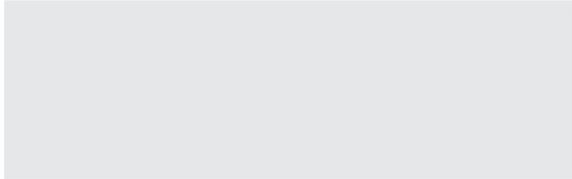




First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

120 North McArthur Street
Macomb, IL 61455-2101

PERIODICAL CHALICE TIDINGS



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Volume XXV, Issue 21

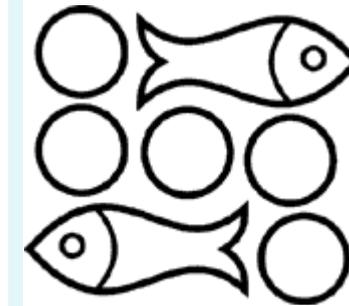
May 22, 2014

SERVING THIS WEEK OF May 25

- Worship Leader:** Shannon Reed
Elders: Grant Reed (bread), Jean Moore (cup)
Diaconate: Josh Butcher, Elise Cangro, Roselyn Chown, Ron Vaughn, Jonelle Schauble, Sue Cangro
Balcony: Collin Reed, Shannon Reed, Rich Cangro
Preparatory: Monill McClure, Barbara Markley, Cindy Moon
Greeters: **Front** LouAnn Herriman
Central East Karen Chatterton
Balcony South Jeanna Montgomery
Elevator Les Herriman
Sanctuary Superintendent(s): Gail & Joyce Randall
Children's Moment: Margaret Taylor
Children's Church: Jack McKinnon
Soundboard Tech: Eric Reed
Coffee Fellowship Time: Joyce Randall
Hospital Caller: Janet Shank
Financial Escort: Barbara Houck
Sunday Morning Office Staff: Dorothy Loop

- Kelly Ingersoll,
Minister
 Bill Froom,
Chancel Choir Director
 Carol Harmon,
Organist
 Annetta Holt,
Administrative Assistant
 Paul Huff,
Custodian
 Mariah Chapdelaine,
Youth/Children's Choir Director
 Brandi Collins,
Nursery Supervisor
 Sydne Speziale,
Nursery Assistant

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PANTRY VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

The Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry currently has several volunteers coming multiple times a month to help fill gaps in schedules.

New volunteers are always welcome. A training and refresher session for volunteers has been scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the library/pantry area of First Presbyterian Church. Anyone wanting to volunteer and cannot attend that date may call Sally Roberts (837 9234), Susan Lawhorn (837 3515) or Janna Haworth (837 1586) to discuss options.

Food pantry hours are 1:15-4:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 1:15-3:00 p.m. on Friday.

Kelly's Korner

In our gospel reading from John this week, Jesus will tell his disciples *I will not leave you*. Although these words were originally spoken to the disciples, we believe them to be true for us as well. The one who is the center of our faith will not leave us alone. What peace, what comfort such words bring us.

Until we find ourselves in a truly difficult spot. Until we feel as if all our loved ones have abandoned us. Until we isolate ourselves. Until we attempt to escape our lives in frivolous ways (which often just compounds or delays issues).

We must become so alone, so utterly alone, that we withdraw into our innermost self. It is a way of bitter suffering. But then our solitude is overcome, we are no longer alone, for we find that our innermost self is the spirit, that it is God, the indivisible. And suddenly we find ourselves in the midst of the world, yet undisturbed by its multiplicity, for our innermost soul we know ourselves to be one with all being.—

Hermann Hesse

Hesse's life was difficult. Time in mental hospitals. Estranged from parents. Unsatisfying work led him toward more spiritual ventures. His words echo Jesus. Jesus told the disciples that when he was no longer with them, the spirit would come. The spirit abides with us. The spirit is in us. Sometimes we have to hit rock bottom to understand. Sometimes we have to be completely alone.

And yet, some of us are just too afraid to be alone. In this day and age we have our phones and tablets and computers to avoid being alone. Radios and TVs provide background noise. Being alone with our thoughts is just too difficult. Silence engulfs and overwhelms us.

C. S. Lewis in *The Weight of Glory* writes: "*We live, in fact, in a world starved for solitude, silence, and private: and therefore starved for meditation and true friendship.*" Whether they be difficult, stressful moments or intentional times of holy conversation, the quiet and alone times may be the best opportunities to reconnect with the divine and remember we are not alone.

Peace,



Sunday, May 25

Rod Burg opens/closes church
drive(s) the van

- 8:30 AM Prayer Group
- 9:00 AM Sunday School
- 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30 AM Worship
- 12:00 PM Youth Group

Tuesday, May 27

- 5:00 PM Evangelism

Sunday, June 1

Bill Butcher opens/closes church
drive(s) the van

- 8:30 AM Prayer Group
- 9:00 AM Sunday School
- 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30 AM Worship
- 12:00 PM Youth Group

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 23 Jim & Janet Shank (a)
- 26 Margaret Taylor
- 28 Peggy West
- 29 Penny Dobey

Sunday, May 25 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sermon: I Will Never Leave You
Scripture: John 14:15-21

Lectioary Readings:

- Acts 17:22-31
- Psalm 66:8-20
- I Peter 3:13-22

Sunday, June 1 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Lectioary Readings:

- Acts 1:6-14
- Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
- I Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
- John 17:1-11



THE GRASS IS GROWING!

If you are able to help mow the church yard this year, please sign up in the Parlor.

The church has a mower and everything you need, making it convenient for everyone.

Questions: contact Bill Butcher (333 2071).



The Worship Committee is arranging special music for services during the summer while the choir is not singing.

The following has been arranged for June:

- 6/1 Carol Harmon
- 6/8 Natalie Workman
Elise Cangro
- 6/15 Sue Cangro
- 6/22 Brian Dameron
- 6/29 John Harmon

You won't want to miss any of these!

On behalf of the Elders and the Board, we write to inform you of a new undertaking. Two weeks ago, we became aware of a need with one of our newest members. He is new to Macomb and suddenly found himself without a place to live and no food. The Elders met after the service to have discussion. A few days later a second meeting was held to have further discussion. After hearing many details the Elders unanimously voted to help.

The Trustees and the Board met this past Monday evening. Part of their discussions included this situation. The Trustees decided to use funds to offer aid for this young man. The Board ratified the decision.

Our commitment to this man is to see to his basic needs for the next three months. It is our hope to help find housing and employment and to prepare him to be able to cover living expenses after that time. There are people working very hard to accomplish these tasks. The fund the Trustees identified as the starting point for covering such expenses is probably less than will be needed. Folks have helped with job applications and interviews. Currently, there is a feverish attempt to find affordable housing. More help is needed in all of these areas. If you are able to help in any way contact us or Rev. Kelly Ingersoll. (If you want to help with a monetary donation and run it through the church treasurer's office, please add the donation to your weekly giving and mark it plainly "member aid" on your envelope/check.)

Kelly reminded the Elders, Trustees, and the Board that we help because we find it in our hearts to do so—that we always respond in faith. We hope not to be taken advantage of (and we do not go into this situation blindly), but we place no expectations on what the outcome may be for this man or on our relationship with him. We pray that all will work out—that he stabilizes his life and becomes an outstanding member of both the Macomb community and the First Christian Church community of faith.

Please keep all these efforts and your participation with them in your prayers.

Respectfully,

Jean Vaughn, Chair of the Elders
Bob Chatterton, Board Chair



