

# The Christian Visitor August 2023



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

## Our Life Together in August

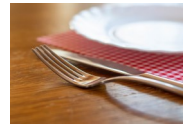
### Question Cards



Do you have a question about anything to do with life, church, etc.? Fill out a question card (found on the table in the narthex) and turn it in to the offering tray or drop off at the office. Pastor David will provide answers to these questions every 6 weeks or so.

### Welcome Table Wednesday August 16th

This month's Welcome Table Wednesday will take place on August 16th, with a meal at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall, followed by a short lesson.



### Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Sunday, August 13th following worship.

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

### Hymn Festival August 27th



Gibson Area Music Foundation's annual hymn festival will be held August 27, beginning at 3 p.m. at the United Methodist Church of Gibson City (Church & Tenth St.). Admission is free and open to everyone. Pastor David has been chosen to be this year's director.

ATTENDANCE		SUNDAY WEEK					
		1	2	3	4	5	AVG
2023	JAN	29	41	41	41	37	38
2023	FEB	40	32	30	40		36
2023	MAR	27	41	36	30		34
2023	APR	48	54	40	35	37	43
2023	MAY	31	40	43	39		38
2023	JUNE	37	37	35	46		39
2023	JULY	29	40	47	30	33	36

### Bible Study



A weekly bible study meets every Tuesday evening at 6:30pm.

### Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the wonderful meal you provided for Colin's Memorial Service. Thank you to everyone who prepared and served the delicious food. We appreciate all the love and compassion for our family. We love all of you.

Lori, Jay, Kate, Evan  
Nana Carol

### Grape Juice

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

## More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

### A PASTOR'S PONDERING

The Gibson Area Music Foundation has tapped me to direct this year's Hymn Festival, to happen at the end of this month, on Sunday the 27th. I've selected for this year's theme, *When in Our Music God Is Glorified*. It's based on the hymn text by Fred Pratt Green, penned in 1971. I'd like to share that text with you here, because music is very important to me — and I think it's vitally important to the life of the church.

When in our music God is glorified,  
And adoration leaves no room for pride,  
It is as though the whole creation cried, "Alleluia!"

How often, making music, we have found  
A new dimension in the world of sound,  
As worship moved us to a more profound "Alleluia!"

So has the church, in liturgy and song,  
In faith and love, through centuries of wrong,  
Borne witness to the truth in every tongue: "Alleluia!"

And did not Jesus sing a Psalm that night  
When utmost evil strove against the light?  
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight: "Alleluia!"

Let every instrument be tuned for praise!  
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!  
And may God give us faith to sing always: "Alleluia!"

The very first anointed-believers — Jesus' disciples — sang a Psalm following the very first communion service. God's faithful have always sung together; the book of Psalms is our earliest known hymnal. These Psalms were set to music, and were meant to be *sung*. Music is an important, integral, almost indispensable component of our worship. That's because music involves us holistically. We feel its vibrations in our bodies, we carry it's tides in our breathing. Music moves us emotionally and creates space in us for *wonder*. It can move us to a position of *reflection* and open us to creative thinking. Music in worship can help put us in touch with the spiritual atmosphere and movement within the assembled people. Music sung together adds warmth, depth, and movement to an otherwise rather two-dimensional experience.

And, music moves us *spiritually*. As we make music together, we create vibrations and put them out into the world, which is God's body. In doing so, we align ourselves with God's voice.

Worship expert and minister Thomas Long says that we should sing music that is "excellent, eclectic, and congregational." We need to sing together. Singing draws us together in community, helping us to become one in the body of Christ.

I hope you'll continue to lift your voices exuberantly in song — even if you don't sing very well. I hope you'll endeavor to open yourselves to learn music you haven't encountered before. And I hope you'll come and be part of this year's Hymn Festival, It will be as if the whole creation cried, "Alleluia!"

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

# August 2023

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4	5
<b>6</b> 10:15 AM Worship	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30 PM Bible Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>13</b> 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Church Board	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30 PM Bible Study	<b>16</b> 6:00 PM Welcome Table Wednesday	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	
		<b>Secretary Vacation</b>					
<b>20</b> 10:15 AM Worship	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:30 PM Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	
<b>27</b> 10:15 AM Worship 3:00 PM Hymn Festival	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:30 PM Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

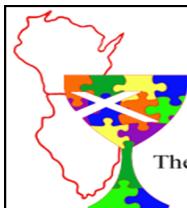
**LOCAL  
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES  
August 2023**

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



**Worship Leaders**

Please consider serving as worship leader in August. A sign up sheet is on the table in the narthex.



**Sister Congregations  
in Our Prayers**

The Christian Church in Illinois - Wisconsin  
*Together Making Disciples of Christ*

August 6 CC of Arlington Heights, Central CC Danville; Full Gospel CC, Detroit, MI  
August 13 Vine Street CC in Arthur, Grace CC Aurora, Bethany Park Rantoul; Journey of Faith CC, Ann Arbor, MI  
August 20 Bellflower CC, FCC Bement, FCC Benton; New Covenant CC, Flushing, MI  
August 27 FCC Rockford, CC of Abingdon, FCC Albion; Northwestern CC, Detroit, MI

**Pastor** - David Massey-Brown  
**Administrative Assistant** - Jennifer Hagan  
**Choir Director** - Tim Ricks  
**Church Pianist** - Joan Ricks  
**Custodians** - Jeff and Cheryl Elder

10:15 a.m. Worship Service  
Church Phone 784-5460  
Email address: gcfccdoc@yahoo.com  
Website: fccdocg.com

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