

The Christian Visitor January 2022



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

Our Life Together in January

Sunday School January 9th & 23rd

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 January 9th & 23rd in the Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m. A light breakfast will be served.



Operation Snow Shovel

As winter sets in, snow can't be too far behind. If you or someone you know needs their sidewalk or driveway cleared, please contact Sharon Higgins (784-5319 or 217-418-9294) or Ruth Neal (309-825-7618). We have individuals ready and willing to help.



Taking Down Decorations Sunday, January 9th

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations following worship on Sunday, January 9th. Please consider staying after church for a few minutes to help with this task. Many hands make light work.

Sympathy

We express our sympathy to the family and friends of Marti Wiebers, who passed away on Friday, December 10th.

Memorial Gifts

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

Marti Wiebers

Search Committee Update

The Search Committee is working with Teresa Dulyea-Parker to establish a date for an in-person meeting to discuss our next steps and for her to start bringing us applications. The team has also been working to establish interview questions in the meantime.

In Our Prayers

Harold Stimmel
Harriet Farney
Patty Benz
Irene Schaefer
Mike Lorenzen
Phil Walker
Marilyn & Francis Stevenson
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

Mary and I thank all of you for gifts and cards and merry Christmases you sent our way this past Christmas season. They all warmed our hearts. And some of them filled our stomachs in very pleasant ways. We thank you all for your kindness and love.

“Do This in Remembrance of Me” or “This Do in Remembrance of Me” are the words carved into communion tables in many a church. And at the Last Supper, according to the Apostle Paul (I Corinthians 11:23-26), Jesus said to eat the bread and drink of the cup “in remembrance of me.” And we remember Jesus whenever we come to the communion table.

But we wouldn't be remembering him and he would've been forgotten not too long after his death if . . . You see, the Romans crucified thousands and thousands of people; Jesus was just one among these many thousands nailed to crosses here and there throughout the Roman world. He would've been just one more and forgotten along with the rest. It would not have mattered how innocent he was, or how righteous he was, or how faithful. And no matter how many miracles he had worked, I think he would've soon been forgotten. No one would've remembered him for very long at all had he not...had he not risen from the dead and if he were not living still.

No one would've bothered to write down the stories of his life; none of the Gospels would've been written. And Paul would not have written his passionate letters to the churches he had worked so hard to establish. None of that would've happened had Jesus not risen from the dead. Jesus would've been forgotten.

But he has risen from the dead and is living still. And among the things we have to remember is just that: he has risen from the dead and is living still. We remember how, on the night of his betrayal, he took bread and blessed it and broke it and gave it to his disciples. We remember how he did the same—he took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it—“beside the sea” when he fed the multitudes. We remember how he walked on water and changed water into wine. We remember his parable of the prodigal son and his teaching us to love our enemies. These things and others are ours to remember. But among these things and above them all we can remember this: He has risen from the dead and is living still. He is risen, living still, and is with us. He is with us still.

Remember this at the communion table: He is with us still. This makes all the difference. It isn't just us chickens when we gather on Sunday mornings and around the table. Jesus has risen from the dead, is living still, and Jesus is with us in all of his goodness and kindness. We are not alone.

Pastor Neal

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

January 2022

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
							1 New Year's Day
2 10:15 AM Worship	3	4	5 7:00 PM Choir	6	7	8	8
9 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Church Board 11:30 AM Taking Down Decorations	10	11	12 7:00 PM Choir	13	14	15	15
16 10:15 AM Worship	17	18	19 6:30 PM Choir	20	21	22	22
23 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	24	25	26 7:00 PM Choir	27	28	29	29
30 10:15 AM Worship	27	28	29 7:00 PM Choir	30	31		

**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
*January 2022***

1	Alex Barnard	21	David Ricks
2	Ed Hopkey		Blake Warren
5	Stan Rinehart	22	Janet Glascock
6	Matt Barnard		Trey Van Winkle
	Jay Kristensen	23	Katie Ricks
8	Marilyn Hopkey	25	Francis Glascock
11	Billy DeWall	27	Steve Parsons
14	Karen Rankin	29	Gary & Ruth Reiners '72
16	Mary Ellen McClure		
	Ava Rylan Rexroat		
19	Desiree Mouser		



Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Sunday, January 9th 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 in January. A sign up sheet is available at the church.

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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 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED