



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.



While we are not participating in congregational singing, we would still love to hear some of your voices! If you would like to share your musical talent with us one Sunday, contact Jansen Williams at 820-0578.

In the Mail ... Dear First Christian Church, Thank you so much for gifting me this scholarship. I appreciate it and all of the support you have provided me with throughout my life. I wouldn't be the person I am today without all of you. I will miss seeing everyone, but I hope to visit often. Thank you for being such an amazing church family. I hope to make all of you proud.

Love,
AnnMarie Long.

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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June 30, 2020

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

It has been three months since the Disciples of First Christian Church have been able to gather together in our sanctuary. After the arrival of the COVID19 in Missouri we were forced to move our worship services online in response to the governor's stay at home order. In June we began a phased return to the building with face to face worship outside followed by gathering in the Disciple Center where social distancing requirements were easier to meet. Being able to see people we had not seen for several weeks or months was an incredible joy. It was made even more special by the opportunity to baptize Zoe Martin two weeks ago.

In July we will begin the next stage of the recovery journey. The Stoddard County commissioners have not chosen to renew the 25% seating capacity rule that was implemented during May. While forms of social distancing will continue it is now once again feasible to meet in the sanctuary. On Sunday we will hold a modified service upstairs. Worship will continue to look a little different during this time of transition. These alterations are based on CDC guidance and help us mitigate some of the risk that comes from being together during this time.

Half of our pews will be temporarily closed off. Communion will continue to be served by gloved and masked Deacons. You will be given two cups. One will contain the wafer and the other the juice. Sanitizer, gloves, and masks will be available as the congregation enters the sanctuary. Hymns will be different as well. All music will be soloists or small groups set apart from the rest of the congregation. Most studies indicate that the deep breathing and voice projection that comes from singing together in close proximity make spreading the virus far more likely.

Although we will be back in familiar surroundings, worship will feel different as a result of these safety protocols. Your normal pew may be one of those taken out of circulation. Passing of the peace may be your favorite part of the service. Listening to someone else sing is not the same as being able to lift your own voice in praise. You may be frustrated by the current status of the church. You may think the leaders of the church are moving too fast. You may think things are far too slow. You may recognize that some safety measures are necessary, but still quibble with some particular decisions that were made.

All I can ask for is patience with the process and generosity toward your fellow Christians. It is normal to be frustrated and in times of stress and confusion. These conflicted feelings are reflected throughout Dexter as a whole. Our entire society is learning as we go. None of us have ever lived through a pandemic before. The elders and I have been in regular communication throughout the pandemic. We have worked together to decide the specific safety protocols and the timing of the return to the sanctuary. None of our decisions have been unanimous, but they have been made with openness, compassion, and honesty.

It is my prayer that this same attitude of humility and generosity will guide us as we continue the complicated process of returning to our building. If you are comfortable doing so, you are invited to join us for face to face worship in our sanctuary this Sunday. If you would rather worship online, live streaming will continue. We know sound has been an ongoing problem due to the makeshift equipment we have been using. This week Dexter Music Company is beginning the process of installing a professional camera to provide a better quality experience. Thank you all for your patience, prayers, and support throughout this difficult time.

July Serving Schedule

Elders: Ellen Vaughan & Eric Basham
Diaconate: Jim & Yvonne Hall (comm. prep.), Sandra Basham, Debbie Crane
Greeter Donna Speck
Welcome & Worship Leader
 7-05 Larry Speight
 7-12 Ellen Vaughan
 7-19 Eric Basham
 7-26 Carolyn Carrier
Computer/Sound: Need Volunteers
Open/Close Church: Need Volunteer
If you will not be able to serve, please find your replacement and notify the church office who will be serving in your place.

PRAYER LIST— Bill & Dee Boesen, The Family of Kendall Tate Chambers (cousin of Kellie Reese & Kim Williams), Addison Grace Carter, Mona Chilcutt, Linda Collier, Amanda Corbet, Sue Waggoner-Flowers, Louise Francis, Nina Geary, Juanita Gossett, Lori Hawkins, Raydean Hendrix, Noreen Hyslop, Family of June Kastner, Elvena Martin, Carolyn Montgomery, Ron Morgan, Lori Noyes (Sandy Steward's sister), Darryl & Diana Orr, Olivia Pind, Carrol Russell, Scott Russell, Christi Slaughter (Robin Rieffer's niece), Bonnie Yersak and her son Tyler, Rick Young's father, Jerry



For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11



Join Jim Russell and his family on Saturday, July 11 from 2-4 in the Disciple Center as they celebrate his 90th birthday!



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



SHUT-IN OF THE MONTH
 Betty Mayer
 9 Adams Drive
 Dexter, MO 63841
 A visit, card or phone call would mean so much.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:00 Digital Devotions	2 6:00 Zumba	3	4 Independence Day
5 10:00 Worship	6 6:00 Zumba	7	8 5:00 Digital Devotions	9 6:00 Zumba	10	11 <i>Jim Russell's 90th Birthday Party from 2-4 in the Disciple Center</i>
12 10:00 Worship	13 6:00 Zumba	14	15 5:00 Digital Devotions	16 6:00 Zumba 7:00 Board Meeting	17	18
19 10:00 Worship	20 6:00 Zumba	21	22 5:00 Digital Devotions	23 6:00 Zumba	24	25
26 10:00 Worship	27 6:00 Zumba	28	29 5:00 Digital Devotions	30 6:00 Zumba	31	1