



## THE CHURCH VISITOR A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR FRIENDS

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

307 W. Jackson, Mexico, Mo. 65265

March 15, 2023

No. 6

Vol. 75

*When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!" "You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel." But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.*

**Acts 12:12-16**

### When To Stop Praying

While Peter was in prison awaiting execution, the church was gathered in Jerusalem and "praying earnestly" for him. The strange story, recorded in Acts 12, says that an angel appeared and released Peter in the middle of the night. But when he arrived at the home where the church was secretly praying, no one believed he was at the door. Only a young servant girl, Rhoda, believed it was really Peter. The adults, still fervently praying, told her she was crazy.

Scripture repeatedly calls us to pray, to appeal to God with our needs, and to seek his favor for both our friends and our enemies. This is exactly what the believers in Jerusalem were obediently doing for Peter. Scripture, however, does not call us to only pray. We must also discern when the time for intercession has ended and we are called to move on.

There is a time for prayer, and there is a time for action. There is a time to cry out to God, and there is a time to claim his victory. There is a time to seek his intervention, and a time to accept his answer. There is a time to ask for his wisdom, and a time to simply obey his command. There is a time to be on our knees, and a time to get up and open the door.

Our failure to discern these moments arises from a popular view that falsely equates prayer with piety and action with its absence. The critical issue is not whether we pray or act, but whether we pray or act *in faith*. The prayers of a thousand priests, prophets, pastors, or preachers are meaningless if they pray without faith. It is meaningless if they are not willing to look at how they may be used to by God to answer the prayers they give.

The failure to be moved to act in the same way we are praying is why a jaded world doesn't think very highly of (what should be) a powerful phrase: "my thoughts and prayers are with you." The world hears the prayers, but doesn't see the ones giving the prayers always acting in the same faith the prayer tries to proclaim. They want God's people (and so does God by the way) to do more than only pray. In the words of Pope Francis "You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. That's how prayer works."

I don't just pray for my neighbors; I actively look to help them. I don't just pray for a kinder world; I treat all people, even the troublesome ones, with kindness and respect.

I wonder how many times, like the Christians in Jerusalem, I have failed to see God's goodness because I could not discern when to stop praying.

Still praying, and trying to pay attention of when being called to act....just as you do the same!

Pastor Zane

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH SCHEDULE

<b>Thursday, March 16, 2023</b>	
<i>Lenten Bible Study in Fellowship Hall</i>	<i>6:30 pm-7:30 pm</i>
<b>Sunday, March 19, 2023</b>	
Sunday School	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:30 am
<i>General Board Meeting</i>	<i>Following Service</i>
All Together Youth Ministries (9th-12th Grade) @ FPC	7:30 pm-9:00 pm
<b>Wednesday, March 22, 2023</b>	
Kids 4 Christ @ FPC	After School-5:00 pm
Bell Choir	6:00 pm
Chancel Choir	7:00 pm
All Together Youth Ministries (6th-12th Grade) @ FCC	6:00 pm-7:30 pm
<b>Thursday, March 23, 2023</b>	
<i>Lenten Bible Study in Fellowship Hall</i>	<i>6:30 pm-7:30 pm</i>
<b>Sunday, March 26, 2023</b>	
Sunday School	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:30 am
All Together Youth Ministries (9th-12th Grade) @ FPC	7:30 pm-9:00 pm
<b>Monday, March 27, 2023</b>	
<i>Easter Lily Orders Due</i>	
<i>Trustees' Meeting</i>	<i>5:30 pm</i>
<b>Wednesday, March 29, 2023</b>	
<i>Prayer on the Square</i>	<i>12:10 pm</i>
Kids 4 Christ @ FPC	After School-5:00 pm
Bell Choir	6:00 pm
Chancel Choir	7:00 pm
All Together Youth Ministries (6th-12th Grade) @ FCC	6:00 pm-7:30 pm
<b>Thursday, March 30, 2023</b>	
<i>Lenten Bible Study in Fellowship Hall</i>	<i>6:30 pm-7:30 pm</i>

memorials  
& gifts

## In Honor of Scholarship Recipients

Howard and Dorothy Graf (S)  
Nick and LeeAnn Paladin (S)  
Kay Sterner (S)

**S) indicates Scholarship fund**

There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex (or you may call the office) for Chain of Prayer, **Friday, March 31, 2023**. This is a time for praying, singing, reading the bible, or simply finding peace in the power of prayer. Let's keep this chain of prayer going by signing up. If you can, please consider signing up to be a Host or Hostess too. Thank you for your continued support of this wonderful experience.



Easter Lily  
Orders

Everyone is invited to purchase a Lily in honor or remembrance of family or a friend. The lilies will be displayed for the Easter Service on Sunday, April 9th.

If you would like me to purchase a lily from the florist, please contact the church office by March 27th (so florist has time to order, price is \$10).

If you call the florist to place your order or bring your own, please let the office know by April 5th, so your honoree gets listed in the bulletin. If you are bringing your own, you may drop it off the week of April 3rd. The office is closed for Good Friday April 7th, but open Mon-Thurs from 7am-4pm. As always, if those times don't work, just let me know and we will figure something out :)

You may take the lily home at the completion of the Easter service.



## As of March 14, 2023

Budget needs Weekly: \$4,441  
Year to Date Expenses: \$39,689

Average Weekly Income: \$4,247  
Income vs Expenses: \$11,279

Year to Date Income: \$50,968



*Let's read and enjoy our Bibles.*

**Sunday, March 19, 2023:  
(Fourth Sunday in Lent)**

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

**Sunday, March 26, 2023:  
(Fifth Sunday in Lent)**

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

**ANGEL WINGS EASTER EVENT!**



The Outreach Committee will be partnering with Angel Wings to help spread compassion and hope this Easter by collecting candy and small toys (hot wheels, playdoh, slime, hair bows, nail polish, or small stocking stuffer type items).

If you would like to donate to this worthwhile cause, there will be a box in the Narthex (we need to get the items to Angel Wings no later than the end of March). Thank you in advance for your support!

Angel Wings would also like help with 200 sugar cookies. They need to be about the size of a cell phone (5 inches) in the shape of an egg. They have big cookie cutters at Walmart this size. I also have one here at the church you could borrow. Jodi gives them to the kids plain and they decorate them.

If you would like to volunteer to bake and freeze some of them, please bring them to the church during March to keep in the ice freezer downstairs. Please let church office know if you plan to help, so we can let Jodi know how many to expect.



**Spring Cleaning for a  
Rummage Sale.**

The Outreach Committee will host a Rummage and Goodies sale on May 6th. Please keep us in mind as you "spring clean". While shoes, purses, and other accessories are welcomed, no clothing is accepted. Remember that your junk might become someone else's treasure!



There will be a Youth Fundraiser dinner April 23<sup>rd</sup> at First Christian Church from 11:30-1pm. Join us for a BBQ meal to support this year's mission trip. The youth will be serving meals for dine in, carry-out and drive thru. Drive thru will be available behind the church in the parking lot. Thank you ahead of time for supporting our youth and their summer activities.

This year's summer mission trip will be to Burlington, Iowa FROM August 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. Permission forms have been sent out and are due back April 26<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Camp registration is open at:  
<https://www.mid-america-disciples.org/summer> or you can get a paper registration from Sara.

*Sara Bright—Youth Director*

**TO ALL SENIORS OR COLLEGE MEMBERS OF  
THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

The First Christian Church has awarded this scholarship each year since 1986. We are hoping to reach every high school senior and college student who is eligible to receive this scholarship.

Scholarship applications may be requested from the church office. Office phone 573.581.4628 or email Shellonda Jahn at [smannfcc77@gmail.com](mailto:smannfcc77@gmail.com).

All applications must be returned to the First Christian Church Office by April 5, 2023.

Each scholarship application will be scored by the committee in the following manner. Each item will be graded from 1 through 5 with 5 being the highest.

- Participation in First Christian Church of Mexico, Mo.
- Length of membership in First Christian Church, by the applicant.
- Applicant's employment.
- Participation in the Mexico Community.
- Applicant GPA and class rank.
- Must be a member of FCC.

*First Christian Church Scholarship Committee*

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)  
307 West Jackson St.  
Mexico, Mo. 65265

***Graduation time will be here  
before we know it!***



Our Scholarship fund can always use replenishing. Please consider donating to this fund by honoring a loved one as a memorial gift. Be sure to mark your check "scholarship fund" in the memo or on your envelope so it will be credited to the correct account.

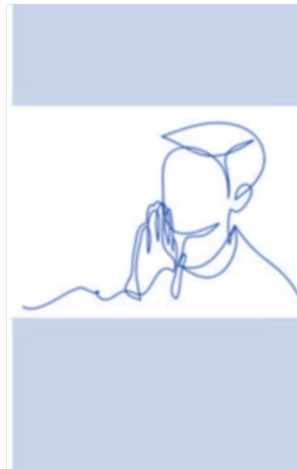
Thank you for helping our next generation succeed both financially and spiritually.

## **Sunday, March 19, 2023**

Fourth Sunday in Lent  
Sunday School-9:15 a.m.  
Worship Service-10:30 a.m.

## **Sunday, March 26, 2023**

Fifth Sunday in Lent  
Sunday School-9:15 a.m.  
Worship Service-10:30 a.m.



## **Prayer on the Square**

**12:10 PM**  
**Last Wednesday of  
each Month**

**OUTSIDE THE COURTHOUSE  
MEXICO, MO**

**Sponsored by the  
Mexico, MO Ministerial Alliance**

Sign up for email reminders:  
[ministerialalliancemexico@gmail.com](mailto:ministerialalliancemexico@gmail.com)

Sign up for text reminders:  
[text@mexicomn](mailto:text@mexicomn) to the number 81010

## **Sunday: March 19, 2023**

**Elders:** Doug Thomas and Bob Given

**Deacons:** Team 2

Martha Hagan, Alan Street, Connie Street and Kim Whorton.

**Deaconesses:** Carol Hines and Barbara Robinson

**Liturgist:** Carla Tanzey

## **Sunday: March 26, 2023**

**Elders:** Stephanie Owings and Kathy Spires

**Deacons:** Team 3

Ron Boswell, Linda Moody, LeeAnn Paladin and Cody Sims.

**Deaconesses:** Carol Hines and Barbara Robinson

**Liturgist:** Martha Hagan