



Serve him in  
**SINCERITY**  
 and in  
**FAITHFULNESS.**

JOSHUA 24:14

As we begin the new church year, we also start off in February with a new serving schedule that will run through January, 2021.

The elders will be meeting on Sunday and will work out their serving schedule for the year. There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday. Help us out and fill in some spaces to serve as deacon, worship leader, acolyte, greeter, open/close church, computer or sound board.

Also, if you would like to share your gift of music with us any Sunday throughout the year, contact Jansen Williams and let her know.

Save us the trouble of making multiple phone calls and sign up on Sunday or contact the church office with the dates you would like to serve.

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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 January 8, 2020

**THE PASTOR'S CORNER**

This week began with Janice Barney and Debbie Crane taking down all the Christmas decorations in the matter of one afternoon. It was bittersweet to see everything come down. As always, they had once again done an amazing job making sure that our sanctuary looked beautiful throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. The greenery, the candles, and the poinsettias helped get us in a festive mood. The chrismos on the tree were full of symbolism that help tell the story of our savior's birth.

As beautiful as they were, the decorations were only a small part of the Christmas celebration. They provided the setting for many exciting worship experiences. Candice Garner and the rest of the Christian Education team did a phenomenal job organizing our children's program. The kids gave us a small window into the nativity story and helped many of us relive memories of our own pageants from many years ago.


The combined choir with our United Methodist Church friends was also a great success. We got a chance to share our vocal talent with another congregation and the wider community. When we hosted the cantata we got a chance to welcome many people into our building who had never before experienced our church or its people. Next Christmas is still far away, but we hope to be able to make this a new tradition.

An exciting Christmas season was a refreshing end to what had otherwise been a somewhat challenging year for many in our congregation. We lost many special people in 2019. Having to say goodbye to matriarchs and patriarchs who helped make us who we are is incredibly difficult. To be able to ring in 2020 with a reminder of all of God's blessings is a great moment of grace. Our kids are smart and committed. Our musicians and vocalists are extremely talented. Our Christian education teachers are wise and experienced. The outreach ministries of our church make a huge impact in Dexter, in southeast Missouri, and throughout the country. Missionaries like Debbie and Larry Colvin extend our reach to Ghana and the rest of the world.

The world is changing. Our culture is evolving into something new. God alone knows what lies over the horizon. As we begin this new decade, I take confidence in the story of Jesus. Christmas is celebration of God's entering into a world that seemed to be broken beyond repair. That birth brought something completely new into being. Forgiveness. Grace. New life. All of these were present then. They are present now. My prayer is that as we start 2020 we are brave enough to follow Christ ever deeper into the new kingdom he has made known to us.



**SHUT-IN OF THE MONTH**  
 Wayne & Barb Owens  
 16534 CR 624  
 Dexter, MO 63841  
 A visit, card or phone call  
 would mean so much.

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed | Thu                         | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|-----|-----------------------------|-----|-----|
|   |   |  | 8   | 9                           | 10  | 11  |
| 12<br>8:15 Elder's<br>9:00 Sunday<br>School<br>10:00 Worship<br>5:00 CYF        | 13  | 14<br>8:00 Prayer<br>Group<br>11:30 CWF<br>Meeting at Air-<br>ways | 15  | 16<br>7:00 Board<br>Meeting | 17  | 18  |
| 19<br>9:00 Sunday<br>School<br>10:00 Worship<br>5:00 CYF                        | 20<br> Martin<br>Luther<br>King Jr.<br>Day | 21<br>8:00 Prayer<br>Group   | 22  | 23                          | 24  | 25  |
| 26<br>9:00 Sunday<br>School<br>10:00 Worship<br>5:00 CYF<br>5:00 Men's<br>Group | 27  | 28<br>8:00 Prayer<br>Group   | 29  | 30                          | 31  | 1   |
| 2<br>9:00 Sunday<br>School<br>10:00 Worship<br>5:00 CYF                         | 3   | 4<br>8:00 Prayer<br>Group  | 5   | 6                           | 7   | 8   |

**PRAYER LIST**— Bill & Dee Boesen, Friends and Family of Carolyn Carroll, Mona Chilcutt, Caryl Clippard, Linda Collier, Amanda Corbet, Friends and Family of Charlie Corlies, Ann Dubrouillet, Sue Waggoner-Flowers, Louise Francis, Nina Geary, Juanita Gossett, Sue Grobe, Lori Hawkins, Raydean Hendrix, Josephine Hueckel, Noreen Hyslop, Elvena Martin, Betty & Bob Mayer, Brian Merritt, Carolyn Montgomery, Winnie Morgan, Lori Noyes (Sandy Steward's sister), Darryl & Diana Orr, Betty & Randy Russell, Carrol Russell, Scott Russell, Terry Swinger, Ellen Vaughan

**January**  
**Serving Schedule**  
**Elders:** John & Nona Robinson  
**Diaconate:** Jon & Deidre Thompson (communion prep.); Scott, Kerri & Andie Kruse, Mark Becker  
**Greeters**  
 Need Volunteers  
**Welcome & Worship Leader**  
 1-12 Kristi Booker  
 1-19 Nona Robinson  
 1-26 Susie Grobe  
**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.)*

**IN THE MAIL**—  
 To my church family,  
 Thank you for the beautiful plaque in honor of Mom. I will treasure it always.  
 Thank you most of all for the prayers and love throughout the past few years. It has been a long, difficult struggle for her, but I know she is finally at peace.  
 I also want to thank my church family for the cards, calls and prayers for all of us during this difficult time.  
 Love to all,  
 Debbie Wilson and family

**Outreach Accomplishments in 2019**

|                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Festival of Sharing (ShareFest) |                |
| 40 Health Kits                  | \$ 600.00      |
| 41 Baby Bundles                 | 1435.00        |
| 41 School Supply Kits           | 574.00         |
| 49 Food Boxes                   | 1372.00        |
| 7 Blankets                      | 84.00          |
| Shipping Costs                  | <u>80.00</u>   |
| Total                           | \$ 4145.00     |
| Plus, Special Day Offerings     |                |
| Week of Compassion              | \$ 913.00      |
| Easter Special Offering         | 1024.00        |
| Pentecost Offering              | 593.00         |
| Ministerial Alliance            | 375.00         |
| Reconciliation Offering         | 671.00         |
| Thanksgiving Offering           | 1075.00        |
| Christmas Offering              | <u>1221.00</u> |
| Total                           | \$ 5872.00     |
| Grand Total                     | \$ 10,017.00   |

Now, it is coming upon 2020 so let's get in gear and beat last years records. Our first kit will be the Health Kit which includes the following: hand towel, washcloth, bath soap, toothbrush, wide tooth comb, nail clippers and 8 band aids. The cost of a complete kit is approximately \$15. Again, we will be happy to shop for you if you desire.

Carrol and the Outreach Committee