



No. 18

THE CHURCH VISITOR
A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR FRIENDS
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
307 W. Jackson, Mexico, Mo. 65265
September 15, 2021

Vol. 73

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me."

1 Corinthians 13:11

DISCIPLES VS. CONVERTS

The church is always looking for new people. We know that we cannot grow with them, so we worry about how our message is getting across, what would attract more people, what would convert more people. But with that we must be careful because Jesus isn't looking for converts. He's looking for disciples.

Converts are new believers. We all start as converts. Too often we stop there. We make Christianity all about what we believe. Converts aren't bad or wrong. They are like babies. There's nothing wrong with being a baby. The problem comes when that doesn't change. When a baby acts like a baby, it's cute. When a 35-year-old does, it's sad. As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13:11, "When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me."

For years churches have worked to get people to make a decision to accept Christ, which is a great thing. It's important. But what happens next? Where's the follow up? How do we train up new Christians? Our mission isn't to win converts; it's to make disciples. So what is the difference?

1. Converts are believers who live like the world. Disciples are believers who live like Jesus.
2. Converts are focused on their values, interests, worries, fears, priorities, and lifestyles. Disciples are focused on Jesus.
3. Converts go to church. Disciples are the church.
4. Converts are involved in the mission of Jesus. Disciples are committed to it.
5. Converts cheer from the sidelines. Disciples are in the game.
6. Converts hear the word of God. Disciples live it.
7. Converts follow the rules. Disciples follow Jesus.
8. Converts are all about believing. Disciples are all about being.
9. Converts are comfortable. Disciples make sacrifices.
10. Converts talk. Disciples make more disciples.

A disciple is someone who whole-heartedly follows the life and example of Jesus, who makes His mission their mission, His values their values, and His heart their heart.

A disciple is someone who desperately seeks to be like Jesus. A disciple is someone so committed to the cause of Christ that they would follow Him through the gates of hell and back.

A disciple is someone who finds their entire identity, purpose and meaning in Jesus. Jesus is the center of their lives. They are all in, fully committed.

Not only is a disciple willing to die for Jesus, but they are dedicated to living every day of their life for Him.

Doing my best, and try to help you do yours as we live up the "Disciples of Christ" part of our name.

Pastor Zane

P.S. Thank you for all the cards and messages wishing me a "Happy Birthday!" It's the little things that make a huge impact!

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 19, 2021	
Adult Sunday School	9:15 am
Kids for Christ's Kingdom (Children's Church)	10:45 am-11:30 am
Worship Service	10:30 am
<i>General Board Meeting</i>	<i>Following Service</i>
Sunday Night Conversations (9th-12th Grades) @ FPC	7:30 pm-9:00 pm
Monday, September 20, 2021	
<i>Trustees' Meeting</i>	<i>5:30 pm</i>
Wednesday, September 22, 2021	
Kids 4 Christ @ FPC	After School-5:00 pm
Bell Choir	6:00 pm
Chancel Choir	7:00 pm
Wednesday Youth Group (6th-12th Grades) @ FCC	6:00 pm-7:30 pm
Thursday, September 23, 2021	
<i>Women's Bible Study - Fellowship Hall</i>	<i>6:30 pm-7:30 pm</i>
Sunday, September 26, 2021	
Adult Sunday School	9:15 am
Kids for Christ's Kingdom (Children's Church)	10:45 am-11:30 am
Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Night Conversations (9th-12th Grades) @ FPC	7:30 pm-9:00 pm
Wednesday, September 29, 2021	
Kids 4 Christ @ FPC	After School-5:00 pm
Bell Choir	6:00 pm
Chancel Choir	7:00 pm
Wednesday Youth Group (6th-12th Grades) @ FCC	6:00 pm-7:30 pm



Thomas Eisele
(Katie Sims' Step-Dad)

Bob & Neola Williams

S) indicates Scholarship fund

To My Church Family,

Thank you to each and everyone of you who phoned, or sent a beautiful card, or came to my 90th birthday celebration. It was an amazing time.

It has been a blessing in my life to be a part of our congregation for so many years.

Bette Sewell



The Nominating Committee will be approved at the September General Board Meeting. Please submit names to the church office for the Committee to consider for Board, Trustees, Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses.



As of September 14, 2021

Budget needs Weekly: \$4,304
Year to Date Expenses: \$138,742

Average Weekly Income: \$3,815
Income vs Expenses: \$2,420

Year to Date Income: \$141,163



Let's read and enjoy our Bibles.

Sunday, September 19, 2021:

(Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost)

Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; James 3:13—4; 3m 7-8a;
Mark 9:30-37

Sunday, September 26, 2021:

(Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

September Outreach Collection



During the month of September, our church will be collecting toothbrushes, toothpaste, and trash bags to be distributed to those in need within our community. You may participate in this project in several ways. You may bring your donations to the church for someone to distribute for you, you may take your items to an agency yourself, or you may contribute with a monetary donation either directly to the agency of your choice or to the church to be used for this project. Regardless of how you choose to participate, we would like for the agency to know that it comes from a project of First Christian Church.

There are cards at the church office if you'd like to use them, or you can tell the agency yourself as you deliver your items. Thank you in advance for helping us reach out to our community in a meaningful way!

The Outreach Committee



Containers of Compassion Sale

As you consider the theme for your container for the October 3-4th Container of Compassion Sale, please remember to sign up or call the church office during the month of September so a list of sale items can be compiled to be sent out on the Friday before the sale.

A list of sale items will be emailed to everyone on Friday, September 29th, so it would be helpful if you could let the church office know what your theme is by Wednesday, September 27th. If you need someone to pick up your container to deliver to the church that week, let the office know that as well.



HICKORY RIDGE ORCHARD: September, 18th from 2-4pm, all Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to meet us at the orchard. Be sure to bring \$5 for the corn maze.

HALLOWEEN FEST: October 31st at First Presbyterian Church from 4-6pm. All families are invited to join us for games, snacks, and of course candy.

****We are needing donations of candy for Halloween Fest! Please drop it off at First Christian Church. Thank you ahead of time for all your support.***

YOUTH GROUP is back up and running: **WEDNESDAYS** from 6-7:30pm for all youth 6th-12th at First Christian Church and **SUNDAYS** from 7:30-9pm for all youth 9th grade and up at First Presbyterian Church. We are looking for some people to prepare simple meals for our youth on Wednesdays (pizza, chicken nuggets, corn dogs, etc.). If you are interested in helping please contact Sara Bright.

KIDS 4 CHRIST begins this week. (September 15th) We still have a few spots open! After school pick up to 5pm every **WEDNESDAY!** Contact Sara if you are interested in joining.

Sara Bright—Youth Director

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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



Serving Schedule



The next General Board Meeting will be
on September 19, 2021.

Sunday, September 19, 2021

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday School for All Ages-9:15 a.m.
Worship Service-10:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 26, 2021

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday School for All Ages-9:15 a.m.
Worship Service-10:30 a.m.

Sunday: September 19, 2021

Elders: Carla Tanzey and Pat Thomas

Deacons: Team 1

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

Deaconesses: Becky Peterson and Jean Stephens

Liturgist: Sharon Slater

Sunday: September 26, 2021

Elders: Randy and Stephanie Owings

Deacons: Team 2

Martha Hagan, Sandy Black, Gus Moody, LeeAnn Paladin, Alan Street, Connie Street. Jr. Deacons; Alex Paladin, Katie Paladin

Deaconesses: Becky Peterson and Jean Stephens

Liturgist: Jean Stephens