



THE CHURCH VISITOR

A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR FRIENDS

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

307 W. Jackson, Mexico, Mo. 65265

No. 9

April 24, 2024

Vol. 76



Let's read and enjoy our Bibles.

Sunday, April 28, 2024:

(Fifth Sunday of Easter)

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

Sunday, May 5, 2024:

(Sixth Sunday of Easter)

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

Sunday: April 28, 2024

Elders: Diana Henage and Alan Street

Deacons: Team 1

Jordon Bright, Aubrey Bunge, Stephanie Owings, and Pat Thomas.

Deaconesses: Kathy Peak and Sherry Medley

Liturgist: Julie Stephens

Sunday: May 5, 2024

Elders: Alan Street and Diana Henage

Deacons: Team 2

Sara Given, Martha Hagan, Warren Nordwald and Kim Whorton.

Deaconesses: Carol Hines and Sharon Slater

Liturgist: Jean Stephens

Joy In All Circumstances

In prison for preaching the good news that Jesus' death leads to eternal life, the apostle Paul pens a letter to his friends in Philippi (Philippians 1:7). He reminds them that his imprisonment is being used by God. His suffering has caused others to trust Jesus as their King and Savior (Philippians 1:12). He might be in chains, but the Gospel cannot be bound. Prison guards are hearing the good news of Jesus (Philippians 1:13).

Christians, seeing the example of Paul under arrest, are boldly and fearlessly sharing the Gospel (Philippians 1:14). Though Paul is in chains and he may soon face death, he rejoices that Jesus is proclaimed (Philippians 1:18).

Prisoners in the first century were not typically provided basic necessities. They had to rely on family and friends to support them. The Philippian church, moved with compassion for their friend, sent a financial gift to provide for Paul in his need (Philippians 4:18). Paul now writes back this letter to send his heartfelt thanks. Yet he has also heard of the divisions spreading in the church he founded (Philippians 1:27, 4:2-3). He puts pen to paper, thinking of the one thing that has sustained him all these years: joy in Jesus.

Paul will soon stand trial, and he waits for that day, not with anxiety but with joy. He is convinced that Jesus will be praised by either his release or his execution (Philippians 1:20). If he is spared, he will continue to share the Gospel. If he is killed, he gets to be with Jesus (Philippians 1:21-22). Regardless of his verdict, he encourages the Philippians to stand together, united by the Gospel he has given his life to proclaim (Philippians 1:27).

Paul was no stranger to imprisonment. In fact, the first time he was arrested was in Philippi several years earlier (Acts 16:23-24). When one of his jailers trusted Jesus, Paul saw firsthand how God could use a prison cell (Acts 16:25-34). And now, once again in a Roman prison, Paul looks beyond his present suffering to the ways God is working to bring people to himself. He reminds us that even as things around us seem bleak, God uses those circumstances for good (Philippians 1:12-14). Out of death and suffering, God brings life and joy (Philippians 1:18).

The good news of Jesus transformed the way Paul saw everything. Jesus shows us that our suffering leads to resurrection. Like Paul, Jesus was arrested, tried, and even executed. He willingly laid down his own life for us, becoming enchained in the prison of death. But this wasn't the end. His imprisonment and death led to freedom and resurrection. The chains of death are forever broken, bringing us life with God. On the other side of his suffering, Jesus saw the joy that was to come. And this joy enabled him to endure torment and even death (Hebrews 12:2). Because Jesus suffered, we can now say, like Paul, "to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21-23). Whether we live or die, Jesus will be seen as supreme. And in that, we can wholeheartedly rejoice.

Pastor Zane

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
 Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
 All Together Youth Ministry (9th-12th Grade) @ FPC 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Kids 4 Christ (K-5th Grade) @ FPC 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
 Bell Choir 6:00 p.m.
 Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m.
 All Together Youth Ministry (6th-12th Grade) @ FCC 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
 Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
 All Together Youth Ministry (9th-12th Grade) @ FPC 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT AS OF APRIL 22, 2024:

Total income year to date: **\$81,016** Total expenses year to date: **\$63,743**
 Income vs expenses: **\$17,273** Budget needs Weekly: **\$4,782**
 Average weekly income: **\$5,064**

Memorials & Gifts



Harry Fowler

Ron Boswell (S)
 Karen Dodd
 Donna Peak (S)

S) indicates Scholarship fund

Outreach April Collection:

Hope of the Ozarks Backpack Program

Hope of the Ozarks is a non-profit organization that offers Christian summer camps for children and teenagers with parents in prison. These camps provide hope for a better future by encouraging good choices. You can help by donating to purchase backpacks filled with essential items like a flashlight, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, hairbrush/comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, and deodorant.

To contribute, please donate cash or a check made out to First Christian Church and note "Hope of the Ozarks Backpack/Camp Program" in the memo. Donations are due by April 30th.



Bright Spots!



Summer Camp will be here before we know it. Be sure to get signed up at <https://www.mid-americadisciples.org/summer>. Scholarships are available before May 10th! Mission trip permission forms went out Wednesday. Be sure to get them turned in before May 1st. We will be traveling to Moberly, MO May 23rd-26th.

Come join us for Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-10am. This gentle and enjoyable exercise is a great way to maintain good health. Our experienced instructor, Janie Maxwell, will lead the class. Don't miss out on the opportunity to take care of yourself and have fun at the same time!



5/1	Ashley Hodges	5/17	Scott Miller
5/3	Dale Donovan	5/19	Jean Stephens
5/5	Craig Bledsoe	5/21	Brad Smith
5/7	Elliot Smith	5/25	Cathy Cidras
5/9	David Hagan	5/26	Ty Sims
5/11	Aubrey Bunge	5/28	Colony Bledsoe
5/13	Randy Owings	5/30	Becky Peterson
5/16	Barbara Miller	5/31	Valerie White
5/16	Joe May		

Members We Haven't Seen in Awhile!

Let's shower **Barbara Miller** with cards for her birthday on **April 29th** to let her know we are thinking about her.

Barbara Miller
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 Benton City, MO 65232



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