

The Christian Visitor August 2019



We are called to share our Christian Faith and Christ's Love with all people.

Our Life Together in August

Summer Youth Group



First Christian Church youth will meet for the final time this summer on August 18 beginning at 5:30pm. This will be a fun evening filled with growing faith, enjoying fellowship, and having fun. Be sure to invite a friend!

Installation Service August 18th

During worship on August 18th, Pastor Mat will be formally installed as pastor of First Christian Church Gibson City. Regional Minister Teresa Dulyea-Parker will be joining us that morning to lead the installation.

Couples Date Night

The next date night will be the evening of Saturday, August 3rd. Pastor Mat and Elizabeth will be providing child care for busy couples to have the time to take each other out for a date! Childcare will begin at 5:00 p.m. and include food, games, and perhaps a movie on the lawn. Please sign up in the lobby or email Pastor Mat if you are interested.

Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Tuesday, August 13th at 6:30 pm. If you have any items to add to the agenda, please send them to the church office.

Copies of the Board Minutes and Treasurer's Report are available on the table outside of the Church office. Please take and read.

Pastor Mat's Musings

Good day church family! I am excited to begin writing monthly musings in our Christian Visitor. This section will be a reflection on current events, culture, theology and the like. My hope is to explore relevant topics to our local community and the world at large. I also hope to engage these topics with a perspective of attempting to learn more about God. The topic will vary month to month with some being more serious than others. I am starting off this week with a "light" topic, but to some Cubs and Cardinals fans this might hit close to home.

As many baseball fans in the region know, this week (specifically the 31st) is Major League Baseball's trade deadline. If you are a Cubs or Cardinals fan, you have probably been keeping in touch with the trade rumors as your team needs help for their final playoff push. While the rumors are fun to read about, it is even more fun to ask what the baseball trade deadline can teach us about God. Learning about God through new, unexpected avenues represents one of the strongest elements of a 21st century faith. Here is one way this week's trade deadline helps us to learn more about who God is.

This week's trade deadline helps us to understand what drove God to become an active participant in humanity (i.e. why Jesus became human). The trade deadline does something unique to a baseball fan. The trade deadline transforms all baseball fans into baseball savants. Fans are more vocal with their opinions at the trade deadline than at any other time of the year. When the 2017 non-waiver deadline passed without the Astros (my favorite team) adding a starting pitcher, I was fuming. "I work in Christian ministry and even I know what the team needs!" These are the types of thoughts that run through most fans' minds when their team makes a poor decision. Cardinal fans may have felt this when the team low-balled Pujols as a free agent. Cubs fans felt this for 109 years. It is frustrating to love a team and to desperately want what's best for them only to see them make (in the Cubs' case) hundreds of mistakes over and over again.

It hurts to see something you love make the same mistakes continuously. Imagine how God must have felt during the first several thousand years of human history. The Old Testament is riddled with bad decisions made by God's chosen people, the Israelites. Like we feel when our team does not make the trade we know they need, God experienced pain when he saw his children reject him time and time again. But unlike us, God was not helpless in the matter. He decided to not reject or eternally punish his people, but rather to become an active participant providing hope to a broken humanity. He became human, lived a perfect life, and sacrificed his life so that we can be with him again. God was unafraid by the consequences. It surely was not easy to transition from life in heaven to life on earth as a human. Yet, he did this because he knew what was best for us.

By the time you read this, the deadline will have passed. The Cubs and Cardinals more than likely whiffed on the deadline. The frustration mounts as the hopes of a World Series sinks. Use this frustration to relate to God. God loves us far more than we love a baseball team. God created us. Imagine how broken he must feel after we reject him time and time again. The moments where we want to throw our ball caps in the garbage and find a new team are moments for us to remember that in spite of our filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6) God did not throw his "ball cap" and find a new team. He actually joined the team and changed the direction of human history (Philippians 2:6-8). God did something about it. His hurting love led to action. He became human and gave his life so that our "whiffs" can no longer exclude us from relationship with him.

More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

August Serving Schedule

Communion Bread Baker—Jennifer Hagan

Sunday, August 4th

Greeter: *Karen Long*

Elders: *Melanie Warfield, Cheryl Elder, Sharon Higgins*

Deacons: *Katy Neal, David DeWall, Kristine Medler
Jeff Elder, Ruth Neal, Emily Elder*

Worship Leader: *Marilyn Hopkey*

Communion Preparation: *Kristine Medler*

Home Communion: *Cheryl Elder and Kristine Medler*

Sunday, August 11th

Greeters: *Noel & Carol Hutchcraft*

Elders: *Sue Walker, Marilyn Tjardes, Angie Barnard*

Deacons: *Ryan Iverson, Janet Iverson, Mary Alice McRae
Ed Hopkey, Mike Finis, Adam Kincaid*

Worship Leader:

Communion Preparation: *Janet Iverson*

Home Communion: *Sue Walker and Janet Iverson*

Sunday, August 18th

Greeters: *Jerry & Ida Wahls*

Elders: *Arlen DeWall, Don Eberly, Carol Hutchcraft*

Deacons: *Sue McClard, Beth Tabor, Leah McClure
Jay Kristensen, Gary Reiners, Ruth Reiners*

Worship Leader: *Gary Reiners*

Communion Preparation: *Jay Kristensen*

Home Communion: *Carol Hutchcraft and Jay Kristensen*

Sunday, August 25th

Greeters:

Elders: *Melanie Warfield, Cheryl Elder, Sharon Higgins*

Deacons: *Katy Neal, David DeWall, Kristine Medler
Jeff Elder, Ruth Neal, Emily Elder*

Worship Leader: *Sarah & Sharon Higgins*

Communion Preparation: *Ruth Neal*

Home Communion: *Sharon Higgins and Ruth Neal*

Poured Out Church September 14th & 15th

This year's Poured Out Church will take place the weekend of September 14th-15th. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

Sympathy

We express our sympathy to the family and friends of Jim McClard, who passed away on July 15th. A celebration of life service was held in our sanctuary on July 19th.

Fellowship

There will be a fellowship hour following church on Sunday, August 18th hosted by Marilyn Hopkey, Ruth Reiners, and Ida Wahls.

Young Women's Summer Bible Study

A Young Women's Summer Bible Study will continue to meet every other Tuesday. During this study, we will be going through a video series on the book of James. Expect a casual atmosphere for spending time hanging out, watching a quick video lesson, and discussing the teaching from the video.

Greeters / Worship Leaders

Please consider serving as a greeter or worship leader in the coming months.

Sign-up sheets can be found in the narthex.

Outreach

Food Pantry: 12 items were received in May for the Shepherd's Closet Food Pantry.

2019 year to date: 113 items received

Next Pantry Sunday: August 4th

Memorial Gifts

Memorial Gifts to First Christian Church have been received in memory of

Jim McClard

These gifts are added to our Memorial Fund for current and future projects, furthering our shared ministry and mission.

Office Hours:
 Mon—Fri: 9:00 am—1:00 pm
 Church Phone: 217-784-5460
 gcfcdoc@yahoo.com
 fcdocgc.com

August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 8:00 AM City Recycling 5:00 PM Couples Date Night
4 10:15 AM Worship	5	6 9:00 AM Prayer 7:00 PM Young Women's Bible Study	7	8	9	10 9:00 AM Food Pantry
11 10:15 AM Worship	12	13 9:00 AM Prayer 6:30 PM Church Board	14	15	16	17 8:00 AM City Recycling
18 Installation Service 10:15 AM Worship 5:30 PM Summer Youth	19	20 9:00 AM Prayer 7:00 PM Young Women's Bible Study	21	22	23	24 9:00 AM Food Pantry
25 10:15 AM Worship	26	27 9:00 AM Prayer	28	29	30	31

**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
August 2019**

- | | |
|----|------------------------------|
| 1 | Marilyn Tjardes |
| | Ron & Marti Wiebers '99 |
| 4 | Ryan & Janet Iverson '01 |
| 5 | Patty Benz |
| 7 | Ron Wiebers |
| 10 | Evelyn Fawver |
| | Ed & Marilyn Hopkey '68 |
| 11 | Adam & Kristy Elder '07 |
| | Tim Ricks |
| 13 | Cathy Hagan |
| 18 | Jerry Schutte |
| | Ruth Neal |
| 20 | Peter Provin |
| 21 | Elliott McClure |
| 22 | Robert Provin |
| 23 | David Hagan |
| 25 | Bob & Linda Provin |
| 28 | Sarah Higgins |
| 30 | Clyde & Mary Alice McRae '64 |



**Annual Hymn Festival
2019**

Love singing and learning the story behind hymns? Join us for the 2019 annual Hymn Festival!

This annual event, sponsored by the Gibson Area Music Foundation, will be held on Sunday, August 11th at 3:00pm at the United Methodist Church of Gibson City. This year's festival will be directed by Milt Kelly with Heidi Brown providing accompaniment.

Box Tops for Education



A collection for box tops has been placed in the narthex. Each box top is worth 10 cents and the money goes towards student and teacher programs! If every kid at GCMS elementary (460 students) brought in ONE box top for the 10 months the kids are in school that would equal \$460!!!!

Pastor - Mat Bowen
Administrative Assistant - Jennifer Hagan
Choir Director - Tim Ricks
Church Pianist - Joan Ricks
Custodians - Jeff and Cheryl Elder

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship Service
Church Phone 784-5460
Email address: gfcdoc@yahoo.com
Website: fcdocgc.com

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED