

The Christian Visitor November 2024

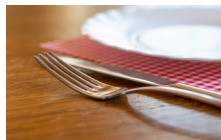


We are called to share our Christian Faith and Christ's Love with all people.

Our Life Together in November

Welcome Table Wednesday November 20th

This month's Welcome Table Wednesday will be on November 20th with a meal beginning at 6:00pm with a short devotion to follow. All are welcome!



Procession of Giving

In place of our traditional procession of giving on Thanksgiving Sunday, you are invited to place donations to help hurricane/flood victims in the jar in the narthex. The jar will be there for 6 weeks. We will cap off this time of giving with a free will offering community chili/soup lunch after church on December 1st.



Hanging of the Greens Sunday, November 24th

We will gather for Hanging of the Greens following worship on Sunday, November 24th. A light meal will be served in the fellowship hall once we are finished. Please join in the fun as we all get in the Christmas spirit!

Chili Dinner December 1st

On December 1st, we will host a community chili dinner fundraiser from 11:30-1:30, with donations going to support hurricane relief through Week of Compassion. Please consider signing up in the narthex to provide items for this event.



Church Board

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

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

Memorial Gifts

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

Harry McClure

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

The clocks have been set back, the World Series is finished, an election is behind us, Fall is here, and we are facing the end of another liturgical year. The last Sunday of the church year is November 24 — “Thanksgiving Sunday.” As we look back at the year behind us, let us look back in gratitude for what God has done for us. As we approach the beginning of the next church year, we begin with Advent — a time for preparation. Let us look ahead, then, with anticipation for what the Lord will do for us in the coming year, and how we can prepare our hearts to receive blessings as we move forward.

It's appropriate that Thanksgiving occur near the end of the year. It's easy to take stock and have an accounting for the good things that have been planted, grown, and harvested during the year. If we take a good look, I'm sure we'll find that the good things have outweighed the bad; we have reaped more grain than we have weeds.

You see, it's all about our attitude toward life. It's all about the space in which we live our lives. Whatever our condition, we can choose to live in a state of gratitude. Thanksgiving isn't about making a laundry list of “things we're grateful for,” it's really about determining and intending to respond to life — good and bad — with a sense of gratitude. It's about living out of a sense of God's *abundance*, rather than from a sense of poverty.

This week, our Gospel reading from Mark is about what's called *the widow's mite*. In this story, Jesus teaches that the few pennies the widow put into the treasury — in fact, all that she had — was accounted more than what all the rich people put in, combined. He teaches it's because she gave from her poverty, while they gave from their abundance. The implication is that, if we can learn to see abundance in the very little things, then we won't have to despair over what we might lose.

So much in our society is approached from a sense of fear, and mostly from a sense of fear of losing something. Do we, like the woman in the story of Elijah, go home and make a few paltry cakes from the little we have, and prepare to die? Or do we, like Elijah, trust that the grain will never run out, and the cooking oil will last the distance, and, therefore, prepare to live? I believe our lives have to mean more than a balance sheet of “gains” and “losses.” We worry about that bottom line all the time, yet it doesn't really add meaning to our lives.

What if we accounted all we have reaped this year as blessings, and what if, anticipating Christ to be born in us again, we prepared to *live* in that state of great blessing, rather than preparing to die from want? There's a concept in God's kin-dom called “enough.” We need to learn to live in that concept. We may not accomplish great things, but, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we will accomplish enough in the coming year. Let us give thanks always for what God provides, and come again in joy shouldering our sheaves.

May it be so! May it be so for us!

More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

Prayer Study

Our Prayer Study group meets every Sunday morning before worship.

Elder's Breakfast

There will be an Elders Breakfast on Sunday, November 17th at 8:00am.

Worship Leaders

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

Hustlers

The Hustlers will meet on Sunday, November 24th at 5:00pm.

Community Christmas Program

The Gibson Area Music Foundation is inviting all area singers to participate in its annual Christmas concert "Celebrate the Season". It will be a combination of selections from "Messiah" along with carols and readings about Christ's birth. The program will be at 3:00 PM on Sunday, December 15, at the Gibson City Bible Church, and in addition to the choir will feature soloists and a string ensemble. Rehearsals will be every Monday evening beginning November 11 continuing through December 9 from 7:00-8:30 at the Gibson City First Presbyterian Church. Please join us for this beautiful musical tradition.

Thanksgiving Special Offering to be Received November 17th & 24th

The Thanksgiving Special Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our fifteen colleges and universities as well as our seven seminaries and divinity houses.



The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships to religious life offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

We will receive the Thanksgiving Special Offering between November 17 and November 24. Please make your check payable to First Christian Church, and write "Thanksgiving Offering" on the memo line.

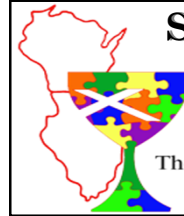
Office Hours:
 Tue—Fri: 9:00 am—1:00 pm
 Church Phone: 217-784-5460
 gcfecdcc@yahoo.com

November 2024

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1	2
3 All Saints 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Fellowship	4	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 8:00 AM Elders Breakfast 10:15 AM Worship	18	19 6:30 PM Bible Study	20 6:00 PM Welcome Table Wednesday	21	22	23	
Thanksgiving Offering							
24 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Hanging of the Greens 5:00 PM Hustlers	25	26 6:30 PM Bible Study	27	28 Thanksgiving Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30	
Thanksgiving Offering							

LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
November 2024

9 Kate Kristensen
14 Katy Neal
17 Ryan Iverson
18 Sharon Higgins
19 Matt and Pat Provin '94
Lane Elder
Tinley McClure
23 Emily Elder
30 Joe and Tara Mouser '85
Keegan Wayne DeWall



**Sister Congregations
in Our Prayers**

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

November 3: FCC Bloomington, IL;
Cameron CC, IL; Coldbrook CC, IL;
FCC Quincy, IL
November 10: FCC Hoopston, IL;
Central CC Jacksonville, IL;
United CC, Detroit MI
November 17: United CC, Country Club Hills, IL;
FCC Dixon, IL; FCC Dukoin, IL;
Unity CC, Swartz Creek, MI
November 24: Thanksgiving Offering,
Eureka College, Eureka, IL;
Disciples Divinity House,
Chicago, IL

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