

# The Christian Visitor October 2023



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

## Our Life Together in October

### Recycling October 7th & 21st



First Christian Church is in charge of recycling on October 7th and 21st. Slots from 8:00-9:30am and 9:30-11:00am are available. Sign up in the narthex to volunteer.

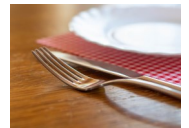
### Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Sunday, October 8th following worship.

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

### Welcome Table Wednesday October 18th

This month's Welcome Table Wednesday will take place on October 18th, with a meal at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall, followed by a short lesson.



### 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.

### Hustlers

The Hustlers will meet on Sunday, October 22nd at 5:00pm for a weiner roast at the home of Gary & Ruth Reiners.

### Pet Blessing October 8th

Please join us Sunday, October 8, at 3:00 pm for our annual pet blessing. We'll meet by the cross and fire pit. Please have your pets leashed or otherwise appropriately contained. All pets are welcome! We'll share a short service, a blessing of all animals present, and some great fellowship. Hope to see everyone there!



### Bible Study



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

### 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

Fall is my favorite season. For me, it's always signified a new start. Maybe it's because the new school year always began in the fall with new classes and new opportunities, but somehow the cooler weather, the smell of leaves and wood smoke, the appearance of pumpkins and other decorations always speak to me of beginnings.

Normally we think of fall as a "winding down" season. We begin to move indoors, the days are shorter, the sun not so bright as it has been. Fall begins the "dark days" of the year. Fall marks a time for coming home, a time for harvesting what the year has brought us, and a time to reflect and take stock of where we've been and where we find ourselves.

However, in the midst of all that, there's a silver thread of hope — a feeling of anticipation that's not misplaced. Because we've just come off a season in which we tend to put our industry "on hold" while we barbecue, swim, relax, and revel in the warmer weather. Now it's time to put on our long pants and boots and resume our industry. It really is a "both/and" kind of thing, isn't it?

With the fall comes a call to us, whispered in the drying leaves rustling in the breeze, wafted to us in the particular odors of autumn, placed on our tables with our harvest. We're called to awaken to a different kind of vision than we've had from behind our summer sunglasses. We're called to pay attention to life as it unfolds before us. We're called to pay attention to our interior lives in a way that's different from the way we treat ourselves in summertime. Somehow, fall creates and holds space for us to get busy in our spiritual growth.

Toward that end, I'd like to offer a workshop of sorts — an ongoing learning group that will help us get in deeper touch with God and with our interior lives. It will offer the learning of a more contemplative form of prayer — meditation, reflection, and engaging in intuitive practices that will energize the soul. It's a kind of prayer practice that's rooted in the lives and ministries of the early desert Fathers and Mothers of Christianity. It's a practice that is both ancient and enduring — one that's shared by nearly every other world religion. It's a practice that has many names you may be familiar with: meditation, contemplation, mindfulness, quietude, centering prayer, breath work, and more. These are practices that I have worked with on a daily basis in my personal life, and have taught and worked with others in more "formal" settings. They continue to be beneficial for me and for others who engage in the practices.

If you feel that your prayer life is important, but something seems to be missing, or you somehow feel that there's "more to it" than just "talking to God," if you feel you want to go deeper into your spiritual life, but you just don't know how to go about it, this might be a great way for you to get started. If you've always wondered about the more "mystic" side of faith, but are (rightfully) hesitant to just jump in with practices that might seem a little ... "foreign" to your life of faith, this will be a safe, affirming, and loving place for you to inquire, to take a look, to ask questions, to explore, and to be guided by your pastor, who has spent many years working with these practices in the context of spiritual direction and spiritual formation rooted deeply in the Christian tradition.

As we begin a season that's conducive to reflection and a deepening of our interior lives, this might be a good time for you to begin a deeper journey into your spiritual formation. The invitation is open. This is something that can be done with as few as two or three, or even more. Just let me know if you're interested, and we'll get started.

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

# October 2023

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

LOCAL  
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES  
*October 2023*

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



October 1 World Communion Sunday,  
Clayton CC, Timewell CC;  
October 8 Week of the Ministry  
October 15 Chapin CC, Hometown CC Chicago,  
Jackson Blvd. CC Chicago;  
October 22 FCC Canton, FCC Carbondale,  
FCC Virden; Triumphant Temple of  
Praise, Flint, MI  
October 29 FCC Bloomington, Cameron CC,  
Coldbrook CC

**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: fccdocgc.com

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