

THE DISCIPLE



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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September 2019

Rev. Rick Hamilton, Minister

Carol Clifford, Editor



A NEW CHURCH YEAR BEGINS



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH

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



On Football and Christianity

September marks two of my favorite “kick offs” each year: the kick off of football season and the kick off of fall programming for the church. So I thought it would be a grand time to write to you about the nature of spectator versus participation sports.

A spectator sport is one which is designed to be played in front of large crowds who watch the contest taking place. A participation sport is one played with little regard for fans being present. At least in theory. The language implies that the people who watch the contest have no investment in the outcome. As a fan of many sports, especially football, I can assure you that if I am in the stands, I have a vested interest in the outcome of the game. As a result, I am cheering and encouraging “my team” as much as possible.

Texas A&M University (a school for whom I have no love, but a fair amount of respect) calls the crowd the “12th Man”. They count on the energy, encouragement, and noise of their fans to be a part of the team effort taking place on the field. Hardly a “spectator” role.

Worship is not a spectator event. It is a participation event. When you come to worship, come ready to play: to pray, to sing, to think, to encourage, to support, to hug, to share. Come to not watch, but to be an active part of worshipping the living God.

This year, we will be adding a scripture reading to worship. It is the desire of the worship committee that the reading of that “extra” scripture be done not by the elders or me, but by another part of our worshipping body. This would be yet another way to be a participant in worship. I hope to have already started signing up folks to be scripture readers by the time you read this. I hope you will prayerfully consider if this could be one of your ministries to the whole church.

Regardless of your willingness or ability to read scripture, I look forward to seeing you around the Lord’s Table, participating in worship.

Rick



REFLECTIONS AND IDEAS



We are fast approaching the fall season with so many activities on our calendars. Before we leave summer, we need to thank everyone who participated in our Back-to-School Fair! We had perfect weather to be together with all of the families preparing for the new school year. There were many excited faces receiving filled backpacks, playing games, talking to the firemen, bouncing in the play house, seeing the snake menagerie, eating lunch, joining in the cake walk, getting a new haircut, and just being together. We sincerely thank all of you who volunteered your time including our friends from Parkway Gardens and Fe y Esperanza. We should all be proud and happy to have touched so many lives in one day.

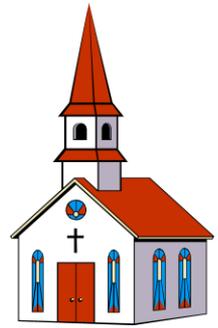
Rally Day on September 8 is the Sunday after the Labor Day weekend. Rally Day is the start of our fall program year with church returning to our 10:30 worship time and a potluck meal following the service. Sunday school will begin on September 15th. Sunday school classes for children are held during the church hour and adults will meet at 9:00 a.m.

As we remember our workers past and present, I will share this prayer from the internet:

Lord on this Labor Day, we thank You for the blessing of work. We ask for strength to complete each day. We ask for rest when we are weary. We ask Your guidance for everyone seeking employment, and we ask that You be with those whose faces we might never see but who work tirelessly each day for the good of us all. Amen

Your Chairman, Joy Claffey

PROPERTY REPORT



COM ED ELECTRIC BILL – CHURCH

6-21 to 7-23 \$149.63

Same period last year. \$229.03

In comparing our Com Ed bills for the first six months of 2018 to the first six months of 2019, we have spent \$320.18 less this year than last year. The difference can be attributed to the fact that Fe y Esperanza did not rent our church facility this year (they used our facility more times per week than we did).

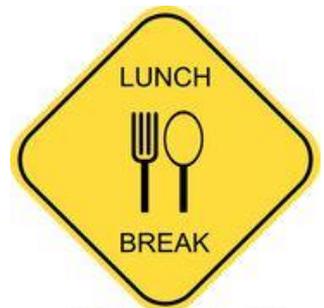


SEPTEMBER LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch bunch will meet following worship on Sunday,
September 15th 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

We are looking forward to Christian Ed starting up again after Rally day on September 8th. I hope everyone will join us as we return to 10:30 a.m. worship and celebrate the start of a new program year! All Sunday schools will resume Sunday, September 15th.

The One with the Lord (OWL) (Kindergarten through 5th grade) will continue meeting during worship after the Children's Moment. We will study Jesus' teachings and how they relate to our lives today. This will be a good follow-up to our ending lesson on Resurrection by looking back at what Jesus taught and how we can follow in his footsteps.

The Middle School (6th through 8th grade) Sunday schools will continue staying in worship to study the sermon and then meeting the following week to discuss the sermon. Also as part of starting the new program year, we would like to update the technology permission slips for each child. Please pick up one in fellowship hall or talk to one of our Christian Education leads.

Adult Sunday school will resume meeting 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings starting Sunday, September 15th. We will start with a 4-week lesson on the Gospel of John, which will tie in nicely with Rev. Rick Hamilton's study of John at Feed the Body and Soul. We will then follow with a study entitled Pursuit of Peter. All studies are video-based with lively discussion. Please join us!

Feed the Body and Soul will resume Wednesday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. starting September 11th. We will again enjoy a light supper, fellowship and a lively study led by Rev. Rick Hamilton. This session will move into the New Testament beginning with a study of the Gospel of John. Rick will provide a new look at the gospels, taking into account context and discussing what the scripture means to us today. There are lots of opportunities for dinners so please sign up!

The Nursery will continue during the summer 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



Join Us for Monday Intercessory Prayer (MIP)!

Prayers are being answered! Please join us for MIP this fall! Note: We will be taking a three-week break from Sept 2 through Sept 16th due to Labor Day and Karen's Africa vacation but then we will return as usual Monday September 23rd! Please join us 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

Choral-Aires presents...



Big Sing in the Big Easy

Sept. 8 at 3:30 pm
Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church

For tickets: p.rotunno@comcast.net
\$15 (under 17 - \$10)
Or contact Martha



Current Fund Balances --by date - As of 8/31/2019

Account	8/31/2019 Balance
Bank Accounts	
General Fund - (Operating Budget)	-1,983.69
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	0.00
SPECIAL Music & Worship Fund	2.99
The Back To School Fair Fund	3,993.41
Youth Fund	1,330.77
TOTAL Bank Accounts	38,250.91
OVERALL TOTAL	38,250.91

Budget

1/1/2019 through 8/31/2019 Using Budget 2019 Annual

Category	1/1/2019 Actual	- Budget	8/31/2019 Difference
INCOME	82,478.10	97,087.00	-14,608.90
100_income	82,478.10	97,087.00	-14,608.90
120-Identifiable Giving	81,143.00	88,351.00	-7,208.00
130-Loose offering	217.02	400.00	-182.98
140-Space Use Donations	100.00	7,200.00	-7,100.00
150_Fundraising	42.30	136.00	-93.70
160-Other Income	975.78	1,000.00	-24.22
EXPENSES	84,461.79	96,214.00	11,752.21
200-Ministry	1,890.98	2,616.00	725.02
210-Worship	490.98	536.00	45.02
220-Evangelism	0.00	272.00	272.00
230-Disciples Mission Fund	1,400.00	1,400.00	0.00
250-Stewardship	0.00	136.00	136.00
260-Christian Development	0.00	272.00	272.00
300-Property	13,902.26	20,616.00	6,713.74
310-Maintenance & Repair	2,567.12	3,672.00	1,104.88
330-Grounds	5,666.18	6,936.00	1,269.82
340-Utilities	5,668.96	4,672.00	-996.96
350-Improvements	0.00	5,336.00	5,336.00
400-Office Administration	7,663.10	7,080.00	-583.10
410-Insurance & Bonding	4,726.00	3,872.00	-854.00
420- Office Expense	2,428.51	2,672.00	243.49
430-Payroll Service	508.59	536.00	27.41
500-Personnel	61,005.45	66,902.00	4,896.55
520-Sr. Min. Housing Allowance	26,000.00	26,000.00	0.00
530-Sr. Min.Pension	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00
540-Sr. Min. Prof. Expenses	829.13	664.00	-165.13
550-Office Manager Salary	14,336.00	14,336.00	0.00
560-Pianist Salary	8,576.00	8,576.00	0.00
570-Choir Director	0.00	4,550.00	4,550.00
580-Custodian Salary	5,120.00	5,120.00	0.00
590-Staff FICA	2,144.32	2,656.00	511.68
Net Difference:	-1,983.69	873.00	-2,856.69



RALLY DAY AND POT LUCK SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH

Don't forget - we are back to our regular worship time of 10:30 am. Fellowship time will be our annual Pot Luck lunch. Please bring a dish to share. See you there!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 1 Laura Johns
Sept 2 Mark Claffey
Sept. 2 Andrew Wormley
Sept. 19 Bonnie Klee Roberts
Sept. 25 Robert Hamilton
Sept. 26 Kendra Huizinga
Sept. 26 Ryan Hamilton
Sept. 27 Barb Bates
Sept. 28 Bob Lewis
Sept. 29 Jennifer Gilley
Sept. 29 Rick Hamilton
Sept. 29 Anka Ivanisevic



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



PASTOR'S FALL OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, September 28
4-8 pm (come and go)

The Hamilton's
344 Hemlock Lane
Naperville, IL

All are welcome! See you there!



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



Labor Day Reflections



Labor Day brings to mind picnics, cookouts and family gatherings. Falling on the first Monday in September, it marks the unofficial end of summer and the beginning of the new school year. But the holiday was created in 1882 to honor the social and economic contributions of American workers.

In a strong economy, it’s easy to take for granted the ability to work and be paid well. But times have changed during the past few years, many people still struggle with unemployment and underemployment.

During our holiday celebrations this year, let’s give thanks for the jobs we have, pray for those who aren’t as fortunate and offer words of encouragement or help to someone who needs it.

SERVING SCHEDULE



ELDERS Bread /Cup

Sept. 1	Becky Daigle	Martha Anderson
Sept. 8	Sue Huizinga	Bob Reese
Sept. 15	Bob Reese	Daphne Hayes
Sept. 22	Barb Bates	Becky Daigle
Sept. 29	Karen Johns	Joy Claffey

DEACONS Prep and Serve Serve

Sept. 1	Galilee Flores	Marve Huizinga
Sept. 8	Ron Smith	Dan Johns, Mac Flores, Gail Reese
Sept. 15	Mac Flores	Marve Huizinga, Jim Claffey, Don Peterson
Sept. 22	Galilee Flores	Suellen Cook, Gail Reese, Sandy Allen
Sept. 29	Dan Johns	Jeff Igel, Don Peterson, Ron Smith

POWER POINT

Sept. 1	Barb Bates
Sept. 8	Joy Claffey
Sept. 15	Marve Huizinga
Sept. 22	Dan Johns
Sept. 29	Don Peterson

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sept. 1- 29	Please consider signing up to help out in the Nursery.
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SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Sept. 1	No Sunday school
Sept. 8	Rally Day – no Sunday school
Sept. 15	Beth Smith
Sept. 22	Karen Johns
Sept. 29	Anka Ivanisevic

COUNTERS

Sept. 1	Bobbie Dean and Martha Anderson
Sept. 8	Don Peterson and Sandy Allen
Sept. 15	Dick Anderson and Marve Huizinga
Sept. 22	Marve Huizinga and Barb Bates
Sept. 29	Sandy Allen and Bob Reese

“HAND IN HAND”



When the young man appeared at the hospital room door, an overworked nurse came and quickly escorted him to the patient's bedside. Leaning over and speaking loudly to the elderly patient, she said, "Your son is here."

With great effort, the patient's unfocused eyes opened, then flickered shut again. The young man squeezed the aged hand in his and sat beside the bed. Throughout the night he sat there, holding the old man's hand and whispering words of comfort.

Early in the morning the patient died. In moments, hospital staff swarmed into the room to turn off machines and remove needles. The nurse stepped over to the young man's side and began to offer sympathy, but he interrupted her.

"Who was that man?" he asked. The startled nurse replied, "I thought he was your father!:"

"No, he was not my father," he answered. "I never saw him before."

"Then why didn't you say something when I took you to him?"

"I realized he needed his son and his son wasn't there," the man explained. "And since he was too sick to recognize that I was not his son, I knew he needed me."

Mother Teresa used to remind us that nobody should have to die alone. Likewise, nobody should have to grieve alone or cry alone either. Nor should anyone laugh alone or celebrate alone. We are made to travel life's journey hand in hand.

There is someone ready to grasp your hand today.
And someone is hoping you will take theirs.

Author Unknown