

The Christian Visitor February 2020



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

Our Life Together in February



Chili Cook-Off Sunday, February 16th 11:30am

Hear ye, hear ye! Our world-famous chili cook-off is scheduled to happen February 16th! Calling all chili cooks to get signed up for this momentous occasion! Participation awards for all entries and a special award for the chili voted Best of the Show!! There will be a separate category for non-chili soups as well. So even if you're not a chili cook, sign up and bring a pot of your best soup! There will be prizes for this category too! All proceeds from this event will go towards the continued support of Robb & Sheila Warfield's mission work in Africa.

"Rise" Middle School Youth

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

Monday Small Group Bible Study

The new Monday Small Group meets each week at 6:00pm. This small group is open and welcoming to anyone who wishes to study God's story together.

Jim McClard Open Gym

Please join us Sunday evenings from 5:00-7:00pm for a fun night of basketball and fellowship at the GCMS middle school gym. We will continue meeting every Sunday through February 23rd.



February 16th-23rd Week of Compassion Special Offering



Week of Compassion is more than a week. It is a ministry of the whole Church, reaching those in need "around the world, around the year." Any time we respond to a need in the world, we bear witness to the unity of our table, faithfully sharing the gifts that we have as an expression of Christ's love. In working together with partners, we represent our commitment to unity, making our resources reach farther and growing our impact on a global scale.

Your support enables us to respond to human need around the world and empower communities to build and rebuild. Around the year and around the world, We remain committed to sustaining this presence far into the future.

Thursday Small Group Bible Study

The new Thursday Small Group meets every other week at 6:00 p.m. We will begin at the church with a study from 6-7 pm followed by a social outing from 7-8 pm. This month's meetings will be on February 6th and February 20th. This small group is geared towards young adults and families. Childcare is available upon request. Please contact the church office or Pastor Mat to request childcare.

More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

February Serving Schedule

Communion Bread Baker—Cheryl Elder

Sunday, February 2nd

Greeters: *Ralph & Freda Poe*

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

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

Worship Leader: *Beth Tabor*

Communion Preparation: *Beth Tabor*

Home Communion: *Don Eberly and Beth Tabor*

Sunday, February 9th

Greeters:

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

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

Worship Leader:

Communion Preparation: *Katy Neal*

Home Communion: *Cheryl Elder and Kristine Medler*

Sunday, February 16th

Greeter:

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: *Mike Finis*

Home Communion: *Marilyn Tjardes and Mike Finis*

Sunday, February 23rd

Greeter:

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

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

Worship Leader:

Communion Preparation: *Ruth Reiners*

Home Communion: *Carol Hutchcraft and Ruth Reiners*

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.

Elders Breakfast

February 9th
Host: Sharon Higgins

Men's Group

February 2nd
Host: Ron Warfield

Disciples Women's Ministry

Tuesday, February 18th 7:00pm
Hostess: Sharon Higgins
Location: Church
Study Leader: Carol Hutchcraft

Hustlers

Sunday, February 2nd 5:00pm
Host/Hostess: Ron & Melanie Warfield
Super Bowl Party

Grape Juice

Gifts of Welch's grape juice to be used in communion are always welcome.

Outreach

Food Pantry: 23 items were received in the month of January for the Shepherd's Closet Food Pantry.

2020 year to date: 23 items received

Next Pantry Sunday: February 2nd

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

February 2020

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
							1 8:00 AM City Recycling
2 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 5:00 PM Jim McClard Open Gym 5:00 PM Hustlers	3 6:00 PM Monday Small Group	4 9:30 AM Prayer	5 6:00 PM "Rise" Middle School Youth 7:30 PM Choir	6 7:00 PM Thursday Small Group	7	8 9:00 AM Food Pantry	
9 8:00 AM Elders Breakfast 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 5:00 PM Jim McClard Open Gym	10 6:00 PM Monday Small Group	11 9:00 AM Prayer 6:30 PM Church Board	12 6:00 PM "Rise" Middle School Youth 7:30 PM Choir	13	14	15 8:00 AM City Recycling	
16 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Chili Cook-Off 1:30 PM Nursing Home Services 5:00 PM Jim McClard Open Gym	17 6:00 PM Monday Small Group	18 9:00 AM Prayer 7:00 PM DWM	19 6:00 PM "Rise" Middle School Youth 7:30 PM Choir	20 7:00 PM Thursday Small Group	21	22 9:00 AM Food Pantry	
23 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 5:00 PM Jim McClard Open Gym	24 6:00 PM Monday Small Group	25 9:00 AM Prayer	26 6:00 PM "Rise" Middle School Youth 7:30 PM Choir	27	28	29	

Pastor Mat's Musings February 2020

Many of you know that this past Sunday (26th) the basketball legend Kobe Bryant died in a tragic helicopter accident along with his thirteen year old daughter and seven other people. Kobe Bryant served as a cultural icon for millions of young men and women the past several decades. I can still vividly remember shooting trash into the trash can while yelling "Kobe" to compare my shooting skills with his. Every young basketball fan did this. Kobe was immortalized in the basketball community, and now he is gone forever.

This is a potent message for many American Christians. Disease, poverty, and death affects Americans daily. The truth is, though, that most people you encounter will not talk about such things. We do a great job of hiding our weaknesses and an even better job of hiding our mortality. The vast media coverage of Kobe's death serves as a reminder to us that no amount of fame, fortune, friendships, status, technology, or influence can separate us from our human condition. That is the human condition of desperately needing hope to live in a world that lies to you saying "you are invincible."

The tragic death of Kobe Bryant is a reminder to the world of our need for the Everlasting One. Don't go on in your life pouring your time and resources into things that do not last. As the writer of Ecclesiastes put it, "Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. ³What do people gain from all the toil at which they toil under the sun? ⁴A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. (Ecclesiastes 1:2-4)." Kobe's generation will fade and another will come. Your generation will fade and another will come. But Jesus, He will endure forever. Prioritize Jesus over the trappings of today.

Blessings,
Pastor Mat

ATTENDANCE		SUNDAY WEEK					
		1	2	3	4	5	AVG
2019	JULY	57	48	46	62		53
2019	AUG	53	60	70	42		56
2019	SEPT	41	78	42	57	62	56
2019	OCT	60	61	64	67		63
2019	NOV	61	59	58	50		57
2019	DEC	125	62	59	62	48	71
2020	JAN	56	55	45	55		53
	AVG	64.7	60.4	54.9	56.4	55.0	

Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Tuesday, February 11th 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.

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
Chet Goodrich



**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
*February 2020***

- 1 Ashley Nicole Spears
- 2 Lindsey Graham
- 10 Ruth Reiners
- 14 Dayne White
- 21 Hailey Johnson
Jessica Moore
- 22 Dennis Higgins
- 23 Penny Lorenzen
- 25 Janet Iverson
- 29 Sue McClard



**Nursing Home Worship
Sunday, February 16th**

First Christian Church will lead worship at both the Gibson Area Hospital Annex and Heritage Health Care on Sunday, February 16th. Worship at the Annex begins at 1:30pm and Heritage Health at 2:15.

Come and join the residents in worship.

Sunday School

We offer Sunday school classes for grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and adults beginning at 9:00am every Sunday morning.

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: gcfccdoc@yahoo.com
Website: fccdocgc.com

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