

The Christian Visitor October 2019



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

Our Life Together in October



World Communion Sunday October 6th

With Christian communities around the world on this first Sunday of October, we observe World Communion Sunday. Here we witness to the unity that God has created among the human family, the unity embodied in Christ Jesus. This year's special observance of our unity with Christians around the world will include receiving communion by intinction and a variety of breads from around the world available in the narthex following worship.

DWM "Silent Giving" Celebration of Women's Ministry October 27th



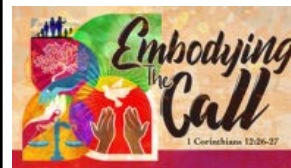
Sunday, October 27th DWM will be receiving their annual giving to the work of the Disciple Women's Missions. The money received through this giving helps fund projects that help individuals both locally and internationally. With your contributions, our DWM is able to reach out to those who are in need. There will be a coffee and sweet breads fellowship held in the narthex after the worship service at which time you may bring your gifts.

Navigators

The Navigators group now meets every other Wednesday at 6:30pm. This is our family ministry group and is open to anyone looking to grow in faith and fellowship. Meetings for this month will be October 9th and October 23rd. Childcare will be provided for children through 5th grade. Middle-schoolers are welcome to attend middle-school youth group!

"Ignite" Middle School Youth

Our new middle-school youth group called "Ignite" meets every Wednesday with a light meal at 6:00 and youth group at 6:30! All middle-school students are welcome!



Reconciliation Offering September 29th & October 6th

The Reconciliation Special Offering is used to fund our Church's mission imperative to become a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church utilizing experiential education, inclusive worship and intentional dialogue. Our efforts to promote healing, relationship and restoration in the whole family of God are enlivened by funds from this offering. Through it we are able to provide programs for leadership development, curriculum for dialogue and learning, and partnerships within the Church and our communities.

Pastor Mat's Musings

Over the last month we have been dreaming for our church and our community. I want to spend some time talking about what was posted on our dream board over the last month and where we go from here. Although we had more than 3 dreams posted, I found that our dreams were easily divided into three categories: church modernization, church systems, and continued growth of existing as well as new ministry programming.

Modernization consisted of by far the most dreams placed on the board. The dreams vastly ranged in scope from adding projectors and utilizing more modern music all the way to maintaining a more comfortable temperature during worship. The heart behind these dreams is clear. We all share a common desire to look forward to our church experience. When we are honest with ourselves we admit that in some ways our church experience has not created an atmosphere that people always want to be at. This isn't to say our church experience is "wrong" or "bad." This is more to say that our church experience needs to evolve. This evolution is not just for our own members but for our entire community.

Church systems was another category found on the dream board. In other words, why do we do the things that we do and how can we do them better? These dreams spoke about things like easier ways to take attendance, a more relevant Facebook page, and having clearer definitions of our small groups. These dreams are very important because these dreams show that First Christian Church has a heart to get people connected.

The last category of dreams was continued growth of our current ministry groups as well as adding new opportunities. These dreams are perhaps the most important. A church is only as strong as its people's desire to grow in fellowship. These dreams exhibit our desire to grow in fellowship.

So where do we go from here? The dream board has made it clear that we have a lot of work to do. Before we get started, we need to keep three things in mind:

-Pray first because God brings the growth. 1st Corinthians 3:7 "7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow." We can modernize the entire church. We can have the most efficient systems. We can have the best small groups. None of it will matter without God at the center. God is the grower of faiths. God is the grower of small groups. God is the best tech guy you know. This is why it is crucially important that the elders, myself, and you all pray this month over these dreams. **Pray that God gives us clarity on where God wants us to modernize, where God wants us to change our systems, and where God wants us to add more ministry programming.**

-It is going to take time. Some of these dreams will be fulfilled quicker than others. This Sunday, for example, will have some changes. Some dreams though will require more time and patience waiting on God's direction. Be patient with God. As we have seen in our recent sermons, God does not always reveal his promises immediately. Stay steadfast. Enjoy this time of prayer and patience.

-These dreams will require sacrifice. Christ is the ultimate example of this. To fulfill God's dream of being close to humanity there had to be a sacrifice. Likewise, many of the dreams we have as a congregation will require sacrifice. I wish I had a list of what those sacrifices will be, but I don't. I do know that our comfort zone will be stretched. There will be times where you will absolutely dislike new changes. You will disagree with decisions, and sometimes you may even be hurt by the decisions. In those times lean on God. Have faith that God has First Christian Church in his hands.

I hope that all of you are excited about the future of First Christian Church. I know that I am! God's will for this place is good no matter the outcome. Because of that we can have peace. So pray with me this month. Pray for God to give us guidance so we can be a beacon of hope to Gibson City.

Pastor Mat

More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

October Serving Schedule

Communion Bread Baker—Barb Meyer

Sunday, October 6th

Greeters:

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

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

Worship Leader: *Angie & Brecke Barnard*

Communion Preparation: *Jeff Elder*

Home Communion: *Cheryl Elder and Jeff Elder*

Sunday, October 13th

Greeter:

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

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

Worship Leader: *Carol Hutchcraft*

Communion Preparation: *Adam Kincaid*

Home Communion: *Marilyn Tjardes and Adam Kincaid*

Sunday, October 20th

Greeters:

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

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

Worship Leader: *Sharon & Sarah Higgins*

Communion Preparation: *Beth Tabor*

Home Communion: *Carol Hutchcraft and Beth Tabor*

Sunday, October 27th

Greeters:

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

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

Worship Leader:

Communion Preparation: *Katy Neal*

Home Communion: *Sharon Higgins and Katy Neal*

Fellowship October 20th

There will be a fellowship hour immediately following worship on October 20th hosted by the Youth Sunday School Classes.

Elders Breakfast

October 13th
Host: Sue Walker

Men's Group

October 6th

Disciples Women's Ministry

Tuesday, October 15th 7:00pm

Hostess: Bonnie Schutte

Location: Church

Study Leader: Bonnie Schutte

Project: "Silent Giving" October 27th

Young Women's Bible Study

The Young Women's Bible Study will continue to meet every other Tuesday at 7:00pm. This month's meetings will be on October 1st, October 15th, and October 29th. We are currently going through a video series on the book of James.

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: 6 items were received in August for the Shepherd's Closet Food Pantry.

2019 year to date: 126 items received

Next Pantry Sunday: October 6th

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

October 2019

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----------|---|--|---|-----------|---|---|
| | | | 1 9:00 AM Prayer 7:00 PM Young Women's Bible Study | 2 6:00 PM "Ignite" Middle School Youth 7:00 PM Choir | 3 | 4 | 5 8:00 AM City Recycling FCC |
| 6 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship | 7 | 8 9:00 AM Prayer 6:30 PM Church Board | 9 6:00 PM "Ignite" Middle School Youth 6:30 PM Navigators 7:00 PM Choir | 10 | 11 | 12 9:00 AM Food Pantry | |
| 13 8:00 AM Elders Breakfast 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship | 14 | 15 9:00 AM Prayer 7:00 PM Young Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM DWM | 16 6:00 PM "Ignite" Middle School Youth 7:00 PM Choir | 17 | 18 | 19 8:00 AM City Recycling | |
| 20 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Fellowship | 21 | 22 9:00 AM Prayer | 23 6:00 PM "Ignite" Middle School Youth 6:30 PM Navigators 7:00 PM Choir | 24 | 25 | 26 9:00 AM Food Pantry FCC | |
| 27 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM DWM Silent Giving | 28 | 29 9:00 AM Prayer 5:30 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Young Women's Bible Study | 30 6:00 PM "Ignite" Middle School Youth 7:00 PM Choir | 31 | | | |

Recycling October 5th

First Christian Church is in charge of recycling on October 5th. Slots from 8:00-10:00am and 10:00-11:30am are available. Sign up in the narthex if you would like to volunteer to help.

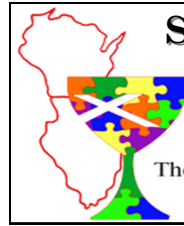
Food Pantry October 26th

First Christian Church is scheduled to provide volunteers at the food pantry on October 26th. Volunteers are needed Friday night for setup beginning at 6:30pm and Saturday morning for distribution from 8:30-10:30am. Sign up in the narthex if you would like to volunteer to help.

| ATTENDANCE | | SUNDAY WEEK | | | | | AVG |
|------------|------|-------------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| 2019 | JAN | 69 | 34 | 26 | 37 | | 42 |
| 2019 | FEB | 57 | 36 | 42 | 34 | | 42 |
| 2019 | MAR | 42 | 43 | 40 | 54 | 53 | 46 |
| 2019 | APR | 83 | 67 | 86 | 67 | | 76 |
| 2019 | MAY | 67 | 73 | 63 | 63 | | 67 |
| 2019 | JUNE | 47 | 44 | 54 | 57 | 40 | 48 |
| 2019 | JULY | 57 | 48 | 46 | 62 | | 53 |
| 2019 | AUG | 53 | 60 | 70 | 42 | | 56 |
| 2019 | SEPT | 41 | 78 | 42 | 57 | 62 | 56 |
| | AVG | 57.3 | 53.7 | 52.1 | 52.6 | 51.7 | |

New Youth Room

We are currently in the process of repurposing the old Busy Hands Classroom into a youth room. The purpose of this room is to provide a better space for our youth to learn and grow in God. In the past month, all furniture has been removed, the carpet has been torn up, and paint is going on the walls. Thank you to everyone who has helped with this project so far.



Sister Congregations in Our Prayers

The Christian Church in Illinois - Wisconsin
Together Making Disciples of Christ

- Sept. 29-Oct. 5 Reconciliation Offering and Ministry, World Communion Sunday
- Oct. 6-12 All Ordained and Commissioned Ministers
- Oct. 13-19 FCC Hillsboro, FCC Hoopston, Central CC Jacksonville
- Oct. 20-26 United CC Country Club Hills, FCC Dixon, FCC DuQuoin
- Oct. 27-Nov. 2 FCC Creve Coeur, Cuba CC, Central CC Decatur

In Our Prayers

The Prayer Group gathers in confidence at 9:30 am each Tuesday to honor prayer requests and remember those with on-going needs.

Harold Stimmel
Harriet Farney
Patty Benz
Evelyn Fawver
Irene Schaefer
Mike Lorenzen

Upcoming Sermons



Beginning last month, Pastor Mat switched over to using the Narrative Lectionary, a four-year cycle of readings that presents the Bible more like a story with a cohesive narrative. For the first two weeks in October, we will have a two-week series on Christian freedom to love based on the Ten Commandments and the story of Ruth and Naomi.

**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
*October 2019***



- 4 Don Eberly
- 6 Jay & Lori Kristensen '01
- 7 Matt Provin
- 8 Taylor May
- 9 Stephanie Johnson
- 16 Perry & Barbara Comer '71
- 21 Marti Wiebers
Joe & Amy Higgins '00
- 22 Kristy Elder
- 27 Xavier Moore
- 29 Clyde McCrae
- 31 Ron Warfield

Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Tuesday, October 8th 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.

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. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship Service
Church Phone 784-5460
Email address: gfcdoc@yahoo.com
Website: fcdocg.com

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
P.O. Box 10
Gibson City, IL 60936-0010
217-784-5460
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED