

# The Christian Visitor September 2021



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

## Our Life Together in September

### Search Committee Update

The search committee met with Teresa Dulyea-Parker on August 9, 2021 for introductions and a brief overview of what the search process looks like with the region. The search committee met again the evening of August 30th, 2021 to map out how to move forward with some of the required documents/updates needed in order to move forward with the process. In the coming weeks, we will be asking the congregation for their help with updating some of our information in order to provide the most up to date information for search purposes. The Search Committee will have their next scheduled meeting on Monday, October 4, 2021.

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

### Sympathy

Bill Kerchenfaut's sister, Norma Kerchenfaut Uhrich passed away in August. Norma and her husband were retired and living their winters in Florida and her summers in Colorado. Bill is a long time member of First Christian Church and continues to keep in touch and support FCC activities since he and Jean retired many years ago in Florida. Bill now resides close to his daughter in Maryland. You can correspond to him at: 715 Maiden Choice Lane, Apt Cr215, Cantonsville, MD 21228.

### Hustlers

The Hustlers will meet on Sunday, September 26th at 7:00pm at the church.

### Sympathy

We express our sympathy to the family and friends of Evelyn Fawver, who passed away on Friday, August 20th. A memorial service was held in our sanctuary on August 25th.

### Sympathy

We express our sympathy to the family and friends of Noel Hutchcraft, who passed away on Saturday, August 28th. A memorial service will be held in our sanctuary on Friday, September 3rd at 10:30am. Visitation is 4pm-7pm Thursday, September 2nd at the funeral home.

ATTEND- ANCE		SUNDAY WEEK					AVG
		1	2	3	4	5	
2021	JULY	31	36	40	35		36
2021	AUG	38	36	29	35	33	34

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

### **From the Pastor**

I read a book a long time ago, back in my Divinity School days, entitled, *The Purpose of the Church and Its Ministry*. It was written by a fellow named H. Richard Niebuhr with some help from a couple of his colleagues. What did this fellow and his friends say that the purpose of the church is? They said that the purpose of the church is the promotion of the love of God and the love of neighbor. The church is to promote among people these two loves.

These two loves: When Jesus was asked by some experts in the law which is the greatest commandment in that law, he replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Like I said, I read that book a long time ago. A long, long time ago. I’ve been in this being a pastor “business” for quite a while since then. I’ve served churches in big cities, small towns, and even one in the middle of a cornfield. I’ve served in a larger church, in a few small ones, and in some mid-size churches. I’ve served churches in the north, the south, the east, and the west. I’ve been around the block a few times. But I keep coming back to what this Niebuhr fellow wrote in that book. I have not come up with a better answer to the question, “What is the purpose of the church?”

Sure, a church in the middle of a cornfield will set different goals for itself than a church in the big city. And a small church may come up with a different kind of mission statement than a larger church. And a church in the eastern part of the country will do things differently than a church out there in crazy California. But each one, attempting in its own way to be faithful, will end up trying to promote, in its own way, these two loves: the love of God and the love of neighbor.

I think it is important for people in churches to talk about God, sing about God, and pray to God. It is important to talk about, sing about, and pray to God who is worthy of our love, who is lovely. This is maybe more difficult to do in this day and age, for all kinds of reasons, than it has been in the church’s past. But I think it can be done. And it needs to be done. I try to talk about the greatness and power of God. And I try to talk about the beauty, goodness, and love of God. I try to talk about these things especially as these are made known to us in Jesus Christ. I try to talk about God, who is worthy of a human being’s love, of your love and mine, of any human being’s love.

As we talk and sing about God, who is most worthy of our love, as we pray to God most lovely, something happens to us. As we come to love God—God, whose goodness and love falls like the rain and shines like the sun upon us all—we come to love what God loves. We learn to love as God loves. Sure, we will be better at it some days than other days, but we will come to love our neighbors. We will learn to love our neighbors.

None of this is easy in this day and age and for all kinds of reasons. But, in this day and age, I cannot think of anything more necessary, more needed. Maybe especially in these times is it important to promote these two loves: the love of God, who is most worthy of our love, and the love of one neighbor for another.

Pastor Neal

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

# September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 5:30 PM First Aid Training 7:00 PM Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:30 AM Memorial Service	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 10:15 AM Worship	<b>6</b> <b>Labor Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:00 PM Choir	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Church Board	<b>13</b> 5:00 PM Girl Scouts	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:00 PM Choir	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10:15 AM Worship	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:00 PM Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10:15 AM Worship 7:00 PM Hustlers	<b>27</b> 5:00 PM Girl Scouts	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:00 PM Choir	<b>30</b>		

**LOCAL  
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES  
*September 2021***

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 Harold Baize      | 20 Terri Jordan          |
| Audrey Iverson      | 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             |
| 16 Arlen DeWall     | Jalene Medler            |
| Nancy Gambill       | 27 Thelma Rhodes         |
| Westfall            | 30 Ralph & Freda Poe '61 |
| 18 Tara Mouser      |                          |
| Debbie Parsons      |                          |
| Dennis & Pat        |                          |
| Farris '71          |                          |
| David & Carrie      |                          |
| DeWall '01          |                          |



## New Office Hours

Moving forward, the church office will be closed on Mondays. New office hours are Tuesday-Friday 9:00AM-1:00PM

## Worship Leaders

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

## Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Sunday, September 12th 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](mailto:gfcfcdoc@yahoo.com)  
Website: [fcdocgc.com](http://fcdocgc.com)

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