

The Christian Visitor October 2021



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

Our Life Together in October



Concert on the Church Lawn October 3rd

On October 3rd, we will be hosting a fun, free concert for the whole community featuring the Bree Gordon Band (including our own Dan Burke and other musicians from Chicago) from 4-6pm on the church lawn. Any donations received will go towards flood relief.

Sunday School Kick-Off October 10th



We are planning to start our fall session of Sunday School on October 10, 2021 (meet from 9:15-10:00 AM). We are currently updating our rosters, so if you have children who you'd like to have attend, please reach out to Janet Iverson or the church office to provide name and contact information. (SNEAK PEEK - there may be a "bible escape room" for our first meeting with the kids!)

Recycling October 2nd & 16th



First Christian Church is in charge of recycling on October 2nd and 16th. Slots from 8:00-10:00am and 10:00-11:30am are available. Sign up in the narthex to volunteer.

Sympathy

We express our sympathy to the family and friends of Don Eberly, who passed away on Thursday, September 9th. A memorial service was held in our sanctuary on September 14th.

Elders and Deacons Training October 3rd

A brief training for all elders and deacons will be held Sunday, October 3rd immediately following church.

Secretary Vacation

The church secretary will be on vacation from October 22nd-November 1st. During this time, the office will be operating on limited hours. We hope to have volunteer secretaries fill in on October 27th, 28th, and 29th from 10:00am-12:00pm. There will be a sign-up sheet at the church for anyone interested in volunteering.

In Our Prayers

Harold Stimmel
Harriet Farney
Patty Benz
Irene Schaefer
Mike Lorenzen
Phil Walker
Marilyn & Francis Stevenson
Melanie Warfield
Jalene Medler
Jerry Wahls
Mona Summers



We invite anyone with a prayer request to drop it in the offering plates on Sunday morning.

More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

From the Pastor

It was a real puzzler to a lot of people. If Jesus really were the Messiah, the Son of God, then why did he die and why did he die such a terrible death? It didn't make any sense to a lot of people. It was the absolute last thing they would expect of a Messiah. I think you can hear echoes of that question in the account of Jesus' temptation in Luke 4 and in the taunts from those who saw him on the cross in Luke 23. "If you are the Messiah . . ." "Save yourself . . ." (You can hear echoes of that question in the other gospels and in the letters of Paul.)

So what does it mean that the Son of God died on a cross? The usual answer goes something like this: "Jesus died for our sins, to pay the price and to take the punishment we deserve for our sins so that we don't have to." Certainly human sin, our sin, had much to do with his death. You can see our sin in the actions of Judas and the other disciples, in the actions of the mob and of the religious and political leaders of the time. You can see our sin in Jesus' death on his cross and the damage that sin can do. "Forgive them," is Jesus' prayer from the cross in Luke.

And I think we can see more than our sin in Jesus' death on the cross. I think we can also see the struggles and the sufferings of people. Just as human beings now struggle with pain and suffering, with hopelessness and abandonment, with the unrighteous—unjust—actions of others, so did Jesus, the Son of God, struggle with these same things. We can see the struggles of others and maybe our own struggles in Jesus' death on the cross. "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit," is how Jesus prayed from his cross according to Luke.

The cross is not just something that happened a long time ago, a kind of legal transaction between Jesus and God on our behalf that took place a couple thousand years ago. It is so much more than that: Through Jesus' death we can see and understand the present. And we can see and understand ourselves and other people.

And what about the resurrection? In the resurrection, we can see who God is. The resurrection is about who God is and what God does. God does what we cannot and could never. From out of our sin and death God raised Jesus to life. Out of sin and death, God brings new life. God does what we cannot, could never. Such hope is given to us, such hope for ourselves and for the world in which we live. Hope not just for some good beyond the grave, but for some good maybe now and in this world, too. Who knows? It might be about the last thing a person might expect, but maybe . . .

Pastor Neal

Search Committee Update

The search committee has collected participant profiles and is working on updating our information for search purposes. The committee will meet on Monday, October 4th to work on putting together our congregational profile so we may move forward with the search process. If you have any questions or if you have input that could be of value to the search committee, please reach out to one or all of the committee members. We are the church TOGETHER!

Janet Iverson - Chair - 217-781-2374; jeiverson78@gmail.com

Angie Barnard - member - 217-202-3810; mabarnard1@gmail.com

Arlen Dewall - member - 217-419-3659; arlen7500@gmail.com

Adam Kincaid - member - 217-621-5872; akincaid@ahwllc.com

Sue Walker - member - 217-781-0237; mysgarcat@hotmail.com

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

October 2021

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1	2 8:00 AM Recycling
3 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Elder & Deacon Training 4:00 PM Concert	4 5:00 PM Girl Scouts	5	6 7:00 PM Choir	7	8	9	16 8:00 AM Recycling
10 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Church Board	11	12	13 7:00 PM Choir	14	15	23	
17 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Fellowship	18 5:00 PM Girl Scouts	19	20 7:00 PM Choir	21	22	29	
24 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 7:00 PM Hustlers	25	26	27 7:00 PM Choir	28	30		
31 10:15 AM Worship							

**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
*October 2021***

- 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
- 31 Ron Warfield



Worship Leaders

Please consider serving as worship leader for October. A sign up sheet is available at the church.

Fellowship

There will be a fellowship hour following worship on Sunday, October 17th hosted by Sue McClard.

Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Sunday, October 10th immediately following worship.

If you have any items to add to the agenda, please notify the church office.

Interim Pastor - Neal Kentch
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: gfcfcdoc@yahoo.com
Website: fcdocgc.com

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED