

The Christian Visitor September 2023

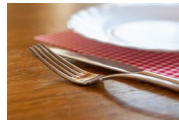


We are called to share our Christian Faith and Christ's Love with all people.

Our Life Together in September

Welcome Table Wednesday September 20th

This month's Welcome Table Wednesday will take place on September 20th, with a meal at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall, followed by a short lesson.



Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Sunday, September 10th following worship.

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

Reconciliation Offering September 24th & October 1st

It is the vision of Reconciliation Ministry to build just communities by breaking down the walls within our church which separate us. It is the goal of our shared work to foster life-giving community within our church and in relationship with the whole family of God. We accomplish this mission through intentional dialogue, inclusive worship and experiential education. Let's join together as the whole church to offer support to this ministry that seeks to build right relationship and foster greater unity.



Elders Breakfast

There will be an Elders Breakfast on Sunday, September 17th at 8:30am with David Hagan as host.

Hustlers

The Hustlers will meet on Sunday, September 24th at 7:00pm in the fellowship hall with Mary Alice McRae as host.

Bible Study



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

World Communion Sunday October 8th



We will celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 8 this year. Since the sharing of Holy Communion stands at the center of our life as Church, it's good for us to stand in solidarity with other expressions of the Faith in the celebration of a unifying ministry that has often left us separated. Please plan to be present for this celebration during our regular worship hour.

Worship Leaders

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

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

In a few weeks we'll be in the season of Fall, and in the month of October. The weather will turn cooler, and the leaves will begin to turn. We're entering the time of harvesting, the time of taking stock and taking account of our blessings. It's a time when we begin to notice, once again, the world around us, its changes and its gifts. Wednesday, October 4 is traditionally the day the Church has set aside to honor St. Francis of Assisi. This is his story.

Francis, the son of a prosperous merchant of Assisi, was born in 1182. His early youth was spent in harmless revelry and fruitless attempts to win military glory.

Various encounters with beggars and lepers pricked the young man's conscience, and he decided to embrace a life devoted to Lady Poverty. Despite his father's intense opposition, Francis totally renounced all material values, and devoted himself to serve the poor. In 1210 Pope Innocent the Third confirmed the simple Rule for the Order of Friars Minor, a name Francis chose to emphasize his desire to be numbered among the "least" of God's servants.

The order grew rapidly all over Europe. But by 1221 Francis had lost control of it, since his ideal of strict and absolute poverty, both for the individual friars and for the order as a whole, was found to be too difficult to maintain. His last years were spent in much suffering of body and spirit, but his unconquerable joy never failed.

Of all the saints, Francis is the most popular and admired, but probably the least imitated; few have attained to this total identification with the poverty and suffering of Christ. Francis left few writings; but of these, his spirit of joyous faith comes through most truly in the Canticle of the Sun, which he composed at Clare's Convent of St. Damian's:

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord,
To thee be ceaseless praise outpoured,
And blessing without measure.
Let creatures all give thanks to thee
And serve in great humility.

Francis has become known as the patron saint of animals. In honor of Francis and in honor of God's creation, we will celebrate St. Francis Day on the following **Sunday, October 8**, with what I've come to call *The Leashed of These*. This is a time for us to gather on that afternoon with our beloved pets, to show them off, to be with them, and to ask God's blessing on them and their lives. We'll meet at 3:00 pm. Please bring whatever animals you wish. Dogs, cats, fish, hamsters, turtles, birds — even horses or other farm animals are welcome. Please have your animals appropriately leashed or otherwise safely contained. We'll be introduced to each one, offer a blessing for each one, and share some fellowship. We'll meet by the cross near the rear "barking" lot and have a "howling" good time.

As we move into a new season, let us be enthusiastic about God's graciousness to us in the form of our Furry Ones. I hope to see you there!

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

September 2023

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

**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**
September 2023

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 Audrey Iverson | 21 Chet McClure |
| 5 Adam Elder | 22 Lori Kristensen |
| 7 Bonnie Schutte | 24 April Warren |
| 10 Linda Provin | 25 Freda Poe |
| 11 Mary Alice McRae | Jalene Medler |
| 16 Arlen DeWall | 30 Ralph & Freda Poe '61 |
| Nancy Gambill
Westfall | |
| 18 Tara Mouser | |
| Debbie Parsons | |
| Dennis & Pat
Farris '71 | |
| David & Carrie
DeWall '01 | |
| 20 Terri Jordan | |
| Tim & Joan Ricks '86 | |



**Gibson Area Hospital Auxiliary
Blood Drive**

**Sponsored by
Gibson City Hospital Auxiliary**

First Presbyterian Church - Fellowship Hall
401 North Church Street
Gibson City, IL 60936

**Tuesday, September 12, 2023
12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

To schedule an appointment, please call Susan (217-781-2202) or Deb (217-898-7500) or go to www.RedCrossBlood.org. Bring a friend and help save lives together. You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass for more information.



Give hope, get a free tee! Come give 9/1 thru 9/18 for a NEW Red Cross shirt, while supplies last.



1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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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: gfcfccdoc@yahoo.com
Website: fccdocg.com

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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