

The Christian Visitor March 2022



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

Our Life Together in March

Sunday School March 13th & 27th



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 March 13th & 27th in the Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m. A light breakfast will be served.

Operation Snow Shovel

The snow season might not be behind us yet. 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.



Search Committee Update

A Zoom interview took place between a candidate and our Search Committee on 17Feb2022. We are currently working to secure a time for a second round interview with this candidate. We have reviewed a total 6 profiles to date, with only 2 of the 6 that are still potential candidates. We ask for continued prayers for our team as we continue in dialogue with the current active candidate, and ask for prayers for our regional leadership in helping us to guide us through this process.

Saturday, April 2nd 7:00—11:00 am Disciples Men's Pancake Breakfast



Come out and enjoy all you can eat pancakes and sausage. There will also be plenty of coffee, tea, orange juice and milk. The meal will be served in the fellowship hall.

A freewill offering will be received with proceeds supporting a variety of youth and mission projects.

Invite family, friends, and neighbors.
All are welcome!

Unclaimed Dishes

There are dishes (pans, tupperware, etc) left from various dinners that have yet to be claimed. If any of these dishes belong to you, please pick them up from the fellowship hall.



	ATTENDANCE	SUNDAY WEEK					AVG
		1	2	3	4	5	
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
2021	NOV	29	36	29	38		33
2021	DEC	42	37	37	36		38
2022	JAN	33	30	23	23	36	29
2022	FEB	35	28	28	30		30

More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

From the Pastor

When I was a teenager, a friend of mine, who lived a block over, would invite me to go with him to these Youth for Christ rallies on Friday nights. These rallies were held in a stuffy auditorium on Rainbow Boulevard over in Kansas City, Kansas, a stuffy, old auditorium filled with teenagers. And the preacher would go on and on for what seemed like hours. He would be preaching about sin, teenage sin, and about how we should all repent, how we should all repent, or else. And how we should all come forward. We should all come to the front of the auditorium, weeping because of our sins, sorry for them, and repenting.

But, you know, I was a pretty good kid. I wasn't doing any of the things from which that preacher was urging me to repent. Besides which, I went to church every Sunday with my family. And what was this friend of mine thinking? He knew I went to church and was a good kid. Why did he think I needed to repent? Why did he want me to go to these rallies?

And, for the longest time after that, whenever I heard the word repent, I would think of that auditorium, all hot and sweaty. I would think of all of these terrible sins about which I should feel horrible. And weeping and being terribly sorry for something but never being quite sure what. That word repent would trigger all sorts of sad and uncomfortable images in my mind.

And the season is Lent is upon us. It is a season of repentance. A somber season in the church year, Lent is. A time to repent.

But I've learned a few things since then. I've learned that the word repent simply means turn, turn around. And I've learned that, when Jesus called people to repent, he didn't add the words "from sin". He preached that the kingdom of God has come near to us. The kingdom of God, the goodness and love of God, is near you, is right behind you. All you need to do is turn around. And there it is, the goodness and love of God.

So, let this season of Lent, this season of repentance, be a time for us to simply turn, to turn to God, who is all goodness and love.

Pastor Neal

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

March 2022

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

**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
*March 2022***

- 4 Dennis Jordan
Mike Finis
John and Nancy Westfall '12
- 5 Irene Schaefer
- 7 Karen Long
- 9 Rick Rinehart
- 10 Nan Clements
Devin Back
- 11 John Westfall
- 14 Jacob Mott
- 15 Melanie Warfield
- 18 Pat Provin
Eleanor Baize
- 21 Will Provin
- 23 Eric Tjarks
- 29 Ida Wahls



Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Sunday, March 13th 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 March. A sign up sheet is available at the church.

Note Time Change

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Set clocks forward by Sunday morning,

March 13th



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

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED