

# The Christian Visitor July 2020



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

## Our Life Together in July

Church Family,

I am very excited for our return to church on Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup>. We will be meeting at 10:15 am. There is no Sunday school which is normal during our summer months. Other than the time and place, much will look different. We will be following social distancing guidelines which includes the following:

- All able adults and teenagers are asked to wear a mask (unless a medical condition does not allow it)
- Only using every other pew. Others will be blocked off
- Households (whoever you came with) sitting six feet apart
- No singing but we will be utilizing musical worship
- Removal of all reusable materials such as hymnals and bibles from pews
- Fellowship Hall and all classrooms will be closed
- No coffee hour or water fountains
- No passing of offering or communion plates
- Only entry to building through main doors on south side of building (all exits open)
- Sanctuary doors to remain open at all times
- Expected length of service 45 minutes
- Keep inside conversation to a minimum
- Continued online worship for those at home

We will still have a time of stewardship as well as communion. Offering plates will be found at the doors of the sanctuary. Feel free to drop your offering on the way in or way out of the sanctuary. Communion supplies will be found at a worship resource table in the foyer. We will have a volunteer passing out communion supplies, new offering envelopes for the year, and masks for those who do not have one. We will be offering two types of masks; a fabric reusable (which you are free to take home) and a lighter disposable mask. There will also be various sanitizing stations throughout the church building that will include cleaning wipes and hand sanitizer.

Any individual with a fever, cough, chills, or severe fatigue should maintain safety by staying home. If you are feeling sick or tired, please take your temperature before attending church. Also, if you have been exposed to someone with Covid-19 please practice caution in returning to church. In the event we do have a case of Covid-19 at church, we want to make sure we have detailed records of attendance. Your attendance will be tracked by a volunteer at the resource table in the main foyer. Please enter through the main door to ensure we have accurate attendance records. All exits will remain unlocked and will be propped open at the end of service.

We pray that these social distancing rules will not be received as a personal attack on your freedom. Rather, we pray that these rules will provide all people both old and young alike the freedom to worship in the House of God without fear. As Jesus said in Matthew 22:37-40

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” [c] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ [d] 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

Let us all show love by protecting our neighbors and worshiping God safely together.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Mat

# More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

## Letter to the Church

To all,

Last week, I was asked to serve as an Elder for our Church. I accepted this position with great thought. On 06/28/2020, my appointment as an Elder was put up for vote to the congregation and passed. I would first like to thank everyone that took part in my selection as an Elder for our Church.

The reason I am sending this letter out is to let our congregation know how I plan to fill the position of Elder for our Church. Since I received the call and was asked to be an Elder, I have been in my bible researching the role of Elder. In researching this, I found Acts 20:28 to be most helpful in understanding my new role to our Church and God: "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the Church of God, which he bought with his own blood." I will lead with my bible and prayer. Most of all, I want to make myself available to all of our Church.

For those of you who know my work schedule, you know I am not always at Church on Sunday. For those who don't know, I work night shift on a 12-hour schedule. I feel this will not limit me in my ability to serve the Church. I want everyone to know I am always available by my phone 217-781-2376. If I don't answer and it is an emergency, please call the number a second time to override the "do not disturb" mode. I am also available to meet and talk during business hours when most people are working.

When it comes to offering myself to help, I will be an active listener, and never offer advice without consulting the bible. I also feel this is an important part of fulfilling my role as an Elder. As I have found in my research, Elders should bleed the bible. It is not our job to give our opinions but to help you understand the word of God.

I look forward to helping you in your journey down God's road. This role of serving you as an Elder is one of the greatest roles I have taken on and will work my hardest to fulfill God's will.

Thank you,

Ryan Iverson  
Elder of First Christian Church  
Gibson City, Illinois  
217-781-2376  
riverson.1976@gmail.com



## Congratulations

Congratulations to Jerry & Ida Wahls who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 27th.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Arlen DeWall and Diane Jennings who were recently united in marriage.

## 2020 Graduates

Congratulations to our 2020 graduates! Below is a list of our extended church family who is graduating this year.



### Graduating this year:

- Leah Warfield Smith, University of Tennessee
- Alex Hunt, Maryville University
- Cullen Neal, GCMS High School
- Summer Roesch, GCMS High School (Granddaughter of Pat Provin, Great-granddaughter of Mona Summers)
- Trey VanWinkle, PBL High School (Grandson of Ruth and Gary Reiners)
- Grace Goodrich, Lakes High School (Granddaughter of Chet Goodrich)
- Avalyn Warfield, Dakar Academy (Granddaughter of Ron and Melanie Warfield)
- Audrey Iverson, GCMS Middle School
- Kate Kristensen, GCMS Middle School
- Colin Kristensen, GCMS Middle School



## Food Pantry July 24th & 25th

First Christian Church is scheduled to provide volunteers at the food pantry on July 24th and 25th. Volunteers are needed Friday night for setup beginning at 6:30pm and Saturday morning for distribution from 8:30-10:30am.

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

# July 2020

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Office Closed	4 4th of July
<b>5</b> 10:15 AM Worship	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 10:15 AM Worship	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10:15 AM Worship	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8:30 AM Food Pantry FCC volunteers	
<b>26</b> 10:15 AM Worship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

**LOCAL  
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES  
July 2020**

- 1 Chester Goodrich  
Dennis & Sharon Higgins '06
- 2 Carol Hutchcraft
- 3 Matt Poe  
Tyler Mott  
Jerry Wahls
- 7 Janet Hoffman
- 11 Beth Bridgwater
- 15 Griffin Johnson
- 18 Margaret Meers
- 20 Ralph Poe
- 21 Wyatt Higgins  
Peter & Kate Provin '12



## Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for the new church year beginning July 5<sup>th</sup> are available in the church office. Notify the office if you would like a box and what number you would prefer and it will be set aside for pickup during office hours or Sunday morning worship.

## Church Social Media



First Christian Church is on social media. Our Facebook page can still be found at <https://www.facebook.com/fccdocgc/>.



In addition, we now have an Instagram page (fccdocgc) and a Twitter page (@fccdocgc). We hope to keep these sites



continuously updated on the current happenings at First Christian Church.

**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: [gefccdoc@yahoo.com](mailto:gefccdoc@yahoo.com)  
Website: [fccdocgc.com](http://fccdocgc.com)

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