



# THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

11 W. Pine, Butler, MO 64730

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## What I'm Thankful For

It seems appropriate to me that the same month contains both Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving. Over the years I have had occasion to talk with several veterans of the Second World War. In one of these conversations I let the veteran know that I appreciated his service. He told me that in the decades since his service, I was only the second person who had told him that.

This just doesn't seem right to me. I think that, since the days of the war in Vietnam, some of us have a different view of war than those who lived through World War II did, whether they were children, or fought in the war, or supported the war effort through their work or volunteer duties here at home. Nevertheless, while we may not always agree with the decisions made by the leadership of our country or of our armed forces, and we have the right and the responsibility to speak out in such cases, the men and women who serve, and who go to battle and risk their lives for their country and for our sake, deserve our respect.

This month as I begin to reflect on the many blessings God has given me, one of the things that comes to my mind is the blessing of living in this country, with freedoms that few other people on this earth today or at any time in history could imagine having. The blessings I have as a result of being a citizen of the United States of America are not without cost, though; and I am thankful for all those who have set aside their own comfort, and in many cases even their lives, to pay that cost. I cannot repay what they have given me; but I can express my appreciation. I can—and I believe we all should, however we're able—to find ways to make life easier for our veterans, especially those who return home with physical, mental, or spiritual injuries.

To all veterans who are reading this, whether you served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Kosovo, Afghanistan, or any other place around the globe: Thank you. I appreciate your service. May God watch over you and bless you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sharla".



# Serving Schedule



## November 2

**Elder:** Justin Quick

**Greeter:** Judy Taylor

**Deacon:** Judy Colburn & Steve Hedrick

**Scripture Reader:** Chuck Lewis

## November 9

**Elder:** Diana Rich

**Greeter:** Lile family

**Deacon:** Derek Lile & Peggy Thomas

**Scripture Reader:** Lyssa Lile

## November 16

**Elder:** Don Malan

**Greeter:** Chuck & Carol Lewis

**Deacon:** Carol Lewis & Bob Thomas

**Scripture Reader:** Jennifer Schmehl

## November 23

**Elder:** Chuck Lewis

**Greeter:** Carol Hedrick

**Deacon:** Carol Hedrick & Gary Coffman

**Scripture Reader:** Carol Hedrick

## November 30

**Elder:** Shawn Quick

**Greeter:** Carol Roberts

**Deacon:** Everett McBrayer & Kathy Wood

**Scripture Reader:** Shawn Quick

**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  
19 Dale Kinsmen  
24 Carol Lewis  
24 Judy Taylor  
25 Mary Mae Lewis  
29 Sandee Hubbard



11 Don & Debbie Cole

## ATTENDANCE

Date	In-Person Worship	Online
9/28	40	5
10/5	28	5
10/12	41	4
10/19	37	6

## BUDGET

### September Income

\$6,948.03

### September Expense

\$10,439.91

### YTD Income

\$117,006.17

### YTD Expense

\$90,149.26

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

Our November Outreach Mission is to support the annual Thanksgiving meal hosted by Judge Julie Highley and the Carpenter's Cup. To help meet our goals, we are still needing the following items:



- 3 boxes of gallon-size freezer bags
- 4 large jars of Knorr chicken bouillon
- 29 five-pound bags of potatoes

Please place your donations in the collection bins located in the church foyer. The last day to bring items is November 20. To sign up or ask questions, contact Phyllis or the church office.

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A congregational vote will be held after worship on Sunday, November 2 to approve the 2026 budget and elect candidates for deacon, elder, board officers, endowment trustees, and the pastoral support committee. All members are encouraged to attend.



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).

### SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

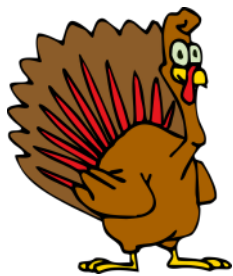
The Membership Committee invites you to join us for a delicious breakfast on Sunday, November 9 at 8:30 AM in the fellowship hall. Come enjoy good food and great company before the morning service. All are welcome — bring a friend and start your Sunday with a smile!

## IMPORTANT

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| ➤ <u>ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE</u><br>Sunday, Nov. 2 during worship | ➤ <u>ELDERS MEETING</u><br>Sunday, Nov. 9 after worship  | ➤ <u>OFFICE CLOSED/THANKSGIVING</u><br>Thursday, November 27 |
| ➤ <u>CONGREGATIONAL MEETING</u><br>Sunday, Nov. 2 after worship  | ➤ <u>BOARD MEETING</u><br>Sunday, Nov. 16 after worship  | ➤ <u>YOUTH GROUP</u><br>Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m.               |
| ➤ <u>DISCIPLES WOMEN</u><br>Tuesday, Nov. 4 @ 6:00 p.m.          | ➤ <u>COMMUNITY CAFÉ</u><br>Tuesday, Nov. 18 @ 5:30 p.m.  | ➤ <u>CHOIR PRACTICE</u><br>Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.            |
| ➤ <u>MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST</u><br>Sunday, Nov. 9 @ 8:30 a.m.      | ➤ <u>PASTORAL SUPPORT</u><br>Wednesday, Nov. 19 @ 5 p.m. |  |

## THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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|---|---|--|
| ♦ <u>Current</u><br>Owen Cunningham-Arnold, Diane Black, Shelby Duffield, Joyce Fitzpatrick, Debbie Fortner, Pam Gray, Joyce Guffey, Gretchen Hellwig, Jim Herrell, Bill Kern, Rory Kutz, Betty Lemon, Terry Lodge, Phyllis McBrayer, Mark Mills, James Mitchell II, Blaine Pitts, Stella Plunkett, Judy Shubert, Nancy Gardner Simons, and Julie Snell | ♦ <u>At Home</u><br>Julie Lewis and Linda Wix   |  |
| ♦ <u>Currently Serving in the Military</u><br>Everett Chapman, Carter Coffman, Jordan Lopez, Jordan Olson, and Rick Warren  | ♦ <u>Ongoing</u><br>Greg Arnold, Kathy Bunch, Eunice Cobb, Mike Crow, Gwendolyn Dice, Caroll & Pam Dodds, Marilyn Eneff, Eli Ferrell, JM Grizzell, Lona Grosshart, Don Huenefeldt, Lori Koepsel, Everett McBrayer, Nick McBrayer, Charlie Padgham, Danny Ross, Rocky Redinger, and Dolly Studards |  |
|   | ♦ <u>Sympathy</u><br>Families of Evelyn Dunlap, Don Hatch, Jason Young, and Gavin Reed  |  |



# November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> <i>All Saints Day</i>
<b>2</b> 9:30AM WORSHIP <i>(All Saints)</i> 10:30AM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING LIFE GROUP	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6PM DISCIPLES WOMEN	<b>5</b> 6PM YOUTH GROUP 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:30AM MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:45AM ELDERS MEETING LIFE GROUP	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <i>Veterans Day</i>	<b>12</b> 6PM YOUTH GROUP 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM BOARD MEETING	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5:30PM COMMUNITY CAFÉ	<b>19</b> 5PM PASTORAL SUPPORT MEETING 6PM YOUTH GROUP 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23/30</b> 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM LIFE GROUP	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE	<b>27</b> <i>Thanksgiving</i> 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

## Upcoming Sermons



### **November 2, 2025 (Proper 26)**

*Scripture:* 1 Kings 19:1-18 (RCL: Proper 7, Year C)

*Psalm:* 13

*Theme:* The aftermath of Elijah's triumph

*Title:* "You must walk your lonesome valley..."

*What I was thinking:* After receiving a death threat from the queen, Elijah crashes and burns; and then God rescues him.

### **November 9, 2025 (Proper 27)**

*Scripture:* Amos 5:14-15, 21-24

*Psalm:* 17:1-8

*Theme:* God's wrath

*Title:* "It's not what you think."

*What I was thinking:* Without God's wrath, God's justice is toothless. But upon whom does God's wrath fall?

### **November 16, 2025 (Proper 28)**

*Scripture:* Exodus 34:1-10

*O Antiphon:* "O Adonai"

*Psalm:* 20:1-8

*Theme:* the Name of God

*Title:* "Not Jehovah"

*What I was thinking:* I am starting our Advent theme a bit early. We will be focusing on the seven "O Antiphons" which Christians have prayed during Advent since the Middle Ages. We begin with "O Adonai" today, and will end with "O Emmanuel" on Christmas Eve. Today we will think about God's Name as revealed to Moses, along with other ways God has been addressed by faithful people throughout history.

### **November 23, 2025 (Proper 29/Christ the King)**

*Scripture:* Philippians 2:5-11 (RCL: Proper 21, Year A; and Palm Sunday, all years)

*O Antiphon:* "O King of all the nations"

*Psalm:* 24:7-10

*Theme:* the nature of Christ's kingship

*Title:* "Standing on Our Heads"

*What I was thinking:* "Christ the King" Sunday was instituted in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in response to rising nationalism throughout the western world. We are reminded that we have but one King, Jesus Christ. But his is a reign unlike that of any other monarch who has ever existed on earth.

### **November 30 (First Sunday of Advent)**

*Scripture:* Colossians 1:15-20 (RCL: Christ the King, Year C)

*O Antiphon:* "O Wisdom"

*Psalm:* 46

*Theme:* Hope

*Title:* "You're old, but you're wise."

*What I was thinking:* Today we begin Advent with an exploration of God's wisdom and how that wisdom, made known to us in Jesus Christ, gives us hope for a future much different from the inescapable troubles of this world.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**October 19, 2025**

Board Members present: Deacons: Jennifer Schmehl, Kathy Wood, Peggy Thomas, Don Cole, Steve Hedrick, Bob Thomas, Carol Lewis, Judy Colburn, Carol Hedrick. Elders: Diana Rich, Chuck Lewis, Shawn Quick, Justin Quick, Phyllis McBrayer. Voting Member: Carol Roberts. Others present: Rev. Sharla Hulsey, Carol Ann Winburn, Debbie Cole, Claudia Hulsey.

The meeting was called to order at 10:39 by Carol Roberts, chairperson. Opening prayer was given by Justin Quick. The agenda was reviewed and requests to add Outreach, Membership, and Property committee reports were made. The agenda was approved unanimously after a motion was made by Phyllis McBrayer and seconded by Shawn Quick.

The minutes of the September meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Chuck Lewis, seconded by Justin Quick. Motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Reports**—the financial reports included in the packet were reviewed by Carol Lewis, board treasurer.

Budget vs. Actuals, Sept. 2025. Total income-\$6,948.03 (budget \$10,291.67)

Total Expenses-\$10,439.91 (budget \$10,291.69)

Net Income-\$-3,491.88

Budget vs. Actuals, YTD. Total Income-\$117,006.17 (budget \$92,625.03)

Total Expenses \$90,149.26

Net Income. \$26,856.91

Balance Sheet. Total Assets-\$54,800.29

Restricted Funds, owed to Special Projects \$7,895.79

Total Liabilities and Equity-\$54,800.29

Total cash-\$46,832.93

Full Financial reports for review are available in the church office. Motion to accept the financial reports was made by Justin Quick, seconded by Bob Thomas and approved unanimously.

**Minister's Report**—Rev. Hulsey stated that she had conversations with various members as per usual. She delivered the Festival of Sharing boxes in KC, attended the funeral for Evelyn Dunlap, attended a webinar on church revitalization, and attended meetings for the Nominating Committee, Ministerial Alliance, Faith Adventures steering committee (one in person, one Zoom meeting), and Disciples Women. She also reported that the Son Shine Ladies group will be ending their meetings. We will be having a community Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 23, 2025, at the Butler Community of Christ Church at 5:00pm. There will be an offering for the Butler Ministerial Alliance, and a combined choir will sing. Anyone who is interested in joining the choir for this service please let Rev. Hulsey or Carol Ann Winburn know.

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

**New Business**—

2026 Budget Proposal—Diana Rich, Stewardship Department Chairperson, presented the recommended budget for 2026. During discussion, Phyllis McBrayer recommended an increase to the salary of the Administrative Assistant. After discussion, a motion was made by Phyllis McBrayer to increase this budget line item. This motion was seconded by Don Cole and passed unanimously. Then a motion to approve the entire budget for 2026 as revised was made by Don Cole, seconded by Kathy Wood, and passed unanimously.



Nominating Committee proposal—Jennifer Schmehl, Nominating committee chairperson, reported that the Nominating committee met twice and recommended the following candidates:

Deacon (3 years)

Jennifer Schmehl  
Lyssa Lile  
Judy Daniel  
Debbie Cole

Elders (3 years)

John Daniel  
Diana Rich

Board Officers (1 year)

Board Chair: Carol Roberts  
Vice Chair: Shawn Quick  
Sect: Jennifer Schmehl  
Treasurer: Carol Lewis  
Financial Sec: Diana Rich

Endowment Trustees: (3 years)

Justin Quick (2028)  
Don Cole. (2028)

Pastoral Support Committee (3 years)

Judy Taylor (2028)  
Phyllis McBrayer (2028)

Nominating Emeritus

None

Jennifer then stated that the by-laws state that anyone going off the board must do so for 1 year. A person may stay on the board without that year off if it is brought to the board and they vote to allow it. Jennifer Schmehl and Diana Rich are due to go off the board this year but have agreed to stay on in their capacity. Motion made by Chuck Lewis to allow Jennifer and Diana to remain on the board, seconded by Shawn Quick and passed unanimously. Shawn Quick then made motion to accept the full list for 2026. Justin Quick seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports—**

Outreach—Phyllis McBrayer reports that Community Cafe is Nov. 21st; the October outreach project has been to collect canned goods for the Food Pantry; The November project is to collect potatoes and other items for the Thanksgiving dinner given by Judge Highly and the Carpenter's Cup. Donations are due by Nov 20th.

Membership—Carol Hedrick reported that approximately 31 people attended the fellowship dinner on Oct. 12. She thanked the committee and congregation for their donations for that dinner.

Property—Phyllis McBrayer reported that there were some minor plumbing issues that have been fixed. Loren Appleberry is to check the light above the north entrance that has been not working. Phyllis reported that the light bulbs in all the Exit signs have been replaced.

There being no further business, motion was made for adjournment by Shawn Quick, seconded by Phyllis McBrayer and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:18 following a closing prayer by Rev. Hulsey.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jennifer Schmehl, Board Secretary





FIRST  
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DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

REV. SHARLA HULSEY

Return Service Requested

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# THE MESSENGER

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*“I take joy in doing your will, my God,  
for your instructions are written on my heart.”*

*-Psalm 40:8*

