

Mark Your Calendar

February 2

Souper Bowl Sunday
Luncheon
11:30 AM

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 14-17

Youth Mission Trip

February 26

Ash Wednesday
Services 7:00 PM



Keep the youth and their sponsors in your prayers as they journey to Shannondale Community Center in Salem, MO February 14-17 for their annual mission trip.

SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

With the calling of Rev Doug Job as our interim minister in October 2019, the search committee has been on a bit of a sabbatical. This pause was appropriate giving us the ability as a congregation to focus on Thanksgiving and the Season of Advent. It also provided Doug with time to settle in as our interim minister. We would like to report that our sabbatical has ended.

On Sunday, January 26, the search committee met with our Regional Minister, Penny Ross-Corona to review the two remaining duties of the Search Committee. Those duties include the preparation of the church profile and the actual search and ultimate call of a settled minister.

The profile includes a great deal of information but its most important component is the congregational discernment. This section gives us as a congregation the opportunity to define the items we value and the mission we are undertaking. The congregational discernment is essential to a successful search and call process. Due to its importance, involvement in its preparation will expand beyond the search committee.

When completed the profile will be published by our Regional Minister so those ministers that are in the search and call process can evaluate it to see if they might be a good fit for our congregation. It is essentially the same process we followed in advertising our search for an interim minister. The actual interview and evaluation process will be dependent on those ministers expressing interest but you can trust we will be deliberate and thorough in our evaluation of potential candidates.

Lastly, Penny informed us that she has retired and that Paul Koch will be taking on her role at the Regional Office. Paul has previously filled our pulpit as a guest minister and is therefore familiar with our congregation. Penny has fully briefed Paul on our search process so he is ready to lend assistance. We look forward to working with Paul and wish to thank Penny for her assistance and wish her the best in retirement.

Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 2, it's Souper Bowl time! And that means:

- please bring canned and dry goods for the Glen Ed pantry



- wear your favorite team threads to church, if you like

- bring a crockpot of soup to share, if you like

- enjoy a Souper Bowl lunch and party at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

Sightings and Soundings

I saw something this week I want to share. But first, please raise one of your hands.

Do you have a will?

If so, use your raised hand to pat yourself on the back. (If it won't go that far, pat your head. It's okay, no one's looking.)

If not, use the hand to grab a pen and write this at the top of a to-do list:

START MAKING A WILL TODAY

Begin by jotting down where you want your assets to go after it's 100% certain you won't be able to choose or say. (That's an indirect way to say "after you're dead.")

Then talk it over with loved ones or friends or advisors—anyone you think has a stake in deciding, or whose counsel you would value. Do that soon—within the next three days. Revise as seems wise. (One of the nicest gifts you can give the people who care about you is to execute an advance health care directive and durable financial power of attorney, too.)

If your concerns are complicated, you need an attorney's help. Call and make an appointment. Now the marble is rolling down the track. This will happen. Thank you.

If your concerns aren't complicated, you can finish making your will yourself. The Edwardsville Public Library has a book on the subject, currently available. You can also do it at Freewill.com. Make an appointment with yourself to do it. This will happen. Thank you.

Now, what I saw that I want to share: it's the annual statement from the Christian Church Foundation about First Christian Church of Edwardsville's permanent fund. This is a long-term asset of the congregation, invested mostly in stocks and bonds, intended to support significant ministries in future years. At the beginning of last year, \$26,677.67 was held for FCCE. During 2019, the value increased \$5877. That's growth over 21%, and FCCE didn't make any deposits last year—that is, no one gave the church money directed to the permanent fund.

You don't have to wait to give toward the permanent fund, but often gifts to it come from estates. The beauty of this is that those who remember their church in their wills have the chance not just to continue their faithful support after they pass, but for their stewardship to *increase*. That's something like a loaves-and-fishes miracle, isn't it?

If you're making or revising a will, please consider making a bequest to FCCE's permanent fund. No gift is small, because it joins others and will be multiplied. Along with ministries here, for decades to come. —Doug



FCCE

hosted a blood drive on Sunday, January 26th. There were 17 units of blood donated, which met our goal. Thank you to all 23 participants that came to donate.

Financial Shavings – January 2020 Board Meeting

We all know the FCCE church year is July 2019-June 2020. However, the financial review presented at the board meeting was for the calendar year 2019. The church’s regular income totaled \$269,887. The church’s expenses totaled \$261,944. (Note – regular income does not include Linden contributions.) Thank you for your continued support of the church budget and programs.

Revised Budget 2019-2020

At the November 2019 Board meeting, a revised budget was approved. This revised budget represents administrative line item changes. The line items for Lead Minister were closed out with actual spending and new line items added for Interim Minister. The overall budget amount stayed the same.

Copies are available on the table in the Narthex.

2020-2021 Ministry budgets are due by February 16, 2020.

Happy Birthday February

- 3 Dan Davis
- 3 Tessa Eberhart
- 4 Mark Speciale
- 5 Martha Morrow
- 5 Darlene Young
- 7 Stacey Coffee
- 7 Diane Hester
- 7 Kayleigh Meier
- 9 Chloe Luster
- 10 Marilyn McCall
- 12 Ethan Lane
- 14 Frances Gregg
- 18 Marty DeWitt
- 21 Kaleb Rutgers
- 22 Rich Wetzel
- 25 Mary West
- 26 Mallory Paur
- 28 Helena Woods

Happy Anniversary February

- 18 Joshua & Danielle Castelli
- 21 Harry & Evlyn McQuinn

Ministry Staff

- Rev. Doug Job, Interim Minister
- Ms Macy Sullens, Youth & Children’s Minister
- Mr. Denis Doelling, Organist
- Mrs. Danielle Castelli, Accompanist
- Ms. Lindsey Folsom, Keyboardist
- Ms. Carolyn Jenkins, Choir Director
- Mr. Warren Lomax, Custodian
- Mrs. Teresa Droste, Admin. Assistant

The Messenger

To submit information for this monthly communication ministry, contact Joanne Kelley at 618-791-5345 or joanne-kelley@att.net.

Articles for March are due no later than Wed. February 26th.