

The Messenger

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH DISCIPLES
OF CHRIST



August 2026



Christians at Work

There has been for many years (hundreds of years, actually, but I haven't been around that long) an argument about worship styles. The argument oftentimes centers on musical styles. Hymns or praise songs? Projected or from a hymnbook? Organ and piano, or guitars and drums? But there is also a facet of the argument that focuses on worship itself. Should our services be "liturgical" or not?

When the opponents of "liturgical" worship make their case, they speak of "smells and bells," processions of vestment-clad people, reading of litanies and other worship elements from a bulletin or missal, and so on. These, they say, detract from focusing on God and turn worship into a lot of pomp and ceremony that God doesn't like. (Who's to say that God doesn't like it? We have to be careful about projecting our own preferences onto God.) Furthermore, so the argument goes, since "liturgical" worship is the same every Sunday, it becomes rote and meaningless, not to mention boring.

I don't buy it. First of all, what the detractors are criticizing is not liturgy itself but one particular style of liturgy. The word "liturgy" comes from a Greek word that means "the work of the people." Liturgy is the way we order our worship services: what we do at the beginning, the end, and in between, what comes first, next, and so on. And every church has liturgy. Every church does things in essentially the same order every week, and just about every church has certain things they do or say or sing precisely the same at each worship service—like the Lord's Prayer.

If we don't want smells and bells, processions with crosses and heavy, decorated Bibles, and ornate vestments, that's fine. Some folks and some communities appreciate those things, and some don't; and those who do aren't Doing It Wrong just because they don't worship exactly as we do. But we all have a liturgy of some kind, and we should; a certain amount of predictability is a helpful thing.

What's more important when we think about liturgy is making sure we're true to the original meaning of the word: "the work of the people." In other words, no matter how we order our worship, no matter how we want our leaders to dress and act during worship, no matter what kinds of music we prefer, worship is meant to be something we all participate in, not something we show up to watch other people do.

How do you participate in worship?

Sharla



August Serving Schedule

Communion Preparer: Diana Rich

August 2

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

- **Greeter:** Bob Thomas
- **Scripture Reader:** Diana Rich

August 9

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

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

August 16

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

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

August 23

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

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

August 30

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

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



Attendance

June 28

- **In-person:** 39
- **Online:** 6

July 5

- **In-person:** 38
- **Online:** 5

July 12

- **In-person:** 47
- **Online:** 6

July 19

- **In-person:** 44
- **Online:** 7

July 26

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



Budget

June Income

\$10,380.15

June Expense

\$11,470.38

YTD Income

\$72,245.36

YTD Expense

\$62,875.78

Complete financial reports are available in the church office.



Events

Worship: Sundays @ 9:30 am

Life Group: Sundays @ 10:30 am

Mem./Gift Comm. Mtg.: Thurs., Aug. 6 @ 7 pm

Elders Meeting: Sunday, Aug. 9 @ 10:30 am

Board Meeting: Sunday, Aug. 16 @ 10:30 am

Community Cafe: Tuesday, Aug. 18 @ 5:30 pm

Announcements

Outreach Project



Help us support our local school this August by donating much-needed classroom supplies:

- Kleenex
- Clorox wipes
- Ziploc baggies (all sizes)
- Wired headphones/earbuds (no Bluetooth)
- \$10 or \$20 gift cards for additional needed items

Donations may be placed in the collection bin 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.

Kenya Program/Ice Cream Social



Disciples Christian Church invites the community to a special Kenya Program & Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 30, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at 125 N. Prewitt, Nevada.

Guest presenter Pastor Lizzy Wolf of First Christian Church, Harrisonville, will share highlights from her recent journey to Kenya with Woman to Woman Worldwide.

Following the presentation, enjoy homemade ice cream and fellowship with friends.

A freewill offering will be received to support the Kenya Well Project.

Birthdays



1	Derek Lile	8	John Daniel	16	Jerry Wood
2	Norma Morgan	9	Judy Daniel	22	Airyka Carter
7	Billie Bopp	14	Duane Hedrick	23	Dorothy Carter
7	Ryan Agnew	15	Don Malan	30	Serenity Lile

Anniversaries



2	Joe & Peggy Fuller	1975
13	John & Judy Daniel	1972
19	Ted & Kathy Bunch	1962



Thoughts & Prayers

Current

Ron & Debbie Dunlap,
Bob & Doris Mills,
Jim & Nancy Simpson, Patsy Lodge,
Jacqueline Hough,
Chelsea McConkay, James Rich,
Justin Quick, Julie Snell,
Paula Underwood,
Caitlin Lesmeister,
and Gregory Baker.

Ongoing

Everett & Phyllis McBrayer,
Lona Grosshart, Shelby Duffield,
Nick McBrayer, Marilyn Eneff,
Debbie Fortner,
Jim Herrell, Joyce Fitzpatrick,
Nancy Gardner Simons,
Terry Lodge, James Mitchell II,
Rory Kutz, Sherry Wilson,
Gary Maggard, Steve Thomas,
Gwendolyn Dice, Marge Fritts,
Jason Bennett, Rylee Morgan,
John Snell, Isabel Hannon,
Rodney Brown, June Ray,
Jeff Brown, and Betty Lemon.

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.

Our deepest sympathies

with the family, friends, and loved ones of Bob Legler, Kathy Lewis, Mary Welston, Ann Swanson, Danny Zellmer, Ella Mae Rich, Kent Hall, Jerry Vogel, and Larry Jilek.

VBS Thank You!!!

We would like to extend a BIG Galaxy VBS Thank You to everyone who helped make the 2026 VBS such a success.

We had a total of 34 children attend VBS, along with 25 staff members and helpers. We also want to thank the many members of the congregation who contributed items from the food list, helping provide meals and refreshments throughout the event.

An offering was collected on both nights of VBS and during the final program. A total of \$396 was donated to the Butler Community Food Pantry.

From the 2026 VBS Steering Committee

*Phyllis McBrayer, Carol Roberts,
Lyssa Life, and Carol Lewis*





Upcoming Sermons

August 2, 2026 (Proper 13)

Scripture: Matthew 7:7-11
 Psalm: 104:24, 27-28, 33-34
 Theme: "Ask, Seek, Knock"
 Title: "Eat Dirt"

August 9, 2026 (Proper 14)

Scripture: Matthew 7:12
 Psalm: 15
 Theme: The Golden Rule
 Title: "Gold Doesn't Rust"

August 16, 2026 (Proper 15)

Scripture: Matthew 7:13-14
 Psalm: 1
 Theme: The Godly path
 Title: "Broad is the road that leads to death..."

August 23, 2026 (Proper 16)

Scripture: Matthew 7:15-20
 Psalm: 121
 Theme: false prophets
 Title: "You're not gonna get any strawberries from a poison ivy vine."

August 30 (Proper 17)

Scripture: Matthew 7:21-23 (RCL: Proper 4, Year A)
 Psalm: 138:1-3, 8
 Theme: Not all will enter
 Title: "Everybody talkin' 'bout heaven ain't goin' there"

All are welcome

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

Board Minutes

June 28, 2026

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:48 a.m. by Carol Roberts, chairperson. Opening prayer was given by Carol Roberts. The agenda was reviewed and requests were made to add North Wall leak (NW corner of sanctuary) and water in the basement to Old Business. Under New Business add Communion Room refrigerator; to Committee reports add Outreach, Membership, and Christian Education. The amended agenda was approved unanimously after a motion was made by Phyllis McBrayer and seconded by Shawn Quick.

The minutes of the May 2026 meeting were reviewed. No additions or corrections were made, and a motion to accept the minutes was made by Justin Quick, seconded by Diana Rich. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

May Financial Reports

Budget vs. Actual—Total Revenue—\$12,196.59 (budget \$10,575.25)

Total Expenses—\$10,582.00 (budget \$10,575.25)

Note: Building repair, Maintenance supply was over budget due to AED battery replacement, Gutter cleaning and AC fan repairs

Net Income—\$-1,614.59

Budget vs Actual YTD—Total Revenue—\$61,865.21 (budget \$52,876.25)

Total Expenses—\$51,405.40 (budget \$52,876.25)

Net Revenue—\$10,459.81

Balance Sheet—Total Assets—\$71,931.57

Total Restricted Funds—\$71,548.74

Total Liability and Equity—\$71,931.57

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

Motion to accept the Financial Reports was made by Chuck Lewis, seconded by Carol Hedrick passed unanimously.

Minister's Report—Rev. Hulsey reported usual conversations with members in a variety of locations, including church office, hospital and home. She officiated at a funeral for Raymond Crist and a graveside service for Rick Lemm. She prepared and served food for Community Cafe, and attended meetings of Disciple Women, the Ministerial Alliance and of the Elders. After a plane crash at the local airport, Rev. Hulsey assisted with pastoral care immediately following the accident and attended a later memorial service in honor of the victims.

She reports that she will be counseling at Faith Adventures Camp next month. She has several days in October and November that she is requesting to have off. Morning Prayer on Facebook continues every morning at 7:00 except for Saturday.

Old Business

—Memorial/Gift Committee—Chuck Lewis reports the light has been installed and there will be a Dedication ceremony for the flag and flagpole on 7-19-2026. The Electrician, Harley Page, noted some problems with the wiring and will submit a proposal to correct it.

—North wall (NW corner of the sanctuary)—As of yet, Chuck has been unable to schedule a date with Mark Knoll to come look at the wall.

—Water in the basement—Phyllis and Everett McBrayer will check with Jared McBrayer about this, as Jared hauled in dirt last year that temporarily alleviated the problem.

New Business

—Youth Camp Fees—Shawn Quick stated that Lyssa Lile applied for her 3 children to get scholarships for camp. She was successful for all but \$112.50. Don Malan volunteered to cover this expense. Many thanks to Don for his generosity.

—Communion room refrigerator—Chuck Lewis noted that the current refrigerator in the communion room is very old and not getting cold. After discussion, a motion was made by Don Cole, seconded by Justin Quick to replace the refrigerator with a new full sized one with a \$1,000.00 limit. This money will be taken from the from the Building and Memorials Fund. This passed unanimously, Carol Hedrick volunteered to go to King's Appliance in Butler to see about this purchase.

Reports from Committees and Departments

—Outreach—Phyllis McBrayer states that our Outreach Project for the month will be to collect supplies needed for the Festival of Sharing that the Disciple Women participate in. Also, Phyllis, Diana and Sharla will be at camp during the Community Cafe at our church. Carol Hedrick, Carol Roberts and Jennifer Schmehl will cover during their absence.

—Membership—Carol Hedrick reported we will be having a fellowship dinner after church July 12.

—Christian Education—Carol Roberts stated the next VBS meeting will be June 30, at 1:00.

Adjournment—There being no further business, motion was made by Shawn Quick, Seconded by Carol Hedrick to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting Adjourned at 11:25. Rev. Hulsey gave the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Schmehl, Board Secretary



Board Minutes

July 19, 2026

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. by Carol Roberts, chairperson. Opening prayer was given by Chuck Lewis. The agenda was reviewed and requests were made to add Communion Room Refrigerator to Old Business. Under Committee reports add Outreach, Property and Christian Education. The amended agenda was approved unanimously after a motion was made by Phyllis McBrayer and seconded by Carol Hedrick.

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

Financial reports

June Financial Reports

Budget vs. Actual—Total Revenue—\$10,380.15 (budget \$10,575.25)
Total Expenses—\$11,470.38 (budget \$10,575.25)
Net Income—\$-1,090.23
Budget vs Actual YTD—Total Revenue—\$72,245.36 (budget \$63,451.50)
Total Expenses—\$62,875.78 (budget \$63,451.50)
Net Revenue—\$9,369.58
Balance Sheet—Total Assets—\$71,840.01
Total Restricted Funds—\$71,773.74
Total Liability and Equity—\$71,840.01
Total \$\$ in bank—\$71,040.29

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

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

Minister's Report—Rev. Hulsey reported usual conversations with members in a variety of locations, including church office, hospital and home.

- She led Bible Adventures at VBS on July 14-15.
- She attended Faith Adventures Chi Rho staff meeting on July 12.
- She attended the Memorial Committee meeting.

She reports that she will be counseling at Faith Adventures Camp starting July 20. During camp week she will not be doing Morning Prayer.

Old Business

—Memorial/Gift Committee—Chuck Lewis reported that the dedication of the flag and flag pole donated by the Lyndell Colburn family in his memory was after church this morning.

—North wall (NW corner of the sanctuary)—Chuck Lewis stated he contacted Mark Knoll who says he is behind in his work and needs to complete that before he can give us a bid. Chuck states he will contact him one more time and if he is still unable to help us, Chuck will pursue other options.

—Water in the basement—Phyllis McBrayer states she has not checked with Jared McBrayer about this yet, but will do so soon.

—Communion room refrigerator—Carol Hedrick reports a new refrigerator has been purchased, delivered and the old one hauled off by King's Appliance. The cost was \$789.00.

New Business—There was no new business.

Reports from Committees and Departments

—Education—Carol Roberts reported that Vacation Bible School this past week had a total of 34 different children and 25 "helpers".

—Property—

- Chuck Lewis reported that 3 broken windows in the chapel were found and replaced by MoKan glass company in Harrisonville, Mo.
- Chuck also reported that water was running across the basement floor this past week that was from the A/C unit. Rick Kershner came and found the drain tube was clogged which he cleaned and that fixed the problem.
- Phyllis McBrayer stated she noticed the ceiling fans in the sanctuary were not running correctly. Harley Page came and found the rheostat needed replaced, which he removed and bypassed until a new one can be ordered.
- Phyllis also stated that the concrete steps outside of the double glass doors need some repair. Chuck states he will look at it.
- Phyllis then stated that James Rich has been doing the mowing and yard work while Everett is off at no charge. The matter of possible compensation will be looked into. Diana Rich made a motion, seconded by Carol Lewis, to pay James \$200.00 now, and to investigate the situation for future reference. Motion passed unanimously with 1 abstaining.

Adjournment—There being no further business, motion made by Justin Quick to adjourn. Seconded by Carol Hedrick. Passed unanimously, meeting adjourned at 11:20. Closing prayer by Rev. Sharla Hulsey.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Schmehl, Board Secretary





FIRST
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

REV. SHARLA HULSEY

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♦
August 2026

*"The Lord has His way
in the whirlwind and in the storm,
and the clouds are the dust of His feet"*

Nahum 1:3 (NKJV)

