

2020 Needs Assessment

1. What has been your greatest comfort during 2020?
2. What has been your greatest challenge during 2020?
3. How has your faith affected your response to the pandemic?
4. What has our church done well in responding to COVID19?
5. What has not worked so well?
6. What changes have you noticed in Dexter since March?
7. How can the pastor, staff, and leadership of our church best adapt to those changes?
8. How can you help the church adapt to those changes?
9. How has the virus affected your participation in the life of the church?
10. What would help you personally feel more connected to the church?

Name _____

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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December 1, 2020

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

There is no question that 2020 has been a roller coaster for many reasons. Everyone has been affected in some way by the virus, injustice, political division, or economic uncertainty. This combination of challenges has necessitated a constant reorganization of the way we work, interact with our families, go to school, and attend church. Nothing was stable. Whenever we would start to get into a rhythm, something would change, and then it was back to the drawing board.

Nine months on, this phenomenon continues. The week before Thanksgiving the governor extended the COVID19 emergency declaration. Two days later, the Stoddard County Health department released figures saying that our test positivity rate was 48.1%. Finally, the Mid-America Region of the Disciples of Christ recommended that congregations suspend in person worship indefinitely.

Last Tuesday night the church board and elders met electronically to discern how to proceed. There was a great deal of discussion about how to best keep the people safe while continuing to do the work of the church. Eventually a consensus became clear. The leadership of the congregation made the difficult decision to move all activities of the church, not just worship, online. Non-worship events like Zumba, Girl Scouts, and Disciple Center gym rentals were included in order to protect those outside our congregation as well.

Part of what made the conversation so challenging is the fact that we are beginning the season of Advent. This is the time for cherished traditions like the Hanging of the Greens, lighting the Advent Wreath, Blue Christmas, and the candlelight service. Instead, we are now reimagining ways to help people prepare themselves for the birth of Christ.

The results of this creative process are already visible. Last week a talented crew of volunteers crafted and delivered take-home Advent wreaths for every member of the church. Candice Garner put together Sunday school lessons for the kids. Devotionals and liturgies were included to help families better worship together. Our online worship services now include telephone options for those who do not have internet access. We even held our first ever virtual congregational meeting two days ago.

None of this is easy. This Advent will be different from anything we have ever experienced before. There will be gaps. However, no matter what happens, we will continue to love God and each other with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Even when nothing goes as we hope, the promise of our faith is that Jesus will still come at Christmas.

PRAYER LIST— All those suffering from COVID-19, Bill & Dee Boesen, Mona Chilcutt. Amanda Corbett, Sue Waggoner-Flowers, Louise Francis, Family of Nina Geary, Juanita Gossett, Lori Hawkins, Raydean Hendrix, Noreen Hyslop, Mel Jones (Lynda Lovins Jones' husband), Ron Lovelady, Margie Loyd (Candice Garner's aunt), Elvena Martin, Mildred Miller, Carolyn Montgomery, Ron Morgan, Lori Noyes, Darryl & Diana Orr, Olivia Pind, Carrol Russell, Randy Russell, Scott Russell, Gayla Smith, Lucy Thornton, Pastor Mike Williams' Father, Dave Yates, Friend of Kristi Booker (kidney transplant), Bonnie Yersak and her son, Tyler, Jerry Young

The next newsletter will be printed on Tuesday, January 5. Please have any articles that need submitted delivered to the church office by that morning.



Here are the different ways you can continue to support the church during this time:
 **Go to our website at 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 and the church will receive an e-mail notifying them of your gift.

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

REMINDER—*In order for your offering to be posted to 2020, it must be received in the church office by Tuesday, December 29.*



If you are not available to join us in person for worship, you can go to our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/fccdexter> and connect through the live stream.

If you would like to participate by phone, call the church office for that weeks access code.

Our gifts support the work of regional ministries this Christmas. Your regional ministry works to:

2020 Christmas Offering



- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our regions.



SHUT-IN OF THE MONTH

Amanda Smith
 11098 Co. Rd. 717
 Dexter, MO 63841
 A visit, card or phone call would mean so much.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:00 Worship	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 10:00 Worship	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 10:00 Worship	21 6:00 Blue Christmas Service	22	23	24 6:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 	26
27 10:00 Worship	28	29	30	31	1 	2