

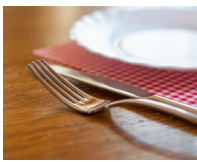
The Christian Visitor July 2024



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

Our Life Together in July

Welcome Table Wednesday July 17th



This month's Welcome Table Wednesday will be on July 17th with a meal beginning at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall, followed by a short lesson. All are welcome!

Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Sunday, July 14th following worship.

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

Communion Bread

We rely on home bakers to provide our communion bread each week.

A sign-up sheet for the new church year has been posted in the narthex. Sign up to provide the communion bread for a month.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered in the past year.



Worship Leaders

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

Sympathy

We express sympathy to the family and friends of Margaret Meers, who passed away on Wednesday, June 12th. A memorial service was held in our sanctuary on Saturday, June 15th.

Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes for the new church year, beginning Sunday, July 7th, are available for pickup in the narthex. Please sign your name next to the number that matches the box you take.

Memorial Gifts

Memorial Gifts to First Christian Church have been received in memory of

Margaret Meers

These gifts are added to our Memorial Fund for current and future projects, furthering our shared ministry and mission.

Bible Study

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



More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

A PASTOR'S PONDERING

This year is a year of prayer for us. I'm beginning a book study on how to build a life of prayer. We're exploring different forms of prayer in the context of our worship. I plan to establish a couple of spaces in our building dedicated to prayer and the communication of prayer needs.

Prayer is important to me, personally, and I think it's important for the Church as a whole. We need to pray! And we need to establish good prayer habits, ways of prayer that are effective for us and that meet our particular spiritual needs.

Many people are a little trepidatious about prayer. "What do I say?" They want to know. "How do I do it?" They ask. "How am I supposed to carve enough time out of my busy schedule to pray every day?" Paul admonishes us to "pray continually." How do we *do* that when we have so many other things vying for our time and attention?

I'd like for you to consider that prayer isn't just a formula of "right words." It can *be* that, but it's not just that. Prayer is also not simply a sacred activity — something that we feel we have to "do." At its heart, prayer is a *relationship*. Prayer isn't primarily about "carving out bits of time to say the right words." Prayer is *a way of being* in the world. Prayer is the Christian's way of being in the world. Prayer is our way of being in the world.

Really, as Paul teaches us, prayer is Holy Spirit breathing in us. Prayer is spirit that's a vital part of our being — of who we are. We breathe all the time, in and out, as we go about our daily tasks, our entertainment — even our sleep time. If we can breathe without thinking about it, without devoting cognitive space and energy to it, then we can pray without always giving up cognitive space. There are times when we need to be conscious of our petitions to God — times when we have something specific to say to God, or something we need to specifically *listen* for, and those are the times when we engage in specific forms of prayer like supplication, contemplation, or meditation, but the way of continual prayer is not always on the radar of our attention. Many times, prayer is just *how we live life*.

If we intend to live our lives within God, if we intend to see and understand that all life is caught up in God, in fact, could not *exist* without God, if we understand that we are *formed* by prayer, *breathe* prayer, and *live* by prayer, then we are always "in prayer," because we're always connected with God.

When the practice of prayer becomes an expression of who we are in the world, and being true to that expression, then prayer becomes a very life-affirming thing, and as easy as drawing breath, rather than one more item on our "to-do" list for which we have to make room. Because the purpose of prayer is to continue to become more and more the people God made us to be.

As we continue throughout this year to grow in faith, I hope we can expand our awareness of the basic vitality of prayer in our lives, and learn to live more fully into the implications of prayer as our vital breath.

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
 gcfcedoc@yahoo.com

July 2024

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

**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
*July 2024***

1 Dennis & Sharon Higgins '06
2 Carol Hutchcraft
3 Matt Poe
Tyler Mott
Jerry Wahls
7 Janet Hoffman
15 Griffin Johnson
20 Ralph Poe
21 Wyatt Higgins
Peter & Kate Provin '12



July 7: Prairie Avenue CC, Decatur, IL;
Community CC, Lincolnshire, IL;
FCC Olney, IL;
Central Woodward CC, Troy, MI

July 14 : Disciples of Christ CC, Champaign, IL;
FCC Carthage, IL; FCC Casey, IL;
Christian Church of Ferndale, MI
Middle & High School Camp @
Crystal Lake, MI

July 21: FCC Springfield, IL; FCC Sterling, IL
Family of God Camp,
Young Adult Retreat @ Crystal Lake, MI

July 28: FCC Metropolis, IL; FCC Sullivan, IL;
Sherburnville CC, Grant Park, IL;
FCCAWest, Saginaw, MI

Pastor - David Massey-Brown
Administrative Assistant - Jennifer Hagan
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