



No. 3

THE CHURCH VISITOR A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR FRIENDS

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

307 W. Jackson, Mexico, Mo. 65265

February 5, 2020

Vol. 72

*"You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven. For he causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. **Matthew 5:43-45***

God's Love

During this year's Super Bowl there was a commercial for a life insurance company that described all the different Greek words for love. Here is an over simplified list of words with their meanings:

- Eros, or sexual passion. ...
- Philia, or deep friendship. ...
- Ludus, or playful love. ...
- Agape, or love for everyone. ...
- Pragma, or longstanding love. ...
- Philautia, or love of the self.

Love is a big concept that if we are honest our English word just does not capture. You can "love" pancakes and you can love your spouse, which is different than loving your kids.

Then scriptures tells us weird things to do with love. Love your enemies? What a crazy concept! "Love the ex-spouse who hurt me? Love the co-worker who ruined my reputation? Love the family member who took advantage of me? Love the person who voted for that guy? No! I want to make them pay for what they did. I want to hurt them for the way they hurt me. It just makes more sense."

It makes sense to our sinful nature. But it is not God's nature. God's nature of love goes beyond our inadequate English words and it goes beyond the details of all the Greek words. God's love sends blessings even on those who thumb their noses at him and each other. God went to great and sacrificial lengths through Christ to save those who sinned against him again and again—people like you and me. God PERFECTLY loves us—although we have not perfectly loved others.

If we want to love like God then we will love even our enemies. We will forgive the spouse who hurt us. We will be kind to the co-worker who ruined our reputation. We will pray for the family member who took advantage of us. After all, they need love and forgiveness just like we do.

Love you!
Pastor Zane

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 9, 2020	
Adult Sunday School	9:15 am
Kids for Christ's Kingdom (Sunday School)	9:15 am-10:15 am
Kids for Christ's Kingdom (Children's Church)	10:45 am-11:30 am
Worship Service	10:30 am
<i>Middle School Youth @ FPC</i>	<i>12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.</i>
<i>High School Youth @ FPC</i>	<i>5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.</i>
Wednesday, February 12, 2020	
<i>Kids 4 Christ @ FPC</i>	<i>3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Youth Group @ FCC</i>	<i>6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Bell Choir</i>	<i>6:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Chancel Choir</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>
Thursday, February 13, 2020	
<i>Nancy Heckman—Celebration of Life</i>	<i>5:00 pm-6:30 pm</i>
February 14 - 15	
<i>Middle School (6h-8th grade) Retreat</i>	
Sunday, February 16, 2020 <i>Week of Compassion (Special Offering)</i>	
Adult Sunday School	9:15 am
Kids for Christ's Kingdom (Sunday School)	9:15 am-10:15 am
Kids for Christ's Kingdom (Children's Church)	10:45 am-11:30 am
Worship Service	10:30 am
<i>General Board Meeting - 1st Qtr. Luncheon</i>	<i>Following Service</i>
<i>Middle School Youth @ FPC</i>	<i>12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.</i>
<i>High School Youth @ FPC</i>	<i>5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.</i>
Monday, February 17, 2020	
<i>Trustees' Meeting</i>	<i>Cancelled</i>
Wednesday, February 19, 2020	
<i>Kids 4 Christ @ FPC</i>	<i>3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Youth Group @ FCC</i>	<i>6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Bell Choir</i>	<i>6:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Chancel Choir</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>



Mary Ellen Jones Davis

Robert & Donna Peak (S)

Fay Boswell

Bill & Mary Azdell (S)

Mary Kobush (S)

Robert & Donna Peak (S)

Nancy Heckman

Robert & Neola Williams

Judy Iman

David & Lindsey Gilday

Andy & Dedra Piper

Dona & Tim Thornton

Robert & Donna Peak (S)

S) indicates Scholarship fund



The Outreach Committee is thankful to the congregation for their donations of hand sanitizer and Kleenex in January. For the month of February our Outreach gals will be collecting toilet paper. Please lend a helping hand to help out our community. Collections will be donated to local recipients like The Help Center, Our Safe Place, The Room at the Inn, The Senior Center, Angel Wings Clothing Closet, and the Agape House.

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.



As of February 3, 2020

Budget needs Weekly: \$4,334
Year to Date Expenses: \$17,227

Average Weekly Income: \$3,699
Income vs Expenses: \$1,242

Year to Date Income: \$18,469



Let's read and enjoy our Bibles.

Sunday, February 9, 2020:

(Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany)

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-9 (10);
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16); Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday, February 16, 2020:

(Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany)

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8;
1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37



We are having a great time at youth with all 6th-12th grade students! We would love for you to join us:

***WEDNESDAY** nights at First Christian Church from 6-7:30

*And/or on **SUNDAYS** at First Presbyterian Church with Middle School Youth from 12:30-2pm and High School Youth from 5:30-7pm. See you all soon!

Join us for a meal on **March 1st** directly following worship to support the youth going on this year's mission trip!

Spring Youth retreat at Trinity Presbyterian Church is **March 13th-14th** for all youth! Let me know if you need a permission form. You won't want to miss this retreat.

It doesn't feel like summer outside, but now is the time to start planning our summer youth trips!

This year's youth mission trip will be to Newton, Iowa from **July 6th-11th**. Be sure to get your permission forms turned in to reserve your spot. Let me know if you have any questions.



The Outreach committee provides a casserole for the Our Safe Place teen group meeting the fourth Thursday of each month anytime before 3 PM at the old Brett, Erdel, Tanzey building (blue/cream door front) on Monroe Street downtown. Just ring the doorbell and someone will answer. Please include a note that says the casserole is from friends at First Christian Church who welcome all to attend. If you would like to help in this effort, please contact Shellonda at the church office. We would like to have a casserole for the months of May, June, July, August, and October. Pasta casseroles are a favorite and can even be brought in frozen and cooked onsite if necessary. Thank you in advance for helping our group's efforts...

Outreach Committee

Our church's "Week of Compassion" is one of the most highly respected and efficient Christian relief ministries in the world. It will be held from February 16th through the 23rd this year. However, feel free to donate anytime the month of February you wish.

Week of Compassion provides quick response to various disasters in the U.S. and around the world. This ministry also provides food, tents, blankets, tools and clean water to refugees and displaced persons. Small farmers across the globe also receive tools, seed and even counsel from our Week of Compassion mission-workers. ALL of this is done in the name of Jesus Christ!

Please remember to make your check to "First Christian Church" and clearly note it in the corner, "Week of Compassion". Thank you in advance!



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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



The next General Board Meeting will be held February 16th, immediately following worship. This is our 1st Quarter Potluck Luncheon, so please bring whatever you would like to share.

Sunday, February 9, 2020

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday School for All Ages-9:15 a.m.
Worship Service-10:30 a.m.

Sunday, February 16, 2020

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday School for All Ages-9:15 a.m.
Worship Service-10:30 a.m.



Sunday: February 9, 2020

Elders: Warren Nordwald and Stephanie Owings

Deacons: Team 3

Ron Boswell, Ruth Gritton, Melaney Higgins, Cody Sims, Katie Sims, Doug Thomas. Jr Deacons; Riley Given, Piper Higgins, Ty Sims

Deaconesses: Cheryl Bledsoe and Karen Dodd

Candles: Onna and Ella

Liturgist: Alan Street

Sunday: February 16, 2020

Elders: Bill Azdell and Jean Stephens

Deacons: Team 1

Jordan Bright, Lori Brandow, Bob Larkin, Kay Larkin, Scott Miller, Lori Osbourn, Debra Trabue. Jr. Deacons; Andrew Stephens, Jessica Stephens

Deaconesses: Cheryl Bledsoe and Karen Dodd

Candles: Ian and Tessa

Liturgist: Jean Stephens