

The Christian Visitor May 2022



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

Our Life Together in May

Search Committee Update

On Friday, April 8, 2022, the Search Committee conducted an in-person interview with David Massey-Brown and his wife, Lisa. The Search Committee provided them with a tour of the hospital (thank you to David Hagan on this piece), the church, and our town. The Committee continued in discussions throughout the day with the candidate, enjoyed lunch provided by Goin Places Catering in the Fellowship Hall, and finished the evening with dinner over at Pueblo Lindo in Paxton. Several additional church members joined in throughout the day for lunch, as well as dinner, to meet and greet with our candidate.

The Search Committee provided their input at the Church Board Meeting on Sunday, April 10th, requesting to enter into negotiations with the candidate. A straw poll was taken with 100% favorable results to move forward in this direction. The initial invitation to enter into negotiations was offered on April 11, and on April 15 (Good Friday), David Massey-Brown agreed to enter into negotiations to become our next called Pastor.

A Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, May 1, 2022 to vote as a Congregation on this, with 100% of the votes being "yes" votes. The Search Committee will next continue on the offer package and will work with the Church Board for approval of this. We will continue to share details on an anticipated start date as soon as that is available.

Thank you to everyone for your prayers throughout this process - the committee appreciates it!

Mother's Day

There will be cookies in the narthex following worship on May 8th in recognition of Mother's Day.



Food Pantry May 27th & 28th



First Christian Church is scheduled to provide volunteers for the food pantry the weekend of May 27th & 28th.

Volunteers will be needed on Friday, May 27th for setup beginning at 6:30pm and Saturday, May 28th for distribution beginning at 8:00am. Sign up sheets will be posted in the narthex.

Pentecost Offering May 29th & June 5th



By making a gift to the 2022 Pentecost Offering, you can ensure that the new church movement continues to prosper in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Each year, half of these gifts go to your own region to support local new church development. The other half goes to New Church Ministry, which trains, equips, assists, and multiplies new church leaders across the United States and Canada. Planning, nurturing, and sustaining new places of worship is part of the Disciples' vision – participation in this Special Day Offering helps this vision come to life. Please consider giving generously.

More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

From the Pastor

I know that Easter is come and gone, but I've still been thinking about what happened the Sunday morning after Jesus' death. All four gospels say that the tomb where Jesus' body had been placed was discovered to be empty. There was no body in that tomb. Couldn't find it. All four of the gospels say that the reason for this, the reason Jesus' body was not in the tomb is that Jesus had risen, had been raised from the dead.

Jesus, his body included, had been raised from death. It wasn't that Jesus' spirit or his soul had somehow survived his death to return to God or to go to heaven. The resurrection was of Jesus and his body.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus, risen from the dead, appears to all but one his disciples on the evening of the first Easter. Thomas wasn't there. And when the others tell Thomas the good news, he doesn't believe them, saying, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side. I will not believe." The following week, Jesus, risen from the dead, appears again to his disciples. He shows Thomas the wounds of crucifixion, the wounds he still bears in his resurrected body.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus, risen from the dead, surprises his disciples on the evening of the first Easter by appearing to them. They are scared out of their wits because they think they are seeing a ghost. But Jesus says to them, "Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bone as you see that I have." The resurrected Jesus is the flesh-and-bone Jesus. And the wounds of his crucifixion are still in his hands and feet.

What does this mean? It means that our flesh-and-bone existence in this flesh-and-bone world matters; it is important still. What happens to us and happens to those with whom we live in this world still matters; it is all important. Whatever pain or misfortune we suffer in our bodies and in our world matters. It very much matters to God. And whatever pain or misfortune those who live in this world with us, it matters too. It very much matters to God. And it should also matter very much to us. What we say and what we do in this flesh-and-bone existence in this flesh-and-bone world matters very much. It matters to these other people and it matters to God, for Jesus' tomb was found to be empty on that first Easter Sunday morning. His body wasn't there.

Pastor Neal

ATTEND- ANCE		SUNDAY WEEK					
		1	2	3	4	5	AVG
2022	JAN	33	30	23	23	36	29
2022	FEB	35	28	28	30		30
2022	MAR	38	33	30	33		34
2022	APR	33	43	62	28		42

Worship Leaders

Please consider serving as worship leader in May. A sign up sheet is posted at the church.

Grape Juice

Gifts of Welch's Grape Juice to be used in communion are always welcome.

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

May 2022

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

**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
May 2022**

- 1 Bryan Medler
- 2 Heidi VanWinkle
- 3 Jean Donovan
- 4 Lori Eberly
- 5 Leah McClure
- 7 Joe Mouser, Jr.
Rodney Mott
- 9 Jeff Elder
- 14 Gary Reiners
Anna Lynn Warren
- 17 Andrew Iverson
- 19 Landon Elder
- 21 Harold Medler
Erin Tabor
- 25 Lori Rinehart
- 26 Mona Summers
- 30 Raymond Goin



Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Sunday, May 8th immediately following worship.

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

**Sunday School
May 8th & 22nd**

We would like to provide opportunities for all ages to connect with one another through fun faith based experiences. We all learn from each other!! Please join us on May 8th & 22nd in the Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m. A light breakfast will be served.



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
P.O. Box 10
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217-784-5460
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED