



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

120 North McArthur Street
Macomb, IL 61455-2101

**Periodicals
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Chalice Tidings



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Volume XXX, Issue 7

July 1, 2026

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Xperience Music Leader

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A/V Intern

Karsyn Trusley
Nursery Attendant

Linda Webb
Organist

Darren Woods
Choir Director

July Sermon Series

Compassionate Faith

7/5 - 2 Samuel 21:10

Compassion in Grief

7/12 - Acts 9:36-37

Compassion as a Way of Life

7/19 - Acts 28:1-2

Compassion and Hospitality

7/26 - 2 Kings 5:1-3

Compassion for Your Enemy

Worship @ 10:30 am



July Sermon Series

Peaceful Easy Feeling

7/5 - Genesis 33:4

Through Forgiveness

7/12 - 1 Samuel 26:32-35

Peace Negotiated

7/19 - Luke 23:34

Peace Even During Injustice

7/26 - Guest Preacher

Worship @ 6:30 pm



2 - Kim & David
Greathouse (a)
3 - Grant Reed
4 - Larry Loop
6 - Barbara Houck
6 - Shannon Reed

10 - Kathy Fischer
11 - Julie Meyer
14 - Donald Hodges
15 - Lynn Coffman
26 - Betty Sherwood
29 - Janet Hocker

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Maybe you have been watching the World Cup. If not watching, at least paying attention, especially since the USMNT is doing so well. Maybe you have heard about the travel restrictions placed on teams from Iran and Egypt. There was a highly shared story about a referee who was not allowed entry to the US even though he had all the correct paperwork and was going to miss his opportunity to officiate.

Thankfully, these negative stories are not the norm.

Florida State University News quotes FSU Professor of Sociology Deana Rohlinger “Social scientists have known for decades that when people from different groups interact under positive conditions, stereotypes often break down. The World Cup is one of the largest examples imaginable,” FSU News goes on to say that while diplomacy is often viewed as a top-down process led by governments and political leaders, citizen diplomacy works from the bottom up. International visitors’ own perceptions change by experiencing what U.S. culture is about. “Part of why this resonates is that it pushes back against a story we’ve been telling ourselves for years,” Rohlinger added. “So much of what we encounter emphasizes polarization, conflict and dysfunction that those images start to define how we see ourselves. Then outsiders, people with no reason to flatter us, arrive expecting one thing and encounter another. Their reactions interrupt the narrative. They provide a more generous, and probably more accurate, reflection of who we are.”

FSU News shares, “Whether it’s fans from Japan marveling at Texas barbecue, Scotland’s Tartan Army spreading goodwill in Boston or German content creators becoming enamored with Buc-ee’s, international visitors have consistently shared positive reactions to American hospitality, food and local culture.” This. This makes me happy. Often, the world perceives us as violent, gun owners. I’m glad perception might be changing just a bit.

One story that helps shift the narrative concerns the University of Kansas Marching Jayhawks. As a show of hospitality the band practiced several times to learn the national anthem of Algeria. The Algerian team set up their World Cup camp in Lawrence, KS. As the team came out for practice, accompanied by many of the fans, the band performed the anthem. The visitors from Algeria were delighted and surprised. Iran played its first two matches in LA. With the war going on, the team was not allowed entry into the US except for gameday. Their camp has been in Tiajuana. After their second match, a note from the Iranian team was left in one of the lockers. It reads:

"From the ancient Persia of thousands of years ago to the civilized Iran of today, the spirit of Iran remains alive and steadfast. We came to Los Angeles with pride, competed with honor, and leave with dignity. Thank you, Los Angeles, for your hospitality. And thank you to every Iranian who gave their heart, voice, and soul for Iran throughout these 180 minutes. May peace, respect, and friendship prevail among all nations."

That last sentence says it all. In July, we will focus on two words during our worship services. Compassion during the traditional. Peace at Xperience. Compassion and peace seem to be in short supply these days. And yet, our scriptures have much to say. So do the stories coming from the World Cup. Let us pay attention to both. See you soon!

Peace. Respect. Friendship.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly".

Environmental Stewardship

Kathy Fischer and Jack McKinnon

Mitigating Climate Change: We Must Not Give Up Hope

As you know, the news about climate change is becoming increasingly ominous. Two recent articles entitled, “El Nino confirmed, set to fuel more extreme weather,” and “Global temperatures set to stay near record levels,” were just published in the May and June issues of *Climate and Enviornment*. And yet, there are things that we can do to mitigate these changes.

As we have mentioned in previous articles, little things that can reduce the speed of global warming can make a difference if large number of people are engaged in such practices. So for a review, here are some of the many things you can do:

- Minimize your energy expenditures to heat and cool your house
- Minimize the miles you drive, and drive an electric car or one that gets excellent gas mileage
- Minimize your use of paper products produced from trees; instead, purchase tree-free products made from bamboo or recycled paper (and reminder that tree-free TP is now available at HyVee)
- Buy locally sourced food when possible
- Take your own grocery bags instead of using the store’s plastic ones
- Practice recycling
- Build and maintain a back yard composting system
- Minimize your use of plastics
- Reduce your carbon footprint from online shopping



This is a reminder of some the things that you can do to slow the progression of climate change. Recall that large scale change starts with individuals. Collectively, we can make a difference!

Disciples Women

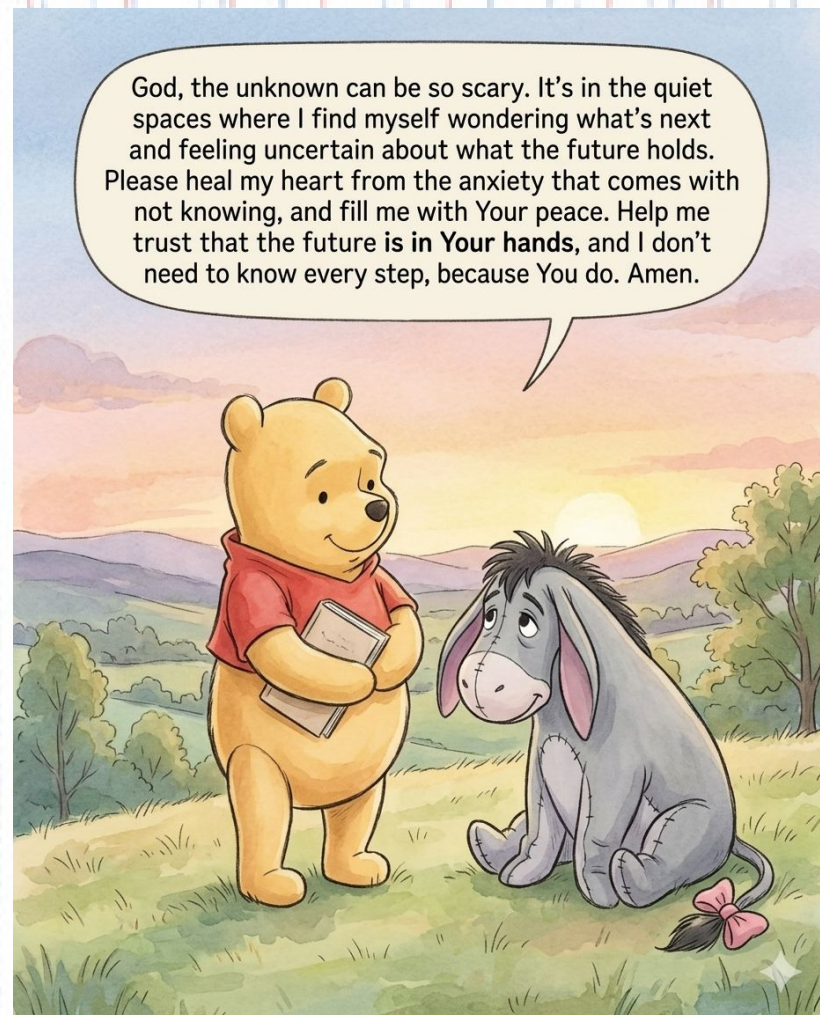
Char Carden, President

Disciples Women collected bingo prizes for three nursing homes at their last meeting on May 26th at Old Dairy. Betty Sherwood did an excellent job with her devotional regarding prayer and fellowship. Thank you Betty! A paper was sent around for those to sign up for our next devotionals starting in September. Thank you to everyone who signed up, we still have a couple months open! Disciples Women General Meeting are now on hiatus until September 22, 2026 at noon at the Old Dairy.

The Ladies Luncheon will continue through the summer starting at 11:00 am at the Old Dairy. Next Luncheon will be on July 28th.

Mark your calendar for August 16th! Disciples Women will be hosting the Ice Cream Social in the Fellowship Hall. More details when the date draws closer.

Everyone have a beautiful and blessed Summer.
Happy Fourth of July!



God, the unknown can be so scary. It's in the quiet spaces where I find myself wondering what's next and feeling uncertain about what the future holds. Please heal my heart from the anxiety that comes with not knowing, and fill me with Your peace. Help me trust that the future is in Your hands, and I don't need to know every step, because You do. Amen.

July Event Calendar

July 4th: Independence Day

July 5th: Emergency Cupboard Collection

July 5th: Mission Trip Registration Deadline

July 16th: Third Thursday Meditation - 12:15 pm @ *Parlor*

July 16th: Third Thursday Men's Group - 7:00 pm @ *BWW*

July 26th to August 1st: Mission Trip to St. Louis

July 28th: Ladies Luncheon - 11:00 am @ *Old Dairy*

*Disciples Men is cancelled for the month of July due to the Holiday

2026 Mission Trip

Our 2026 Mission Trip will be to St. Louis from July 26th to August 1st. We will be helping an area that was recently struck by a tornado. Cost is \$150 per person. When writing checks please make them out to: First Christian Church. Please contact the church office to register and with any questions!

Volunteers Needed - Sign Up in the Parlor!

Looking for a simple way to help around the church? We have sign-up sheets in the Parlor for both Coffee Fellowship and Lawn Mowing. Whether you can volunteer once or several times throughout the year, every helping hand is appreciate and helps keep these important tasks covered.

We also want to take a moment to recognize and thank those who have volunteered over the past few months. Your generosity and willingness to serve do not go unnoticed!

Coffee Fellowship

Thank you to: The Chatterton's, The Behymer's, the Donnell's, Jack McKinnon, Kathy Fischer, and many others throughout the year!

Lawn Mowing

Thank you: Larry Loop, Bob Donnell, Robert Hironimus-Wendt, and John Vigezzi.

Thank you again to everyone who has volunteered. We appreciate your time and dedication to helping care for our church and welcoming our church family each week!



THANK YOU!

Thank You for a Wonderful Church Picnic!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for our All Church Picnic on June 7th! It was a wonderful afternoon filled with great food, laughter, fellowship, and fun. It was such a blessing to see our church family gathered together, enjoying one another's company and making lasting memories. We are so grateful to everyone who helped make the day a success, from those who planned and organized the event to those who set up, prepared food, served, and cleaned up!

We would like to give a few special thank-yous to those who helped make the evening special. Thank you to John Vigezzi and Dan Meyer for spending the afternoon at the grill preparing delicious hamburgers and hot dogs for everyone to enjoy. We also want to thank Lydia Cunningham for returning as our guest Xperience Music Leader. Lydia previously served in this role before leaving for college, and it was a joy to welcome her back to help lead us in worship. Finally, thank you to everyone who attended and shared in the evening with us. Fun was truly had by all, and we look forward to gathering together at future church events!

