

# THE DISCIPLE

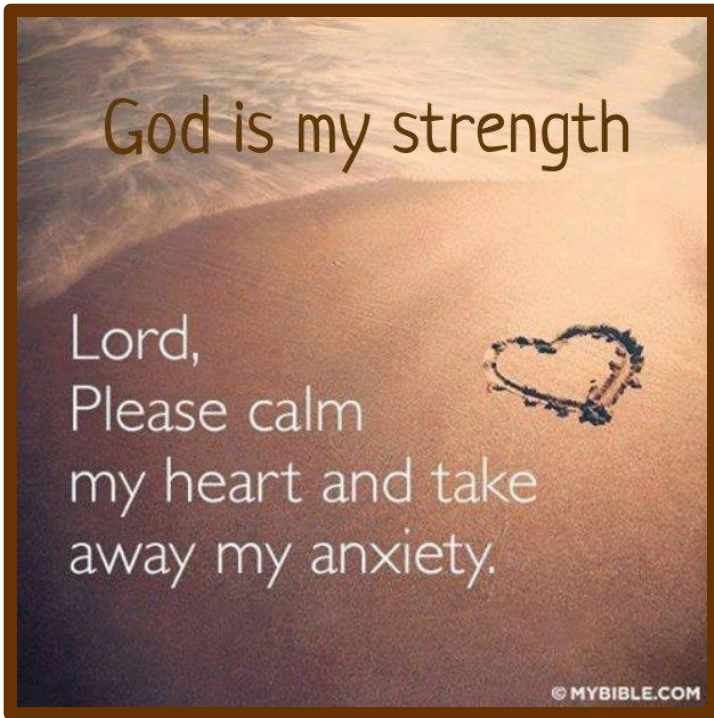


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## September 2020

*Rev. Rick Hamilton, Minister*

*Carol Clifford, Editor*



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



Almost 150 days. March 18th to September 13 is almost 150 days. 182 days is half a year. The State mandate shutting down gatherings began on March 18. Assuming we remain in phase four of the Illinois recovery plan for COVID-19, we will have been apart a solid five months, which feels like years. Every step has been harder than I could have ever imagined. Moving to an online service has tested all of our patience, creativity, and imaginations. I have learned more about computer broadcasting than I would have wanted to know in ten lifetimes. I have made many, many mistakes in being a pandemic pastor. You have been most gracious.

If all goes correctly, we can return on September 13th. Even then, things won't be the same. We will not share snacks and coffee, we will not linger in fellowship hall, and we won't be sitting right up close to our friends and church family.

We will, however, feel the presence of God in this difficult time. I can tell you from just one preview Sunday, the difference it makes seeing your beloved ones in the flesh. Although I can't share a warm embrace or a hearty handshake, though we cannot always see one another's smiles, there is something powerful about being physically together.

Not everyone will choose to hurry back. AND THAT IS OKAY. Everyone must move at their own pace. What I can tell you is that I have a newfound appreciation for the meaning the Disciples found in seeing Jesus physically in their presence. I have a new found appreciation for the term incarnation. In case you were asleep that day, my favorite definition for incarnation is "God with skin on". It most literally means "in the flesh".

I have a whole new appreciation for being with you "in the flesh". And I look forward to seeing you as you are ready. I will be there. The table will be set. And there will be a place for you.

Incarnationally, and Intentionally,  
Rick



# REFLECTIONS AND IDEAS



I look forward to summer, but this has really been a different season with so many activities cancelled and not being able to see one another as we usually do.

We missed having our Back-to-School Fair this year, but I am so glad the committee worked to organize reaching out to a local high school and two middle schools to provide some calculators that are needed in their math classes. The committee talked to some administrators in the schools and found that these calculators are very expensive and would be much appreciated by some math students and their families. Some back packs were also distributed that were able to be put together from some supplies left over from last year. These backpacks went to families who contacted our church for help because they knew our church held our fair every August. We hope to have a great BTS Fair next year, but we are so happy we could at least do this much this year! Thanks to Dan Johns and Bobbie Dean for chairing this committee.

My thanks also go again to our Pastor Rick Hamilton for his leadership to have our Sunday worship service on line. The service is so very professional looking, and I am so proud and thankful to all who have a part in working on this. Watching the worship service on line is a great way to start the week. Special thanks to Rick for his message and guidance each Sunday as well as to Rick Sladek on the piano, Bob Reese on drums and our vocalists Becky Daigle and Marve Huizinga. Our special people behind the scene include Angela, Tammy and Gail Reese who do amazing work with the cameras. Currently two elders are in attendance each week now and we may even have a guitar player, but hopefully we will all be able to gather in the sanctuary sometime soon with our social distancing!

I would like to share this thought from my little book, 'Relax, God Is In Charge.'

Live in such a way that those who know you but don't know God will come to know God because they know you.

We hope you are all well and keeping safe. I still miss seeing everyone in person, but you are still in my thoughts and prayers until we can be together again. Do share with us if you have prayer concerns or joys because we are still your church family.

God bless all of you. Be safe and stay well.  
Joy Claffey, Chairman

## Join Us for Monday Intercessory Prayer (MIP)!



Prayers are being answered! Please join us for MIP Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. from the comforts of your own home! Check the Website since there may be no MIP on Labor Day Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> but otherwise we will be praying every Monday!

With the world still struggling, now is a great time to spend an hour with God feeling his support and love.

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](mailto:johns.karen@gmail.com)



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education is optimistically looking forward to the Church re-opening on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Fluid as all things are, we do have some tentative plans to share.

The middle school group (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades) will continue to be led by Angela and Tammy Reese. They are planning to contact the group to find a meeting time (not during our worship service time) that works for everyone. It will be a zoom session to discuss the worship service and other meaningful topics for the group including various games and activities. They also are hoping to set up an in-person socially distanced event, if possible.

The children of god group (K – 5<sup>th</sup>) will not be meeting in person since Sunday school rooms are closed. We will, however, have materials in bags (a bag personally labeled and dedicated to the child) at each child's seat during Sunday service. The bag will include all they need to work on the lesson during service. The Sunday school leader will email the parents each week to allow them to prepare their children for the lesson that week. We will of course be available to answer any questions. We are planning on using children bulletin materials as a foundation for the materials. The lesson papers can come home after service, but the bags and supplies should remain at church for use the following weeks.

Adult Sunday school will begin meeting in October assuming the September church opening goes as planned. We will meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in a socially distanced place in Fellowship Hall. The planned study is a 6-week video series called The God of Surprises. It covers how God works for good – a valuable topic for present times.

Feed the Body and Soul will resume Wednesday September 16<sup>th</sup> by zoom. We will be picking up the New Testament with a study of Acts and then the Letters. During the pandemic we are calling Feed the Body and Soul - Enrich the Soul - since we cannot dine together. Rick will continue to start the zoom at 6:00 pm for fellowship and shared eating as desired. We are asking that the fellowship and eating end by 6:30 p.m., which is when the lesson will start. With the limitations of zoom, this should allow the lesson to better be heard.

These are challenging times, but we hope all will take advantage of these offerings. As always we are always open to comments and suggestions.

Karen, Beth, Sue, Deb, Joy, Alice, Tammy and Angela



Current Fund Balances --by date - As of 8/31/2020

Account	8/31/2020 Balance
<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
General Fund - (Operating Budget)	881.06
Hope For The Future - Savings Fund	43,919.88
In-As-Much Fund	782.40
Ladies Annual Tea	0.00
Memorials	1,666.00
Pass Thru Funds	500.00
Property Reserve	1,366.14
SPECIAL Disciples Mission Outreach Funds	225.00
SPECIAL Music & Worship Fund	7.45
The Back To School Fair Fund	6,505.33
Youth Fund	1,330.77
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>57,184.03</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>57,184.03</b>



# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Sept. 1	Laura Johns
Sept. 2	Mark Claffey
Sept. 2	Andrew Wormley
Sept. 25	Robert Hamilton
Sept. 26	Kendra Huizinga
Sept. 26	Ryan Hamilton
Sept. 27	Barb Bates
Sept. 29	Jennifer Gilley
Sept. 29	Rick Hamilton
Sept. 29	Anka Ivanisevic

## Budget

1/1/2020 through 8/31/2020 Using Budget 2020 Annual

Category	1/1/2020 Actual	-	8/31/2020 Difference
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>83,500.43</b>	<b>89,600.00</b>	<b>-6,099.57</b>
100_income	83,500.43	89,600.00	-6,099.57
120-Identifiable Giving	82,426.60	88,208.00	-5,781.40
130-Loose offering	46.60	232.00	-185.40
140-Space Use Donations	50.00	96.00	-46.00
150_Fundraising	0.00	64.00	-64.00
160-Other Income	977.23	1,000.00	-22.77
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>82,619.37</b>	<b>90,123.00</b>	<b>7,503.63</b>
200-Ministry	1,714.90	1,992.00	277.10
210-Worship	0.00	400.00	400.00
220-Evangelism	0.00	64.00	64.00
230-Disciples Mission Fund	1,400.00	1,400.00	0.00
250-Stewardship	259.93	64.00	-195.93
260-Christian Development	54.97	64.00	9.03
300-Property	11,095.90	18,000.00	6,904.10
310-Maintenance & Repair	1,842.01	2,800.00	957.99
320-Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00
330-Grounds	4,730.00	6,000.00	1,270.00
340-Utilities	4,523.89	5,200.00	676.11
350-Improvements	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
400-Office Administration	8,210.33	7,803.00	-407.33
410-Insurance & Bonding	4,721.89	4,875.00	153.11
420- Office Expense	2,803.49	2,400.00	-403.49
430-Payroll Service	684.95	528.00	-156.95
500-Personnel	61,596.24	62,328.00	729.76
520-Sr. Min. Housing Allowance	26,664.00	26,664.00	0.00
530-Sr. Min. Pension	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00
540-Sr. Min. Prof. Expenses	0.00	664.00	664.00
550-Office Manager Salary	14,640.00	14,640.00	0.00
560-Pianist Salary	8,808.00	8,808.00	0.00
570-Choir Director	0.00	0.00	0.00
580-Custodian Salary	5,288.00	5,288.00	0.00
590-Staff FICA	2,198.24	2,264.00	65.76
<b>Net Difference:</b>	<b>881.06</b>	<b>-623.00</b>	<b>1,404.06</b>



## Property Report

Due to the expense of having the driveway and parking lot done, Dan and Marve will be patching the apron at the entrance to the driveway and the other areas. Beverly Landscaping has cut and sprayed the weeds in the parking lot. No decisions regarding the willow tree yet.



When Dan and I are both back in town we will resume looking into areas that need attention.

Stay healthy, Barb and Dan



# Back-to-School Fair

## by Dan Johns



August 8, the day we planned for this year's back-to-school fair, has come and gone, and I know we all missed the excitement that accompanies it: the happy children receiving their backpacks, the pressure (and pleasure) of doling out food, the music of the cakewalk, the games, the face-painting, and all the other wonderful events we are able to host, including the giant tortoises and snakes from the Herpetological Society! Our alternative to hosting the fair this year is providing graphing calculators (TI-83 Pluses, for the most part) to Downers Grove South High School, O'Neill Middle School, and Thomas Jefferson Junior High School. We have also answered calls from several families and provided them with backpacks made up from leftover supplies from last year.

Last week, Rick brought 25 calculators to the high school's assistant principal. Jacob Giblin, the Mathematics Department chair, acknowledged the need for the calculators and said that the school is "incredibly grateful" for the gift. You can read the press release here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/qz6wk2mrfabjs5x/Press%20Release.docx?dl=0>. We'll also post a copy in Fellowship Hall.

We will arrange the deliveries to the other two schools when they determine their schedule. We are blessed to be able to help the community out in this way. Another blessing is that we received a grant from the CCIW that will allow us to continue providing graphing calculators at next year's and subsequent fairs.

Thank you all for your contributions to the fair over the years. We are confident that we will be able to safely host our next fair in 2021. I hope you look forward, as we do, to adapting to whatever path God chooses for us. Stay safe and healthy! And feel free to reach out to me or any committee member with ideas and insights at any time.





# **Return to Worship Plan**

## **First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

### **Downers Grove, IL**

In anticipation of the continued status of the State of Illinois stage four policies in our region, it is time to plan for worship gatherings of up to fifty people.

The sanctuary of First Christian Church seating has been reconfigured to fifty chairs, socially distanced (six feet) and labeled by household/transportation to church normal patterns. For instance, since Alice Dornan and Evelyn Phillips arrive together, their seats in the Sanctuary are also together. Throughout the time we are gathered in person, we will also continue to produce an online worship presence for those who cannot or choose not to physically gather.

#### General Policies:

- The main door will be opened for arriving worshippers by the greeter.
- Paper bulletins will not be produced, but will continue to be offered online for home printing.
- All Words and Worship cues will continue to be on screen.
- Hand sanitizer will be offered to everyone as they enter.
- No physical greetings should take place. Air Hugs and waves will be the norm.
- Participants must wear cloth mask facial coverings while in church.
- Singing will be different and is covered below.
- Communion and Responsive Readings will also change and be covered below.
- We will Pre-Cool the building as much as possible, and run fans at a low speed. Air conditioners will be turned off in the Sanctuary by 10:00 am to avoid cross contamination.
- Restrooms will be open, but are limited to a maximum of two persons in any restroom at any time.
- Nursery and Sunday School rooms will be closed.
- Kid's activity bags will be made for each child which have their own coloring sheets, lap desk, crayons/colored pencils, and worship activity sheets. These will be stocked during the week and will be left on the child's chair for Sundays.

#### Singing:

We will have two song leaders with microphones singing behind plastic barriers and from the hallway. All others should sing "in spirit" or quietly in their masks to avoid potential airborne transmission.

- Hymnals and songbooks will not be available to avoid surface transmissions. All words will be on screen and we will strive to choose familiar songs and tunes.

### Communion:

- The service of communion will be in spirit, except for the Pastor and Table Elder, who will consume the elements as we normally do in worship.
- Participants will be offered communion in a “stacked cup” of bread and juice as they leave the worship facility. The pastor only will handle this tray, and each participant will remove their cups without touching others (they will be spaced) and consume the elements outside the building and aware of social distance.
- Communion will be prepared by masked and gloved persons.

### Speaking Parts:

- Each speaker will have a dedicated microphone, and should wear masks when not actively speaking. Each microphone is 8-10 feet from the closest participant, and speakers are encouraged not to project their voices aggressively, but allow the microphone to “do the work”.
- When a speaker has completed their role in the service, they will remain in the chancel in their assigned seat to prevent crossing too closely with others to return to a seat.

### Fellowship and Coffee policy

Any fellowship times must be outside the building and will not include coffee or treats or snacks. Likewise, water fountains will be turned off to avoid contaminants. Social distancing should be practiced at all times.

### Arrival to Worship

Members are encouraged to arrive in such a way as to enter the building no earlier than 10:15, and go directly to their seat. Chairs should not be moved or rearranged. Deacons will facilitate seating for guests, hopefully with advanced awareness of whose “seats” are available.

Guests represent a challenge because our regular membership represents about 50 people filling our allowed fifty seats.

### Departure from the Sanctuary

Deacons will assist in releasing members from the Sanctuary in an orderly fashion in a manner consistent with unloading a bus or airplane. Those closest to the door will be released first and we will move across the worship space in a manner which avoids creation of lines or people having to cross closely with one another.

# First Christian “COVID” Back to School Alternative is Calculated Move. (Press Release)

Saturday, August 8, would have been the 11th annual Back to School Fair at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Downers Grove. COVID-19 complications meant the fair, which normally hosts over 800 people and distributes 5-600 backpacks stuffed with school supplies, could not happen as usual. “As we wrestled with what we could do, we considered drive-through, coordination with schools, and several options. However, we felt the best option was to spend what we had on the one thing our educators told us was best for leveling the playing field in an e-learning environment. This year, instead of traditional backpacks, we spent our whole budget on graphing calculators” says Rev. Rick Hamilton, pastor of the church. The bulk of the calculators were donated to the Student Services department of Downers Grove South High School to make sure they got to the students that need them the most.

Each graphing calculator costs close to \$100, and represents a financial challenge for a family in need. It is the hope of the church, located at 801 63rd street, just down the block from DG South High, that this will make a difference for some bright students that need a tool like this to compete.

The church is already actively planning to return to the familiar fair format next August, but thanks to a special grant from the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin anti-racism, pro-reconciling team, they hope to add some calculators to the mix in the future. “Each year we have some raffle style door prizes that students can enter to win. I expect calculators like this will stay high on our wish list.” The calculators were received by Dr. Vince Walsh-Rock, Assistant Principal for Counseling and Student Services with great enthusiasm.



Dr. Vince Walsh-Rock and Rev. Rick Hamilton “hand off” at TI-83 Plus graphing calculator at Downers Grove South High School.

# SERVING SCHEDULE

## ELDERS

Lectern

Table

Sept. 6	Joy Claffey	Martha Anderson
Sept. 13	Bob Reese	Karen Johns
Sept. 20	Barb Bates	Daphne Hayes
Sept. 27	Becky Daigle	Bill Cook

## DEACONS

Prep and Serve

Serve

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

## POWER POINT

Sept.	No power point at this time
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## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Sept. 13	Joy Claffey
Sept. 20	Joy Claffey
Sept. 27	Joy Claffey

## COUNTERS

Sept. 6	Larry Carley and Martha Anderson
Sept. 13	Don Peterson and Sandy Allen
Sept. 20	Dick Anderson and Marve Huizinga
Sept. 27	Marve Huizinga and Barb Bates

