



Make sure to grab bags of wrapped candy and bring to church by Sunday, April 14 for the Easter Egg Hunt!

The Evening Ladies recently donated \$2,500 representing the monies raised at the 2017 and 2018 Cookie Walk to the Stoddard County Gospel Mission. The plan was to purchase paper products, but after discussing that with the Mission it was decided that at this point food was more important for servicing their families. We received this note from the mission ...

The mission is blessed to have friends such as you all. Thank you so much for your recent donation. I have just placed an order for more food and your donation will be used to help many food insecure families in our county! May you each be blessed for being so caring and sharing.

*Kim Lemons
Stoddard County Gospel Mission*

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
P. O. Box 295
Dexter, MO 63841



THE CHRISTIAN CRIER
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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April 1, 2019

The Pastor's Corner

Last week we received the news of Rev. Ron Beaton's impending departure with a mixture of surprise and sadness. The bishop of the Missouri Annual Conference has discerned the need for Ron to become pastor of Farmington's Memorial United Methodist Church. This news has sent understandable shock waves through First United Methodist Church and the Dexter community. Although Pastor Ron has only been in town for three years, with his gregarious nature and unquenchable energy, it seems like he has been here for much longer. There is no question that he, Kasey, Issac, and Hannah are all going to be desperately missed.

Because of all the shared ministry that our congregations are involved in, the Disciples of First Christian Church are also coming to terms with a new reality. Ever since the announcement was made I have had several conversations with members of our church who have been touched by their encounters with Ron and Kasey. We have all shared time together with them in joint worship services, youth group activities, Vacation Bible School, the blessing of the animals, Dexter Ministerial Alliance, and in numerous events throughout the community. Without exception, those I have spoken to have praised the creativity, humor, and faithfulness that Ron brings to his pastorate. Kasey's wisdom and the founding of Moms on a Mission ensure that she will continue to make an impact long after her departure.

On a personal note, as several people have remarked, Lily and I are saying goodbye to close friends. We were regular guests in the United Methodist parsonage while the Beatons have spent many nights sitting around campfires in the backyard of the Disciples of Christ parsonage. It was a rare gift to have so quickly bonded with a couple who so clearly exemplifies what Christian marriage should look like. I will be forever grateful for the countless cups of coffee (and the occasional stronger beverage) Ron and I consumed during lengthy discussions of some esoteric theological point. Likewise, I deeply appreciate Kasey's patience with me regularly keeping her husband up far too late for his own good. Along the way they provided a tireless listening ear and the support that Lily and I needed throughout my deployment. For all of that I will be eternally grateful.

Although things will inevitably change somewhat with Pastor Ron's departure, the close relationship that our church has with our United Methodist sisters and brothers is not coming to an end. Our two congregations share many gifts in terms of theology, personality, and mission. We are already scheduled to continue our shared Vacation Bible School. We will work together in support of Feeding Christ's Children, the Festival of Sharing, and the Dexter Ministerial Alliance. We look forward to welcoming their new pastor, whoever he or she might be, and helping them become a part of the community.

Please join me in praying for both the incoming and outgoing United Methodist ministers. I am thankful for legacy left by the Beatons. Likewise, I am grateful for experience and calling God has placed on the life of my new colleague (who had not yet been named at the time of this writing) and look forward to working together in the years to come. Christ will use whomever is called here in powerful ways. I ask the Holy Spirit's guidance on all our Methodist friends as they go through this exciting, and challenging, time of transition.

*April
Serving Schedule*

Elders: Susie Grobe & Nona Robinson
Deacons: Jon & Deidre Thompson (communion prep.), Danny Fraser, Lily Williams, Judy Rhodes, Gary Williams
Greeters: Sue Christian
Welcome /Worship Leader:
 4-07 Debbie Vanslyke
 4-14 Sean Vanslyke
 4-21 Debbie Stidham
 4-28 Susie Grobe
Acolyte: Mattie Thompson
Computer & Sound Board: Need Volunteer
Special Music:
 4-07 Larry Speight
 4-14 Tommy Horton
 4-21 Joyful Noise
 4-28 Debbie Ellinghouse
Open/Close Church: Sean Vanslyke

(If you will not be able to serve on the Sunday listed, please find your replacement and notify the church office who will be serving in your place.)

PRAYER LIST— Elizabeth Demaree, Mary Ellen Blankenship, Bill & Dee Boesen, Charles Carrier, Carolyn Carroll, Mona Chilcutt, Connie Millington Churchill, Carryl Clippard, Amanda Corbett, Carolyn Corlew, Maxine Daniel, Angie Dugan, Kent Edwards, Shirley Edwards, Sue Waggoner-Flowers, Louise Francis, Nina Geary, Lori Hawkins, The Family of Dana Hawkins, Raydean Hendrix, Josephine Hueckel, Elvena Martin, Betty & Bob Mayer, Carolyn Montgomery, Winnie Morgan, Diana Orr, Mae Pope, Jack Rodgers, Scott Russell, The Family of Jim Smith, Linda Smith, Rita Speight, Marty Thompson, Jerry Thrower, Lois Vaughn, Bonnie Yersak's son, Tyler



*Sunday, April 14
10:00 a.m.—Palm Sunday Worship Service*

*Thursday, April 18
7:00 p.m.—Maundy Thursday Service*

*Friday, April 19
7:00 p.m.—Good Friday Service*

*Easter Sunday, April 21
7:00 a.m.—Sunrise Service at the Barney Residence
8:00 a.m.—Easter Morning Brunch at the Barney Residence
9:00 a.m.—Easter Egg Hunt at the Barney Residence (kids gather in The Disciple Center at 8:45 to walk over together)
10:00 a.m.—Worship Service and Baptisms*



SHUT-IN OF THE MONTH
 Louise Francis
 15475 St. Hwy. AF
 Dexter, MO 63841
 A visit, card or phone call would mean so much.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--------------------|---|--|--|------------------|
| | 1 | 2 Prayer Group | 3 | 4 CHURCH YARD SALE 7:00-4:00 | 5 7:00-4:00 | 6 8:00-Noon |
| 7 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 6:00-7:30 Youth | 8 6:00 Zumba | 9 Prayer Group | 10 | 11 Bootheel Cluster Meeting 6:00 Zumba 6:00 VBS Meeting at Methodist Church | 12 | 13 Gym Rental |
| 14 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 6:00-7:30 Youth | 15 11:30 CWF Meets at Airways 6:00 Zumba | 16 Prayer Group | 17 11:00 Meet at Gospel Mission to assemble Easter Dinners | 18 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m. | 19 GOOD FRIDAY Service 7:00 p.m. | 20 |
| 21 7:00 Sunrise Service 8:00 Brunch 9:00 Egg Hunt 10:00 Worship | 22 6:00 Zumba | 23 Prayer Group | 24 | 25 6:00 Zumba | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 6:00-7:30 Youth | 29 6:00 Zumba | 30 Prayer Group | 1 | 2 6:00 Zumba | 3 | 4 |