

The Christian Visitor October 2022



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

Our Life Together in October

Recycling October 1st & 15th



First Christian Church is in charge of recycling on October 1st and 15th. Slots from 8:00-10:00am and 10:00-11:30am are available. Sign up in the narthex to volunteer.

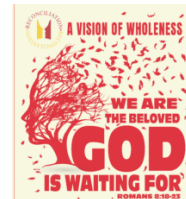
Elders Breakfast

There will be an Elders Breakfast before church on Sunday, October 16th in the fellowship hall hosted by Cheryl Elder.

Hustlers October 23rd

The Hustlers group will have a wiener roast at the church's fire pit on Sunday, October 23rd beginning at 5:00pm.

Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering September 25th & October 2nd



“Funds generated by this emphasis are used to provide grants to ministries and congregations developing and implementing programs that promote our Church’s Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racist identity. These programs and efforts seek to reveal, re-educate, and remove systemic and structural barriers in our communities that serve to deny the image of God and human thriving based on race.

Your gifts to Reconciliation Ministry strengthens our Church’s witness to God’s unending love for all of humanity. With your generosity, leaders, communities, and our congregations are being equipped to witness to God’s love and justice in all times and in every season. Thank you for joining us on this journey through your generosity.”

We will receive this offering beginning September 25, and continue through Oct. 2.

All Saints Celebration

This year, we’re going to celebrate the holy festival of All Saints. This is an ancient festival of the church — and what is traditionally a “principal feast day,” along with Easter Day, Ascension Day, the Day of Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, Christmas Day, and The Epiphany. All Saints Day is always the day after Halloween, or “All Hallow’s Eve.” It’s the day we celebrate those saints of the church who have passed to life in the spirit. Therefore, All Saints Day is always November 1. When November 1 is not on a Sunday, we move the festival to the Sunday after November 1, November 6 this year.

We will celebrate by lighting a candle for each member of the church, or family member, who has passed this calendar year. We invite you to supply the names of anyone who has been special to you who has died in the past. We’ll print those names and read them aloud during worship. We will supply you with a form upon which you can write the names of those you’d like to be remembered, and ask that you return all completed forms to the office no later than Sunday, October 30. We want you to have plenty of time to compile your lists and be prepared to participate in the festival. You won’t want to miss this celebration in the life of our church!

More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

A PASTOR'S PONDERING

Fall is officially here. The weather has cooled off nicely, and I'm beginning to see harvesters out in the fields. It's now appropriate to enjoy some pumpkin spice (even if we've been hearing about it for a while), and maybe appropriate to see Halloween decorations in the stores (although we've been seeing them for a while now, already!). Fall is a time for gathering in and coming home. Fall is a time for more contemplative activities as the earth begins to fall asleep and we begin another journey into shorter and cooler days.

Homecoming. What connotations that word has for us! We remember youthful days of football games, dances, and parties. As young people, we still look forward to those things. "Homecoming" carries such meaning for us that we can literally taste it in our mouths! As you know, last week Lisa and I were in Kentucky to take part in a former congregation's homecoming celebration. It was a blessing to go back and see the town, see our old house, and see old friends again. We were doubly blessed to be able to come back home to Illinois, too! It was nice to unlock the office door after having been gone a few days. Nice, too, to see Jennifer back in the office.

As disciples, we're called by the Great Commission to "go, seek." And so we do. We go out of our comfort zones. We go to places we wouldn't necessarily go ourselves, without the help of the Holy Spirit, in order to make one family of the world. But we go knowing that home is waiting for us. We have an anchor. We have a firm foundation. We have the gift of familiarity and of comfort.

The fall season is full of homecomings and of times that ground us in the moment. There are two celebrations of a homecoming nature coming up quickly in the life of the church. World Communion Sunday takes place this week, October 2. We will gather around the Table — as we do every time we come home — and share together in those things that are important for our spirits. Then, November 6, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday — a time for us to recall to mind the names and hearts of those church members, family members, and friends who have departed this life. We will call their names and bring their memories home to us. (We'll have more information about this celebration shortly.) Also, we are in the midst of receiving our Reconciliation Special Offering — an opportunity to bring people of diverse background, race, and culture home to our hearts, as we give to help put an end to racism. Because that's who we are as Disciples.

I am grateful. I'm grateful for the comfortable familiarity of this place, even though we've not been here long. I'm grateful for the opportunities we have to gather, to be centered, to contemplate more deeply the ways in which we are family, and where we sit within the life of God. This season, I hope that you'll take advantage of the homecomings. I hope you'll take part in the celebrations that will cement the deep love of God for you firmly within your hearts. As we experience the propensity of our culture to rush things, to run with wild abandon into fall when summer is not yet finished, as we have Halloween and pumpkin spice thrust, perhaps unwillingly, upon us, I think it's important for us to take time to slow down, to savor where we are in each moment — to really live in the seasons of life. It's important for us to be grateful for the time we have been given.

Fall is here. Homecoming is here. And we are here — wherever we are! Let's take time to reminisce, to search our hearts, to watch the turning of the fall colors, to smell the burning of leaves, to really savor something of pumpkin spice. Let's take this time to live more fully into the life God has given us. Let's allow the crisp air to fill our lungs and make our living brisk and deep. Let's open ourselves to the indwelling Spirit, as we celebrate its homecoming into our hearts.

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

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

October 2022

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

**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
*October 2022***

- 6 Jay & Lori Kristensen '01
7 Matt Provin
8 Taylor May
9 Stephanie Johnson
16 Perry & Barbara Comer '71
21 Joe & Amy Higgins '00
22 Kristy Elder
27 Xavier Moore
31 Ron Warfield



Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Sunday, October 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 October. 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.

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