



First Christian
(Disciples of Christ)
 302 North Church Street
 Fayette, MO 65248



Address Service Requested



THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR

First Christian Church — *(Disciples of Christ)*
 January 2021 Newsletter



302 North Church Street
 Fayette, Missouri 65248
 Office: (660) 248-3795
 Office-email: 1cchurch@sbcglobal.net
 Rev. Stephen Johnson, Transitional Minister
 Stephen's email: pastorstephenjohnson@gmail.com
 Stephen's phone: 509-475-1302

Adult Sunday School—9:00 a.m.
 Children's Sunday School—9:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship -10:15 a.m.
 Evening Worship—5:30 p.m.
 Nursery Provided @ both services
www.fayettefcc.org

Sunday School, Nursery & Evening Worship currently postponed due to Covid19

A Note from Stephen

Sunday evening just after sunset I had the desire to get a little viewing time in with my telescope. The conditions were less than ideal, but I knew the next week was going to be overcast so I thought I would give it a shot. I needed to make it quick because I only had about an hour before the clouds would be coming in. I stepped outside to a beautiful sky with a couple of streaks of clouds illuminated by the rising moon. Since I didn't have much time I drove out to D. C. Rogers Lake, which has good views, but way too much car traffic to be a good viewing sight. Headlights and dust kicked up from passing cars don't really enhance the stargazing experience. As I made my way out I was disappointed to see that the cloud cover was really coming in fast. I probably would have had better results putting up with the light pollution at home. By the time I got my telescope out of the car, there was a small wedge shaped sliver of sky due south that was still clear. After making a couple adjustments to the telescope, that wedge of clear sky was gone. The clouds were thin, so the nearly full moon had no problem shining through the layer of cover. It was actually a very pretty sky to see. I swung the opening of the telescope up to the moon and brought it into focus. Despite the clouds, it was still an amazing sight. The thin clouds actually helped cut down on the intensity of the light reflecting off the surface of the moon and allowed me to get a good look at some of the features that normally get washed out from being so bright. The clouds passing in front of the moon in the view of the telescope were reflecting the light in a way that made them look like grey quilted tubes of silk illuminated from within. You could imagine being able to feel their texture, something between whipped cream and warm water. As I took in the incredible sight in complete silence, in the span of about two seconds, a formation of geese slid through the view like tiny arrows grouped in a sharp angle. The blackness of their slender necks and pale brown hue of their bodies softly lit by the moonlight contrasted with the stark white of the moon and the shimmering grey of the clouds as their wings carried them through the night sky. It was layer upon layer, upon layer of beauty. In that moment, there was only peace.

In life we have those moments when things just come together and something special happens. Some might say magical. Others might say divine. And what is moving for me might be a nonevent for you. But when it does happen for us, it is usually a surprise that we couldn't have predicted. And it is very unlikely we would be able to orchestrate these moments of true connection. I didn't set out to have a moment of awe in the story above. I expected to see some marginal views through my telescope. The most logical thing for me to have done that night would have been to stay home. The moon was bright, which makes seeing anything else more difficult. The wind was blowing, which makes using higher magnification impossible. It was cold and the clouds were coming in. Why did I go? I took a chance that I might get a little viewing. What did I have to lose?

Sometimes just putting ourselves out there is what it takes to experience connection. I have heard others say, and I have experienced it myself (before being obligated to be at worship on Sundays), "I thought about just skipping church today, but I am glad I didn't. It was just what I needed." Just what I needed might be anything. A hymn, a scripture, a thought from the sermon, the ritual, something that was lifted up in a communion or offering meditation, a conversation with someone, or just being in a sacred space. And just what I needed might come from something outside of worship on Sunday morning. Maybe it is an encounter on a walk, a moving piece of music, an aha moment from a book, or an intentional time of prayer. Who knows? What would it look like for you to provide yourself for more opportunities for connecting to God?

	3-Jan	10-Jan	17-Jan	24-Jan	31-Jan
ELDERS Com.	Pat Hilgedick	Aimee Sage	Laura Lewis	Mike Thornton	Novy Foland
Off.	Gary Bagby	Skip Vandelicht	Jennier Barringhaus	George Rasche	Steve Frevert
DIACONATE	Leah Flaspohler	Pansy Kean	Sheri Eaton	Lacey Gladden	Melody Vandelicht
	Ben Gladden	Ronda Gerlt	Jan Kunkel	Ariana Moore	Stephanie Moore
	Dale Linhart	Emily Bange	Stewart Huttsell	Darrel Monckton	Rick Sage
	Margie Linhart	Leslie Sutton	Rosie Thornton	Don Bagby	Annaliese Moore
LAY LEADER	Cathey Monckton	Skip Vandelicht	Novy Foland	Pat Hilgedick	Chris Rohlfing
GREETERS	Melody Vandelicht	Kenny Blakely	Trish Hilgedick	Bobby Wilhoit	Mona Stevenson
	Pansy Kean	Bonnie Blakely	Kathy Baylor	Edris Wilhoit	Wade Monckton
COMMUNION	<i>Diaconate Team</i>				
PREP/CLEAN-UP					
NURSERY	Paige Frerking				
	Hailey Sage				
HOSPITALITY ROOM	Edris Wilhoit	Cathey Monckton	Nancy Shepherd	Joan McMillan	Nancy Symes
	Jan Kunkel	Lesley Monckton	Terry Bentley	Lisa Cook	Rosie Thornton
Shut-In Communion	Mike Thornton				
3-Jan					



January Birthdays and Anniversaries

- January 2 Wyatt Symes
- January 4 Judy Strodman
Addison Barringhaus
- January 6 Amber Drane
Rick Huffstutter
- January 7 Sophie Schluckebier
Ivan & Stephanie Moore
- January 12 Dewey Holst
Julia Perry
- January 15 Aaron & Kelley
Marchbanks
- January 18 Johnny Frevert, Jr.
Jenifer Monckton
- January 20 Helen Frevert
- January 22 Hailey Sage
- January 23 Hudsyn Conrow
- January 24 Adrian Stumbaugh
Lisa Baylor
- January 25 Laura Bagby
Tony & Lisa Cook
- January 30 Andrew Johnmeyer
Troy Williams
Colt Hilgedick
Charleigh Barringhaus



IN THE MAIL

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for the gift card to Emmet's given to me at Christmas. As I begin my 17th year as secretary, I want everyone to know how much I value the many blessings and friendships this position has offered me. I appreciate your thoughtfulness each and every year.
Sincerely, Lori Strodman

Dear FCC Family,
Thank you so much for the Emmet's gift card. It is one of my favorite places to eat and I will certainly enjoy an evening out. I wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!
Sincerely,
Pat Hilgedick

Dear Members of First Christian Church,
What a crazy year we've had—I hope next year will be back to normal. All's OK with me and my family. They are taking good care of me. My granddaughter is coming out once a week to learn how to quilt, and she's making a beautiful quilt, I love it! We must be thankful for all our blessings! Hope everyone is staying well. Much love, peace and blessings to you all.
Donna Baker

FCC Fayette,
Thanks so much for all the Christmas cards that were sent to us in the church office. I also want to say thank you for the gift card from the church. You are a supportive and generous congregation. It is an honor to serve alongside you. I would also like to express a sincere thank you to all who helped make our Christmas Eve worship so wonderful. Many hands went into bringing a lot of different elements together to create a meaningful worship experience.
Stephen

Pastoral Search Committee Update

The Pastoral Search Committee began 2020 with plenty of hope that we would have a settled Pastor ready for our church by Easter, but God had other plans for us. As hard as 2020 has been for all of us, and through all the difficulties associated with the Pandemic, your search committee continued to work throughout the year. We conducted meetings via Zoom and in person (practicing COVID protocols). As a result, we reviewed close to thirty Pastoral profiles, talked to many references, and conducted multiple interviews with prospective Pastors via Zoom and in person. We visited churches to observe ministers, and even flew to Oklahoma to talk in person to one Pastor. Through all of this we have yet to find our settled Pastor. The committee continues to work and move forward and we are now in the process of reviewing several new profiles that have been sent to us by our Regional Minister. We are in prayer that our settled Pastor might be one of these. We know God has someone for us, and this will happen in his time, not in ours. The committee asks for continued prayers as we move forward into 2021.
Yours in Christ, Fred Eaton, Search Committee Chair

The 2021 Lenten Devotional Booklet

We will be collaborating, for another year, with Boonville First Christian to generate a joint devotional booklet this coming year. And we will also be sharing our devotional booklet with a couple other smaller Disciple churches as well. So, we will need to write a total of 40 devotionals minimum for the booklet. Plus kid sketches, if possible.

HERE is the key **DUE DATE** for devotionals to the editor (based on a February 17th Ash Wednesday): **SUNDAY, JANUARY 31st**, at noon. That's earlier than last year. So, please start thinking about a bible reference, devotional, and a prayer now. I am always available for help if needed.



Thanks. Jay Stevenson, Editor

Music Boosters Trivia Night

January 16th @ 7:00 p.m.
Fayette High School Gym
Doors open @ 6:30 p.m.
\$100 per team of 8 people or less
Bring snacks for your table only
Table decorating contest
Contact Vanessa Miner
@ vminer@fayetteschool.org



It has been a tradition for the members of FCC to fill out valentines to be delivered to friends and members of the church. Due to Covid, this year the church office will send one beautiful valentine to each individual. You are certainly welcome to mail valentines direct to their home if you wish.



Hopefully, we can go back to our traditional way next year.

The 2021 Serving Schedule is available on the oak table in the North entrance and also in the front vestibule.



Worship Schedule for January



Date: Sunday, January 3, 2021 - Epiphany of the Lord
Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12
Sermon: When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

Date: Sunday, January 10, 2021 - First Sunday after the Epiphany
Scripture: Mark 1:4-11 (Baptism)
Sermon: He saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 - Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Scripture: John 1:43-51
Sermon: Can anything good come out of Nazareth?

Date: Sunday, January 24, 2021 - Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Scripture: Mark 1:14-20
Sermon: Follow me and I will make you fish for people.

Date: Sunday, January 31, 2021 - Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Scripture: Mark 1:21-28
Sermon: What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?

FCC Outreach Committee Disbursement Summary 2020

The Outreach Committee is "responsible for challenging the congregation to look at the ministries beyond our own life", and does so through efforts that support individuals in need, assisting local organizations that serve those with great need, providing financial support to the church at local, regional, national and international levels. We have again matched congregational donations for scheduled special offerings. Due to Covid19, this year looks a bit different and the congregational matches have not been as large.

Match Congregational Offerings	\$245
Fayette Ministerial Alliance (Food Pantry)	\$1,000
Festival of Sharing	\$1,000
Week of Compassion	\$1,000
Educational Scholarships to FCC Members	\$1,000
FCC After School Program Support (reimb. 2019)	\$700
AED Refresher Packs (new batteries)	\$508
Woodhaven "Ungala" Donation	\$1,010
Holiday House	<u>\$1,500</u>
TOTAL	\$7,963

Church Cancellation Policy due to Weather

The Minister &/or the Board Chair will decide by 8:00 a.m. if they need to cancel church. It will be placed on Channel 8, 13 & Channel 17 news. It will also be on Facebook and texted to those signed up. It is the policy of the church that if the public school cancels classes during the week, then any church events on those days will be cancelled as well.

