

THE DISCIPLE



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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October 2019

Rev. Rick Hamilton, Minister

Carol Clifford, Editor



*“Called to be the presence of
Christ in our community”*



Welcome to October!

October can be a crazy fun time around church. Every year the Region and General Church remind me it is the “Month of the Ministry”. Honestly, it’s kind of a “Hallmark Holiday” for pastors. I don’t put much stock in those kind of celebrations. So, save the greeting card money, and consider the Month of the Ministry to be about the Ministries we do together during the month.

We start out the month with Reconciliation Sunday and World Communion Sunday on October 6th. We are an anti-racist pro-reconciling community of faith. We say it every Sunday. I hope we kick off the month with a miraculous special offering that “puts our money where our mouth is”. I want to challenge you: every adult and child brings a special gift for our church’s shared reconciliation ministries. Everyone! It doesn’t have to be huge, but I hope it is a generous gift above your tithes. My plan: is \$20. I know, not earth shattering, right? I was thinking about my “special gifts”, though. If someone is on the street, I may give them change or a few dollars (almost never more than 5). If someone knocks on my door with a cause I’m likely to hand them about \$5. If a child is selling lemonade, it is not uncommon for me to give them \$5 and tell them the next few people are free, but only if the child tells them the guy who bought this is challenging you to pay it forward too.

So if my go to is \$5 or less, then \$20 is a generous gift. It’s not extravagant, but it’s generous. I figure if we all do something kind of like that, we could make a special offering to Reconciliation well over \$500. That would be pretty awesome.

But I’m not done asking you to give. I’m boldly asking for one more thing: Socks. It is time once again for “**Sock-Tober**”. New socks are the number one most requested item in homeless shelters. So, bring some socks. We will set up the barrel, and split the socks between the Chicago night shelter (the Crib) and FISH.

I hope you will engage and embrace the Ministry of October fully.

I look forward to seeing you around our Lord’s Table.

Grace and Peace,
Rick



REFLECTIONS AND IDEAS



Fall is here and we will soon be watching our trees change color as the cooler weather arrives. At church we are into our fall programming with our adult and children's Sunday classes and with our Bible Study on Wednesday evenings and prayer group on Monday evenings. Everyone is invited to join and become more active in any of our church groups. You will learn more about our church, our members and even yourself as you participate in a group activity.

We currently have a nominating committee in place that will be working to fill the leadership positions in our church. You are invited to let me know if you have a particular area you are interested in serving. If asked to serve in some capacity, you are encouraged to ask questions. Then please agree to bring your talents and share further in the life of the church.

In the book of Romans the apostle Paul affirms the many different gifts that God has given to us. We are encouraged to identify and use our gifts to help others. We each have spiritual gifts, skills and talents to serve in some way. You are encouraged to identify your own unique skills and use them to serve others as Christ taught us.

In a little book titled Don't Sweat the Small Stuff we are reminded that when you give, you also receive. "As you give more of yourself in your own unique ways, you will experience more feelings of peace than you ever thought possible."

Your Chairman, Joy Claffey



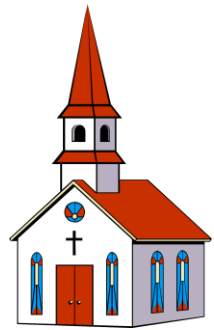
*"God gave us life.
What we do with it reveals
our attitude toward the Giver."
Charles Ferrell*

PROPERTY REPORT

COM ED ELECTRIC BILL – CHURCH

7-23 to 8-21 \$185.40

Same period last year. \$240.61



Dan Johns and I are working on gathering the financial information we need from the various vendors we work with (lawn service/snow plowing, annual maintenance of boiler, furnace, a/c units, hot water heaters, pest control, parking lot/driveway annual maintenance, and annual maintenance of our fire protection equipment). Working with the Treasurer, we will prepare a proposed Property Budget for the Board's consideration as part of the overall 2020 Church budget.



OCTOBER LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch bunch will meet following worship on Sunday, October 20th at:



Harvest Pancake House and Grill
339 West 63rd Street,
Westmont

Please join us to celebrate time together. Look for the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. See you there!

Martha and Alice



Christian Education

Our Christian Education group is off to a great start for the new program year! The One with the Lord (OWL) (Kindergarten through 5th grade) is studying Jesus' teachings and how they relate to our lives today. During September, we have discussed the two greatest requirements and made a commitment to follow Jesus with sandals on the bulletin board. The Middle School (6th through 8th grade) Sunday schools are continuing to stay in worship to study the sermon and then meet the following week to discuss the sermon.

Adult Sunday school is enjoying a 4-week lesson on the Gospel of John, which is a good complement to Rev. Rick Hamilton's study of John at Feed the Body and Soul. In October we will then start a study entitled Pursuit of Peter. All studies are video-based with lively discussion. Please join us – 9:00 am Sundays!

Feed the Body and Soul is continuing Wednesday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. We are enjoying a light supper, fellowship and a lively study led by Rev. Rick Hamilton. Rick is providing a new look at the gospels beginning with a study of the Gospel of John. Join us and also check out the opportunities to provide dinner!

The Nursery is continuing for our young ones. We continue to need volunteers! While the sanctuary has entertainment for the children, sometimes the nursery is needed. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall, if you can help!

Karen, Beth, Gail, Anka, Alice, Tammy and Angela



“Almost everything that matters is difficult.”

Rainer Maria Rilke



Join Us for Monday Intercessory Prayer (MIP)!

Prayers are being answered! Please join us for MIP Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary or dial in to join us from the comforts of your own home!

The **conference-calling** feature makes it easy to join from anywhere you are. Dial in to join us for the entire session or just to ask for your own prayer concerns. We welcome all prayer concerns!

We document our prayer concerns each week and if you provide us with your email we can send a copy to you each week.

Join us for a spiritually-enriching hour with God! You are free to join in silently or add prayers as you like!

Our Monday night sessions include:

- A brief gathering of any additional prayers and prayer priorities
- A prayer devotion
- Prayers for our joys and concerns:
 - Personal
 - Church
 - Community
 - Country
 - World
- A brief closing prayer

To Join by Conference Call:

1. Call (712) 770-3743
2. Enter the access code: 390193

For more information email Karen Johns:

johns.karen@gmail.com



Current Fund Balances --by date - As of 9/30/2019

Account	9/30/2019 Balance
Bank Accounts	
General Fund - (Operating Budget)	-965.74
Hope For The Future - Savings Fund	31,427.89
In-As-Much Fund	753.40
Ladies Annual Tea	0.00
Memorials	1,360.00
Pass Thru Funds	0.00
Property Reserve	1,366.14
SPECIAL Disciples Mission Outreach Funds	140.00
SPECIAL Music & Worship Fund	312.99
The Back To School Fair Fund	4,415.16
Youth Fund	1,330.77
TOTAL Bank Accounts	40,140.61
OVERALL TOTAL	40,140.61

YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE



50th Anniversary 1969-2019

Thursday, October 17, 2019

At the

Ashyana Center

1235 75th St. Downers Grove

6:00 Gathering with cash bar

7:00 American Style Buffet Dinner

8:00 Program and recognitions

Additional information is posted on the community board.
Visit downersgrovefish.org or call 630-965-1411

Budget
1/1/2019 through 9/30/2019 Using Budget 2019 Annual

Category	1/1/2019 Actual	- Budget	9/30/2019 Difference
INCOME	93,748.35	109,222.00	-15,473.65
100_income	93,748.35	109,222.00	-15,473.65
120-Identifiable Giving	92,361.00	99,394.00	-7,033.00
130-Loose offering	253.77	450.00	-196.23
140-Space Use Donations	100.00	8,100.00	-8,000.00
150_Fundraising	57.80	153.00	-95.20
160-Other Income	975.78	1,125.00	-149.22
EXPENSES	94,714.09	108,582.00	13,867.91
200-Ministry	2,065.98	2,943.00	877.02
210-Worship	490.98	603.00	112.02
220-Evangelism	0.00	306.00	306.00
230-Disciples Mission Fund	1,575.00	1,575.00	0.00
250-Stewardship	0.00	153.00	153.00
260-Christian Development	0.00	306.00	306.00
300-Property	16,057.34	23,193.00	7,135.66
310-Maintenance & Repair	3,011.56	4,131.00	1,119.44
330-Grounds	6,536.18	7,803.00	1,266.82
340-Utilities	5,989.62	5,256.00	-733.62
350-Improvements	519.98	6,003.00	5,483.02
400-Office Administration	8,063.28	7,965.00	-98.28
410-Insurance & Bonding	4,726.00	4,356.00	-370.00
420- Office Expense	2,707.45	3,006.00	298.55
430-Payroll Service	629.83	603.00	-26.83
500-Personnel	68,527.49	74,481.00	5,953.51
520-Sr. Min. Housing Allowance	29,250.00	29,250.00	0.00
530-Sr. Min. Pension	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00
540-Sr. Min. Prof. Expenses	829.13	747.00	-82.13
550-Office Manager Salary	16,128.00	16,128.00	0.00
560-Pianist Salary	9,648.00	9,648.00	0.00
570-Choir Director	0.00	5,460.00	5,460.00
580-Custodian Salary	5,760.00	5,760.00	0.00
590-Staff FICA	2,412.36	2,988.00	575.64
Net Difference:	-965.74	640.00	-1,605.74



DIRECTORY UPDATE...



Sam and her mother Violet have moved.
Please update your directory.

Sam Biro
1-330-235-8452
8400 S. Bedford Rd., Apr. 315, Macedonia, OH 44506

Did you know...?

By: Bobbie Dean



Ireland is where Halloween began...

Halloween is an annual holiday celebrated each year on October 31. Its origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in).

The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1. This day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death. Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred.

On the night of October 31, they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghost of the dead returned to earth. In addition to causing trouble and damaging crops, Celts thought that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Druids, or Celtic priests, to make predictions about the future. For a people entirely dependent on the volatile natural world, these prophecies were an important source of comfort and direction during the long, dark winter.

To commemorate the event, Druids built huge sacred bonfires, where the people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Celtic deities. During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes, typically consisting of animal heads and skins, and attempted to tell each other's fortunes. When the celebration was over, they re-lit their hearth fires, which they had extinguished earlier that evening, from the sacred bonfire to help protect them during the coming winter.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Oct. 3	Jeff Igel
Oct. 6	Bill Sullivan
Oct. 13	Megan Barlow
Oct. 14	Gail Reese
Oct. 15	Lakeesa Phillips
Oct. 19	Samantha Biro
Oct. 23	Cali Sullivan
Oct. 29	Jim Claffey
Oct. 31	Carl Misek



New Day Retreat 2.0

Oct. 11-12

Lake Williamson near Carlinville, IL
4:00 p.m. Friday – 4:00 p.m. Saturday

This retreat will continue the deepening of our spiritual resources. We will recall our “shimmering” moments of God’s presence in our lives. We will strengthen the community relationships that encourage and affirm our walk with Jesus. We will consider the stirrings of Spirit that are sprouting--- making sure to provide nourishment with living waters and bread of life.

Registration is open at <https://cciwdisciples.org/2019/08/new-day-retreat-2-0/>

Fliers are in Fellowship hall on the table and the bulletin board.
Or see Karen Johns for more information

SERVING SCHEDULE



ELDERS Bread /Cup

Oct. 6	Martha Anderson	Bob Reese
Oct. 13	Becky Daigle	Martha Anderson
Oct. 20	Daphne Hayes	Barb Bates
Oct. 27	Joy Claffey	Sur Huizinga

DEACONS Prep and Serve Serve

Oct. 6	Jim Claffey	Marve Huizinga
Oct. 13	Mac Flores	Gail Reese, Suellen Cook, Ron Smith
Oct. 20	Galilee Flores	Jim Claffey, Dan Johns, Jeff Igel
Oct. 27	Sandy Allen	Don Peterson, Suellen Cook, Mac Flores

POWER POINT

Oct. 6	Barb Bates
Oct. 13	Joy Claffey
Oct. 20	Don Peterson
Oct. 27	Marve Huizinga

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Oct. 6-27	Please consider signing up to help out in the Nursery.
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SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Oct. 6	Gail Reese
Oct. 13	Beth Smith
Oct. 20	Karen Johns
Oct. 27	Anka Ivanisevic

COUNTERS

Oct. 6	Marve Huizinga and Bobbie Dean
Oct. 13	Karen Connery and Sandy Allen
Oct. 20	Martha Anderson and Barb Bates
Oct. 27	Dick Anderson and Bob Reese

WHAT AM I?

I would like to talk with you, for
I am part of your church life.

I may be a complete stranger to you , but
I can help you be a better Christian.

I like to go to worship on Sunday, for
I help you to be Christ's partner.

I am very small, but
I am the keystone of your church program.

I am a weekly reminder of your daily blessings.
I dare you to be good to God as he has been to you.

I am only paper, but
I carry the full gift of a generous heart.

I am the only pocketbook you need on Sunday, and
I promise not to be a burden.

I am your chance to preach, for
I am a silent sermon of your devotion.

DID YOU GUESS?

DO YOU WANT TO GIVE UP?

Answer: I am your church envelope