

# The Messenger

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH DISCIPLES  
OF CHRIST



March 2026



## Irrelevance

During my very first year of seminary, our New Testament class was having a discussion of something from the Gospel of John. In the course of the discussion I said, “Fear is irrelevant.” I think it was mostly a bit of a flippant remark, but the professor stopped the discussion and tried to get me to explain just what I meant. At this point I don’t really remember what I might have said in response, but over the time since that class I’ve done a lot of thinking on the subject.

Have you ever noticed how often the Scriptures tell us not to be afraid? Just a quick computer search for the phrase “do not be afraid” brought up 66 examples. That averages out to once for every single book that’s in the Bible. Change one word in the search, make it “do not fear,” and you get another generous ration of verses. There’s something pretty important going on here.

Look at Psalm 46. “God is our refuge and strength...therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change...” Things are changing all around us—honestly that’s true all the time, but sometimes we can feel like the change is happening at a pace we haven’t seen before. The economy isn’t great; prices are high for groceries (\$9 for a big bottle of Hershey’s syrup—really?!), gasoline, rent and utilities, you name it. Even fast food, which we have been able to rely on for cheap meals in the past, is expensive. Last Sunday I gave \$42 for three basic combo meals at Taco Bell!

No matter what some folks might be telling us, we are feeling the effects of climate change with more severe storms and unseasonable temperatures. Much as we might have enjoyed having windows open on Christmas Day, it wasn’t normal to have temperatures in the 70s at the end of December. If we’re to have any hope of getting a handle on climate change, we are probably going to have to make major changes to the way we live—changes that will make us very uncomfortable for a time. We’re seeing violence in our own country and around the world, too.

All of this put together tend to make us anxious and scared. To make matters worse, sometimes it seems like there are people out there who are bent on keeping us anxious and scared. Yet the Bible tells us, over and over again, not to be afraid. Well, why on earth not?

What Psalm 46 reminds us of is that God is still God. God is sovereign over the heavens and the earth. God brought order from chaos at the moment of creation; why would we fear that God cannot do the same in the chaos of today’s world? And God provides for the birds of the air and clothes the wildflowers, how much more so—as Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6:25-34—will we be provided for?

God is God, and God can be trusted to keep the universe in order and supply our every need. Therefore, it is absolutely true that when God is our refuge and strength, fear is irrelevant. Any voice we might hear to the contrary, any voice whose main goal seems to be to make us afraid, can be safely disregarded. “God is our refuge and strength... therefore we will not fear.” Fear is irrelevant.

*Sharla*



# March Serving Schedule

Communion Preparer: Diana Rich

## March 1

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

## March 8

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

## March 15

- **Elder:** Chuck Lewis
- **Deacon:** Don Cole & Debbie Cole

## March 22

- **Elder:** Shawn Quick
- **Deacon:** Carol Hedrick & Lyssa Lile

## March 29

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

- **Greeter:** Carol Roberts
- **Scripture Reader:** Shawn Quick
- **Greeter:** Bob & Peggy Thomas
- **Scripture Reader:** Jennifer Schmehl
- **Greeter:** Judy Taylor
- **Scripture Reader:** Carol Hedrick
- **Greeter:** Lile family
- **Scripture Reader:** Lyssa Lile
- **Greeter:** Carol Roberts
- **Scripture Reader:** Shawn Quick



## Attendance

### January 25

- **No Service**

### February 1

- **In-person:** 27
- **Online:** 4

### February 8

- **In-person:** 40
- **Online:** 3

### February 15

- **In-person:** 39
- **Online:** 8



## Budget

### January Income

\$7,943.13

### January Expense

\$8,310.14

Complete financial reports are available in the church office.



## Important Events

**Worship:** Sundays @ 9:30 am

**Life Group:** Sundays @ 10:30 am

**Disciples Women:** Mar. 3 @ 6 pm

**Elders Meeting:** Mar. 8 @ 10:30 am

**Board Meeting:** Mar. 15 @ 10:30 am

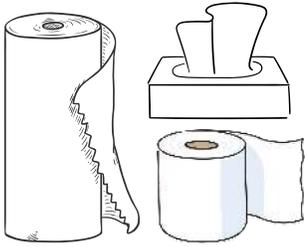
**Community Cafe:** Mar. 17 @ 5:30 pm

**Lenten Service at FCC:** Mar. 25 @ 6 pm

**VBS Meeting:** Mar. 30 @ 1 pm

**Choir Practice:** Thursdays @ 6 pm

## Announcements



### Outreach Project

Throughout the month of March, we will be collecting paper goods for the Community Food Pantry. Items especially needed include paper towels, toilet paper, kleenex, and other similar paper products. Donations may be placed in the collection bin located in the foyer.



### Storm Shelter

In the event of a tornado warning, our church will be open as a designated storm shelter. Everyone is welcome to seek safety with us. Pets are also welcome, but they must remain in a carrier or be kept on a leash.



## Thoughts & Prayers

### Current

Raymond Crist, Gwendolyn Dice, Ron Dunlap, Marilyn Eneff, Marge Fritts, JM Grizzell, Isabelle Haberstroh, Darcy Hoffard, Tom & Cindy Kennedy, Denver Lesmeister, Derek Lile, Gary Maggard, Everett & Phyllis McBrayer, Rusty Ross, and Steve Thomas.

### Ongoing

Greg Arnold, Kathy Bunch, Eunice Cobb, Mike Crow, Caroll & Pam Dodds, Shelby Duffield, Joyce Fitzpatrick, Debbie Fortner, Lona Grosshart, Joyce Guffey, Jim Herrell, Lori Koepsel, Rory Kutz, Betty Lemon, Terry Lodge, Doris Jane Lollar, Mark Lovelace Jr., Nick McBrayer, James Mitchell II, Charlie Padgham, Stella Plunkett, Rocky Redinger, Judy Shubert, Nancy Gardner Simons, Julie Snell, Dolly Studards, and Sherry Wilson.

### 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 Becky Franklin, John Dale Herrmann, Mitch Grainger, Carolyn Hill, Joan Davis, Sam Lefevre, Jace Zembsch, Peggy Petty, and William Jones.

## Welcome, Klaire Louise!

Born to Kiley Foster and Jaxon Pitts on February 11 at 4:56 a.m.

Weight: 6 lbs. 5 oz. · Length: 19¼ inches

Grandparents: Dustin & Misty Foster

Great-grandparents: Greg & Janie Bartimus, and the late Bob & Louise Foster



## Birthdays

1 Chuck Lewis	15 Lynette Clover	15 Quintan Agnew
3 Bob Thomas	22 Carol Roberts	21 Phyllis Simonin
6 Teresa Berry	24 Edith Dilley	23 Harold Weil
7 Alan Munday	24 Suzie Wilson	27 Luke Rives

## Anniversaries

1	Mike White & Sharla Hulsey	1997
21	Don & Juanita Huenefeldt	
27	Greg & Jeanie Bartimus	1971



## Upcoming Sermons

### **March 1, 2026 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent)**

Scripture: John 6:1-15 (RCL: Proper 12, Year B)

Psalm: 34:3-10

Theme: Jesus' fourth sign: Feeding the multitude

Title: "Communion at the Lakeshore"

### **March 8, 2026 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent)**

Scripture: John 6:16-21 (RCL: Proper 12, Year B)

Psalm: 65:1-8

Theme: Jesus' fifth sign: walking on water

Title: "The seas grow calm at thy command..."

### **March 15, 2026 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent)**

Scripture: John 9:1-41 (RCL: Lent 4, Year A)

Responsive Reading: Isaiah 35:1-2, 5-6

Theme: Jesus' sixth sign: healing a man born blind

Title: "Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened..."

### **March 22, 2026 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent)**

Scripture: John 11:1-45 (RCL: Lent 5, Year A)

Psalm: 130

Theme: Jesus' seventh sign: the raising of Lazarus

Title: "Wake up, dead man"

### **March 29, 2026 (Palm Sunday)**

Scripture: John 11:45—12:19 (RCL: 11:32-44, All Saints, Year B; 12:1-8, Lent 5, Year A)

Psalm: 118:1, 19-26

Theme: The aftermath of Lazarus' raising

Title: "Death by Expediency"

*All are welcome*

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# Board Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2026

**Board Members present:** *Deacons:* Gary Coffman, Jennifer Schmehl, Carol Lewis, Judy Colburn, Judy Daniel, and Everett McBrayer. *Elders:* Chuck Lewis, Shawn Quick, Justin Quick, Phyllis McBrayer, Diana Rich, and John Daniel. *Voting Member:* Carol Roberts. *Others present:* Rev. Sharla Hulsey, Carol Ann Winburn, Claudia Hulsey, and Don Malan.

The meeting was called to order at 10:39 a.m. by Carol Roberts, chairperson. Opening prayer was given by Chuck Lewis. The agenda was reviewed and a request to add Property committee report was made. A request to remove the Endowment Trust committee report from the agenda was made. The agenda was approved unanimously with these changes after a motion was made by Diana Rich and seconded by Justin Quick.

The minutes of the January 2026 meeting were reviewed. No additions or corrections were made, motion to accept the minutes was made by Shawn Quick, seconded by Judy Daniel. Motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Reports**—Carol Lewis reviewed the financial reports for January 2026.

Budget vs. Actual—Total Income—\$7,943.13 (budget \$10,575.25)  
Total Expenses—\$8,310.14 (budget \$10,575.25)  
Net Income—\$-367.01

Budget vs Actual YTD—not reported  
Balance Sheet—Total Assets—\$54,680.01  
Owed to Special Projects—\$10,604.10  
Total Liability and Equity—\$54,680.01  
Total Cash in Bank—\$44,009.64

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

Motion made by Phyllis McBrayer to approve the financial reports, seconded by Diana Rich, passed unanimously.

**Minister's Report**—Rev. Hulsey stated she had conversations with members in person, via telephone calls and texts. She attended the Pastoral Support meeting, the Elders meeting and the Ministerial Alliance meeting during the month. She also continued conversation with Jim Henry, Butler mayor, on behalf of the Ministerial Alliance concerning the plans for a warming center in Butler next winter. She continues her daily morning prayer on Facebook. She told the board that Ash Wednesday service will be February 18, 2026 at 6:30. Then for the next 5 Wednesdays, the Ministerial Alliance will be offering Lenten worship services. The first one will be on February 25 at the First Christian Church, and we will provide a meal afterwards. She also reported that the Ministerial Alliance is planning a community prayer service on Palm Sunday, March 29 on the square at 4:00 pm. Shawn Quick questioned whether a cooling center during the summer might be a possibility.

## **Old Business**

### Memorial Gift Committee—lighted flag pole

Chuck Lewis reported that there are 2 blue flags in front of the church to mark possible placement of the flag pole that the Colburn family is donating with the money from Lyndall Colburn's memorial donations. Judy Colburn requests that the board decide where to put it. Chuck also mentioned we have 2 options regarding the light, solar or hard wired electric. After discussion, Shawn Quick made the motion to put the pole between the 2 sidewalks/steps in front and to hard wire an electric light to illuminate the flag. Seconded by Chuck Lewis, passed unanimously. Judy Colburn also stated that the family will pay for the installation of the new flag pole and flag, and that they will donate the memorial money collected to the church. Thanks to the Colburn family.

## **New Business**

There was no new business.

## **Department/Committee Reports**

### Property

Phyllis McBrayer stated that the 2 lighted signs in front of the church have not been working. She had Dennis Rabourn come check them and fix them. He did so at no charge to the church. She also said there have been problems with the sound system so she had Kevin Miller come to check it. He fixed the problem, also at no charge. Phyllis stated she will get 2 Thank You cards for the board to sign next week to send to them.

**Adjournment**—Motion made by Justin Quick to adjourn, seconded by John Daniel, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:20.

**Closing Prayer**—Sharla Hulsey gave the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Schmehl  
Board secretary





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

REV. SHARLA HULSEY

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## [2026 Lenten Services](#) - *“At the Table with Jesus”*

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

### [MARCH 4](#)

Location: Church of the Nazarene  
Preacher: Julie Nelson  
Hosted by: Church of the Nazarene

### [MARCH 11](#)

Location: Ohio St. United Methodist Church  
Preacher: Sharla Hulsey  
Hosted by: Community of Christ

### [MARCH 18](#)

Location: Ohio St. United Methodist Church  
Preacher: Jeremy Henderson  
Hosted by: Ohio St. United Methodist Church

### [MARCH 25](#)

Location: First Christian Church  
Preacher: Lori Ostrander  
Hosted by: Butler Ministerial Alliance