

The Messenger

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

January 2026



Default Settings

Before I begin, I want to thank everyone for your cards, goodies, and gifts for Christmas. I'm blessed to be part of such a delightful and generous congregation!

You've probably heard me say before that I'm not a big fan of New Year's resolutions. It seems like a lot of our resolutions are motivated by guilt about having over-indulged during the holiday season. I don't think decisions we make out of guilt, like decisions we make out of fear, are always good ones.

With that said, I do want to challenge everyone to make a resolution this year. Our world is, as it has always been, filled with impatience, anger, and cruelty. We who belong to Christ have lots of opportunities to show the world a better way.

When using a computer, we have a lot of "default settings"—things that are the same all the time, like how we prefer our screen to look when we're working. We have default settings in life, too. Think about when you get ready in the morning. I would venture to guess you do everything in very nearly the same order every day—for instance, first you put in your contacts, then brush your teeth and take your meds, then wash your face, then get dressed, then say your morning prayers (I hope!), then have breakfast. It's pretty much automatic—but it also means that if you do it out of order, you may forget something. I know I've done this, and gotten to work realizing I forgot to brush my teeth.

Here's my challenge to you: give yourself a new default setting for the new year. My favorite memory verse from Sunday school was Ephesians 4:32, which I've included below. Put it where you can see it, and let it help you make kindness your default setting as you go about your life.

Sharla

Birthdays

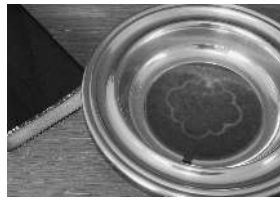
- 2 Allan Bopp
- 3 Robin Carter
- 4 Denise Burch
- 6 Julie Lewis
- 11 Weston Colburn
- 18 Lucille Munday
- 20 Ed Perkins
- 21 Shawn Quick
- 22 Justin Quick
- 27 Don Cole

Anniversaries

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

*be kind
to one another,
tenderhearted,
forgiving one another,
as God in Christ
has
forgiven you.*

Ephesians 4:32



January Serving Schedule

Communion Preparer: Carol Hedrick

January 4

- **Elder:** Phyllis McBrayer
- **Deacon:** Gary Coffman & Judy Colburn

January 11

- **Elder:** Justin Quick
- **Deacon:** Steve Hedrick & Carol Lewis

January 18

- **Elder:** Diana Rich
- **Deacon:** Bob Thomas & Jennifer Schmehl

January 25

- **Elder:** John Daniel
- **Deacon:** Judy Daniel & Everett McBrayer

- **Greeter:** Owen Cunningham-Arnold
- **Scripture Reader:** Diana Rich

- **Greeter:** Carol Hedrick
- **Scripture Reader:** Carol Hedrick

- **Greeter:** Chuck & Carol Lewis
- **Scripture Reader:** Shawn Quick

- **Greeter:** Carol Roberts
- **Scripture Reader:** Carol Hedrick



Attendance

November 30

- **In-person:** 37
- **Online:** 5

December 7

- **In-person:** 40
- **Online:** 2

December 14

- **In-person:** 39
- **Online:** 4

December 21

- **In-person:** 45
- **Online:** 5



Budget

November Income

\$10,982.31

November Expense

\$8,223.24

Year to Date Income

\$138,535.93

Year to Date Expense

\$107,404.82

Complete financial reports
are available in the church
office.

Announcements



Outreach Project

During the month of January, we will be supporting the Ministerial Alliance through monetary donations.

- Please make checks payable to Butler Ministerial Alliance.
- Place cash in an envelope clearly marked Ministerial Alliance.
- Contributions can be placed in the offering tray on Sundays.



Important Events

Worship: Sundays @ 9:30 am

Life Group: Sundays @ 10:30 am

Office Closed: Jan. 1 (New Year's Day)

Disciples Women: Jan. 6 @ 6 pm

Elders Meeting: Jan. 11 @ 10:30 am

Board Meeting: Jan. 18 @ 10:30 am

Community Cafe: Jan. 20 @ 5:30 pm

Youth Group: Wednesdays @ 5 pm

Choir Practice: Wednesdays @ 6 pm



Thoughts & Prayers

Current

Owen Cunningham-Arnold, Rory Kutz, Doris Jane Lollar, Terry Lodge, Mark Lovelace, Phyllis McBrayer, Chelsea McConkay, Mark Mills, James Mitchell II, Blaine Pitts, Stella Plunkett, Daniela Potts, Doug Ronald, Nancy Gardner Simons, Julie Snell, and Sherry Wilson

Ongoing

Greg Arnold, Kathy Bunch, Eunice Cobb, Mike Crow, Gwendolyn Dice, Carol & Pam Dodds, Shelby Duffield, Marilyn Eneff, Eli Ferrell, Joyce Fitzpatrick, Debbie Fortner, JM Grizzell, Lona Grosshart, Joyce Guffey, Jim Herrell, Lori Koepsel, Betty Lemon, Everett McBrayer, Nick McBrayer, Charlie Padgham, Rocky Redinger, Judy Shubert, and Dolly Studards

At Home

Julie Lewis and Linda Wix

Currently Serving in the Military

Everett Chapman, Carter Coffman, Jordan Lopez, Jordan Olson, and Rick Warren

Sympathy

To the families of Alice Mae Jennings, Paul Phillips Sr., J.L. Eckert, Herman Shubert, Norma Padley, Doyle Scroggs, and Wayne Delozier



Weather Cancellation Policy

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 - www.921news.com - Facebook page (92.1 News Now)**
- **Mid America Live/Bates County Live**
- The church's **Facebook page:** facebook.com/FCCButlerMO

If you have not seen or heard any updates by 8:00 AM, 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.



Upcoming Sermons

January 4, 2026 (2nd Sunday of Christmas)

Scripture: John 1:19-34 (RCL: Advent 3, Year B)

Responsive Reading: Isaiah 40:3-11

Theme: John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus

Title: "He's here."

January 11, 2026 (1st Sunday of Epiphany)

Scripture: John 1:35-51 (RCL: 29-42, Epiphany 2, Year A; 43-51, Epiphany 2, Year B)

Psalm: Daniel 7:13-14

Theme: The first disciples follow Jesus

Title: "Come and see."

January 18, 2026 (2nd Sunday of Epiphany)

Scripture: John 2:1-11 (RCL: Epiphany 2, Year C)

Responsive Reading: Amos 9:13-15

Theme: The wedding at Cana

Title: "Show me, don't tell me."

January 25, 2026 (3rd Sunday of Epiphany)

Scripture: John 2:13-25 (RCL: Lent 3, Year B)

Responsive Reading: Isaiah 56:3-8

Theme: Jesus cleanses the temple

Title: "This isn't the time or the place."

All are welcome

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH	660-679-3066
www.fccbutler.org	11 W Pine St., Butler, MO 64730

Board Meeting Minutes

December 21, 2025

Board Members present: Deacons: Derek Lile, Jennifer Schmehl, Kathy Wood, Steve Hedrick, Carol Lewis, Carol Hedrick. Elders: Chuck Lewis, Shawn Quick, Justin Quick, Phyllis McBrayer. Voting Member: Carol Roberts. Others present: Rev. Sharla Hulsey, Carol Ann Winburn, Lyssa Lile, Claudia Hulsey.

The meeting was called to order at 10:51 by Carol Roberts, chairperson. Opening prayer was given by Justin Quick. The agenda was reviewed and a request to add Outreach committee report was made. The agenda was approved unanimously after a motion was made by Justin Quick and seconded by Phyllis McBrayer.

The minutes of the November 2025 meeting were reviewed. No additions or corrections were made, motion to accept the minutes was made by Carol Lewis, seconded by Shawn Quick. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS—Carol Lewis reviewed the financial reports for December 2025.

Budget vs. Actual—Total Income—\$10,982.31 (budget \$10,291.67)

Total Expenses—\$8,223.24 (budget \$10,291.69)

Net Income—\$2,759.07

Budget vs Actual YTD—Total Income—\$138,535.93 (budget \$113,208.37)

Total Expenses—\$107,404.82 (budget \$113,208.59)

Net Income—\$31,131.11

Balance Sheet—Total Assets—\$54,930.31

Owed to Special Projects—\$3,571.63

Total Liability and Equity—\$54,930.31

Total Cash in Bank—\$51,287.11

(Full financial reports are available for review in the church office.)

Motion made by Shawn Quick to approve the financial reports, seconded by Phyllis McBrayer, passed unanimously.

MINISTER'S REPORT

Rev. Hulsey reviewed her activities for the past month. Besides conversations with church members, she helped with Community Cafe, led singing at the community Thanksgiving service, attended Rotary, officiated at a wedding, attended Herman Shubert's funeral, and attended 4 different meetings. She stated that they collected \$1400.00 at the Thanksgiving service for the Ministerial Alliance. She reminded everyone of the "bad weather" policy for the church. It will be decided by 7:00am on Sundays if church will be cancelled or not due to weather. It will be announced on Facebook, local radio, Mid America Live and the Kansas City TV stations.

OLD BUSINESS— there was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS—Adrian Plumbing bill—Chuck Lewis reported that Adrian Plumbing has been here to address the slow draining sinks in the kitchen. They had to dig down in the east parking lot to reach the problem area and fix it for the cost of \$1963.40. It was planned to pay that from the Restricted Funds, but Chuck questioned why we didn't pay it out of the Building Maintenance budget. According to the budget, that department is under budget by \$4,791.61. After some discussion, Shawn Quick made the motion to pay the bill from the Building Maintenance budget. Seconded by Carol Lewis, motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS—

Carol Roberts requested that all 2025 Department Chairs turn in a report of activities in 2025. Please put them in her mailbox before the next board meeting.

Outreach—Phyllis McBrayer reported that Community Cafe went well although the number attending was low. The Outreach project for Jan. will be monetary donations for the Ministerial Alliance.

There being no further business, motion was made for adjournment by Justin Quick, seconded by Kathy Wood, passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:24. Closing prayer by Rev. Hulsey.

Respectfully submitted
Jennifer Schmehl, Board Secretary



FIRST
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

REV. SHARLA HULSEY

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✉ admin@fccbutler.org

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“And now abideth faith,
hope, and charity, these
three; but the greatest of
these is charity.”

1 Corinthians 13:13

