



THE CHURCH VISITOR  
A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR FRIENDS  
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
307 W. Jackson, Mexico, Mo. 65265  
September 28, 2022

No. 20

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*Let's read and enjoy our Bibles.*

**Sunday, October 2, 2022:**

**(Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost)**

Lamentations 1:1-6; Lamentations 3:19-26 or Psalm 137;  
2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

**Sunday, October 9, 2022:**

**(Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost)**

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12; 2 Timothy 2:8-15;  
Luke 17:11-19

**Sunday: October 2, 2022**

**Elders:** Bill Azdell and Ed Stephens

**Deacons:** Team 2

Jean Stephens, Bob Larkin, Kay Larkin, Alan Street, Connie Street. Jr. Deacons; Tessa Higgins, Jessica Stephens

**Deaconesses:** Donna Peak and Sharon Slater

**Liturgist:** Stephanie Owings

**Sunday: October 9, 2022**

**Elders:** Warren Nordwald and Stephanie Owings

**Deacons:** Team 3

Doug Thomas, Melaney Higgins, LeeAnn Paladin, Cody Sims, Pat Thomas. Jr Deacons; Alex Paladin, Ty Sims

**Deaconesses:** Donna Peak and Sharon Slater

**Liturgist:** Aubrey Bunge



**Love Your Neighbor**

In what's known as the Matthew 22:34-40 Jesus says all that's truly important can be summed up in love – loving God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and loving your neighbors as yourself.

Here's how you can be a good neighbor:

**Realize who the term “neighbors” includes.** In the broadest sense, your neighbors are all of the people you encounter as you go through life. But your literal neighbors are the people who live close to your home – those in your actual neighborhood – and Jesus wants you to do your best to love them.

**Pray for compassion and flexibility.** Ask God to help you notice and care about the needs of those who live near you, and to empower you to be flexible with your daily schedule so you can accommodate your neighbors.

**Overcome fear.** Since the unknown often scares us, it's natural to feel afraid of approaching people you don't yet know. But keep in mind that very few people are actually dangerous; they're usually just normal people with interesting quirks. Remember, too, that God has placed desires to be known, accepted, and cared for into every person's soul, so your neighbors will likely welcome your efforts to get to know them. Pray for the strength you need to overcome fear, take the initiative to break through the isolation in your neighborhood, and start relationships with your neighbors.

**Check your motives.** Make your goal loving your neighbors unconditionally, whether or not they choose to begin relationships with Jesus or grow closer to Him. Don't view your neighbors as projects you must work on to convert or change. Instead, see them simply as people whom Jesus calls you to befriend. As you do, opportunities to talk about your [faith](#) who come naturally as you share the story of who you are and what's important to you. Never force sharing your faith; trust God to lead you to do so naturally for the best results.

**Give what you have.** Even a small amount of effort can make a big, positive difference in your neighbor's lives. When you give whatever you have to give to reaching out to your neighbors, God will multiply it to bring about miraculous results in your relationships with Him and your neighbors, and God will also empower you to keep giving as you go along.

**Be willing to receive.** Keep in mind that healthy friendships are two-sided relationships where both parties give and receive to and from each other. Don't just give without receiving. Pray for help to be humble and vulnerable in your relationships. Allow your neighbors to help you when they offer and you could use help with something.

**Set boundaries.** Pray for the discernment you need to set healthy boundaries with your neighbors so you all don't resent each other. Be responsible to love, encourage, bless, pray, and serve people, but don't take on responsibility for your neighbors' choices, emotions, or circumstances.

**Forgive neighbors who offend you.** Overlook minor annoyances by giving your neighbors grace, and work to resolve major conflicts. Pursue healing by following Jesus' command to forgive in every situation, and whenever possible, work to reconcile relationships.

Your Neighbor, Pastor Zane

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH SCHEDULE		
<b>Sunday, October 2, 2022 - World Communion Sunday</b>		
Sunday School		9:15 a.m.
Worship Service		10:30 a.m.
All Together Youth Ministry (9th-12th) @ FPC		7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, October 4, 2022</b>		
Young Adult Lunch @ FCC Fellowship Hall		12:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, October 5, 2022</b>		
Pastor Zane - Service @ King's Daughters		10:00 a.m.
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) @ FCC		6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
<b>Sunday, October 9, 2022</b>		
Outdoor Service @ Hickory Ridge Orchard		10:30 a.m.
All Together Youth Ministry (9th-12th) @ FPC		6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, October 11, 2022</b>		
Young Adult Lunch @ FCC Fellowship Hall		12:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, October 12, 2022</b>		
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) @ FCC		6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.



10/1	Rachel Owings	10/19	Debra Trabue
10/9	Collin Tanzey	10/19	Diana Henage
10/9	Alex Bledsoe	10/21	Kay Bunge
10/9	Emma Higgins	10/23	Murray Purcell
10/10	Steve Van Matre	10/23	Kim Whorton
10/10	Tracy Trabue	10/24	Morgan Silver
10/11	Cheryl Bledsoe	10/24	Warren Nordwald
10/11	Heidi Hultz	10/26	Betty Potts
10/11	Kyra Hultz	10/28	Piper Higgins
10/13	Katie Paladin	10/30	Kip Jackson
10/18	Kim Jackson	10/30	Ed Stephens

### Members We Haven't Seen in a While:

Murray Purcell's birthday is on October 23rd. Let's shower him with cards to let him know we are thinking about him! 1511 Webster Dr., Mexico, MO 65265.



### Bright Spots!

October 30<sup>th</sup> is Halloween Fest! From 5-7pm all youth and children in the church are invited to join us at the First Presbyterian Church Parking Lot. (400 Lakeview) There will be games, candy, music, hotdogs and more. It will be a great time of fellowship for our students.

We are looking for donations of prizes for Halloween fest. Prizes include candy, glow sticks, etc. Thank you so much for your help to make this event a fun time for our students.

All youth and kids programs are up and running. We hope all kids and you will join us. All Together Youth Ministry: **Sunday, 7:30-9pm** at First Presbyterian Church (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade); **Wednesday, 6-7:30pm** at First Christian Church (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)

Looking ahead... November 16th is All Together Youth Ministries Thanksgiving Dinner. We will be having dinner at First Christian Church from 6-7:30pm.

Sara Bright

Thank you to everyone who brought in trash bags, toothbrushes and toothpaste during the month of September! For the month of **October**, our Outreach Committee will be collecting soup in an effort to support our community through our local agencies. There is a container in the Narthex to put the soup in.

On **October 16th**, we will observe Blanket Sunday. "Blankets and throws provide warmth and comfort on cold nights and are tangible symbols of the love God provides." They can be used in times of disaster around the world or right here in Mexico through several of our agencies.

There are a couple of ways you may help with Blanket Sunday. If you want the money to stay local, please mark local on your check and Outreach will use that money to buy and deliver them to our local agencies. You may also purchase a blanket or throw to bring to the church to be delivered to our local agencies. If you would like to help blanket the **WORLD**, monetary donations will be sent to Church World Service.

The **Nominating Committee** has been formed. For 2022, the committee will consist of **Ron Boswell, Diana Henage, Stephanie Owings, Dorothy Snell, and Ed Stephens**. Anyone who wishes to volunteer for any of the positions coming open or suggest someone who they think would be a good fit, please let one of the Nominating Committee members know or notify the church office.

Outreach Committee

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