

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

How is the Pentecost offering used?

In 2001, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) embraced a bold vision: to start 1,000 new churches in 1,000 different ways by the year 2020.

Today, we have welcomed 1,034+ new places of worship into the Church. The Table around which we gather has grown in language, diversity, and life experience.

Courageous leaders have answered the call to grow the denomination through the new church movement. They have reached the underserved, welcomed new neighbors, and created communities of faith. And we, as Disciples, have committed to supporting them.

Support the 2020 Pentecost Offering.

Each year, half of this offering stays in your Region to support and sustain new churches. The second half helps leaders across the United States and Canada through New Church Ministry programs.

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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May 28, 2020

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

It has been over two months since the entire congregation of First Christian Church gathered for worship in our sanctuary on March 8. When the coronavirus began to make its way through the United States our church began to adapt. We started with a hybrid service before moving worship entirely online. Even as we made adaptations in worship the work of ministry has gone on. Volunteers deliver groceries, call their neighbors, and send cards. We contributed to the Stoddard County Gospel Mission food pantry, the Ministerial Alliance emergency fund and supported disaster relief work through the Week of Compassion offering.

In addition to all of this, we offered the love of Christ to each other as we said goodbye to Betty Russell, Josephine Hueckel, and Bob Mayer. Losing loved ones is always hard, but doing so in the middle of an epidemic simply compounds the suffering. Being isolated from family and friends is heartbreaking and makes it impossible to hold a hand or offer a kiss. This is the very reason so many of us have wanted to be together so very much. Yes, we miss being in the sanctuary, but even more so we miss being with the church, the people of God.

One of the hardest parts about this epidemic is the hugs of fellow Christians and lifting our voices in song are the very things that leave us at greater risk for exposure. Human beings were designed by God to live in community. Prolonged isolation leaves us vulnerable for mental health and physical health challenges. The complex calculus of balancing so many competing short term and long term risks is what has made the job of public health officials so difficult. They are, quite simply, imperfect people doing the best they can with imperfect information.

The same thing is true of your pastor and our congregation's elders. Because we are not epidemiologists we adhered to health department recommendations. As guidance has changed, we have adapted, constantly seeking to balance connection and safety. Most importantly, these decisions were always made together. As Missouri's stay at home order was lifted, the county health department continued to recommend congregations refrain from face to face worship until the end of May. Current health guidelines prevent us from more than 25% our sanctuary seating capacity. This allows us a maximum of 50 people in our sanctuary and families still must sit six feet apart. Some congregations in Dexter have opened their sanctuaries. Some have not. Some are worshipping outside.

Unfortunately, we have all seen the sad results of large groups coming together in unsafe ways. The elders chose to start with outdoor worship on June 7. This allows us to be together while mitigating some risk. The safety details are on the next page. The Disciple Center will be used for inclement or hot weather. Please join us for worship at 9 a.m. If you would prefer to worship from the comfort of your home, the Facebook Live stream will continue even after the sanctuary is fully open.

This is uncharted territory. We recognize some feel the elders are moving too cautiously while others believe this is still too fast. Either way, please know that you are loved and cherished. Please continue to pray for everyone affected by this epidemic and for the day when we are all able to gather safely together.

June Serving Schedule

Elders: Jean Swinger & Larry Thompson
Diaconate: anice Barney & Judy Rhodes (comm. prep.), Mark Becker, Danny Fraser

Greeter Marrine Grobe

Welcome & Worship Leader

6-07 Jean Swinger
 6-14 Bob Barney
 6-21 Larry Thompson
 6-28 Rita Speight

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.

In the Mail ... Thanks for all the prayers, phone calls and food that you so generously gave us during our difficult time. Thanks also to Pastor Mike who helped us through the tough times and not least, the ladies for the bereavement dinner. Your kindness touched our hearts. God Bless. You are a blessing to us. The Russell Family (Randy, Amanda, Dave, Jim & Carrol)

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

June Risk Management Plan

- Bring lawn chairs from home. Chalk lines will show proper spacing.
- Deacons will show people where to sit to foster social distancing. Disciple Center will be used for inclement and hot weather. Sanctuary will be used once conditions permit. Worship will start at 9 a.m. to avoid heat.
- Park on street, side of building, or in grass lot.
- Solo singing and special music only. Worship materials will be posted online so you can use your phone as a bulletin.
- Communion and offering plates will not be passed. Deacons will sanitize hands and serve elements in disposable cups. Each person will receive two cups, one with a wafer, one with juice.
- Live streaming will continue.
- Hygiene stations will be set up with sanitizer, masks, gloves, and water. Service will adapted to exclude passing of the peace.

Dear brothers and sisters,

As we continue to use our creativity to worship each Sunday during this unexpected time, you may notice worshipping through music looking a little different. Due to precautions we are taking, less congregational singing, and worshipping on the parking lot, it is giving us the opportunity to share musical talents in a different way. Some Sundays may be singing and the piano. Others may include singing, the piano, guitar, and drum. Music truly is a gift from the Lord and I pray that we can use our gifts together during worship each Sunday. If you would like to join with me and sing, lead on your own, play the guitar or other instrument, please let me know. If you have a suggestion for a song you would like to share, please let me know. I am more than happy to meet with you to practice. The Holy Spirit has truly been at work in our congregation during this time and I look forward to seeing how the Holy Spirit will continue to be at work through music during worship.

Much love,
 Jansen Williams



SHUT-IN OF THE MONTH

Wes Eskew
 Bill Boesen
 Cypress Point
 801 Bailiff Drive
 Dexter, MO 63841
 A visit, card or phone call

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 10:00 Worship <i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	1 5:30 Digital Devotion	2 9:00 Zoom Prayer Group	3 5:30 Digital Devotion	4	5 5:30 Digital Devotion	6
7 9:00 Outdoor Worship	8 5:30 Digital Devotion	9 9:00 Zoom Prayer Group	10 5:30 Digital Devotion	11	12	13
14 9:00 Worship	15 5:30 Digital Devotion	16 9:00 Zoom Prayer Group	17 5:30 Digital Devotion	18	19 5:30 Digital Devotion	20
21 9:00 Worship FATHER'S DAY	22 5:30 Digital Devotion	23 9:00 Zoom Prayer Group	24 5:30 Digital Devotion	25	26	27 <i>Pastor Mike's Birthday!</i>
28 9:00 Worship	29 5:30 Digital Devotion	30 9:00 Zoom Prayer Group	1 5:30 Digital Devotion	2	3 5:30 Digital Devotion	4