

# The Christian Visitor March 2024



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

## Our Life Together in March

### Holy Week Schedule



**Sunday, March 24th Palm Sunday**

Worship at 10:15am

**Thursday, March 28th Maundy Thursday**

Service at 7:00pm

**Friday, March 29th Good Friday**

Service at 7:00pm



**Saturday, March 30th**

Chain of Prayer 6:00am-6:00pm

Sign up for a time in the narthex

**Sunday, March 31st Easter Sunday**

Breakfast & Egg Hunt at 9:00am,

Easter worship at 10:15am

### Chain of Prayer

**Saturday,  
March 30th**



Our 12-hour chain of prayer will run from 6:00AM-6:00PM on Saturday, March 30th. Please consider signing up in the narthex for a 30-minute (or longer) timeslot.

### Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt Sunday, March 31st

Our annual Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt will take place on Sunday, March 31st beginning at 9:00am. Everyone is invited to join us for breakfast, followed by a devotion and Easter Egg Hunt for the kids in attendance. Please consider joining us for this morning of fun and fellowship.

Our Easter morning worship service will follow at 10:15am.



### Easter Flowers



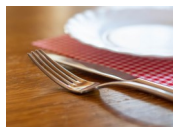
Flowers to be shared for display on Easter Sunday may be ordered by filling out a form in the narthex. Lilies cost \$14 and tulips, hyacinths, and daffodils each cost \$10. Orders are due March 3rd.

### Fellowship

There will be a fellowship hour following worship on Sunday, March 24th hosted by the Hustlers.

### Welcome Table Wednesday March 20th

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



### Note Time Change

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Set clocks forward by  
Sunday morning,

March 10th



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

### A PASTOR'S PONDERING

We've spent the holy season of Lent so far listening — “listening for that still, small voice, and finding our own.” We're going to continue doing that until Easter at the end of this month.

Listening is important. Listening is different from just hearing. When we hear, we perceive sounds and we can differentiate between different kinds of sound. We can perceive differences in volume, tone, timbre, and pitch. We can perceive nuances in intensity. We can even identify sources, and languages, and we can perceive the four elements of a sound: attack, sustain, decay, and release. But hearing is still rather “two-dimensional.” That is, hearing represents an objective process, that of perceiving sound waves outside of ourselves, divorced from our being influenced by them in some way. Hearing is important, because it's one way we sense what's happening in the world around us. By hearing, we can quantify the sound waves that come to us. We can analyze and we can derive facts.

But we have to do more than just perceive these two-dimensional things about sounds. We have to learn the art of *listening*. The act of Listening adds *depth* to what we hear by bringing otherwise objective sound waves into the subjective. When we listen, we seek to build a relationship with what we hear — and not only with what we hear, but with the source of the sound and with the meaning behind the sound.

We've all encountered the phrase, “I hear you.” It's a way for us to acknowledge that we've received some message from someone. Sometimes we use that phrase as a way of letting the person know just that: that we've acknowledged the receipt of their message. I don't like that phrase, because it's still very objective. It still distances the receiver from the sender. “I hear you” only serves to put up a wall between people. “I'm *listening*” is a far better phrase.

When we listen, we make ourselves vulnerable. When we listen, we open ourselves to being influenced by what we hear. When we listen, we gain *understanding*. When we listen, we inwardly digest what we're hearing. When we listen, we build relationship through the *subjective* process of engaging emotionally. When we listen, we give credence to that which is being heard. It becomes understood and is given respect.

I think much of the time, if we're paying attention, we do hear God. And much of the time, we hold what we hear as two-dimensional and objective information *about* God and God's world. But I wonder how often we really *listen* to God? Do we really make ourselves *vulnerable* to God, and allow ourselves to be influenced — “transformed” — *changed* by what God has to say? How often do we really *understand* in the depths of our being what God is saying? Are we just holding God out in front of ourselves and making objective, doctrinal statements, or have we taken God *in*, allowing subjective transformation to happen?

Learning the art of listening is, I believe, a prerequisite to living a resurrection life. What we listen to during Lent will change us in ways we can't imagine, and impart to us that new life Jesus promises us. Toward that end, I hope you'll continue to listen, to digest, to make part of you what God speaks into your life as we continue through Lent. I think you'll find that God's still, small voice is in sync with your own, if you open yourself to that possibility.

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

### Elders Breakfast

There will be an Elders Breakfast on Sunday, March 17th at 8:30am in the fellowship hall.

### Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Sunday, March 10th 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 March. A sign up sheet is on the table in the narthex.

### Bible Study



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

## Easter Special Offering to be Received

Our **Easter Special Offering** will be received over **March 24** and **March 31**. This offering supports several of the general ministries of the Christian Church. Your gift supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, the formation of new congregations, support for pastors and chaplains, and more. When we partner with other Disciples through monetary support of our common ministry, we grow stronger as a congregation, as a parish, and as a denomination. Please consider a generous gift to Disciples Mission Fund through this Special Offering. Following is a list of ministries that benefit from your gift:

- Center for Faith and Giving
- Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries
- Communication Ministries
- Christian Unity and Interfaith Ministry
- Disciples of Christ Historical Society
- Disciples Home Missions
- Disciples Women
- Division of Overseas Ministries (Global Ministries)
- Higher Education and Leadership Ministries
- National Benevolent Association
- National Convocation
- New Church Ministry
- North American pacific/Asian Disciples
- Office of the General Minister and President
- Treasury Services



Please note the flyers, posters and designated envelopes made available for you, make out your checks to Disciples Mission Fund and write "Easter Special Offering" on the memo line. Thank you for financially supporting your church.

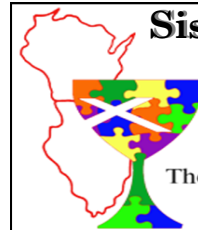
**Office Hours:**  
 Tue—Fri: 9:00 am—1:00 pm  
 Church Phone: 217-784-5460  
 gcfcdoc@yahoo.com  
 fecdocgc.com

# March 2024

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1	2
<b>3</b> 10:15 AM Worship	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:30 PM Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	
<b>10</b> 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Church Board	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:30 PM Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	
<b>17</b> 8:30 AM Elders Breakfast 10:15 AM Worship	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:30 PM Bible Study	<b>20</b> 6:00 PM Welcome Table Wednesday	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	
<b>24 Palm Sunday</b> 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Fellowship <b>Easter Offering</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30 PM Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28 Maundy Thursday</b> 7:00 PM Worship	<b>29 Good Friday</b> 7:00 PM Worship	<b>30</b> 6:00 AM—6:00 PM Chain of Prayer	
<b>31 Easter Sunday</b> 9:00 AM Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt 10:15 AM Worship <b>Easter Offering</b>							

**LOCAL  
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES  
March 2024**

- 4 Dennis Jordan  
Mike Finis  
John and Nancy Westfall '12
- 7 Karen Long
- 9 Rick Rinehart
- 10 Nan Clements  
Devin Back
- 11 John Westfall
- 14 Jacob Mott
- 15 Melanie Warfield
- 18 Pat Provin  
Eleanor Baize
- 21 Will Provin
- 23 Eric Tjarks
- 29 Ida Wahls



**Sister Congregations  
in Our Prayers**

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

- March 3 Pine Creek CC, Polo, IL;  
FCC Pontiac, IL; FCC Princeton, IL
- March 10 Mechanicsburg CC, IL;  
FCC Keithsburg, IL; FCC Knoxville, IL;  
Riverview Park CC, St. Joseph, MI
- March 17 Sunnyland CC, Washington, IL;  
FCC Lawrenceville, IL
- March 24 Illinois St CC, Lewiston, IL;  
Ipava CC, IL; Mackinaw CC, IL;  
United Church of Wayland, MI
- March 31 Easter! General Church Ministry and  
our General Minister and President

**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