

The Christian Visitor September 2020



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

Our Life Together in September



Sunday School

Sunday School plans for the fall are as follows:

Youth Sunday School September 20th

Youth Sunday school classes will begin meeting on Sunday, September 20th. They will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month beginning at 9:15am and ending promptly at 10:00. Six feet social distance and masks will be required. Age ranges for classes are pre-k, 1st-3rd, 4th-5th, and 6th-8th (once Foundations classes end). There will also be an option to use take home packets, which will be available for pickup in the church office starting September 15th or at church on Sunday morning.

Foundations Class September 13th

A new Foundations Class will begin for 6th-8th graders who are seeking to learn the basic principles of the Christian faith. This class will meet WEEKLY for six weeks and will serve as the student's foundation of faith for the coming decades. Foundations class will culminate in a Baptism Sunday on October 25th. Following the completion of Foundations class, the 6th-8th Sunday School class will begin meeting at the same time as other age groups.

Seekers Sunday School September 20th

The Seekers Adult Sunday School class will begin meeting on September 20th and will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 9:15am.

Small Groups

The following small groups will meet this fall:

Family and Focus

Family and Focus small group will meet on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00pm at the church beginning Sept. 17th.

Fellowship Small Group

Fellowship small group will meet on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at 6:00pm at the church beginning Sept. 24th.

DWM

The Disciple Women's Group will meet at their normal time of 7:00pm on the third Tuesday of each month. These brief gatherings provide a casual atmosphere for the women in the church to study and encourage each other in faith and family.

Men's Fellowship

The men's group will begin meeting the third Thursday of the month at 8:00am.

Seekers

The Seekers Adult Sunday School class provides an option for those with busy schedules to meet in a small group on Sunday mornings.

ATTENDANCE		SUNDAY WEEK					
		1	2	3	4	5	AVG
2020	JULY	46	44	33	-		41
2020	AUG	-	44	47	41	-	44

More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

Welcome to the month of September!

September means we pick back up on our church schedule. Of course with Covid-19 currently in the picture our schedule will look much different this year. In this newsletter you will find further details as to what we are offering as a church this fall.

The last six months have been a doozy to say the least. I do not believe any of us expected six months at home to move so fast, but here we are! Firstly, I want to say a word to the parents of our church. If school is moved online, we will continue to offer some type of social gathering for your students. I think we all agree that the past six months hit our children perhaps the hardest. This time around we are going to be prepared to use our outdoor space and fire pit area to create a safe place for students to receive the socialization they so desperately need. This may be in the afternoon, morning, or evening. In either case, I hope you are comforted knowing your children will not journey through a school year at home alone. The church is here for your family!

I would like to also say some words to those who choose to remain home over the coming months. Our church is currently in the process of updating our technology in the sanctuary. This includes adding the ability to live stream our services. I hope that you have enjoyed what we have done so far, but I also know that seeing everyone will be a more "communal" experience. I also want to remind you that you are always and will always be a loved and cherished member of our church. I speak for everyone when I say "we LOVE you!" We are thankful for your dedication to remain safe during this time. We are always available to you. Please, do not hesitate to reach out even if its for a virtual coffee.

The next months are just as unknown as the previous six. Luckily for us, our hope is not based on the immediate future. Rather, our hope is in our far past and our eternal future. 2,000 years ago a carpenter from Galilee changed the world. He did what we could not do. He conquered death and offered us eternal life. I pray that this simple story gives you the hope to face whatever may come in the next couple months.

In God's Love,
Pastor Mat

Rise Youth Group September 9th

Our Rise Middle School Youth Group will begin meeting again for the fall on September 9th from 6:30pm-8:00pm outside weather permitting with prepackaged snacks and a short lesson.

High School Ministry September 13th

Our High School Ministry will meet on Sundays beginning September 13th at 5:00pm in the youth room with prepackaged snacks and social distancing.

Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Tuesday, September 8th at 6:30 pm. If you have any items to add to the agenda, please send them to the church office.

Elders Meeting

The Elders will meet on the Third Sunday of each month beginning September 20th immediately following Sunday worship.

Daily Devotionals



Our next series sent out by email and posted to the website will be through the book of Galatians. Please send your email to gfcddoc@yahoo.com to be added to the daily study list.

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

September 2020

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4	5
6 10:15 AM Worship	7 Labor Day Office Closed	8 6:30 PM Church Board	9 6:30 PM Rise	10	11	12	
13 9:15 AM Foundations Class 10:15 AM Worship 5:00 PM High School Ministry	14	15 7:00 PM DWM	16 6:30 PM Rise	17 8:00 AM Men's Group 6:00 PM Family & Focus	18	19	
20 9:15 AM All Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Elders Meeting 5:00 PM High School Ministry	21	22	23 6:30 PM Rise	24 6:00 PM Fellowship	25	26	
27 9:15 AM Foundations Class 10:15 AM Worship 5:00 PM High School Ministry	28	29	30 6:30 PM Rise				

**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
September 2020**

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3 Harold Baize
Audrey Iverson | 20 Terri Jordan
Tim & Joan Ricks '86 |
| 5 Adam Elder | 21 Chet McClure |
| 7 Bonnie Schutte | 22 Lori Kristensen |
| 10 Linda Provin | 24 April Warren |
| 11 Mary Alice McRae | 25 Freda Poe
Jalene Medler |
| 16 Arlen DeWall
Nancy Gambill
Westfall | 27 Thelma Rhodes |
| 18 Tara Mouser
Debbie Parsons
Dennis & Pat
Farris '71
David & Carrie
DeWall '01 | 29 Noel & Carol
Hutchcraft '63 |
| | 30 Ralph & Freda Poe '61 |



**Blood Drive
September 14th**

The Gibson Area Hospital Auxiliary is hosting a blood drive on Monday, September 14th from 12:00-5:30pm at the Presbyterian Church. To schedule an appointment, call Sharon at 217-249-8103 by Wednesday, September 9th. All donors are asked to wear a mask and all donations will be tested for Covid-19 antibodies.

Prayer Requests



We invite anyone with a prayer request to drop it into the offering plates on Sunday morning. Prayer cards can be found on the entryway table where you pick up communion on Sunday morning.

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

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
 10:15 a.m. Worship Service
 Church Phone 784-5460
 Email address: gcfccdoc@yahoo.com
 Website: fccdocg.com

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