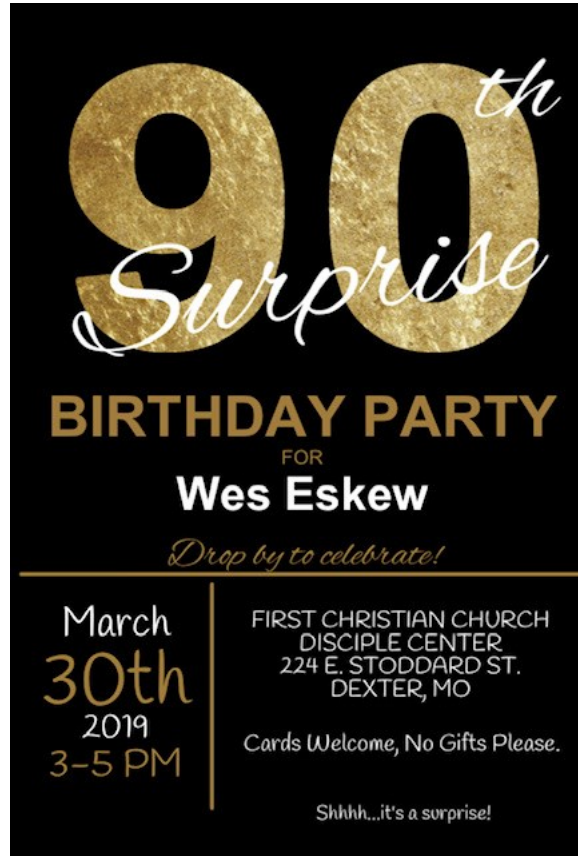


**YARD SALE DROP OFF
BEGINS ON
SUNDAY, MARCH 31ST!**



**90th
Surprise
BIRTHDAY PARTY**
FOR
Wes Eskew
Drop by to celebrate!

March
30th
2019
3-5 PM

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
DISCIPLE CENTER
224 E. STODDARD ST.
DEXTER, MO

Cards Welcome, No Gifts Please.

Shhhh...it's a surprise!

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
P. O. Box 295
Dexter, MO 63841



**THE CHRISTIAN CRIER
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

Michael Williams, Pastor
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Kim Williams
Administrative Assistant
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224 E. Stoddard, P. O. Box 295
Dexter, MO 63841
Web Page: www.fccdexter.org
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March 1, 2019

The Pastor's Corner

As I write this I have been back in the United States for one month, but only back at church for two days. The last several weeks have been spent going through the official post-deployment transition process. Immediately upon my return I spent two weeks at the base getting medical exams, completing paperwork, and turning in gear. Midway through my

stay at Scott AFB Lily and I were able to spend four days in Hermann, Missouri. We stayed at a bed and breakfast, visited a winery, and went on a motorcycle ride with a friend. It was a welcome, and much needed opportunity to reconnect with each other and take a break from the bureaucracy of the military.

When my time in St. Louis finally came to an end I headed to Iowa for some time with my family. I visited my mom, stepdad, and brother in Diagonal. From there I went to see my dad, brother, sister-in-law, and nephews in Des Moines. The last stop was Anamosa where I caught up with some friends from my last congregation. Although snow and ice was a shock to the system after six months in the desert, it was a blessing to see so many people I love after being on the other side of the planet.

The final few days of my transition time were spent with Lily here at home. I got back to Dexter on February 19 and crashed pretty hard. A couple days of sleep were necessary before I began the long process of unpacking and settling back into my normal routine. That transition is not yet complete, and on an emotional level will probably take a few more months, but southeast Missouri is finally starting to feel like home once again.

Sunday's reunion celebration was a long time coming. Although I was overseas for six months, the extensive pre- and post-deployment procedures meant that it was almost eight months between my departure and my return to the pulpit. The simple fact of the matter was that I was simultaneously nervous and excited by my return to Dexter. Many things have changed for all of us during that time, and it will be a long process of getting reacquainted.

The warmth and excitement that I felt on Sunday was overwhelming. We shared stories, hugs, laughter, and a meal. More than half a year had passed, but First Christian Church is just as much home as it was when I left. The Disciples of our congregation made me feel welcomed and loved. The support that I received throughout my entire deployment was even more tangible and we shared a deeper intimacy around the Lord's Supper than I have felt in a long while.

Thank you for all for everything that you have done during this time. One more time, let me say how grateful I am for the love and support you have offered to Lily. She has been taken out for dinner, provided with home repairs, and also allowed the space she needed to deal with the strange mix of emotions that come while one's spouse is deployed. You have been the face of Christ to both her and to me. I appreciate each and every one of you and look forward to seeing what God will do in the next chapter of our life together.

**March
Serving Schedule**

Elders: Kellie Reese & Debbie Ellinghouse
Deacons: Gregg & Melanie Miller (communion prep.), Donna Speck, Sandy Edwards, Danny Fraser, Mark Booker
Greeters:
 Need Volunteers for March
Welcome /Worship Leader:
 3-03 Lily Williams
 3-10 Kristi Booker
 3-17 Melanie Miller
 3-24 Susie Grobe
 3-31 Nona Robinson
Acolyte: Mattie Thompson
Computer & Sound Board:
 Need Volunteer
Special Music:
 3-03 Robin Rieffer
 3-10 Lucy Thornton
 3-17 Kellie Reese
 3-24 Jansen Williams
 3-31 Andie Kruse
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.)

PRAYER LIST— Elizabeth Demaree, Shea Baker, Mary Ellen Blankenship, Bill & Dee Boesen, Carolyn Carroll, Mona Chilcutt, Connie Millington Churchill, Carryl Clippard, Amanda Corbett, Carolyn Corlew, Maxine Daniel, Angie Dugan, Kent Edwards, Shirley Edwards, Sue Waggoner-Flowers, Louise Francis, Nina Geary, Lori Hawkins, Raydean Hendrix, Josephine Hueckel, Elvena Martin, Betty & Bob Mayer, The Family of John Minton, Carolyn Montgomery, Winnie Morgan, Diana Orr, Mae Pope, Jack Rodgers, Scott Russell, Jim Smith, Linda Smith, Rita Speight, Marty Thompson, Jerry Thrower, Lois Vaughn, The Family of Ike Watkins, Rick Williams, Bonnie Yersak's son, Tyler

OUTREACH NEWS—

It is time once again to start working on our kits for Festival of Sharing in October. The first kits we will do is the national health kit which costs approximately \$15. It consists of the following:

- Hand towel
- Wash cloth
- Bath size bar of soap
- Wide tooth combs
- Fingernail clippers
- Toothbrush
- 6 Band Aids

Please help Outreach by adding some or all of these items to your shopping list. Again, we will also be happy to do your shopping for if you prefer.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS ARE HERE!






Leaning in, Letting Go, a Lenten Devotional by Nicole Massie Martin are available for you to pick up on the back table of the sanctuary. Pick up your copy this Sunday so you will have it for Ash Wednesday on March 6.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER—

Save your appetite for Tuesday, March 5 at 6:00 p.m. We will gather in the Disciple Center for our annual Pancake Dinner and Mardi Gras party. It is always a lot of fun and the food is delicious. We will be join for this evening by our friends from the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. If you are able to help out, let Tommy Horton or Debbie Crane know as soon as possible.



SHUT-IN OF THE MONTH
 Mary Ellen Blankenship
 1013 Fannetta Street
 Dexter, MO 63841
 A visit, card or phone call would mean so much.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 Youth Meeting	4 6:00 Zumba	5  6:00 Pancake Dinner	6 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service in Wesley Hall	7 6:00 Zumba	8	9
10 8:15 Elders 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 Youth Meeting	11 11:30 CWF at Airways 6:00 Zumba	12 	13	14 Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner 6:00 Zumba	15	16
17 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 Youth Meeting	18 6:00 Zumba	19 	20	21 6:00 Zumba 7:00 Board Meeting	22	23
24 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 Youth Meeting	25 6:00 Zumba	26 	27	28 6:00 Zumba	29	30 3:00-5:00 90th Birthday Party for Wes Eskew
31 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 Youth Meeting	1	2 	3	4	5	6 CHURCH YARD SALE