

# THE DISCIPLE



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
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## July 2021

*Rev. Rick Hamilton, Minister*

*Carol Clifford, Editor*



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



Happy mid-year! July is already here, and things are “heating up” (pun intentional) around church with lots of activity. I am looking forward to sharing all the excitement below as best I can. Right off the bat, we have some special plans for Sunday,

July 4. Since it is the rare Sunday when Independence Day coincides with the Lord’s Day, we are planning a slightly special service. Originally, the plan was to offer a Hymn Sing on the grounds and an all church picnic. I have been convicted by some of my colleagues that it is an important day to preach, so I have altered my plan and will be doing so. Weather permitting, we will still celebrate worship on the grounds. If the weather doesn’t cooperate, we will move inside and be just fine. Regardless of weather, we will plan to have an all church picnic after worship. This is not intended to be a sharing event. Please plan to pack your own “basket” and chairs or blankets as you see fit.

Also on July 4, we will debut a “STAR TREE” in our fellowship hall. As you may have heard, we have elected to replace the Back to School Fair on the Grounds with an Adopt-a-School type program with El Sierra Elementary. As I write to you, I can hear the supplies order meeting happening across the hall for supplies for the students. That said, we are also adopting the TEACHERS. This is an opportunity for you to join in and directly help. On July 4, you will find a tree decked out with almost 100 stars. Each star represents a need expressed by one of the teachers at El Sierra, which otherwise will come out of the teachers’ pockets. The prices range from \$10 items all the way up to \$200 (There’s only two of those). The average cost per star is about \$20, so don’t panic. This is a great opportunity to get your hands involved in this great project. Also, if you would rather adopt some stars and write a check, I have shoppers lined up to help support these great teachers!

We hope to complete the star tree project by the end of July, so please check it out early. It’s an exciting time to be getting back to in person church and ministry, I genuinely hope you will take advantage of all the opportunities coming our way.

See you around the Lord’s Table,  
Rick



# REFLECTIONS AND IDEAS



Summer is here with the warmer days and longer daylight hours. With the lessening of the Covid restrictions, we have more people going on vacation and less structured activities. We hope you will all be able to join us at church for our worship services on Sunday morning to start your week off on a high note.

I also hope you were able to enjoy the June 13<sup>th</sup> outdoor concert. Rick Sladek and his friends gave a wonderful program. Many were able to enjoy the outdoor seating. Thanks to the musicians for the outstanding music and to Sue Huizinga who organized some beautiful raffle baskets for a silent auction and also for the creative snack plates to enjoy during the concert.

I also want to thank the people who worked at the church the week before the concert to trim some bushes, weed the gardens and paint the benches by the front walk. Their hard work did make a difference in making our church grounds look much better.

I did see our custodian Bill Martina this week, and thanked him again for his outstanding service to our church. He does want to retire so you can mention the opening to anyone who might be interested. We have a church website found at [fccdg.org](http://fccdg.org) where anyone can read about our church beliefs and activities including our missions. On that website there is information about the job opening with what it entails and how to apply. You can always check out this website to keep up-to-date with our activities. A special thank you to Karen Johns who keeps it updated.

We have been making progress on our modified summer project of doing something for the school children in our area. Information will be coming as to how you can help. We will again be providing some calculators to two middle schools and one high school. We also will provide back packs and school supplies for one elementary school in our area. August 14 is the date set to actually hand out these supplies so mark your calendar.

Hoping to be you all soon. Enjoy your summer days.

Joy Claffey, Chairman

# Back-to-School Fair



Although we will not be hosting a large back-to-school fair on our campus this year, our back-to-school outreach ministry will continue! Last year, we donated graphing calculators to three schools. This effort was much appreciated, so we are again providing needy students at those schools (Downers Grove South High School, Jefferson Junior High School, and O'Neill Middle School) with calculators. We need a total of 35 calculators for this effort. The calculators are essential tools for developing skills necessary for success in mathematics and physics.

New this year is our partnering with the local elementary school, El Sierra, for both students and teachers. Our primary goal is to provide school supplies to 33 families whose children attend El Sierra (total of 54 children). Fifteen teachers also asked for assistance to help reduce their own out-of-pocket expenses, so we are going to set up a “star” tree in Fellowship Hall with different needs and dollar amounts on them. Churchgoers can choose a star (or two!) and purchase supplies themselves, or donate cash and the BTSF committee will do the shopping!

Once we have ordered, received, and sorted the school supplies based on the students’ grade levels, we will distribute them from Fellowship Hall at prearranged times on Saturday, August 14.

The back-to-school ministry was gratefully aided this year by donations from the outdoor concert led by our pianist, Rick Sladek, four of his musician friends, and the Chicago Federation of Musicians. The well-attended concert featured two classical/jazz suites by the renowned French composer Claude Bolling.

We are continually heartened by helping provide school supplies to families in the area who might otherwise go without. It is a blessing to be able to do God’s work in this way, and we hope to continue the ministry for many years to come!

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



The Christian Education Team hopes you are enjoying your summer and also that you are able to take advantage of our now open worship!

In July and through the rest of the summer, we will continue to share Children's Bulletins in coordination with the worship scripture for the children. These will be available with the writing desks in Fellowship Hall. We will also continue sending emails with electronic versions of the bulletins and a brief message for use at home. Please also look for some additional quests we may include this summer!

Adult Sunday school remains on hiatus for the summer! We hope everyone will join us in September when we resume!

Enrich the Soul is also on break for the summer. Stay tuned for plans when we open in the fall.

We are excited as things open up and life begins getting back to normal. As always, all comments and suggestions are welcome!

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



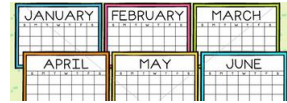
## Can you help Ann Head...?



Ann is looking for an occasional handyman to do some work inside and outside of her home.

If you are interesting in this, or if you know someone who might be able to help her, please call Ann at 630-452-6423

# Our First Six Months...



-The BTSF Balance has increased in the first 6 months of 2021 by \$4,150 to almost \$9,000 due to donations from foundations and our June 12<sup>th</sup> concert fundraiser.

-We have collected and forwarded \$5,150 for the Belarus Mission Project.

-The Disciples Mission Fund has been sent \$3,538. \$1,200 was budgeted and \$2,338 was non-budgeted and donor designated.

-Our General Fund-Operating Budget Income is short \$7,220, and our Budgeted Expenses were \$3,893 less than planned, as of 6-30-21.



## Current Fund Balances --by date - As of 6/30/2021

Account	6/30/2021 Balance
<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
General Fund - (Operating Budget)	-3,317.44
Hope For The Future - Savings Fund	55,919.88
In-As-Much Fund	712.40
Ladies Annual Tea	0.00
Memorials	445.79
Pass Thru Funds	0.00
Property Reserve	765.24
SPECIAL Disciples Mission Outreach ...	0.00
SPECIAL Music & Worship Fund	7.45
The Back To School Fair Fund	8,899.22
Youth Fund	1,330.77
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>64,763.31</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>64,763.31</b>

## Budget

1/1/2021 through 6/30/2021 Using Budget 2021 Annual

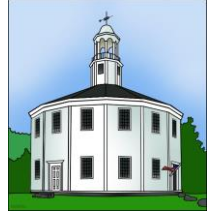
Category	1/1/2021 Actual	- Budget	6/30/2021 Difference
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>60,441.18</b>	<b>67,662.00</b>	<b>-7,220.82</b>
100_income	60,441.18	67,662.00	-7,220.82
120-Identifiable Giving	59,458.00	66,822.00	-7,364.00
130-Loose offering	180.00	48.00	132.00
140-Space Use Donations	50.00	48.00	2.00
150_Fundraising	0.00	48.00	-48.00
160-Other Income	753.18	696.00	57.18
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>63,758.62</b>	<b>67,652.00</b>	<b>3,893.38</b>
200-Ministry	1,200.00	1,648.00	448.00
210-Worship	0.00	300.00	300.00
220-Evangelism	0.00	48.00	48.00
230-Disciples Mission Fund	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
250-Stewardship	0.00	48.00	48.00
260-Christian Development	0.00	52.00	52.00
300-Property	9,578.84	12,492.00	2,913.16
310-Maintenance & Repair	2,368.11	1,998.00	-370.11
320-Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00
330-Grounds	3,740.00	3,996.00	256.00
340-Utilities	3,470.73	3,498.00	27.27
350-Improvements	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
400-Office Administration	5,953.58	6,010.00	56.42
410-Insurance & Bonding	3,309.67	3,250.00	-59.67
420- Office Expense	2,067.18	2,250.00	182.82
430-Payroll Service	576.73	510.00	-66.73
500-Personnel	47,026.20	47,502.00	475.80
520-Sr. Min. Housing Allowance	20,496.00	20,496.00	0.00
530-Sr. Min. Pension	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
540-Sr. Min. Prof. Expenses	0.00	498.00	498.00
550-Office Manager Salary	11,064.00	11,064.00	0.00
560-Pianist Salary	6,798.00	6,798.00	0.00
570-Choir Director	0.00	0.00	0.00
580-Custodian Salary	3,996.00	3,996.00	0.00
590-Staff FICA	1,672.20	1,650.00	-22.20
<b>Net Difference:</b>	<b>-3,317.44</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>-3,327.44</b>



"Worry does not empty tomorrow of its  
sorrow, it empties today of its strength."

Corrie ten Boom

# PROPERTY REPORT



## May Electric Bill – Church

2021	4/22-5/21	\$79.56
2020	4/22-5/21	\$141.23

A big “THANK YOU” to all those that came for the church workday on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Your hard work on such a hot day was greatly appreciated.

We have received estimates for repair of the main church sign, and the insurance company for our church property came out to look at the roof for possible repair. The information on these two items will be presented to the Church Board for consideration. The handicap washroom can now be used. The problem has been resolved. Thank you to Bill for his diligence.

Have a good summer!

Barb and Dan



*“No member of our family should be satisfied if any member of our American family is suffering or in need and we can do something about it.”*

Colin Powell





## 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! Spending an hour with God feeling his support and love is a blessing at all times!

God is so good! We not only ask for God's help with our concerns, but we also spend time offering praise for all God is doing in our world. Recent praises were for:

- Good Samaritans rescued a man from a burning vehicle in Mt. Prospect.
- Just 2 days after her wedding, a Florida woman swapped her wedding dress for a hospital gown in order to donate a kidney to her brand-new husband's former wife.
- A team of scientists in Kenya & the UK discovered a natural microbe already present in mosquitos can completely protect from malaria infection in hopes of eliminating the 400,000 deaths that result from the disease each year.

God's is active and working throughout our world. Hallelujah! Join in our praise!

Please note: There will be no MIP on Monday July 5, 2021 due to the Fourth of July holiday, but please join us any other Monday!

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)

# Did you know...?

By: Bobbie Dean



The traditional diet in the Czech Republic may be considered heavy, with an emphasis of meat, potatoes, and dumplings and the use of substantial amounts of animal fats, butter, and cream. Meats – primarily pork, beef, poultry, and organ meats such as liver, kidneys, brains, and sweetbreads – are frequently prepared with gravy and eaten with potatoes or dumplings (*knedlik*, pl. *knedliky*). Soups are an important part of the noon meal. Potato and tripe soup are favorites, as well as beef or chicken broth with tiny liver or marrow dumplings. The most commonly used vegetables are carrots, peas, and cabbage. Salads were eaten only seasonally until recent years.



## HELP WANTED:

Custodian (part-time; 10-12 hours per week) to maintain church property and grounds to ensure that they are safe, clean, and sanitary in coordination with the Property Manager and Senior Minister. Tasks include furniture and floor care, trash removal, washroom cleaning, minor repairs, and monitoring the building and grounds for needed work. Must be able to work independently and perform all responsibilities in a Christian spirit that respects staff, guests, and church members. A background check and I-9 employment verification are required.

For further details, see the job description and application form on the church website (<https://fccdg.org>), under the tab “About Us”, or contact the church office (630 968 7818).

# Church Chuckles

By Bobbie Dean



At church one Sunday, Harry started bragging about his Christian dog. “How in the world can a dog be a Christian?” Ed asked skeptically.

“Come and see,” said Harry. That afternoon, Ed went over to Harry’s house to meet his amazing canine.

“Watch this,” the proud dog owner said as a perky brown mutt trotted over. Addressing the dog, Harry said, “Let us pray.” At this command, the dog sat down, put his front paws together, and lifted his eyes to heaven.

“Impressive,” admitted Ed. “What else can he do?”

“Go get the Bible,” said Harry to the dog. With that, the dog immediately went to a desk, opened a drawer, and pulled out a Bible. He brought the book to his master and opened it to John 3:16.

“Truly amazing!” exclaimed Ed. “But can he follow regular dog commands?”

“Huh,” said Harry. “Never asked him to.” Looking at the dog, he said, “Heel!” With that, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his paw on Harry’s forehead, and bowed his head in prayer.



## JULY BIRTHDAYS



July 7	Beth Smith
July 10	Bryan Johns
July 29	Karen Johns

# SERVING SCHEDULE

## ELDERS

Lectern

Table

July 4	Becky Daigle	Martha Anderson
July 11	Daphne Hayes	Karen Johns
July 18	Joy Claffey	Barb Bates
July 25	Martha Anderson	Bob Reese

## DEACONS

Prep and Serve

Serve

July 4	Jim Claffey	Mac Flores
July 11	Suellen Cook	Jeff Igel, Dan Johns
July 18	Don Peterson	Galilee Flores, Gail Reese
July 25	Sandy Allen	Mac Flores, Jim Claffey

## POWER POINT

July	No power point at this time
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## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

July 4	Deb McClelland
July 11	Karen Johns
July 18	Karen Johns
July 25	Karen Johns

## COUNTERS

July	Marve Huizinga
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