

2020 Annual Meeting 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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November 3, 2020

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

It is no secret that all of 2020 has turned out far different than any of could have ever expected. When the governor issued the Stay Home Missouri order this spring our congregation transitioned into an online worship format. We hoped it would be a matter of a few weeks and we would be able to return to normal. Several months later, however, the battle with the coronavirus still continues.

The virus has directly touched the lives of many people in our congregation. Some of our members have experienced relatively mild strains of COVID-19. Others have had no symptoms despite a positive diagnosis. On the other hand, others have had more difficult struggles. Not only do we grieve the deaths of Josephine Hueckle, Bob Mayer, and Julie Rybolt, we recognize that their families will never be the same. In addition to the immediate health implications, this pandemic has brought economic uncertainty and complex challenges to the emotional wellbeing of people throughout the community.

Living through this is not easy. People are understandably anxious. The fact that this is happening in an election year simply adds to the frustration. It is inevitable that some of that uncertainty has bled over into the life of our congregation. We have a wide variety of opinions in the church about how to respond to the events going on in our society. Those differences can be challenging at the best of times, but the virus has made everything more complicated.

One of the complications which has arisen is our church's annual meeting. Our bylaws dictate that every October we get together to elect officers, approve the budget, and plan out the ministry for the next year. This year that timing has proven difficult. At last month's meeting the board voted to postpone that meeting to November 22 to allow more time to put together a slate of officers and finalize the budget.

The meeting format was also changed to better facilitate social distancing. Instead of dinner in the Disciple Center, we will have a brief gathering in the sanctuary immediately following worship. Those who do not feel comfortable attending in person will be able to participate via Zoom or telephone. The board has already incorporated these options into their summer meetings and wants to extend them to the rest of the congregation. Contact the church office for the Zoom link or telephone pass code.

As helpful as technology is, it does come with some limitations. It is simply harder to have discussion and a free flow of ideas online or over the phone. To make sure that everyone has a chance to be fully heard, the board would like to invite you to complete the congregational questionnaire attached to this newsletter or posted on the church Facebook page. Fill it out online, mail it in, or put your answers in the offering plate. This will give the board a better sense of what our members are thinking, what has worked in our pivot to a hybrid form of ministry, as well as what unexpected needs may have arisen.

The assessment will also help identify people who might be feeling a call to help the church meet those needs. Keep our leaders in your prayers. The board will not be able to do everything at once, but the questionnaire will help them discern the next few steps into this completely uncharted territory. Thank you all for your faithfulness, flexibility, and ongoing support for our congregation.

November Serving Schedule

Elders: Kellie Reese & Jean Swinger
Diaconate: Janice Barney & Kerri Kruse
 (communion prep.), Brooklyn Staggs,
 Andie Kruse

Greeter N
Welcome & Worship Leader

11-08 Kellie Reese
 11-15 Jean Swinger
 11-22 Bob Barney
 11-29 Need Volunteer

Acolytes, Computer/Sound, Open/Close Church: Need Volunteers

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, Mona Chilcutt, Amanda Corbett, Kathleen Dover, Sue Waggoner-Flowers, Louise Francis, Nina Geary, Juanita Gossett, Lori Hawkins, Raydean Hendrix, Noreen Hyslop, Scott Kruse, Elvena Martin, The Family of Ivy McClurg (Nancy Wright's mother), Mildred Miller, Carolyn Montgomery, Ron Morgan, Lori Noyes, Darryl & Diana Orr, Olivia Pind, The Family of Alan Robinson, Carrol Russell, Randy Russell, Scott Russell, The Family of Julie Rybolt, Gayla Smith, The family of Jo Stinson, 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, December 1. 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



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.

MEMORIAL FUND—A fund has been set up at the church to honor Julie and help with needs the boys might have. It will be maintained at the church. If you would like to contribute, please note on your check "Rybolt Memorial Fund".

EASTER DINNER PROJECT—Since we were not able to hold the annual Kettle Beef Dinner this year, we are asking for contributions to help with this project. If you would like to give, just mark your check "Easter Project".

FESTIVAL OF SHARING UPDATE—A big thank you to all of our Outreach team for their hard work in preparing for the Festival of Sharing. They completed 30 Hygiene Kits, 53 Family Food Packs, 34 Reading and Righting Packs and donated 9 blankets. Great job!!



The scripture reading this Sunday will be from the book of Jonah. It's only 4 chapters long. Take a few minutes and brush up on this remarkable story!



SHUT-IN OF THE MONTH
 Mildred Miller
 Central Gardens
 302 N. Elm, Room 119
 Dexter, MO 63841
 A visit, card or phone call would mean so much.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 CYF	2 6:00 Zumba	3	4	5 6:00 Zumba	6	7
8 8:15 Elders Meet 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 CYF	9 6:00 Zumba	10	11	12 6:00 Zumba	13	14
15 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 CYF	16 6:00 Zumba	17	18	19 6:00 Zumba 7:00 Board Meeting	20	21
22 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship (annual meeting after worship) 6:00 Community Thanksgiving Service (here)	23 6:00 Zumba	24	25	26	27	28
29 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 CYF	30 6:00 Zumba	1	2	3 6:00 Zumba	4	5