



## Sunday, September 8

Do you remember when the decision was made to proceed with the Disciple Center and the fear of the church taking on a mortgage on that building?

Well, the mortgage has now been paid off and we will be celebrating with a mortgage burning during the Back to School Bash this Sunday!!

Bring a friend as we kick off the new Sunday School season at 9:00 a.m. Following worship, we will have an all church picnic, games and inflatables.

It is casual Sunday. Invite a family to worship with us and celebrate this day in the life of our church.

There will be plenty of food provided for the picnic, but if you would like to bring a side dish to share, that would be great too!!

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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August 29, 2019

#### THE PASTOR'S CORNER

Even though it is hard to believe, summer vacation has already come to an end and a new school year has begun. As I write this, Dexter's students and teachers are experiencing their very first day together. Back to school shopping and first day of school pictures have been appearing on social media. Meanwhile, Richland, Bernie, and Bloomfield schools have been in session for a week or two already.

Watching the construction happen this summer in every school building and at the football field has been a constant reminder of the importance our community places on education. I am eternally grateful for all those who dedicate their lives to shaping the next generation. Please keep all our students, administrators, faculty, and parents in your prayers as they go through this exciting time of discovery and transition.

Over the past couple months our congregation has also made some commitments to improving our educational ministry. In July, the board voted to extend a call to Candice Garner to serve as our director of Christian Education. Shortly thereafter Cory Rogers joined us our new nursery attendant. They will be starting to serve this month and will lead our church's faith formation efforts with new energy and excitement.

The first step of this effort is our rebooted Sunday School ministry beginning with a back to school bash on September 8. There will be classes for all ages, from preschool to adult. On Sunday Bobby Garner reminded us that we have not had this many kids in our congregation in the five years that they have been worshipping with us. We have a new opportunity to do some amazing things. He challenged us to come, get involved, and see what God will do through this newly reinvigorated ministry.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank everyone who has been keeping Lily and I in prayer during our housing transition. We have purchased a newly refurbished house on the northwest side of Sikeston. The moving crew came a week ago and got all the furniture out of the parsonage. The change in residence is not something we wanted to see happen, but seven years of life on the road has taken an unsustainable toll on her.

We are still in the process of unpacking, but the significantly reduced commute time has already made a positive impact on Lily's life and work. She is far less tired and stressed. My time is increasingly being spent in community engagement through: membership in the Dexter Rotary Club; restaurant office hours; and extra visitation in the homes and workplaces of our members. The parsonage is being prepared for rental. Our goal is that this residential relocation will be relatively invisible and allow us to serve Dexter and Cape Girardeau for many years to come. If you have any questions or concerns I remain only a phone call away.

**September  
Serving Schedule**

**Elders:** Eddie & Kenny Pope

**Diaconate:** Jansen Williams & Debbie Crane  
(communion prep.); Parker Vanslyke, Brooklyn Staggs, Kenton Pope, Dallas Norman

**Greeters**  
Sean & Debbie Vanslyke

**Welcome/Worship Leader**  
9-08 Sean Vanslyke  
9-15 Debbie Vanslyke  
9-22 Nona Robinson  
9-29 Melanie Miller

**Acolytes:**  
Mattie Thompson & Volunteer

**Computer/Sound:**  
Need Volunteers

**Open/Close Church:**  
Kenny Pope

**Musicians**  
9-08 & 9-15 Kim Williams  
9-22 Julie Rybolt  
9-29 Kim Williams

*(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**— Bill & Dee Boesen, Carolyn Carroll, Mona Chilcutt, Carryl Clippard, Maxine Daniel, 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, Darryl & Diana Orr, Mae Pope, Betty & Randy Russell, Jim Russell, Scott Russell, Jerry Thrower, Lois Vaughn, Pastor Mike upon the death of his grandmother, Bonnie Yersak

**OUTREACH NEWS**—

It's time to work on our last project for 2019, "Family Food Boxes". Needed are:

- Cans of vegetables
- Cans of fruit
- Cans of chicken
- Cans of tuna
- Cans of pasta sauce 1 lb. packages of pasta
- Packages of macaroni and cheese
- Jars of peanut butter

Remember how blessed we are to have plenty. Please share some blessings for those less fortunate.

If you would like for us to shop for you, please make a cash donation to the Outreach committee.

Again, thanks for your help.

The Outreach Committee



The congregation is invited to attend a wedding shower honoring Morgan Cliff on Saturday, September 21st at 10:00 a.m. in the Disciple Center.



**SHUT-IN OF THE MONTH**  
Amanda Smith  
11098 CR 717  
Dexter, MO 63841  
A visit, card or phone call would mean so much.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b> 8:00 Prayer Group	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:00 Ziumba	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:15 Elders meet 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship <b>BACK TO SCHOOL BASH</b>	<b>9</b> 6:00 Ziumba	<b>10</b> 8:00 Prayer Group	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:00 Ziumba	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	<b>16</b> 6:00 Ziumba 6:00 Evening Ladies meet at Hickory Log	<b>17</b> 8:00 Prayer Group	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:00 Ziumba 7:00 Board Meeting	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <i>Gym Rental</i>
<b>22</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	<b>23</b> 6:00 Ziumba	<b>24</b> 8:00 Prayer Group	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:00 Ziumba	<b>27</b> <i>Gym Rental</i>	<b>28</b> <i>Gym Rental</i>
<b>29</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	<b>30</b> 6:00 Ziumba	<b>1</b> 8:00 Prayer Group	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 5:00 Kettle Beef Work Night	<b>4</b> 9:00 Kettle Beef Work Day	<b>5</b>