



THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

11 W. Pine, Butler, MO 64730

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

A “Little Lent”

I’ve heard it said that Advent was, earlier in Christian history, meant to be a “little Lent,” a time of penitence and preparation for the celebration of Jesus’ birth, just as Lent in the spring is a time of penitence and preparation for the celebration of Jesus’ resurrection. These days, for us Protestants who observe Advent, we may try to prepare our hearts for Jesus’ coming (and Advent is traditionally the time when we remember that Jesus will one day return in glory), but the penitence portion of the historical observance is very much diminished.

Advent as a time of penitence might not really be welcome, and I’m frankly not entirely sure it’s necessary. However, another aspect of Lent that we might wish to consider in Advent—as a new year’s resolution of sorts, since Advent is the beginning of the church year—is the taking up of new spiritual practices, or deepening our practice of those disciplines we are already working on. We may wish to add a prayer time to our daily routine, for instance.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, I’ve been leading Morning Prayer on Facebook Live. I know that many of you have been joining me on a daily or occasional basis, and I hope it helps you begin your day on a positive note. As we begin Advent on November 30, I am going to make a small change to my Morning Prayer practice.

As you probably know, I take my day off on Saturday. Therefore, beginning December 6 (the feast day of St. Nicholas of Myra, incidentally), I am not going to livestream Morning Prayers on Saturdays. When the Morning Prayer orders are posted for the week, the Saturday installment will include not only a hymn and Scripture reading, but also the meditation for the day from whatever resource we’re using. (Right now we’re working through *A Cherokee Feast of Days* by Joyce Sequichie Hifler, but in January we will begin a new book of daily readings.)

I hope that you will continue to pray daily, perhaps taking up the practice of praying before meals if that’s not already part of your routine, or even ending your day with prayer if you don’t already. (A number of churches have created videos you can watch on YouTube that guide you through a traditional Compline, or Evening Prayer, service, if you would find that helpful.) And I hope that, during this busy season, you’ll also join me in taking seriously the importance of rest and renewal of our bodies, minds, and spirits.



Serving Schedule



December 7

Elder: Phyllis McBrayer

Greeter: Judy Taylor

Deacon: Jennifer Schmehl & Don Cole

Scripture Reader: Shawn Quick

December 14

Elder: Justin Quick

Greeter: Gary Coffman

Deacon: Judy Colburn & Carol Hedrick

Scripture Reader: Jennifer Schmehl

December 21

Elder: Diana Rich

Greeter: Lile family

Deacon: Derek Lile & Peggy Thomas

Scripture Reader: Lyssa Lile

December 28

Elder: Don Malan

Greeter: Carol Roberts

Deacon: Carol Lewis & Bob Thomas

Scripture Reader: Carol Hedrick



Communion Preparer: Carol Hedrick

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

Sound Techs: Phyllis McBrayer, Dianna Silvers, Justin Quick



18 Gary & Mary Coffman



ATTENDANCE



Date	In-Person Worship	Online
10/26	36	2
11/2	34	3
11/9	41	1
11/16	35	2
11/23	36	2

BUDGET

October Income

\$10,547.45

October Expense

\$9,032.32

YTD Income

\$127,553.62

YTD Expense

\$99,181.58

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUTREACH DEPARTMENT



Our Outreach Mission for December is to provide bagged meals for The Carpenter's Cup. You may participate in whichever way works best for you: assemble a meal using the instruction sheets available in the foyer, bring ingredients for a meal and we will assemble it for you, or contribute financially toward the purchase of ingredients. (Each bag costs approximately \$10 to prepare.)

Thank you, sincerely, for the generosity you've shown throughout 2025. Your donations and support enable the Outreach Department to continue carrying out God's mission here in Butler, Missouri.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH



Join us for soup and sandwiches! Warm your soul with a delicious bowl of soup and great company! Sunday, December 7 after worship in the FCC Fellowship Hall.

THE DISCIPLES WOMEN



will be sponsoring a church-wide Christmas card exchange again this year. There will be a collection box placed in the foyer between November 30th and December 21st. A directory list will also be available. Feel free to participate, but do not feel obligated. This is a fun activity for those who wish to share Christmas greetings.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Join us on December 24 at 6:30 p.m. for a peaceful and joyful Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.



Come celebrate the birth of Christ with Scripture, carols, and the glow of candlelight as we gather together in hope and gratitude. All are welcome to share in this beautiful tradition.

IMPORTANT

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ➤ <u>DISCIPLES WOMEN</u>
Tuesday, Dec. 2 @ 6:00 p.m. | ➤ <u>BOARD MEETING</u>
Sunday, Dec. 21 after worship | ➤ <u>YOUTH GROUP</u>
Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m. |
| ➤ <u>FELLOWSHIP LUNCH</u>
Sunday, Dec. 7 after worship | ➤ <u>CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE</u>
Wednesday, Dec. 24 @ 6:30 p.m. | ➤ <u>CHOIR PRACTICE</u>
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. |
| ➤ <u>ELDERS MEETING</u>
Sunday, Dec. 14 after worship | ➤ <u>OFFICE CLOSED/CHRISTMAS</u>
Thursday, Dec. 25 | |
| ➤ <u>COMMUNITY CAFÉ</u>
Tuesday, Dec. 16 @ 5:30 p.m. | | |

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| ♦ <u>Current</u>
Owen Cunningham-Arnold, Diane Black, Shelby Duffield, Joyce Fitzpatrick, Debbie Fortner, Pam Gray, Joyce Guffey, Jim Herrell, Bill Kern, Rory Kutz, Doris Jane Lollar, Mark Lovelace, Betty Lemon, Terry Lodge, Phyllis McBrayer, Mark Mills, James Mitchell II, Blaine Pitts, Stella Plunkett, Doug Ronald, Judy Shubert, Nancy Gardner Simons, and Julie Snell | ♦ <u>At Home</u>
Julie Lewis and Linda Wix | |
| ♦ <u>Currently Serving in the Military</u>
Everett Chapman, Carter Coffman, Jordan Lopez, Jordan Olson, and Rick Warren | ♦ <u>Ongoing</u>
Greg Arnold, Kathy Bunch, Eunice Cobb, Mike Crow, Gwendolyn Dice, Carroll & Pam Dodds, Marilyn Eneff, Eli Ferrell, JM Grizzell, Lona Grosshart, Don Huenefeldt, Lori Koepsel, Everett McBrayer, Nick McBrayer, Charlie Padgham, Rocky Redinger, and Dolly Studards | |
| | ♦ <u>Sympathy</u> is extended to the families of Wes & Zelda Coleman, E.C. Lemon, and Bob Schnoebelen. Sympathy is also extended to Allan (Billie) Bopp, at the loss of his mother. | |



December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6PM DISCIPLES WOMEN	3 6PM YOUTH GROUP 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE	4	5	6
7 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP LUNCH	8	9	10 12PM ROTARY CHRISTMAS LUNCH 6PM YOUTH GROUP 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE	11	12	13
14 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:45AM ELDERS MEETING LIFE GROUP	15	16 5:30PM COMMUNITY CAFÉ	17 6PM YOUTH GROUP 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE	18	19	20
21 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM BOARD MEETING	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 6:30PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 	26	27
28 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM LIFE GROUP	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE			

Upcoming Sermons



December 7, 2025 (2nd Sunday of Advent)

Scripture: John 10:1-18 (RCL: vv. 1-10, Easter 4, Year A; vv. 11-18, Easter 4, Year B)

O Antiphon: O Key of David

Psalm 23

Advent Theme: Love

Title: "Do me a favor: open the door and let 'em in."

What I was thinking: (h/t to Sir Paul, of course) The image of Jesus as Good Shepherd has been the subject of countless works of art through the centuries. But there are more images there. What are they, and how do they inform today's Advent theme of love?

December 14, 2025 (3rd Sunday of Advent)

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7 (RCL: Christmas 1st Proper, all years)

O Antiphon: O Radiant Dawn

Psalm 96

Advent Theme: Joy

Title: "Sunshine in the Valley"

What I was thinking: What happens when a person can't muster up "merry" at Christmas time, because of grief, worry, or trouble? Is there good news for those who are walking in darkness?

December 21, 2025 (4th Sunday of Advent)

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10 (RCL: Advent 2, Year A)

O Antiphon: O Root of Jesse

Psalm 27:1, 4-5, 13-14

Advent Theme: Peace

Title: "It came a flow'ret bright..."

What I was thinking: The idea that "a shoot will come out of the stump of Jesse" is paired with images of a peaceable kingdom in which the strong no longer attack the weak. Behind this is the Hebrew notion of *shalom*, a peace that is much more than quiet or the absence of conflict.

December 28, 2025 (1st Sunday of Christmas)

Scripture: John 1:1-18 (RCL: Christmas 2, and Christmas 3rd Proper, all years)

Psalm 130:5-8

Theme: The Incarnation

Title: "The Tabernacle in the Wilderness"

What I was thinking: Matthew tells us that Jesus is to have another name, *Immanuel*. In Hebrew the word "is" is left out, so whether it means *God-with-us* or *God is with us* is a matter of interpretation. What does it mean that Jesus is the incarnation of God living among us?

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Congregational Meeting
November 2, 2025

Carol Roberts, board chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:43 am. Rev. Hulsey opened with a prayer.

Carol told the congregation that this meeting was to approve the budget for 2026 and the nominees for the Board and committees. A copy of both is in this morning's service bulletin. There were no questions or concerns, Carol instructed the congregation members to mark the ballot that is in the bulletin. Ballots were collected and Carol thanked the Stewardship committee and the Nominating committee for their work.

No further discussion, meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Schmehl, Board Secretary

Addendum: The results of the vote are as follows: Budget - 30 yes. 0 no
Nominations - 30 yes. 0 no



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 Phyllis. 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.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Board Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2025

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:48 by Carol Roberts, chairperson. Opening prayer was given by Shawn 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 Justin Quick and seconded by Carol Hedrick.

The minutes of the October Board meeting and the Oct. 19 Congressional meeting were reviewed. Carol Roberts stated that the Congressional meeting minutes needed an addendum showing results of the vote to accept the nominees and budget, which were 30 Yes, 0 No. Motion to accept the minutes of the Board meeting was made by Chuck Lewis, seconded by Shawn Quick. Motion passed unanimously. Motion to accept the minutes of the Congressional meeting with the addendum was made by Shawn Quick, seconded by Phyllis McBrayer and passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS—the Financial Reports included in the Board packet were reviewed by Carol Lewis, Board Treasurer.

Budget vs. Actuals, Nov. 2025: Total Income \$10,547.45 (budget \$ 10,291.67)
Total Expenses- \$9,032.32 (budget \$10,291.69)
Net Income-\$1,515.13

Budget vs. Actuals YTD: Total Income \$127,553.62 (budget \$102,916.70)
Total Expenses \$99,181.58(budget \$102,916.90)

Balance Sheet: Total Assets-\$54,805.29
Restricted Funds-owed to Special Projects \$6,318.41
Total Liabilities and Equity-\$54,805.29
Total cash-\$48,415.31

Full financial reports are available for review in the church office. Motion to accept the reports was made by Phyllis McBrayer, seconded by Carol Hedrick and passed unanimously.

MINISTER'S REPORTS—Rev. Hulsey reported several phone and in person conversations with members in various locations. She helped prepare food for and serve Community Cafe on Oct. 21. She also prepared 24 meals-in-bags to be distributed by the Carpenter's Cup to those in need of food. She and Julie Nelson prepared the service for the Ministerial Alliance's Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 23. She also attended the Disciple's Women meeting on Nov.4, the Ministerial Alliance meeting on Nov.6 and the Elders meeting on Nov. 9. She also stated that in addition to meals-in-bags, the Carpenter's Cup need clean, empty containers such as cottage cheese containers for their food distribution. You can bring those to the church or drop them off at the Carpenter's Cup.

OLD BUSINESS-

The outside light above the north door has not been fixed (awaiting electrician). Don Cole states that the cost for this has been taken care of.

Continued on next page.

NEW BUSINESS-

Elders/Deacons meetings: Carol Roberts states that these groups need to meet to elect chairpersons and orient new members of duties. She will choose a Sunday to meet after church and will notify the Elders and Deacons.

COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS-

Endowment Trustees—Christian Church Foundation: Carol Ann Winburn reviewed the Foundation reports included in the board packet. She stated that we recently moved some funds to a slightly more aggressive fund.

Membership committee-Carol Hedrick reported that the membership committee is planning a soup and sandwich lunch after church on Dec. 7.

Property committee-Phyllis McBrayer reported that the furnace needs to have a fan replaced but will be covered under the budget.

Outreach committee-Phyllis McBrayer reported that the Community Cafe board met and for 4 of the First Christian Church's meals the food will be provided by some other organization or individual in 2026. She states on Nov. 18, we will be fixing a turkey dinner for the Community Cafe and she could use some extra help for that.

The Moulton Fund will be distributed in December and if anyone knows of anyone in our church or not in our church in need of money for utilities, food or any other reason, to let Phyllis or Rev. Hulsey know. The money must be distributed by a certain date (around Christmas).

ADJOURNMENT-there being no further business, Shawn Quick made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Carol Hedrick and passed unanimously. Closing prayer given by Rev. Hulsey. Meeting adjourned at 11:26.

Respectfully submitted.

Jennifer Schmehl, Board Secretary



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

*Join us for a heartwarming night
filled with peace, hope, and joy!*

Experience an evening filled with beautiful carols,
inspiring messages, and the gentle glow of
candlelight that symbolizes peace and hope. This
is a perfect opportunity to reflect, celebrate, and
create lasting memories with your loved ones.

DECEMBER

24

6:30 P.M.

FIRST CHRISTIAN
CHURCH

11 W. PINE ST.
BUTLER, MO

Come and be a part of this special night that brings our
community together in joy and reverence.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Celebrate the season with us and let your heart be filled with light!



FIRST
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

REV. SHARLA HULSEY

Return Service Requested



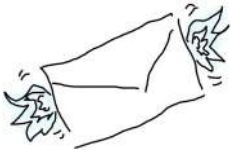
660-679-3066



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11 W. Pine St., Butler, MO 64730



THE MESSENGER



*"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid I bring you
good news that will cause great joy for all people.'"*

-Luke 2:10

