

The Christian Visitor November 2021



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

Our Life Together in November

Food Pantry Volunteers November 12th-13th



First Christian Church is in charge of providing volunteers for the food pantry November 12th beginning at 6:30pm & November 13th beginning at 8:00am. Sign up in the narthex to volunteer.

Sunday School For All November 14th & 28th



We would like to provide opportunities for all ages to connect with one another through fun faith based experiences. The goal is mutual learning, deepening our faith and growing closer to Christ. We all learn from each other!! Please join us on Nov. 14th and 28th in the Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m. A light breakfast will be served.

Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Sunday, November 14th immediately following worship.

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

Worship Leaders

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

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.

ATTENDANCE		SUNDAY WEEK					
		1	2	3	4	5	AVG
2021	JULY	31	36	40	35		36
2021	AUG	38	36	29	35	33	34
2021	SEPT	25	46	38	40		37
2021	OCT	54	37	41	36	35	41

Note Time Change

Daylight Saving Time Ends
Set clocks back by Sunday,
November 7th



Memorial Gifts

Memorial Gifts to First Christian Church have been received in memory of

Evelyn Fawver
Noel Hutchcraft
Don Eberly

More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

From the Pastor

Long about this time of year thoughts of Pilgrims all dressed up in black and white and their hands folded in gratitude around a table drift in and out of our minds. We think of those Pilgrims giving thanks for their harvest. Sure, they planted and tended and finally harvested their crops. But they also folded their hands in gratitude for the cooperation of the weather—the rain and sun and warmth—without which their hard work would've been in vain, without which they would have nothing to sustain themselves through the coming winter.

Harvest time doesn't have quite the same feel for us as it did for those Plymouth Rock Pilgrims we see in our minds, mainly because so few of us harvest anything, though some of us in these parts do. Most everyone these days goes to the grocery store instead.

And we like to think of ourselves as independent, self-sufficient, and self-reliant. We are those things to an extent, but maybe not to the extent that we like to think. We are at least as dependent as those Pilgrims and maybe more so. Like those Pilgrims, we depend upon things beyond our power to control. We still depend upon the weather. We depend upon the air we breathe and the water we drink. And we depend upon other people in processes more intricate, more encompassing than those Pilgrims could've imagined. Just think of the processes and the people involved in bringing the harvest from whatever fields to your grocery store. We are not altogether self-sufficient and self-reliant.

At the thought of their dependence did those Pilgrims fold their hands and give thanks. And gratitude is a natural, human response arising from our awareness of our dependencies. But where should we direct our thanks, our gratitude? It is difficult to thank the weather, the weather being a kind of power or natural process. Just the same is it hard to think of ourselves being grateful to water and to air; grateful for these things, sure, but not to them. These powers and processes are things. And how are we supposed to be grateful to things?

Those Pilgrims that come to mind this time of year were grateful and they thanked God. God, who is, indeed, a power, a great power beyond us and beyond our control. But not just a power, not a faceless, impersonal power. God is personal, is like a person, is like us. Or, better, we are like God in this respect. God gives to us the things upon which we depend. God looks with kindness upon us and blesses us with what makes our lives possible. Upon this goodness and kindness are we dependent. Upon God's love do we depend and trust. To God are we grateful. It is God whom we thank.

Pastor Neal

Search Committee Update

The Search Committee met on October 4th and has their next meeting scheduled for November 8th. They are currently in the process of inputting data based on the survey responses and profile information that have been received so far. If you have yet to fill out either of these items, you may still do so. Copies can be found on the table in the narthex. If you have any other questions or input for the search committee, you are always encouraged to reach out to one or all committee members.

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

November 2021

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:00 PM Girl Scouts	2	3 7:00 PM Choir	4	5	6
7 10:15 AM Worship	8	9	10 7:00 PM Choir	11	12 6:30 PM Food Pantry	13 8:00 AM Food Pantry	
14 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Church Board	15 5:00 PM Girl Scouts	16	17 7:00 PM Choir	18	19	20	
21 10:15 AM Worship	22	23	24 7:00 PM Choir	25 Thanksgiving Office Closed	26	27	
28 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 7:00 PM Hustlers	29	30					

**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
*November 2021***

- 9 Kate Kristensen
Colin Kristensen
14 Katy Neal
17 Ryan Iverson
18 Sharon Higgins
19 Matt and Pat Provin '94
21 Lane Elder
22 Tinley McClure
23 Emily Elder
30 Joe and Tara Mouser '85
Keegan Wayne DeWall



Community Christmas Program

Gibson Area Music Foundation is planning a special and different type of Christmas program this year. This year's event will offer a few much-loved selections from Handel's "Messiah," along with a "Festival of Lessons and Carols" that will tell the Christmas Story through carols and scripture. A choir made up of amateur singers will have rehearsals at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings at the First Presbyterian Church in Gibson City, beginning October 25. Anyone who enjoys singing in four-part harmony is asked to be part of the choir, no audition necessary. The choir will be joined by area soloists and a string ensemble and piano accompaniment for the performance. It is not required that singers attend all rehearsals. The performance will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 5, at the Gibson City Bible Church. The event is free and open to the public.

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: gcfccdoc@yahoo.com
Website: fccdocg.com

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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217-784-5460
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED