



Faith news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER |
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH |
MAY 2024

Pastor's Pen

“Let the Wise Hear”

Proverbs 1:5 states, **“Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance.”** The key word for me in this verse is “and”. Without this single word nothing happens for the one who hears but does not listen. Knowledge may be gained but without understanding guidance falters and will ultimately never come to the listener. All church leadership should “listen” to what this Proverb states as how to “obtain guidance”. This summer as a church we will try to listen in another way to obtain a clearer vision for our current and future ministries.

Starting in June, I will be leading (in conjunction with other church leadership) several small group discussions with different groups within the congregation. These discussions will be 30-45 minutes in length, held here at First Christian when possible, and open to anyone that wants to participate.

During our time together, I will be asking questions surrounding the idea of what we as First Christian Church want to proclaim as our current and future ministry expectations and goals. Together we will discuss and try to answer the question of how we as First Christian support and nurture the different age/life groups that make up our church fellowship. The goal of our time together is to create a list of ministry expectations and short-term goals for different life groups within First Christian Church.

We will specifically target the different life groups by age and where they are in their life journey. Here is the initial list and dates of the first round of discussions. The initial listening sessions will be held immediately after worship in the sanctuary on the listed Sundays in June. Alternate listening sessions will be added in July when possible.

(Continued on page 2)

Pastor's Pen

(Continued from page 1)

June 2nd Retirement age and beyond

June 9th No discussion groups due to the Street Party and VBS

June 16th Young adults 18-30

June 23rd Adults with children(18 and under) that are in school or at home. Childcare will be provided.

June 30th Empty Nesters and adults between the ages of 30 and retirement

I am hopeful that we will gather to discuss and hear what each of us expect of our ministry here at First Christian Church. When we have clear and agreed upon expectations of what we need to do as followers of Christ - we will have a greater chance of obtaining specific and life-changing ministry goals. I look forward to hearing, listening, and hopefully understanding to obtain guidance for the current and future ministry here at First Christian Church.

Shalom,
Pastor Sheldon



"Next year let's buy two carnations for the oldest mother."

Start the Party!

Let's get the party started! Vacation Bible School is fast approaching and we will be kicking it off with a street party on June 9th at 3:00 p.m. Join us for a car show, listen to the Praise Band as they perform, and enjoy a meal before Bible School begins at 6:00 p.m. All proceeds from the street party meal will be used to help fund summer camps/mission trips for our youth. We will be celebrating the good news of Jesus at Bible School every evening, June 9th through June 14th. We will begin with a meal at 5:30 p.m. followed by Bible School from 6:00 p.m. until 7:15 p.m. Classes are available for all children Pre-K through 6th grade. Have not volunteered to help with Bible School yet? Don't worry, we still have a place for you! Come join the party!

Contact Vicki Gunsaulus (641-521-5428) with any questions.

Church Camp

We are so fortunate to have our region's church camp located just a few miles away. We are also fortunate to be able to encourage and support our youth and adults who wish to attend camp/mission trips. Camps run from May 31st through August 3rd, in addition to a senior retreat September 16th-18th. Check their website at newtonccc.org for information on all the camps available. First Christian Church knows the importance of Christian education and will pay half of the registration fee for camp/mission trip that is attended. In the event that a camper cannot afford the fee, scholarships are available.

Anyone wanting to donate to the camp scholarship, please contact Pastor Sheldon or Vicki Gunsaulus.

MAY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:00 p.m. - Choir	2	3	4
5 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service 11:15 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship	6 1:00 p.m. - "Mat Monday"	7	8 6:00 p.m. - Choir	9 9:00 a.m. - Member Breakfast	10	11
12 Mother's Day 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service 11:15 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship	13 1:00 p.m. - "Mat Monday"	14 6:00 p.m. - Worship Team 7:00 p.m. - Board meeting	15	16 6:30 p.m. - CWF	17	18 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Graduation Open House for Tamion Adams (at Uncle Nancy's Coffeehouse)
19 Pentecost Honoring Our Graduates 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service 11:15 a.m. - Graduation Reception	20 June Newsletter Article Deadline 1:00 p.m. - "Mat Monday"	21	22	23	24	25
26 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service 11:15 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship	27 Memorial Day (church office closed)	28	29	30 9:00 a.m. - Newsletter Team 9:30 a.m. - Elders	31	

JUNE 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service 11:15 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship	3 1:00 p.m. - "Mat Monday"	4	5	6 9:00 a.m. - Member Breakfast	7	1 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Graduation Open House for Ophelia Phillips
9 VBS Kick-Off 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service 11:15 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship 3:00 p.m. - Street Party & Car Show 6:00 p.m. - Vacation Bible School	10 5:30 p.m. - Supper 6:00 p.m. - Vacation Bible School	11 5:30 p.m. - Supper 6:00 p.m. - Vacation Bible School	12 5:30 p.m. - Supper 6:00 p.m. - Vacation Bible School	13 5:30 p.m. - Supper 6:00 p.m. - Vacation Bible School	14	15
16 Father's Day 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service 11:15 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship	17 1:00 p.m. - "Mat Monday"	18	19	20 July Newsletter Article Deadline	21	22
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MISSION COALITION MISSION STATEMENT AND HISTORY

“Mission Coalition is an ecumenical lay ministry open to representatives from all Newton church congregations to provide a network of information and support to outreach projects of mutual interest to help those in need in Jasper County.”

Mission Coalition was organized in May, 1995 under the guidance of Shirley Dont member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. This group helped initiate the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program in Newton. Since that time, the group expanded the service projects in the community with fundraisers.

When there was a Newton Ministerial Association, the group had a representative sit in on the discussions and funds were provided for the Compassion Fund. Projects for the prison system in the county included giving books to prisoners at Riverview Release Center so inmates could read a book to their child. The group was also involved in the Mitchellville Women’s prison chapel funding. For many years the member churches delivered weekend Meals on Wheels to individuals on the Elderly Nutrition list. Due to Medicaid changes and COVID, the group is no longer involved with this program.

Funding was also given to El Salvador mission trips taken by Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Domestic Violence Center, Aces Teen Center in Newton, Quakerdale Youth Shelter at the old Jasper County Home. Mission Coalition also supported projects at Skiff Hospital, now Mercy One Newton, including the First Dose program and Skiff Hospice. Other organizations helped included RRACAP (Red Rock Community Action Program) now known as IMPACT for utility bills, Your First Step, Those Loving Children, Haven of Hope, Hephzibah House, and Beds for Kids sponsored by First Christian Church.

Members Shirley Dont, Sacred Heart Catholic and Linda Curtis-Stolper, First Presbyterian, were instrumental in writing the two booklets used in the Good Friday Way of the Cross Walk. This Walk continues each year to the seven downtown churches for a time of scripture, prayer, song, and reflection.

Current member churches: Congregational United Church of Christ, First Baptist, First Christian, First Lutheran, First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, Sacred Heart Catholic, St. Luke United Methodist, St. Stephen’s Episcopal, and United Presbyterian

Graduation Open House:

Saturday, May 18th

Tamion Adams

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

at Uncle Nancy’s Coffeehouse

114 N. 2nd Ave. W.

Saturday, June 1st

Ophelia Phillips

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

in Fellowship Hall

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

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Staff:

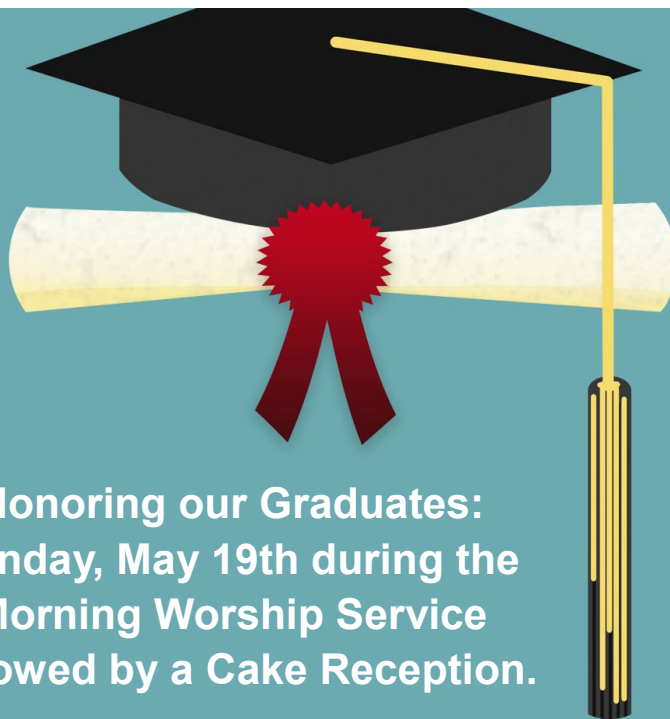
Sheldon Henderson, Pastor

Julie Brown, Office Manager

Tom Goeke, Custodian

Greta Wallace, Pianist

Cathi Wickett, Music Director



**Honoring our Graduates:
Sunday, May 19th during the
Morning Worship Service
followed by a Cake Reception.**