

The Christian Visitor November 2022



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

Our Life Together in November

DWM Event Wed, November 2nd



DWM is hosting an event on Wednesday, November 2nd featuring Rev. Melissa Ebken. There will be a meet and greet from 5:00-6:00pm with a salad supper beginning at 6:00pm, followed by a program presented by Rev. Ebken. All ladies junior high and up are invited. Invite a friend!!



All Saints Celebration Sunday, November 6th



On Sunday, November 6, we will celebrate the Festival of All Saints. This is a time for us to remember, by name, those church and family members who have passed to life in the spirit recently. It is also a time for us to name those saints who have passed, who have been instrumental in our lives. You won't want to miss this celebration as we seek to draw near to our loved ones.



Hanging of the Greens Sunday, November 20th

We will gather for Hanging of the Greens following worship on Sunday, November 20th. A light meal will be served in the fellowship hall once we are finished decorating. Come help us prepare our church for the Advent season.

New Minister Installation Sunday, November 13th

On Sunday, November 13, we will formally install Pastor Dave as our settled minister. The Rev. Teresa Dulyea-Parker, our Regional Minister, will be present to preach and to preside at the installation. A luncheon will follow in the fellowship hall. Sign up in the narthex if you would like to bring a dish. Please plan to be present for this important event in the life of our congregation.

Food Pantry November 25th-26th



First Christian Church is in charge of providing volunteers for the food pantry November 25th beginning at 6:30pm & November 26th beginning at 8:00am. Sign up in the narthex to volunteer.

Procession of Giving Sunday, November 20th

We will be collecting items for Shepherd's Closet for our annual Procession of Giving on November 20th. They are currently in need of:

- NEW underwear in the package for men, women, and children,
- Gently used or new tennis shoes for children and teens (shoes must be washed if gently used)
- PE clothes for middle and high school students sized XS-2XL (black athletic shorts, white/red t-shirts either plain or Falcon apparel).

Elders Breakfast

There will be an Elders Breakfast before church on Sunday, November 20th in the fellowship hall hosted by Sharon Higgins.

More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

A PASTOR'S PONDERING

We have a beautiful maple tree in our front yard. Its leaves have turned a magnificent shade of red in the past couple weeks. With recent winds, they have seriously begun to drop onto the grass. Fall is here. As I drive in to the office, I pass through lots of farm land. The corn and soybeans are brown, the combines are out, and the semi trucks are on the roads. Harvest is here. The earth is giving up its bounty.

Halloween is here — All Hallows' Eve — and then the festival of All Saints. Halloween comes to us from the Celtic festival of Samhain, when the veil between this world and the Otherworld was lifted, and the spirits of those deceased were allowed to walk the earth and finish old business. When Christianity came to the Celtic lands, it established the festival of All Saints as a time for us to finish old business with loved ones who have passed to life in the spirit. Samhain marked the end of the Celtic year, just as All Saints is the last festival of the Christian year. Advent will be here in a month's time, bringing with it a new church year.

Crunching through leaves and driving through clouds of dust from the harvesters, I often think about this time. It is a time to "let go." It is time for the trees to let go of their leaves. It is time for the corn stalks to let go of their corn. All for the purpose of making room for new growth. It is time for us to let go of things that no longer serve us, to make room for new growth in our own being.

It is time for us to "clean house," to finish old business, to reap the harvest of what our lives have planted this past year. It is time for us to take stock of ourselves — time to gather in those good things and discard the detritus. By doing that, we make room for the new life of a new year. We make room for the Christ Child to enter into our lives.

This time of gathering in and letting go is a bittersweet time for many. We can see the fruits of our labor and celebrate our bounty, but yet there's an emptiness, too. It's often difficult to let go of things we don't need. We like the color on the trees, but not so much on our lawns. We like to see the harvest, but the fallow fields seem stark. Merchants rush to fill this void with Christmas. We rush to fill this void with parties and gatherings, with football and fall festivals. Because we just don't like that empty feeling.

The early church Mothers and Fathers had a Greek term for this spiritually-empty experience. They called it *apophatic*. It means "negative." It's a spirituality that embraces the empty times and the lack of language we have to describe God. It embraces those times and events where our spirits sort of lie fallow, like the earth. This negativity, though, is a positive thing. It creates space for us to take a closer look at ourselves. It creates space for us to sort through our lives. It creates space for us to recharge our spiritual batteries, not through study and words, but through contemplation, perhaps without words. It creates space for us to really open our eyes to the wonders of the world and of life, and to see what God maybe has in store for us as we go forward. And it creates space for us to mourn our losses — to take care of old business so that, as we embrace a new year, we can also embrace newness of life.

I encourage us to step into that emptiness — to embrace it — to use it as a time to take a breather. Enjoy the festivities, but also enjoy the leanness of this time.

May it be so! May it be so for us!

More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

Homebound Communion

We will be restarting homebound communion on Sunday, November 20th. Please let an Elder, the Pastor, or the office know of any shut-ins who may wish to receive communion.

Sympathy

We express our sympathy to Karen Rankin upon the loss of her sister, Phylis Jarrett, who passed away on October 13th. Funeral services were held October 19th.

Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Sunday, November 6th 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 November. A sign up sheet is on the table in the narthex.

ATTENDANCE		SUNDAY WEEK					AVG
		1	2	3	4	5	
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
2022	MAY	43	37	21	43	29	35
2022	JUNE	37	41	31	44		38
2022	JULY	28	38	38	40	42	35
2022	AUG	41	52	46	50		47
2022	SEPT	36	40	32	44		38
2022	OCT	36	31	35	41		36

Note Time Change

Daylight Saving Time Ends
Set clocks back by Sunday,
November 6th



Thanksgiving Special Offering November 13th & 20th



Our Thanksgiving Special Offering is coming up soon. This is one of six Special Offerings received on behalf of the Disciples Mission Fund during the year. The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our fifteen colleges and universities as well as our seven seminaries and divinity houses. We will receive this offering **November 13** and **November 20**. Please be generous with your gifts. A Disciples education is a quality education.

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

November 2022

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 5:00 PM DWMEvent	3	4	5
6 All Saints Sunday 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Church Board	7		8	9	10	11	12
13 Installation Sunday Thanksgiving Offering 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Luncheon	14		15	16	17	18	19
20 Thanksgiving Offering 8:30 AM Elders Breakfast 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Hanging of the Greens	21		22	23	24 Thanksgiving Office Closed	25 6:30 PM Food Pantry	26 8:00 AM Food Pantry
27 1st Sunday Advent 10:15 AM Worship	28		29	30			

**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
*November 2022***

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



Community Christmas Program

Vocal music opportunity – calling all singers! Gibson Area Music Foundation is beginning vocal practices for its annual Christmas program. The format will be similar to the one used last year – Christmas carols + selections from Messiah. Practices always begin at 7 p.m. with the following schedule: Sunday, October 30 at First Presbyterian Church and Monday, November 7 at United Methodist Church. The remaining three practices will be back at First Presbyterian Church on November 14, 21, and 28. Dr. Janet McCumber is directing, and the free, public performance will be held December 4. Music is sung in four-part harmony. All ages welcome, no audition necessary. For more information, contact Margy Shambrook (bobmargys@hotmail.com) or Barb Horsch (217-781-8048).

Pastor - David Massey-Brown
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: gfcdoc@yahoo.com
Website: fccdocg.com

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED