

# The Messenger

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH DISCIPLES  
OF CHRIST



June 2026



## “...it’s dying to get better...”

That line comes from a song by Graham Nash, about the political upheavals that followed a tumultuous political convention in Chicago. “We can change the world...” Nash sings. Can we, really?

It’s a good question. Maybe one of us, on our own, can’t turn around an organization, or a country, we feel is headed in the wrong direction. Maybe a few of us gathered together can’t end poverty in the world. But can we change the world?

Well, do you know the story of how the Berlin Wall fell? (There’s an exhibit at Union Station this summer about the wall, just in case you want to know more.) It happened as a result of a weekly prayer meeting that went on for years. The meeting took place at the St. Nicholas Church in Leipzig, on the eastern side of the divide. Each week people would gather and read together the Sermon on the Mount, then pray together. The East German powers-that-be worried about such a gathering, so they sent police into the church each week—a move which delighted the church’s pastor. The police in an officially atheist country, he pointed out, had been ordered to listen to the words of Jesus!

Eventually the gathering grew to the point that it spilled out onto the streets. Erich Honegger, the leader of East Germany, called Moscow for help. This was the fall of 1989, mere months after the Tiananmen Square protest in Beijing had been violently suppressed. Honegger wanted to do the same with the gathering in Leipzig. But Mikhail Gorbachev was in charge in the USSR at that point, and he refused to provide assistance for a Tiananmen Square-style operation in East Germany. Thus that prayer gathering eventually became a protest, which marched right up to the Berlin Wall and started tearing it down. Soon afterward, Erich Honegger resigned.

It all started with prayer and the weekly reading of the Sermon on the Mount.

We know bits and pieces of the Sermon on the Mount; it starts with the Beatitudes and ends with the parable of the houses built on rock and sand. We know a few snippets in between. But have you ever spent time with the whole thing?

That’s what we’ll be doing this summer. Perhaps we’ll discover why it was that a gathering that read these three chapters of Matthew’s Gospel brought about the fall of the Berlin Wall. Perhaps we’ll find that attention to this first major block of Jesus’ teaching in the First Gospel, taking it to heart and trying to live by it, could indeed change the world that is, in Graham Nash’s words, “dying to get better.”

*Sharla*



## June Serving Schedule

**Communion Preparers:** Phyllis McBrayer (wk. 1 & 2); Don and Debbie Cole (wk. 3 & 4)

### June 7

- **Elder:** Chuck Lewis
- **Deacons:** TBD

- **Greeter:** Judy Taylor
- **Scripture Reader:** Jennifer Schmehl

### June 14

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

- **Greeter:** Lile family
- **Scripture Reader:** Lyssa Lile

### June 21

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

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

### June 28

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

- **Greeter:** Carol Roberts
- **Scripture Reader:** Jennifer Schmehl



## Attendance

### April 26

- **In-person:** 37
- **Online:** 6

### May 3

- **In-person:** 42
- **Online:** 1

### May 10

- **In-person:** 29
- **Online:** 5

### May 17

- **In-person:** 39
- **Online:** 3

### May 24

- **In-person:** 29
- **Online:** 5



## Budget

### April Income

\$10,411.79

### April Expense

\$12,604.60

### YTD Income

\$49,668.62

### YTD Expense

\$40,823.40

Complete financial reports are available in the church office.



## Events

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

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

**Disciples Women:** Tuesday, June 2 @ 6 pm

**Elders Meeting:** Sunday, June 14 @ 10:30 am

**Community Cafe:** Tues., June 16 @ 5:30 pm

**Board Meeting:** Sunday, June 28 @ 10:30 am

## Announcements



### Outreach Project

Our June Outreach project supports *Alvina's Summer Lunches* through The Carpenter's Cup. For 11 weeks, they provide a daily lunch to anyone in need in our community. Needed items: snacks (cookies, chips, pudding, Jell-O/fruit cups), sandwich baggies, #12 brown bags, napkins, ketchup packets, plastic spoons, and sandwich ingredients (bread, cheese, ham, hot dogs, buns, mayo). If you prefer to give financially, funds will help purchase bulk items from Sam's Club, Amazon, and Walmart. Contact Phyllis McBrayer with any questions.



### 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

Ron & Debbie Dunlap,  
Steve Thomas, Gwendolyn Dice,  
Tom & Cindy Kennedy, Marge Fritts,  
Jason Bennett, Vickie Chasteen Cady,  
Rylee Morgan, John Snell,  
Isabel Hannon, Eli Shelton,  
Rodney Brown, June Ray, Jeff Brown,  
Jacqueline Hough, Virginia Eckart,  
Bob & Doris Mills, Kayla Viar,  
Judy Taylor, Bob Legler,  
and Alice Michaels.

#### Ongoing

Everett & Phyllis McBrayer,  
JM Grizzell, Lona Grosshart,  
Carroll & Pam Dodds, Lori Koepsel,  
Eunice Cobb, Shelby Duffield,  
Kathy Bunch, Charlie Padgham,  
Nick McBrayer, Mike Crow,  
Rocky Redinger, Greg Arnold,  
Marilyn Eneff, Debbie Fortner,  
Judy Shubert, Jim Herrell,  
Joyce Fitzpatrick,  
Nancy Gardner Simons, Terry Lodge,  
James Mitchell II,  
Dolly Studards, Betty Lemon,  
Rory Kutz, Doris Jane Lollar,  
Sherry Wilson, Gary Maggard,  
Larry Hacker, Rusty Ross, Diane Weiss,  
and Mike Hardison.

#### At Home

Julie Lewis, Linda Wix,  
and Stella Plunkett.

#### Currently Serving in the Military

Rick Warren, Jordan Olson,  
Jordan Lopez, Everett Chapman,  
Carter Coffman, and Randy Hubbard.

#### Sympathy

To the families of Ruth Ann Roberts,  
Nancy Jones, Helen Lawrence,  
Rick Lemm, Freddie Craft, Billy Cox,  
Bill Haynie M.D., Martie Strobach,  
and Raymond Crist.

### VBS 2026



Get Ready to Blast Off!

Galaxy VBS is coming, and kids ages 4 years old through completed 6th grade are invited to join the adventure.

VBS Dates

July 14-15, 2026 • 5:30-8:30 p.m. Closing Program: July 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Preregistration opens online June 1st

### Birthdays

10	Jennifer Schmehl	22	Kim Diehl
15	Judy Colburn	23	Mary Coffman
17	Carol Ann Winburn	27	Juanita Huenefeldt
20	Lylah Linard	27	Debbie Cole
20	Peggy Thomas	28	Peggy Fuller

### Anniversaries

24	Derek & Lyssa Lile	2006 (20th)
24	Peggy & Bob Thomas	1966 (60th)



## Upcoming Sermons

### **June 7, 2026 (Proper 5)**

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16 (RCL: Epiphany 5, Year A)

Psalm 112:1-9

Theme: salt and light

Title: "Tasteless"

### **June 14, 2026 (Proper 6)**

Scripture: Matthew 5:17-37 (RCL: Epiphany 5 & 6, Year A)

Psalm 119:1-8

Theme: Christlike righteousness

Title: "Do Better"

### **June 21, 2026 (Proper 7)**

Scripture: Matthew 5:38-48 (RCL: Epiphany 7, Year A)

Psalm 119:33-40

Theme: Jesus' teaching regarding enemies and oppressors

Title: "The snake is still there."

### **June 28, 2026 (Proper 8)**

Scripture: Matthew 6:1-18 (RCL: Ash Wednesday, all years)

Responsive Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Theme: piety on display

Title: "We're gonna pray now!"

*All are welcome*

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH	660-679-3066
<a href="http://www.fccbutler.org">www.fccbutler.org</a>	11 W Pine St., Butler, MO 64730

---

# Board Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2026

**Board Members present:** *Deacons:* Steve Hedrick, Bob Thomas, Jennifer Schmehl, Carol Lewis, Carol Hedrick, Judy Colburn, Lyssa Lile, Judy Daniel. *Elders:* Chuck Lewis, Shawn Quick, Justin Quick, Diana Rich, Phyllis McBrayer, John Daniel. *Voting Member:* Carol Roberts. *Others present:* Rev. Sharla Hulsey, Carol Ann Winburn, Claudia Hulsey, Don Malan.

The meeting was called to order at 10:34 by Carol Roberts, chairperson. Opening prayer was given by Carol Roberts. The agenda was reviewed and requests to add Outreach, Christian Education and Property to committee reports were made. The amended agenda was approved unanimously after a motion was made by Shawn Quick and seconded by Phyllis McBrayer.

The minutes of the April 2026 meeting were reviewed. No additions or corrections were made, motion to accept the minutes was made by Carol Hedrick, seconded by Justin Quick. Motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Reports**— Before reviewing April reports, Carol Lewis stated that due to changes made to QuickBooks, the accounting software, revisions of the March reports were made. One change was to use the word “revenue” instead of “Income” on the reports. On the Balance Sheet of March 31, 2026, the \$7,000.00 memorial recently received is shown as \$6,300.00 to the restricted Memorial fund and \$700.00 (10% of the donation, as per church policy), to Outreach. Motion to accept the revised March financial reports was made by Phyllis McBrayer, seconded by Carol Hedrick. Motion passed unanimously.

**April Financial Reports**

Budget vs. Actual—Total Revenue—\$10,411.79 (budget \$10,575.25)  
Total Expenses—\$12,604.60 (budget \$10,575.25)  
Net Income—\$-2,192.81  
Budget vs Actual YTD—Total Revenue—\$49,688.62 (budget \$42,301.00)  
Total Expenses—\$40,823.40 (budget \$42,301.00)  
Net Revenue—\$8,845.22  
Balance Sheet—Total Assets—\$71,371.01  
Owed to Special Projects—\$1,277.01  
Total Restricted Funds—\$71,304.74  
Total Liability and Equity—\$71,371.01

(Full Financial Reports are available for review in the church office.)

Motion to accept the Financial Reports was made by Diana Rich, seconded by Shawn Quick, passed unanimously.

**Minister's Report**—Rev. Hulsey reported usual conversations with members in a variety of locations, including church office and home. She attended meetings of the Disciples Women, Elders, Pastoral support, and Ministerial Alliance. She also traveled to Mt. Vernon to attend the Rural Ministry Network gathering. She actually made the meal for Community Cafe and helped serve last month. Rev. Hulsey volunteered 28 hours at the traveling Wall that Heals Viet Nam memorial when it was in Butler in May.

Summer services will be on the Sermon on the Mount, starting May 31. Rev. Hulsey will be counseling at Faith Adventures Camp at the end of July. She told us that the Ministerial Alliance will have a booth at the Brick Street Bash on June 6, 2026. She continues with Morning Prayer daily (except Saturdays) on FaceBook Live at 7:00am.

**Old Business**—Memorial gift committee—lighted flagpole. Chuck said that they are waiting on the electrician to come to place a light.

**New Business**

—Storage Space Lease Agreement Renewal—it is time to renew the lease on the building that Don Malan rents. Motion made to renew made by Chuck Lewis, seconded by John Daniel. Passed unanimously.

—June Board meeting date change—Carol Roberts stated that June's Board meeting will be June 28 instead of June 21 due to Father's Day.

**Reports from Committees and Departments**

—Outreach—Phyllis McBrayer reported that Walmart is providing the meal for Community Cafe this month. Lyssa Lile reported that \$550.00 was collected with the Cash Calendar for camp.

—Property—Chuck Lewis gave the following report:

1. Dave Randall from Bright House Exteriors came to inspect the roof of the Education wing that had leaked into the kitchen. He found that the exhaust fan outlet on the roof was clogged with debris, which he removed. Chuck stated that this should be done yearly.
2. During yearly maintenance of the HVAC by Kershner's HVAC, a fan on the A/C unit for the sanctuary would need to be replaced soon. Chuck said he told them to go ahead and replace it now.
3. The North wall still has moisture and needs to be checked. Chuck has contacted Mark Nole to come do this.
4. Phyllis McBrayer reported that some water came into the Fellowship Hall from the windows. This has been a problem in the past and was remedied with dirt being hauled into to improve the slope of the ground away from the windows. Phyllis will contact Jerrod McBrayer, who did this last time.

—Christian Education—Phyllis McBrayer reported that the VBS committee has been meeting and plans are underway for this summer's session. She is looking for someone to do the skits. The next meeting will be May 18th. VBS is July 14, 15, and 16. Phyllis also said that the church will not have an entry in the Bates County Fair this year, but would have a table at the Fair Bash with Information about VBS.

**Adjournment**—Shawn Quick made the motion to adjourn with second by Justin Quick. Meeting adjourned at 11:06. Closing prayer by Rev. Hulsey.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Schmehl, Board Secretary





FIRST  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH  
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

REV. SHARLA HULSEY

📍 11 W. Pine St., Butler, MO 64730

☎ 660-679-3066

✉ admin@fccbutler.org

VOLUME 66 / ISSUE 6

# The Messenger

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

◆  
June 2026



*"He will cover you  
with His feathers,  
and under His wings  
you will find refuge."*

*Psalm 91:4*

