

**First Christian Church – Disciples of Christ
803 N. Market Street
Mt. Carmel, IL 62863**



SUNDAY SERVICE

July 12, 2020

Sermon

“Divide It!”

Rev. Sue Knipp

Scripture: 1 Kings 3 :16-28

Worship 9:30 AM

Watching Our Figures

6/28 - 39; 7/05 - 37

Pastors: Revs. Virgil & Sue Knipp

(Interim Ministers)

Website: www.mountcarmeldisciples.com

New Email: fccmc803@gmail.com



*“Growing God’s Family to Share God’s Word”
First Christian Church*

Visitor

Volume 77, Number 22

July 8, 2020



OFFERING - June 28, 2020

General: \$957.00
Website: \$100.00
Total: \$1,057.00

OFFERING - July 5, 2020

General: \$2,416.00
Website: \$100.00
Total: \$2,516.00



Kevin Pixley, Ron DeFoor, Emily Ewald,
Mike & Betty Foshee, Joan Hackler, Devan
Swift, Elaine Spencer, Bill & Pat Beesley,
Mya James, Mary Peterson, Don Tharp,
Leslie Glenn, Fred Xanders, Don Bellessa,

Harold Mobley, Jaxson Malcolm, Sean Crawford, Connie
Mayhue, Rosanna Peterson, Etta Rosignol, Malvin Kepley,
Blake Strine, Leslie Bone, Verlin Snow, Brad Thompson, Max
Irelan, Ralph Raber, Rev. Mike Bever, Bonnie Talley, Amanda
Ewald, Shirley Van Leer, Nurse Beth Burkitt (Ken & Mary's
daughter), Dr. Peter Balsam, Kim More, Tison Rhine, Marvin
Jones, Mike Hays, Ginny & Gary Brown, Shari Norman-
Martin, Harry E. Minniear, Tom Moore, Stu Oberg, Ross
Hannuksela, and our country, its leaders, all servicemen and
women, and natural disaster victims, service workers, medical
personnel, and victims of Covid-19.

**The Prayer List is periodically updated. Let us know if someone
needs to be removed or put back on. Please note that due to current
privacy laws, you must have the permission of whomever you wish to
include on the prayer list.*

Please pray for the first responders and those on the front lines of
the fight against Covid-19. They are risking all to take care of those
infected with this virus.



If you have a prayer request that you would
like made known to the church, please email
it to the church office at
fccmc803@gmail.com or you may call the
office at (618) 262-7331.

CCIW Prayer Calendar

July 5-11 FCC Rockford, CC of Abington, FCC of Albion
July 12-18 DCC Arcola, CC of Arlington Heights, Central CC Danville



SERVING IN JULY

Custodial Deacon: Melvin Hocking
Elder on Call: Judy Sigler
Sanctuary Straightener: Doris Beckerman
Counters: Gayle Conrady and Doris Deputy
Communion Preparers: Doris Deputy and
Ginger Boewe

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The Senior group would like to say thank you to Judy
Sigler for picking up their order for corn day which
they enjoyed in the fellowship hall!

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The Senior group is still meeting and we invite anyone
and everyone who would like to join us for a good time,
fellowshipping, remembering, and eating! We have a
good time so come one, come all!

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The 2020 CARES Act allows an additional \$300 tax deduction for donations (\$600 for spouses filing jointly) made to charitable organizations, such as our church. This would be a deduction in addition to the standard deductions and will begin for the 2020 tax year. If you are an IRA owner over the age of 70½, you can make charitable gifts directly from your IRA totaling up to \$100,000 per year. These IRA withdrawals will not be included in your taxable income for that year. This is especially helpful if you want to avoid paying taxes on a required minimum distribution. Your IRA manager provides you with the paperwork.

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR SUE:

Today...in our time

We have the experience of a pandemic, it's effects, especially the sequestering part, that plucks our last nerves. Never have I seen so many dissatisfied people, all over the world, who just aren't happy. Changes are occurring daily...good?...bad? Only God knows. Virgil and I find comfort in Scripture and meditation. Each morning, we seek God's face before doing anything else. Lately, we've had additional comfort from the word of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor, theologian, and a WWII dissident, in his book, "I Want to Live These Days with You". I share them here, if you find comfort too, praise the Lord!

Being a Christian is Not a Matter of a Moment

There is no standing still. Every gift, every perception I receive, only drives me deeper into the word of God. For every word of God, I need time to understand God's commandments, and I often have to reflect on the word for a long time. Nothing would be more perverse than an activity or state of emotions that rejects the value of reflecting and pondering. Nor is it the business only of those already especially called; it is the business of everyone, who wants to walk in the ways of God. To be sure, God often demands drastic, unreserved action but, he also demands quiet and reflection. Hence, I often may and must stay with the same biblical sayings for hours or days, until I am enlightened with its proper understanding. No Christians have progressed so far that they no longer have need of reflection. None may exempt themselves from it because of the great and constant demands made on their time. God's word demands my time. God

himself entered time and now wants me also to give him my time. It takes time. God gave us the Scripture, and from it we are to know His will. The Scripture must be read and pondered anew every day. God's word is not the sum of some general statements that I can assess at any time. It is instead God's word to me-new every day-in the infinite riches of interpretation.

Indeed, my day isn't right until I seek His face, asking Him to guide my day, and then He reminds me...

The New Earth and The New Heavens

Christ is not far away from the world or in some distant region of our existence. He went into the deepest depths of the world. His cross is in the middle of the world. And now this cross of Christ calls wrath and judgement over a world of hate and proclaims peace...

No visible divine state will be established in this world, not even if there were international understanding everywhere. Everything that the church does here is temporary and designed only to hold together the collapsing systems of the world and keep them from falling into chaos. This activity of the church is indispensable. All order and all community in the world will have to pass away when God creates his new world and establishes the new. In this world, there is peace only in the struggle that is the new earth and the new heavens that God will create (Isa. 65:17). And because we believe that we will one day be there together in this new kingdom. We should love each other here in all our diversity.

Amen! Thank you, Lord for your presence in our lives. In all of our life experiences, help us to see you in every challenge. May every opportunity that blossoms from our lives be used to glorify you Lord, our God, and the Holy Spirit.

Because He lives, I remain His servant, Sue

* We also recommend Bonhoeffer's book, "The Cost of Discipleship", a modern classic. Well worth the read.

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Splinters from the BOARD (May 2020)

- Receipts for the months of March-April, 2020, were \$42,592.62. Disbursements were \$54,692.95.
- Husk Sign Company will install the sign. Electrical work bid by S.K. Smith Electric was estimated at \$1,325; final bill was approximately \$1,000. Steve Smith made an additional donation of \$100 to FCC.

Splinters from the BOARD (Continued)

- No Sunday School classes are meeting and there is no plan for on-site Vacation Bible School.
- The church security team has requested more cameras be purchased. Additional security measures may include locking all entrance doors to the church at a specified time after church worship services have started. Further discussion and congregational input will be needed before this is implemented.
- Drain was repaired at the rear of the building and leak was repaired on the 8th Street entrance. Tony Bowles headed the project, which local contractors completed for less than \$1,000. (An Evansville contractor bid the same job at \$6,900.) Thank you, Tony, for a job well done.
- Three hand rails in the sanctuary leading to the pulpit and the choir loft were designed, fabricated and installed by Tony Bowles.
- D.O.T. numbers were installed on the van and bus by Larry Boewe.
- The annual elevator inspection was completed and we are in compliance with state requirements.
- India Bobadilla, VP of the Great Lakes Zone of the Disciples, will present the stewardship program on September 28 via Zoom.
- A tentative 2021 budget will be reviewed at the July Board meeting. Budget requests need to be submitted to Marilyn Bellessa by the end of June.
- The Stewardship Team is formulating a policy to be implemented in the event the church cannot continue to function for financial reasons.
- Rev. Sue Knipp stated that 2020 graduates will be recognized in an upcoming Visitor.
- May 31 Fifth Sunday giving recipient will be CCF. The August 30 recipient will be Safe Haven. More tumblers have been received at a cost of \$425.74.
- Scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded to Irené Escobedo and Aden Gill.
- World Outreach Bequest Requests: Church Finance Council - \$250.00; Church Mission Trip - \$250.00; Week of Compassion - \$200.00; Eureka College - \$200.00; Special Pentecost Offering - \$500.00 Total.....\$1,400.00.
- Christian Action Bequest Request: WADI (Wabash Area Development, Inc.) - ~~\$1,000.00~~; Mt. Carmel Fire Department (Coloring books for school children) - ~~\$200.00~~. Total.....\$1,200.00

Splinters from the BOARD (Continued)

- Elders helped with virtual church services, as well as provided weekly midweek devotionals. Elders participating so far include Barry and Janis Roberts, Janice Alka, Ben Ross, Doris Beckerman, Priss Parmenter, Jessica Williams, Gayle Conrady, and David Foshee. Judy Sigler assisted with church service on May 17. Thank you to all. Elders have been in contact with their Congregational Care Groups and involved in the Elder prayer chain.
- The Youth Mission Trip scheduled for this summer has been cancelled. It has been rescheduled for June 28 – July 3, 2021. “As of this date, church camp is still on.” All camps have been moved to the month of July.
- Scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded to Irené Escobedo and Aden Gill.
- Rev. Virgil Knipp thanked Kim More and Judy Sigler for filling in last Sunday, Barry Roberts and Gary Hargett for their part in each Sunday’s worship, and the church leadership for working with him and Sue. Rev. Sue Knipp stated that the message is the same, the delivery is not. Following are excerpts from their written report:
 - There are several suggested guidelines which interim ministers are asked to follow to help make a smooth transition from the previous ministerial leadership to the next settled ministerial leadership. Two guidelines are: 1. Do not begin any additional programs, but work with the congregation to carry out scheduled or current programs. 2. Keep yourself apart from inserting your will upon the congregation by changing the order in which programs and activities are conducted.
 - Your IM ministers have long and varied backgrounds and it is hard to follow these particular guidelines. WE reiterate: First Christian Church (DOC) is a wonderful, delightful church, full of Disciples. Being a part of this church for however long is both a blessing and a privilege. Working together, we all continue the Church’s ministry impact in our communities and beyond.
 - The story of Nehemiah being called to do a great work is found in the book with his name, in chapter 6. Like Nehemiah’s response, to Sanballat, when he said to Nehemiah as he was working on the wall of Jerusalem, “...come down and let us meet together...” Nehemiah responded, “I am doing a great work...and cannot stop.”Neither can we stop, any of us. We are doing a great work, and we cannot come down. To God be the glory!