

The Messenger

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH DISCIPLES
OF CHRIST

October 2026



Our Patriotic Duty

When we think of patriotism, we often think mainly of supporting our men and women serving in the military, flying the flag, and standing for the National Anthem. But there is more to it than that.

We are coming up to another election season here in the U.S. Once again, attack ads, robocalls, cable “news” shows where people mostly yell at and talk over each other, are ratcheting up into high gear. Some commentators have already declared victory for one party or another in the election, which is still over a month away. And once again, by the time Election Day rolls around, many of us are going to be absolutely disgusted by the whole thing.

The truth is that the way our elections and media are being run right now, it is very difficult to get the information that we need in order to know what various candidates stand for and which ones will be the best men and women for the offices to which they aspire. Sound bites and attack ads do not inform. They merely frighten and manipulate. If there is one thing we need less of right now, it's fear. Not only that, but personally I resent being manipulated.

But it is essential for us to be well-informed when we go to the polls in November. Fear makes people make poor decisions, and that's true when marking a ballot as much as it is anywhere else. Yet fear seems to be the driving force behind much of what passes for public discourse nowadays. We are called on to fear whichever party we do not belong to (this is true on both sides, by the way; both parties tend to campaign on the message that “if you elect the other party, it will be the end of the world as we know it”), to fear those who belong to other religious or ethnic groups, to fear what the economy may do in the future—particularly if the other party is elected—and so on, and so on, and so on.

The antidote to fear is to learn the truth. Read. Research. Listen to something other than attack ads and screaming heads on cable “news.” Allow reason, not your fight-or-flight instincts, to rule your head and heart.

Democracy depends on an informed and educated populace; this is why we have public schools in this country. (Incidentally, Alexander Campbell, one of the founders of our church, was a major proponent of universal public education.) It is essential for schools to teach not just reading and math, but also science, civics, history, and government. (I'd argue that music and art education is essential as well, particularly music, because studying music actually makes our brains better able to learn other subjects, particularly math.) Even once we're grown and out of school, though, democracy requires that we continue to inform ourselves, building on the foundation we received at school to understand what's going on today in its proper context.

It is because democracy requires an informed and educated populace that I feel very comfortable in asserting that getting an education is a patriotic duty for all Americans. That may not mean each of us goes to college, but it does mean it's essential that we all get as much education as we can, and continue to learn once we leave school. Not just during this election cycle but all the time, the health and strength of our nation depend on it.

Sharla



October Serving Schedule

Communion Preparer: Carol Hedrick

October 4

- **Elder:** John Daniel
- **Deacons:** Judy Daniel & Everett McBrayer
- **Greeter:** Bob & Peggy Thomas
- **Scripture Reader:** Diana Rich

October 11

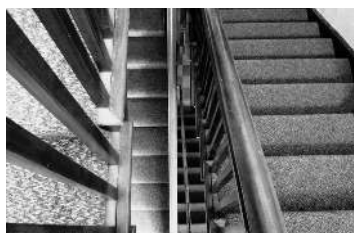
- **Elder:** Chuck Lewis
- **Deacons:** Don Cole & Debbie Cole
- **Greeter:** Carol Roberts
- **Scripture Reader:** Jennifer Schmehl

October 18

- **Elder:** Diana Rich
- **Deacons:** Carol Hedrick & Lyssa Lile
- **Greeter:** Lile family
- **Scripture Reader:** Lyssa Lile

October 25

- **Elder:** Phyllis McBrayer
- **Deacons:** Gary Coffman & Judy Colburn
- **Greeter:** Carol Hedrick
- **Scripture Reader:** Carol Hedrick



Attendance

August 30

- **In-person:** 33
- **Online:** 5

September 6

- **In-person:** 37
- **Online:** 2

September 13

- **In-person:** 37
- **Online:** 4

September 20

- **In-person:** 27
- **Online:** 5



Budget

August Income

\$9,335.59

August Expense

\$8,705.01

YTD Income

\$89,376.28

YTD Expense

\$80,986.34

Complete financial reports are available in the church office.



Events

Worship: Sundays @ 9:30 am

Life Group: Sundays @ 10:30 am

Youth Group: Sundays @ 6 pm

Choir Practice: Wednesdays @ 6 pm

Fellowship Dinner: Sunday, Oct. 4 @ 10:30 am

Elders Meeting: Sunday, Oct. 11 @ 10:30 am

Disciples Women: Tuesday, Oct. 13 @ 6 pm

Board Meeting: Sunday, Oct. 18 @ 10:30 am

Community Cafe: Tuesday, Oct. 20 @ 5:30 pm

Pastoral Support Mtg.: Wed. Oct. 21 @ 5 pm

Announcements

Outreach Project



As our October outreach project, FCC will be collecting nonperishable food items for the local food pantry. This is an opportunity to make a meaningful difference for families facing food insecurity in our community. Donations may be brought to the church throughout the month of October. Thank you for sharing God's love through your generosity and support.

Suggested donation items: canned vegetables, canned fruit, soup, peanut butter, pasta, rice, cereal, boxed meals, and other nonperishable foods.

Fellowship Dinner



The Membership Department invites everyone to stay after worship on Sunday, October 4, for a church fellowship dinner. Enjoy a delicious lasagna meal and a time of food, fellowship, and conversation with your church family. We hope you will join us!

Pastoral Support Committee Meeting



The Pastoral Support Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 21, at 5:00 p.m. Committee members are asked to attend as we gather for discussion, support, and planning. Please mark your calendars.

Birthdays



2	Knox Silvers	18	Jacqueline Hough
3	Candi Agnew	19	Nathan Agnew
4	Lynda Perkins	20	Kathy Wood
14	Christy Lockard	25	Bethanie Cole
16	Misty Foster	26	Stella Plunkett

Anniversaries



20 Allan & Billie Bopp 1984

Thoughts & Prayers



Current

Rylee Morgan, Paula Underwood,
Gregory Baker, Pauline Morrow,
Brooke Shepherd, Larry Hacker,
Norio & Fran Ota, Josh Yost,
Tulsen Lesmeister, David Jennings,
Mary Beth Jennings, Jeanie Bartimus,
Miranda Foster.

Ongoing

Lona Grosshart, Shelby Duffield,
Marilyn Eneff, Nancy Gardner Simons,
Rory Kutz, Ron & Debbie Dunlap,
Steve Thomas, Gwendolyn Dice,
Marge Fritts, Jason Bennett,
John Snell, Isabel Hannon,
Rodney Brown, June Ray,
Jeff Brown, Bob & Doris Mills,
Jim & Nancy Simpson, Patsy & Terry Lodge,
Betty Lemon, Koal Eastwood,
Everett McBrayer.

At Home

Julie Lewis
Linda Wix
Stella Plunkett
Kathy Bunch
Mary Mae Lewis

Currently Serving in the Military

Rick Warren
Jordan Olson
Jordan Lopez
Everett Chapman
Carter Coffman
Randy Hubbard

Our deepest sympathies with the family, friends, and loved ones of

Jim Anderson,
Haley Henderson,
Ronnie Johnson,
Doris Null,
Mary Lee Oates,
James "Jim" Yoss,
Carolyn "Kay" Irvin,
Martha June Cumpston,
Pat Robinson,
Harold Thomas,
John Taylor Jr.,
Dennis Russell,
Julie Snell,
Bruce Mellenbruch,
Betty Fink.

Fellowship Lunch

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



October 4

**After worship
approx. 10:30 AM**

Lasagna meal

Hosted by the Membership Department.



Upcoming Sermons

October 4, 2026 (Proper 22)

Scripture: Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29 (RCL: 14:19-31, Proper 19, Year A)

Psalm: 114

Theme: Israel crosses the Red Sea

Title: "Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea"

October 11, 2026 (Proper 23)

Scripture: Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17 (RCL: Proper 6 & 22, Year A; Lent 3, Year B)

Psalm: 19

Theme: The giving of the Law

Title: "Our Ears Are Burning"

October 18, 2026 (Proper 24)

Scripture: Joshua 24:1-15 [16-26] (RCL: Proper 27, Year A; Proper 16, Year B)

Psalm: 34:15-22

Theme: A decision point

Title: "In This House, We Believe..."

October 25, 2026 (Proper 25)

Scripture: 2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27; 12:1-9 (RCL: Proper 12 & 13, Year B; Proper 6, Year C)

Psalm: 51:1-9

Theme: David

Title: "A Man After God's Own Heart?!"

All are welcome

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH	660-679-3066
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Board Minutes

September 20, 2026



BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT—Deacons: Bob Thomas, Jennifer Schmehl, Carol Lewis, Everett McBrayer, Don Cole, Debbie Cole, and Judy Daniel. Elders: Chuck Lewis, Justin Quick, John Daniel, and Phyllis McBrayer. Voting Member: Carol Roberts. Others present: Rev. Sharla Hulsey, Carol Ann Winburn, Peggy Thomas, and Claudia Hulsey.

The meeting was called to order at 10:42 by Carol Roberts, chairperson. Opening prayer was given by Chuck Lewis. The agenda was reviewed and requests were made to add 2 items under New Business: Accounting and Maintenance Budget. The amended agenda was approved unanimously after a motion was made by Chuck Lewis and seconded by John Daniel.

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS—Carol Lewis reviewed the August Financial Reports.

- Budget vs. Actual—Total Revenue—\$9,335.59 (budget \$10,575.25)
Total Expenses—\$8,705.01 (budget \$10,575.25)
Net Income—\$630.58
- Budget vs Actual YTD—Total Revenue—\$89,376.28 (budget \$84,602.00)
Total Expenses—\$80,986.34 (budget \$84,602.00)
Net Revenue—\$8,389.94
- Balance Sheet—Total Assets—\$70,676.36
Total Restricted Funds—\$70,610.09
Total Liability and Equity—\$70,676.36
Total \$\$ in bank—\$68,922.30

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

Motion to accept the Financial Reports was made by Phyllis McBrayer seconded by Don Cole, passed unanimously.

MINISTER'S REPORT—Rev. Hulsey reported usual conversations with members in a variety of locations, including church office, hospital and home.

Meetings attended:

- Disciple Women, September 8
- Ministerial Alliance, September 10
- Elders, September 13
- Faith Adventures Camp Steering committee, September 13
- Personnel Committee, September 16

Rev. Hulsey states that Shawn Quick's installation at Disciples Christian Church in Nevada will be September 27 at 3:00pm. She hopes a number of us will be able to attend and should carpool if possible. If you would like to contribute to a gift for Shawn, please see Rev. Hulsey or Carol Roberts. Rev. Hulsey also states that she will serve as Shawn's mentor in the Commissioned Ministry Program.

The Sheriff's posse will be holding a training course for first-responder chaplains in November that she plans to attend. The Ministerial Alliance will host a community Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 22 at 5:00pm. It will be at the Community of Christ Church.

Rev. Hulsey states she will be gone October 10 to attend a colleague's ordination. She also will be attending an all-day singing on October 17 but will be back Sunday. She may be gone October 24 but is undecided at this time. Rev. Hulsey states she will also be gone on November 14 weekend. She continues with Morning Prayer on Facebook Live Sunday through Friday mornings.

OLD BUSINESS—

- Building update
 - *North wall (NW corner of the sanctuary)*—Chuck Lewis stated that he contacted the Disciple church Extension Fund and they requested pictures of the problem with the North wall. These were sent as well as drone photos. The representative thought there may be a problem with brick work and that needs to be checked. Jim Mitchell from Indianapolis will come the next time he is in the area to look into these problems.
 - *Water in the basement*—Chuck states he is trying to get the elevation along the North wall checked with a laser. He thinks the area where the gutters drain is lower and causing the problem. He has not been able to get this done yet but is working on it.
 - *New rheostats for ceiling fans in sanctuary*—Carol Roberts reported that Steve Hedrick has talked with Harley Page about this but is not sure what was decided between them.
 - *Repair needed on concrete steps by the double glass door*—The area has been patched and painted.
- Procedure Handbook review—Carol Roberts stated that she needs volunteers to help with this. John Daniel and Jennifer Schmehl volunteered.

Board Minutes Cont.

September 20, 2026



NEW BUSINESS—

- Youth Group expenses—Carol Roberts stated that Diane Silvers will be giving the lessons for the Youth Group and has requested some written material for this, those cost approximately \$50.00. Carol stated that there is no line item in the Budget under Education for this. John Daniel made the motion to add \$100.00 to the Education budget (item #202) to purchase these materials. Seconded by Justin Quick, passed unanimously.
- Year End Reports— Carol Roberts reminded everyone that these reports from the committees and departments are due before the October board meeting.
- Accounting—John Daniel then made a motion to change the accounting of the church funds to be as follows: (handout given)
 - change the “Building Fund and Memorials” to Building Fund
 - Move the balances from the Kitchen Memorials, Outreach Fund, and Special Projects Fund to the Memorial Fund.
 - Move the balances of the Christian Men’s Fellowship Fund, Roy’s Angels Fund, and Ruth’s Rainy-Day Fund to the General Fund.
 - Change the name Youth Act. Camp, Mission, to Youth Fund.John explained that the money doesn’t disappear, it only changes our accounting. The funds that John is seeking to eliminate have rarely had money spent out of them over the years they have been in existence. They have no committee to guide the use of these funds, and this change will provide a committee for that purpose. After much discussion and for lack of a 2nd for his motion, John suggested that we table this motion until the November meeting, to allow time for board and congregational input after these minutes are published in the October newsletter.
- Maintenance Budget—Chuck mentioned that as reported last month, we have exceeded the Budget item #255. Board approval will be needed for any further expense. As we currently have a project pending, a motion was made by Don Cole to add money to the budget for repairs and equipment as needed for the remainder of 2026. Second, Debbie Cole, passed unanimously.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS—

- Memorial/Gift Committee—Judy Daniel stated that the previously bid received and approved for the Lexan has gone up by \$37.00. She stated that this was covered by a donation. Otherwise, all 3 items approved for purchase have been ordered.

ADJOURNMENT—no further business. Justin Quick moved that the meeting adjourn, seconded by John Daniel. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:40.

CLOSING PRAYER—Closing prayer by Rev. Hulsey.

Respectfully submitted.

Jennifer Schmehl
Board Secretary





FIRST
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CHURCH
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

REV. SHARLA HULSEY

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*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!"*

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

