VOLUME 66 / ISSUE 11

The Messenger

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

November 2026



Take just a moment out of your day...

I've heard that part of the reason why people today are oftentimes anxious and unhappy is that we've forgotten to give thanks. Since Thanksgiving is this month, let's see if we can remedy that.

One of the best tools we have for remembering to give thanks every day is the Blessing Box calendar the Disciples Women use. You don't have to attend Disciples Women's monthly meetings to use the Blessing Box calendar. You don't have to put coins in a bank to use it, if you'd rather not; and if you do put coins in a bank, you don't have to give them to Disciples Women at the end, unless you want to.

Every day the Blessing Box calendar asks you to think about something. For instance, one day in October we were to count every pair of shoes we own and put 2¢ in the box for each pair! That one nearly breaks me every time it comes up, because I have a lot of shoes. Then you put your coins in the bank (if you're using it) and give thanks for the blessing of shoes. Some of you might remember the days Loretta Lynn sang about in "Coal Miner's Daughter," when poor children in some places went barefoot all summer, and then got a new pair when the weather turned cold—a pair of shoes that was meant to last until the next summer, which anyone who has ever had growing kids knows doesn't necessarily work out.

If you want to try the Blessing Box, you can pick up a copy at the church. Or it's posted on our Facebook page. You can use a coin box or not, and at the end if you have used it you can donate what you've collected however you want—with the goal of sharing your blessings with someone else.

In any case, let's each try to take a moment out of each day in November to give thanks for something. It can be a large thing or it can be a small thing, but stopping regularly to remember how blessed we are helps us avoid giving in to the anxiety, envy, and unhappiness that often swirls around us, especially as we move into the gift-giving season that comes after Thanksgiving.

Sharla






November Serving Schedule

Communion Preparer: Phyllis McBrayer

November 1
- Elder: Justin Quick
- Deacons: Steve Hedrick & Carol Lewis
- Greeter: Carol Hedrick
- Scripture Reader: Carol Hedrick

November 8
- Elder: Diana Rich
- Deacons: Bob Thomas & Jennifer Schmehl
- Greeter: Judy Taylor
- Scripture Reader: Judy Daniel

November 15
- Elder: John Daniel
- Deacons: Judy Daniel & Everett McBrayer
- Greeter: Carol & Chuck Lewis
- Scripture Reader: Phyllis McBrayer

November 22
- Elder: Chuck Lewis
- Deacons: Don Cole & Debbie Cole
- Greeter: Carol Roberts
- Scripture Reader: Jennifer Schmehl

November 29
- Elder: Chuck Lewis
- Deacons: Carol Hedrick & Lyssa Lile
- Greeter: Lile family
- Scripture Reader: Lyssa Lile



Attendance

September 27
- In-person: 30
- Online: 7

October 4
- In-person: 39
- Online: 2

October 11
- In-person: 28
- Online: 5

October 18
- In-person: 39
- Online: 5



Budget

September Income
$14,481.68

September Expense
$11,194.28

YTD Income
$103,857.96

YTD Expense
$92,180.62

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

Elders Meeting: Sunday, Nov. 8 @ 10:30 am

Disciples Women: Tuesday, Nov. 10 @ 6 pm

Board Meeting: Sunday, Nov. 15 @ 10:30 am

Community Cafe: Tuesday, Nov. 17 @ 5:30 pm

Thanksgiving/Office closed: Thurs. Nov. 26

Congregational Mtg.: Sun. Nov. 29 @ 10:30 am

Announcements

Outreach Project

During the month of November, First Christian Church will be supporting the community-wide Thanksgiving Meal Ministry organized by Judge Julie Highley and the Carpenters Cup. This ministry provides free Thanksgiving meals to residents throughout Bates County through dine-in, carry-out, and home delivery options. Our congregation has committed to collecting **40 five-pound bags of white potatoes (200 pounds total) and 100 pounds of sweet potatoes** to help provide the mashed potatoes and sweet potato casserole served with these meals. Please consider donating as we work together to share God's love and ensure our neighbors have a warm Thanksgiving meal. Donations may be brought to the church throughout November. Thank you for your generosity and support of this important outreach ministry.

Thank yous

Thank you to everyone who remembered me on my birthday. Your cards, messages, and kind wishes meant so much to me. -Owen

To our friends at FCC... Your kindness is truly appreciated. Thank you so much for your support. Every year your VBS sends us a check, and we just wanted to be sure you know how much that means to us. - All of us at The Food Pantry

Christmas Card Exchange

The Disciples Women are sponsoring a congregational Christmas card exchange again this year. This is strictly voluntary for those who wish to participate. Cards will be collected from November 22nd through December 13th. A directory list will be available in the foyer. If you have questions, contact Judy Taylor or Carol Lewis.

In Our Prayers

Current Concerns:
Rylee Morgan, Pauline Morrow, Brooke Shepherd, Larry Hacker, Norio & Fran Ota, Mary Beth Jennings, Greg & Jeanie Bartimus, Miranda Foster, Donnie Allen, Clint Bennett, Gage Hubbard, Chelsea McConkay, Faye Oriley, Judy Farris, Dawn Wix, David Merryfield, and Bill Nichols.

Ongoing Concerns:
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, Patsy & Terry Lodge, Betty Lemon, Koal Eastwood, and Everett McBrayer.

At Home:
Julie Lewis, Linda Wix, Stella Plunkett, Kathy Bunch, and Mary Mae Lewis.

Serving in the Military:
Rick Warren, Jordan Olson, Jordan Lopez, Everett Chapman, Carter Coffman, and Randy Hubbard.

Christian Sympathy:
We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Ken Beard, Mildred Boehler, Willard Strange, Patty Sutton, Roger Noe, Linda Christopher, Don Cushard, Donna Kauffman and David Jennings.

Important Meetings Ahead

Board Meeting - Sunday, November 15
The Board will meet following worship on Sunday, November 15. Agenda items include the proposed 2027 budget and nominations.
Congregational Meeting - Sunday, November 29
The congregation will vote on the proposed 2027 budget and nominations following worship on Sunday, November 29.

Fellowship Dinner

The Membership Department invites everyone to a Soup & Sandwich Fellowship Dinner on Sunday, December 6, immediately following worship (approximately 10:45 a.m.). Come enjoy good food, warm fellowship, and a chance to visit with your church family. We hope you'll join us!

Anniversaries

11	Don & Debbie Cole	1989

Birthdays

2	Kathy Bunch	10	Larry Burch	24	Carol Lewis
2	Steve Hedrick	11	Jeanie Bartimus	24	Judy Taylor
		15	Lyssa Lile	25	Mary Mae Lewis
		16	Sheryl Lane	29	Sandee Hubbard



Upcoming Sermons

November 1, 2026 (Proper 26)
Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-15a (RCL: Epiphany 6, Year B; and Proper 9, Year C)
Psalm: 30
Theme: Elisha heals Naaman
Title: “Quackery”

November 8, 2026 (Proper 27)
Scripture: Micah 6:1-8 (RCL: Epiphany 4, Year A)
Psalm: 15
Theme: Boiling down the essence of faithfulness
Title: “Three Simple Rules”

November 15, 2026 (Proper 28)
Rev. Sharla Hulsey on vacation

November 22, 2026 (Proper 29/Christ the King)
Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46 (RCL: Christ the King, Year A)
Psalm: 100
Theme: The last judgment
Title: “Will it be an open-book test?”

November 29, 2026 (1st Sunday of Advent)
TBA

All are welcome

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

Board Minutes
October 18, 2026

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:39 by Carol Roberts, chairperson. Opening prayer was given by Justin Quick. The agenda was reviewed and requests were made to add 2 items under Committee Reports, Outreach and Property. The amended agenda was approved unanimously after a motion was made by Chuck Lewis and seconded by Carol Hedrick.

The minutes of the September 2026 meeting were reviewed. There was a correction made by Judy Daniel. Under Memorial and Gift committee reports, it should read that the bid from Lexan had gone up, resulting in an overage of $37.00 to the total amount allotted to purchase chairs, Lexan and coffee pot.Motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by John Daniel, seconded by Diana Rich. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS— Carol Lewis reviewed the September Financial Reports.
Budget vs. Actual—Total Revenue—$14,481.68 (budget $10,575.25)
Total Expenses—$11,194.28 (budget $10,583.58)
Net Income—$3,287.40
Budget vs Actual YTD—Total Revenue—$103,857.96 (budget $95,177.25)
Total Expenses—$92,180.62 (budget $95,252.22)
Net Revenue—$11,677.34
Balance Sheet—Total Assets—$68,545.93
Total Restricted Funds—$66,815.37
Total Liability and Equity—$68,545.93
Total $$ in bank—$68,479.66
Full Financial Reports are available for review in the church office. Motion to accept the Financial Reports was made by Phyllis McBrayer seconded by Diana Rich, 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, October 13
-Ministerial Alliance, October 8
-Elders, October 11
-Nominating Committee, September 23
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; Mary Love will be preaching. We are to bring 3 dozen cookies. In addition, Rev. Hulsey learned that Shawn will be preaching at the Nevada Ministerial Alliance's service on November 23, at 7:00 pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nevada.
The Sheriff's posse will be holding a training for first-responder chaplains on November 6 and 7 that she will attend.
Rev. Hulsey states she will be attending an all-day singing on November 14 and will be taking vacation that 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 states we need to have Tuck Pointing done to check the brick mortar in certain areas. Phyllis McBrayer added that James had done some plaster work inside in that area and will do more where it is needed if it is ok. Chuck advised her it is fine for him to proceed.

Continued on next page

Water in the basement—Chuck stated he was able to check with a laser, and the ground does not fall away from the building at a standard level. He also believes that the shrubs alongside the North side of the church need to be removed to improve water flow away from the building. He is exploring more options as to how best to divert the water away from the building.
New rheostats for ceiling fans in sanctuary—Steve Hedrick stated he talked with Harley Page, but Harley has not yet contacted the church. Steve said he will call Harley again. Carol Roberts questioned the cost, John Daniel stated that we had voted to increase the maintenance budget as needed to include extra costs.
Procedure Handbook review—Carol Roberts stated that she needs 2 more volunteers to help with this. John Daniel and Jennifer Schmehl have already volunteered. Justin Quick said he would volunteer also.Carol said they would not meet until January 2027.
Year-end reports—Carol R. states she has received several but there are still some that are needed.

NEW BUSINESS—there was no new business

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS
Nominating committee—Justin Quick stated they still have some openings to fill and will present nominations at the next meeting.
Memorial/Gift committee—Judy Daniel reports that the new chairs, coffee maker are here and that the Lexan has been installed over the stained-glass windows at the front of the church. Judy plans on putting an article in the newsletter and in the weekly bulletins about these memorial gifts.
Outreach—Phyllis McBrayer states that our outreach project for November will be to help with Judge Highley/Carpenter's Cup annual Thanksgiving dinner. We will probably supply the potatoes as in the past.
Property—Phyllis McBrayer stated that Dennis Raybourn donated his time to replace the light bulbs in the FCC sign in front of the church. A Thank you card for him was passed around to be signed. Phyllis also stated that a circuit board on one of the furnaces had gone out and was replaced.

ADJOURNMENT—There being no further business, motion was made by Justin Quick to adjourn, seconded by John Daniel. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:15. Closing prayer by Reverend Hulsey.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Schmehl, board secretary

FCC Memorial Purchases 2026

As a result of memorial contributions to our church, the Memorial Committee recommended three purchases that the Board approved. These items have been ordered and received:

The Plexiglas covers which protected the stained-glass windows on the west of the building had yellowed over time. It was replaced with Lexan which is stronger, has a higher heat resistance, and is UV treated.

Before



After



The folding chairs used primarily in the fellowship hall were replaced with red cushioned chairs.



A 74-ounce coffee brewer with a stainless-steel carafe was purchased to make serving larger groups such as Community Café more efficient.



Thank you to those families who have made contributions to our church in memory of their loved ones. That special act made these purchases possible.

FIRST
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REV. SHARLA HULSEY

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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"So let us not grow weary in doing what is right,
for we will reap at harvest time,
if we do not give up."

Galatians 6:9