

The Christian Visitor September 2024



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

Our Life Together in September

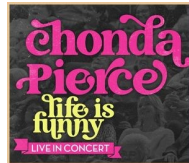
Ladies Night Out

Sunday, Sept. 29 6:00-9:00

Chonda Pierce "Life is Funny" LIVE in Concert
Venue - Maranatha Church in Decatur
Doors Open at 6:00 p.m. and Show is at 7 p.m.
General Admission for Groups of 10+ Tickets are
\$26.75 each or \$29.75 if there are less than 10
Please let Sharon know by Wednesday, Sept. 11 at
4 p.m. so tickets can be ordered.

We can make arrangements to car-
pool so all that are interested will be
able to go!!

To find out more about Chonda
Pierce go to www.wbgl.org or chonda.org



Fellowship September 8th

There will be a fellowship time following
worship this morning. Alex and Brecke
Barnard will be giving an informal presen-
tation on their experiences showing cattle
at fairs. Treats provided will be based on
"fair foods."

Church Board

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

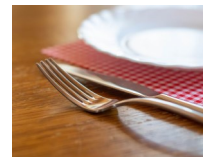
Reconciliation Offering September 29th & October 6th



It is the vision of Reconciliation Ministry to build
just communities by breaking down the walls with-
in 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.

Welcome Table Wednesday September 18th

This month's Welcome Ta-
ble Wednesday will be on
September 18th with a
meal beginning at 6:00pm
in the fellowship hall. All
are welcome!



Favorite Hymn



Do you have favorite hymns
you'd like us to sing in wor-
ship? Pick up a card in the
narthex and write down up
to three hymns. We will peri-
odically select hymns from these cards to
include in Sunday morning worship.

Hustlers

The Hustlers will meet on Sunday, September
22nd at 5:00pm.

More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

A PASTOR'S PONDERING

I officiated the memorial service of the mother of one of my friends whom I've known for over 50 years. Carol was like a second mother to me. It was difficult to speak about her, and even more difficult to watch my friend break down periodically in grief.

The morning of the funeral, my friend called me to tell me that his son had awakened him at 2:00 that morning. His wife had gone into labor at their home near Atlanta. The son flew out at 6:00 am, and the baby was born sometime around 9:30. So the mood during the funeral that afternoon was bittersweet. A light had gone out of the world, and a new light was beginning to shine.

At this time of year, when school is beginning and Labor Day marks the end of another summer, when the corn and beans are beginning to turn, I think about the cycles of life — how living turns to dying, and how death comes back to life again in the spring. Life always takes its turns; so far I've made over 64 turns around the sun, and, God willing, I'll take many more.

I can't help but notice the chances and changes that seem to take place on a daily basis. Life is change, and to be alive is to be constantly on the move in some way that serves to keep us fresh. We can count on new experiences and we can also count on some things remaining constant in our lives. Happily, those constants — the things that endure — are those things that are most important. They are things like faith, love, hope. Those things inform our experience of all the other things that do change.

We should remember that life is like a relay race; someone will always pass us the baton, and we, in our turn, will pass it on to someone else. Life will continue. As I mourn the loss of "Mom #2" and grieve alongside my friend, I also have to smile at the new life that is just beginning. I like to think that, perhaps, those two souls passed each other — one on his way to meet us and the other on her way to meet her Lord — that they smiled at each other in recognition, the little one saying, "Don't worry. I've got this." And the elderly one saying, "Yes. You do!"

Even when things seem to be dying, life perpetuates. It perpetuates because the human spirit endures, no matter what. Every time we extend the circle of our experience to include another, our life is increased just a bit. And we should keep in mind that it's those little things we do for and with each other that make all the difference. Those little things are the strong links of the chain of life, linking one life to another, to another, to another.

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

September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Congregational Meeting	2 Labor Day Office Closed	3	4	5	6	7
8 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Fellowship 11:30 AM Church Board	9	10	11	12 Pastor Vacation	13	14
15 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Church Board	16	17	18 6:00 PM Welcome Table Wednesday	19 Pastor Vacation	20 Secretary Vacation	21
22 10:15 AM Worship 5:00 PM Huslers Pastor Vacation	23	24 6:30 PM Bible Study Secretary Vacation	25	26	27	28
29 10:15 AM Worship 6:00 PM Ladies Night Out Reconciliation Offering	30					

**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
*September 2024***

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



September 1: NAPAD Ministry; Korean Christian, Springfield, IL; Living Stone CC, Evanston, IL; Chicago Christian Church, Des Plaines, IL; Happy Christian Church, North Brook, IL

September 8: FCC White Hall, IL; FCC Winchester, IL; Iglesia Cristiana de Milwaukee, WI; St. Paul's Church, Dearborn Heights, MI; Men's Retreat @ Crystal Lake, MI

September 15: FCC Bethany, IL; Marshall Avenue CC, Mattoon, IL; Centennial CC, Bloomington, IL; Serenity CC, Hazel Park, MI

September 22: Reconciliation Offering

September 29: Clayton CC, IL; Timewell CC, IL; Park Manor CC, Chicago, IL; Church of Christ, Cadillac, 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