



Our congregation has always gathered in May to honor our graduates and show them how much they are loved by their church family. Although this year we won't be gathering in the Disciple Center to honor AnnMarie Long and Parker Vanslyke, we can still show them our love by sending them cards and well wishes. Drop a card in the mail and brighten their day!!

Ann Marie Long  
221 Black Willow Lane  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Parker Vanslyke  
P. O. Box 953  
Dexter, MO 63841

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Here are the different ways you can continue to support the church during this time:

Go to our website at [www.fccdexter.org](http://www.fccdexter.org) and scroll down and you will see a link for Online Giving. Click on that link and you will be walked through the process.

Or from your cellphone text 8449151254 and in the message box put the amount of your giving (i.e. 5.00) and send the text. You will receive a link back to complete your transaction.

Or, you may mail your giving to First Christian Church, P. O. Box 295, Dexter MO 63841

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 23, 2020

**THE PASTOR'S CORNER**

Without a doubt, the past six weeks have been some of the strangest we have ever been through in our community. The arrival of the coronavirus in Missouri has changed nearly everything about the way families, schools, and businesses in Dexter operate. Our church has been totally disrupted as well. Lent looked completely different than planned. We last gathered in our sanctuary as a full congregation on March 8. We are not going to be able to celebrate the graduation of Parker Vanslyke and AnnMarie Long in person.

The elders of our church discussed our strategy at the March meeting. On March 15 we had a hybrid service with many members participating from home on Facebook Live. CDC guidance changed and a week later we were down to just a small production team filming the services while everyone else joined in via technology. Ever since the Stoddard County Health Department's stay at home order we have been working entirely online and improvising new ways of organizing. Some ideas have worked. Some have not. Software that works one day may not work the next. Additionally, different technologies work better for different people.

Many people in our church are online. Some people are not. If you are online, you can watch our Sunday live stream even if you do not have a Facebook account. If you are not online, you can pick up the phone and dial in to the weekday digital devotions. This newsletter describes the various ways you can stay connected to the church. Some of them you may have tried. Some of them you may not. If you have trouble getting plugged in somewhere, please let Kim, myself, or Candice Garner know and we will do our best to help you.

Finally, I want to remind you that even though we have not been able to meet in our beautiful sanctuary for far too long, we are still the church. For years we have said that the church is not the building. It is the people. For the past month and a half I have seen proof of that fact. Candice Garner has a team of volunteers lined up to help people with groceries and other errands. The elders are staying in touch with their shepherding families. The prayer group is busy lifting up the people of our community. Crafters are making masks for health care workers. We contributed \$3,600 to the Stoddard County Gospel Mission food pantry to ensure that people have enough to eat.

All of this has happened without having to unlock the doors. Be assured that Danny, Kim, and I are checking in to make sure that things are still secure. The building we love will still be there when it is safe to return. I miss being able to see you all face to face more than I can possibly express, but I take great joy in knowing that we are still the body of Christ. The Holy Spirit is binding us together and guiding us through this uncertain time.

**May  
Serving Schedule**

(We are publishing this schedule in hopes that we will need it before May is over!!)

**Elders:** Larry & Rita Speight  
**Diaconate:** Lily Williams & Deidre Thompson (communion prep.), Jon Thompson, Brian Merritt

**Greeter**  
Carolyn Carrier  
**Welcome & Worship Leader**

5-03 Bob Barney  
5-10 Larry Speight  
5-17 Jim Hall  
5-24 Rita Speight  
5-31 Lily Williams

**Acolytes:**  
Need Volunteers  
**Computer/Sound:**  
Need Volunteers  
**Open/Close Church:**  
Need Volunteer

*(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.)*

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*Please contact Jansen Williams if you would be willing to share your musical talents one Sunday!*

A big thank you to all who have been helping behind the scenes this past month. If you need assistance from the church picking up groceries, prescriptions, etc., please call the church and we will get it arranged for you.

**PRAYER LIST**— Bill & Dee Boesen, Addison Grace Carter, Mona Chilcutt, The Family of Caryl Clippard, Linda Collier, The Family of Tommy Cooper (Rhonda Robinson’s Father), Amanda Corbet, Ann Dubrouillet, Sue Waggoner-Flowers, Louise Francis, Nina Geary, Juanita Gossett, Lori Hawkins, Raydean Hendrix, Josephine Hueckel, Noreen Hyslop, Elvena Martin, Betty & Bob Mayer, Brian Merritt, Carolyn Montgomery, Ron Morgan, Lori Noyes (Sandy Steward’s sister), Darryl & Diana Orr, Olivia Pind, Betty & Randy Russell, Carrol Russell, Scott Russell, Bonnie Yersak and her son Tyler

**STAYING CONNECTED ....**

**Facebook Live**

Worship is broadcast every Sunday at 10 a.m. The services are public. A Facebook account is not required. Previously recorded services are posted if you cannot participate in the live stream. Facebook is testing a dial-in option, but is not yet available in our area. People with no internet access are invited to phone in to Digital Devotions during the week.

Visit the congregation's page at: [www.facebook.com/fccdexter](http://www.facebook.com/fccdexter)

**Daily Prayer**

Pastor Mike posts a five minute meditation on Facebook every weekday morning at the congregation's Facebook page. The video check-in includes a short Scripture reading and prayer designed to help prepare for Sunday's sermon.

Visit the congregation's page at: [www.facebook.com/fccdexter](http://www.facebook.com/fccdexter)

**Digital Devotions**

Digital devotions are held on Zoom every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 5:30 p.m. Fifteen minutes of fellowship are followed by fifteen minutes of prayer. The link is posted on the church Facebook page. People with no internet access can participate by phone. Dial the number below and enter the information when prompted.

Telephone: 312-626-6799  
Meeting ID Number: 512 154 499  
Password: 151176



**SHUT-IN OF THE MONTH**

Wes Eskew  
Central Gardens  
302 N. Elm  
Dexter, MO 63841  
A visit, card or phone call would mean so much.

| Sun                 | Mon                         | Tue                          | Wed                         | Thu | Fri                         | Sat |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-----|
| 26<br>10:00 Worship | 27<br>5:30 Digital Devotion | 28<br>9:00 Zoom Prayer Group | 29<br>5:30 Digital Devotion | 30  | 1<br>5:30 Digital Devotion  | 2   |
| 3<br>10:00 Worship  | 4<br>5:30 Digital Devotion  | 5<br>9:00 Zoom Prayer Group  | 6<br>5:30 Digital Devotion  | 7   | 8<br>5:30 Digital Devotion  | 9   |
| 10<br>10:00 Worship | 11<br>5:30 Digital Devotion | 12<br>9:00 Zoom Prayer Group | 13<br>5:30 Digital Devotion | 14  | 15<br>5:30 Digital Devotion | 16  |
| 17<br>10:00 Worship | 18<br>5:30 Digital Devotion | 19<br>9:00 Zoom Prayer Group | 20<br>5:30 Digital Devotion | 21  | 22<br>5:30 Digital Devotion | 23  |
| 24<br>10:00 Worship | 25<br>Memorial Day          | 26<br>9:00 Zoom Prayer Group | 27<br>5:30 Digital Devotion | 28  | 29<br>5:30 Digital Devotion | 30  |
| 31<br>10:00 Worship |                             |                              |                             |     |                             |     |