

The Christian Visitor August 2022



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

Our Life Together in August

Search Committee Report

We are in the home stretch! David Massey-Brown and his wife, Lisa, are preparing for their move to Illinois in the coming weeks. The moving truck will arrive at their new residence in Rantoul, Illinois on August 4th, and David indicated that it would be wonderful to have some help with wiping down drawers and cabinets and do some unpacking on Monday, August 8 and Tuesday, August 9. Please sign up in the narthex to support our new pastor and his wife. His first day in the pulpit will be on Sunday, August 14, 2022. After church on August 14, we will be hosting a welcome reception. Please join us - come hungry!

Elders Breakfast

There will be an Elders Breakfast before church on Sunday, August 21st in the fellowship hall.

Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Sunday, August 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 in August. A sign up sheet is posted at the church.



Farewell Reception August 7th



After the worship service on August 7th, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a reception to recognize and thank Pastor Neal Kentch for his service as our Interim Pastor.



Welcome Reception August 14th

Following the worship service on August 14th, we will have a welcome reception for David and Lisa Massey-Brown. A sign-up sheet for dishes is in the narthex.

Moving Help



We are looking for people to help David Massey-Brown and his wife, Lisa, clean and unpack at their new house in Rantoul on August 8th and 9th. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Thank You

Thank you First Christian Church for your cards, calls, meals and prayer during the last 18 months. You have been a tremendous support and blessing during my multiple hospitalizations and surgery. I feel richly blessed by God's grace and by you.

Melanie Warfield

More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

From the Pastor

I've told you many times what I think about First Christian of Gibson City. In board meetings, in conversations with you before or after worship, and in some of my sermons I've told you that I think First Christian is a very fine church. In my checkered career, I've served a lot of churches, more than I care to count. I've served churches of differing sizes and in wildly differing settings. So I know what I'm talking about when I say that First Christian of Gibson City is a fine church. And I'm not just pulling your leg.

Your church has several things going for it that many churches do not.

It has good leadership. That leadership is flexible, is willing to listen to ideas and try things. And I don't think there is anyone here who feels that they need to be control of everything and neither does it feel like there is anyone resentful of those making decisions. People here are very respectful of each other. You work well together. All of this is a big plus. I've seen a lot, enough to know that this a very big plus.

This church has a good heart. I've seen you respond to the flood here in town, to the tornado in Kentucky, and to the war in Ukraine in ways that should warm the heart of any pastor. You didn't even need me or anyone else to prompt you. Your willingness to help others so readily feels like the compassion of Jesus Christ.

The fellowship of the people here is very good, even kind of sweet, if you don't mind me saying so. It is clear that you care for each other and enjoy each other. It doesn't appear to me that there are any kind of cliques and such. And you seem very welcoming of new people when they come. It feels like your fellowship really is sweetened by the love of God that comes to us in Jesus Christ.

The church does have one problem, and it is a problem that just about all churches have in these strange times. There needs to be more people here. It is a difficult problem to solve. One reason I retired is that I can't seem to figure out how to solve this problem anymore. But I can tell you that if any church could grow in numbers, it is First Christian of Gibson City. The things I have just mentioned—your church's pluses—position your church well. It is the kind of church that can grow. And I sure hope more people do come to this church. I think they would like it here very much.

I like it here very much. It has been a genuine pleasure for me to be your interim minister. I am grateful to the way you have responded to me and have supported me. I am so grateful to have the chance to get to know all of you and to count all of you among my friends. I pray that God will continue to bless your fellowship, that God will bless your church. I pray for you and for your new pastor, David Massey-Brown. I pray that God will bless all of my friends at First Christian of Gibson City.

Neal Kentch

**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
August 2022**

- 4 Ryan & Janet Iverson '01
- 5 Patty Benz
- 7 Ron Wiebers
- 10 Ed & Marilyn Hopkey '68
- 11 Adam & Kristy Elder '07
- Tim Ricks
- 13 Cathy Hagan
- 18 Jerry Schutte
- Ruth Neal
- 20 Peter Provin
- 21 Elliott McClure
- 23 David Hagan
- 28 Sarah Higgins



**Hymn Festival
August 28th**

Gibson Area Music Foundation's annual hymn festival will be held August 28, beginning at 3 p.m. at the fully accessible United Methodist Church of Gibson City (Church & Tenth St.). Admission is free and open to everyone. Milt Kelly of Fisher will talk about chosen hymns and direct singing. Special music is also planned. Plus, a free ice cream social featuring Crowridge Ice Cream will follow in the parking lot!

Sunday School

Sunday School is on a break for summer and will return in the fall.

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: gfccdoc@yahoo.com
Website: fccdocgc.com

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