

### April 20

Elder: Don Malan

Greeter: Chuck & Carol Lewis

Deacon: Carol Lewis & Bob Thomas

Scripture Reader: Carol Lewis

### April 27

Elder: Chuck Lewis

Greeter: Carol Hedrick

Deacon: Carol Hedrick & Gary Coffman

Scripture Reader: Carol Hedrick

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 18 Everett & Phyllis McBrayer
- 20 Jerry & Kathy Wood

Communion Preparer: Diana Rich

Music Director: Carol Ann Winburn — Accompanist: Mary Coffman

Sound Techs: Phyllis McBrayer, Dianna Silvers, Justin Quick



## ATTENDANCE

Date	In-Person Worship	Online *
3/2	37	6
3/9	37	6
3/16	37	8
3/23	33	10
3/30	33	4

## BUDGET

### February Income

\$7,735.89

### February Expense

\$8,843.85

### YTD Income

\$21,681.01

### YTD Expense

\$20,677.36

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

Our Outreach Department is collecting hygiene products to support individuals and families in need. Your generosity makes a big impact in helping others.

We are looking for donations of:

- Shampoo and conditioner
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes, and floss
- Deodorant and bar soap/body wash
- Disposable razors
- Feminine hygiene products



### FAITH ADVENTURES CAMP 2025 CAMP RALLY

*Camp Galilee in El Dorado Springs Missouri*  
Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 3 pm to 6 pm  
(for all youth grades K - 12<sup>th</sup>)

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Campaign Goal: \$20,000.00  
Amount Raised So Far: \$10,086.00



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!

### FAITH ADVENTURES YOUTH CAMP

*Camp Galilee in El Dorado Springs Missouri*

Try It (grades K - 2<sup>nd</sup>); July 24 - 25

JYF (grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>); July 21 - 25

Chi Rho (grades 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>); July 21 - 25

CYF (grades 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>); July 21 - 25

*Contact the church office for a camp registration form.*

*All forms need to be returned to the church office  
by June 1<sup>st</sup>.*

## IMPORTANT

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|--|--|--|
| ➤ <u>DISCIPLES WOMEN</u><br>Tuesday, April 1 @ 6:30 p.m. | ➤ <u>COMMUNITY CAFÉ</u><br>Tuesday, April 15 @ 5:30 p.m.   | ➤ <u>CHOIR PRACTICE</u><br>Wednesday, Apr. 2 @ 7:30 p.m. |
| ➤ <u>ELDERS MEETING</u><br>Sunday, April 13              | ➤ <u>MAUNDY THURSDAY</u><br>Thursday, April 17 @ 6:30 p.m. | Tuesday, Apr. 8 @ 7 pm                                   |
| ➤ <u>BOARD MEETING</u><br>Sunday, April 27               | ➤ <u>YOUTH GROUP</u><br>Wednesdays @ 6 p.m.                | Tuesday, Apr. 15 @ 7 pm                                  |
|  |  | Wednesday, Apr. 23 @ 7 pm                                |
|  |  | Wednesday, Apr. 30 @ 7 pm                                |

## THOUGHTS & PRAYERS – Sympathy to the Huff family

### Current

- ◆ Mark Allison, Jim Arnold, Linda Barr, Mike Crow, Ron & Debbie Dunlap, Don Huenefeldt, Lakyn Fuller, Boone Middleton, Johnny Morrow, Rocky Redinger, Brenda Rich, and Marian Williams

### Currently Serving in the Military

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

### At Home

- ◆ Julie Lewis and Linda Wix

### Ongoing

- ◆ Kathy Bunch, Eunice Cobb, Caroll & Pam Dodds, Shelby Duffield, Vickie Fowler, JM Grizzell, Lona Grosshart, Jacqueline Hough, Bill Hulsey, Lori Koepsel, Missy Lancaster, Pat & Terry Lodge, Nick McBrayer, Bridget Merryfield, Charlie Padgham, Bill Perkey, Danny Ross, Julie Snell, Mike & Dolly Studards, and Dana Young





# April



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30PM DISCIPLES WOMEN	2 6PM YOUTH GROUP 6PM LENTEN SERVICE @ OSUMC 7:30PM CHOIR PRACTICE	3	4 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	5
6 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM LIFE GROUP	7	8 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE	9 6PM YOUTH GROUP 6PM LENTEN SERVICE @ FCC	10	11 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	12
13 <i>PALM SUNDAY</i> 9:30AM WORSHIP (Easter Special Offering) 10:30AM ELDERS MEETING	14	15 5:30PM COMMUNITY CAFÉ 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE	16 6PM YOUTH GROUP	17 <i>MAUNDY THURSDAY</i> 6:30PM SERVICE	18 <i>GOOD FRIDAY</i> 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	19
20 <i>EASTER</i> 9:30AM WORSHIP (Easter Special Offering) 10:30AM LIFE GROUP	21	22	23 6PM YOUTH GROUP 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE	24	25 9AM – 12PM SON SHINE LADIES	26
27 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM BOARD MEETING 3PM - 6PM CAMP RALLY	28	29	30 6PM YOUTH GROUP 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE			

## UPCOMING SERMONS



### April 6, 2025 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent)

*Scripture:* Luke 18:31—19:10 (RCL: )

*Responsive Reading:* Psalm 84:1-4, 10-12

*Theme:* Two healings

*Title:* “Who is really poor here?”

*What I was thinking:* The Narrative Lectionary pairs the story of a blind man healed near Jericho and the story of Jesus’ encounter with Zacchaeus. Why?

### April 13, 2025 (Palm Sunday)

*Scripture:* Luke 19:29-48; 20:9-19 (RCL: )

*Responsive Reading:* Isaiah 53:1-9

*Theme:* Palm Sunday and the road to the Cross

*Title:* “Weeping Savior”

*What I was thinking:* We celebrate the “Triumphal Entry” today, but if we stop there and then go straight to Easter next week, we’re going to miss an awful lot.

### April 20, 2025 (Easter)

*Scripture:* Luke 24:1-12

*Responsive Reading:* Psalm 118:17, 21-24

*Theme:* Resurrection

*Title:* “The women have lost their marbles.”

*What I was thinking:* Only Luke tells us how most of the disciples ignored the women who came back from Jesus’ empty tomb on Sunday morning. What does this detail tell us about that first Easter that might help us recapture some of what those first disciples thought and felt?

### April 27, 2025 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter)

*Scripture:* Luke 24:13-35 (RCL: )

*Responsive Reading:* Psalm 30

*Theme:* Travelers on the Emmaus Road

*Title:* “There was something in our eyes.”

*What I was thinking:* We pick up the story on Easter evening, as two despairing disciples make their way home but encounter a stranger with a surprise.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 16, 2025**

Board Members present: Deacons: Derek Lile, Jennifer Schmehl, Kathy Wood, Peggy Thomas, Gary Coffman, Steve Hedrick, Bob Thomas, Carol Lewis, Judy Colbern, Everett McBrayer, Carol Hedrick. Elders: Dianna Rich, Don Malan, Shawn Quick, Chuck Lewis, Justin Quick, Phyllis McBrayer. Voting Member: Carol Roberts. Others Present: Rev. Sharla Hulsey, Carol Ann Winburn, Lyssa Lile.

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

After reviewing the agenda, there were no items to be added. A motion to accept the agenda as presented was made by Shawn Quick, seconded by Justin Quick. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the Feb. 16 meeting included in the board packet were reviewed. There being no corrections or additions, the motion to approve them was made by Justin Quick, seconded by Carol Hedrick. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Financial Reports**—Carol Lewis, Treasurer, reviewed the Budget vs. Actuals: Budget 2025 report. Total income for the month of February was \$7,735.89 (budget \$10,291.67). Total expenses was \$8,843.85 (budget \$10,291.69) resulting in a net income of -\$1,107.96. Carol stated there was nothing out of the ordinary for that month. Lyssa Lile pointed out that under Administrative expenses, the Office Equipment and Maintenance line item showed \$602.06 (budgeted \$166.67). She explained as we switched printer agreements this was the buy out of the old printer lease. Year-to-Date total income was \$21,681.01 (budgeted \$20,583.34). Year-To-Date total expenses was \$20,677.36 (budgeted \$20,583.38). Carol then reviewed the Balance Sheet report, showing assets of \$50,510.10. However, \$34,070.00 is owed to Special Projects resulting in \$16,370.15 actual dollars in the bank. Carol Roberts reminded everyone that we need to be very careful regarding any money spent. Carol Lewis added that we have \$7,436.80 in the “Ketchup” Fund raising effort currently underway. There was no further discussion or questions, Phyllis McBrayer moved that the financial reports be approved, seconded by Justin Quick, motion passed unanimously. These financial reports are available for review in the church office.

**Minister’s Report**—Rev. Sharla Hulsey then reviewed her report. She has had several in person, phone and online conversations with members. She made 2-4 hospital visits and officiated at Nora Carver’s funeral on 2-25 -25. She attended meetings of the Disciple Women, Ministerial Alliance and Elders. She reported that Lenten services were underway and she will be preaching at the next service on March 19 at the Nazarene church. She thanked everyone for prayers, cards and food during her recent surgery and recovery.

**Old Business**—

Liability Forms/Facility Use Agreements—Carol Roberts reported that she is still working on these with Justin Quick. She is making a general use form as the one we currently have is geared more to weddings.

DSWA proposal—Carol Lewis stated that we received a proposal from DSWA last month (included in packet) stating they would provide payroll services and consulting services (possibly at an additional charge) for \$215.00/month. The QuickBooks fee is \$69.00/month. They will no longer provide any book keeping services. Lyssa is now doing some of the book keeping, such as bank reconciliation, but has no desire to do payroll. It was discussed that Lyssa should not do payroll as she is one of the employees that is on the payroll. Justin Quick said we can look at other options throughout this next year, but we need to sign the letter of acknowledgment as



*Minutes continued...*

we currently have no contract with them. The total fee for DSWA will be \$215.00 for payroll and consulting (as needed) + \$69. QuickBooks fee for a total of \$284.00 per month. Phyllis McBrayer made the motion to sign the letter of acknowledgment and secure DSWA's services for payroll and consulting (as needed). Seconded by Shawn Quick. Motion carried with one nay vote.

**New Business**—Carol Roberts apologized that she forgot to add Board meeting date changes to the new business. She states that due to Easter, the April board meeting will be April 27, 2025. The June meeting will be June 22 due to Father's Day.

**Reports from Committees and Departments—**

Property—Elevator/Phone issues. Chuck Lewis states that the state says we must have a working telephone in the elevator to be certified. Chuck felt the elevator company's solution was too expensive and that the board would never agree to it. The company then suggested device that might work to connect the phone to the phone line, and to get "our IT guy" to figure it out. Chuck contacted an IT service in Harrisonville who came but said our equipment was "too old". However, it was determined that Bright Speed will give us a phone line for the elevator for \$70.00/month. We currently have a phone/fax line from Bright Speed for \$70.00/ month that we never use. We could use that phone line and pay Bright Speed \$70.00/month and continue to use Conexon for the internet. Shawn Quick made the motion to have Bright Speed provide the phone line for the elevator and continue with Conexon for the internet. Seconded by Everett McBrayer. Motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**—motion to adjourn made by Shawn Quick, seconded by Justin Quick. Rev. Hulsey gave the closing prayer at 11:20

Respectfully submitted

Jennifer Schmehl  
Board Secretary





**FIRST  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH**  
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

REV. SHARLA HULSEY

Return Service Requested

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# THE MESSENGER



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## 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

### April 2

Location: Ohio Street United Methodist Church

Preacher: Jeremy Henderson

### April 9

Location: First Christian Church

Preacher: Marla Kash