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Mattoon First Christian Church

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From the Pastor's Heart

Your Most Important Decisions

The most important decisions you make are the decisions you make every day. Much more so than the one-time decisions -- even the big ones.

For example, getting married is a major one-time decision. And the decision you make *today* to love your wife *today* as Christ loved the church is in many ways more important.

Choosing a career path or taking a job is a major one-time decision. And the decision you make *today* to do your work as unto the Lord *today* is more important still.

Giving your life to Christ is the greatest one-time decision you'll ever make. Even greater is the decision you make *today* to follow him *today*.

How many times do we decide each day? According to the numbers I've seen, somewhere between 5,000 and 35,000. (A Cornell study says we make more than 200 daily decisions about food alone.)

Most decisions are made on auto-pilot. The best ones, however, need to be made intentionally, because **our daily decisions give those big-time one-time decisions the meaning they deserve.** Or they take away their meaning all together.

Today you will decide -- thousands and thousands and thousands of times -- what to do with your time, what to eat, what to read, what to buy, what to wear, what to talk about, what to think about, and then what to give a second thought about.

Today you'll also decide how you'll speak to the ones you love, how you'll do your job, how you'll live out purpose -- and many other things that will matter forever.

Before you let habit kick in, give yourself a second to think about what this decision means and where it will take you. ***I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live. (Deuteronomy 30:19)***

May God Enlarge His Territory,
Pastor Steve

Training Deadline Feb. 11

Help us develop vision for our church. You are invited to attend the Church Leadership Conference at Lincoln Christian University on Saturday, February 17th from 9-3:30 pm. There will be great worship and great speakers. If you are an elder, deacon, deaconess, or a new member of our church wishing to enter our leadership and help us grow--this is for you. This training will be free which will include lunch and transportation. Please sign-up in the narthex if you want to attend and the van will leave at 7:00 am and return around 6 pm.

The Laura Catherine Van Gundy Memorial Scholarship will undergo changes for the 2018-19 school year. At the request of the donor the scholarships will be awarded to members of FCC who are pursuing higher education in *Christian Ministry only*. If you would like to apply for this scholarship, please contact Robin in the church office by March 31st.



The Deaconesses are hosting a Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, January 28th at 4:30 pm.



Individuals who wish to enter should have their crock-pot of chili and a ladle in Campbell Hall by 4:30 pm. Those wishing to enter the contest should also call the office to enter in order to keep their identity a secret. Each entry will be numbered and a number will be assigned to their crock-pot of chili.

Everyone present will have one vote as to which chili is the best. Votes will be counted and prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place. Everyone will have the opportunity to sample all the chili and vote, then all can eat a bowl of chili of their choice. Crackers, celery, carrots, dessert, hot dogs, chips, cornbread, peanut butter sandwiches and drinks will be provided.

Singles@First



The Singles @ First Group will have a Chili Supper on Saturday, February 3rd at 5 pm. The chili and dessert will be provided, please bring a drink to share.

Night in Italy Dinner

The FROG and ROCK Youth Group will be hosting a *Night in Italy* on Saturday, February 10th from 5-6:30 pm in Campbell Hall. Pagliacci's will be catering the dinner for us with choices of lasagna or fettuccine for the main entrée with salad, garlic bread and drinks. Our youth and leaders will provide delicious desserts and if you would like to bring a dessert to share that would be great. Tickets will be \$8 each and can be purchased in the narthex.



- 1 Nick Martin
- 3 Linda Fleming
- 5 Linda Andres
- 7 Jack Browning, Noah Scott, Terry Stretch
- 9 Kenny Logan
- 10 Jeff Maninfor
- 11 Thelma Whetsell
- 12 Chase Beason
- 18 Mason Bergstrom
- 21 Alexis Rosine
- 22 Carol Armstrong
- 25 Jan Kepley
- 27 Alice Edersheim, Betty Miller



- 14 Russell and Joyce Camfield
- 19 Bill and Katie Landrus



Church Life

Sunday, January 21

8:30 am Traditional Worship
 9:30 am Sunday School
 10:30 am Contemporary Worship
 5-7 pm F/R Group Meeting

Monday, January 22

No Staff Meeting
 6 pm Evangelism Meeting

Tuesday, January 23

7 am Prayer Time

Wednesday, January 24

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group
 5:15 pm Bell Choir Practice
 6 pm Mid-Week Program
 6 pm Choir Practice
 6:30 pm Personnel Meeting

Thursday, January 25

6 pm Praise Team Practice

Saturday, January 27

F/R Students attend Winter Jam in St. Louis

Sunday, January 28

8:30 am Traditional Worship
 9:30 am Sunday School
 10:30 am Contemporary Worship
 2 pm Pre-Pack at the Food Center
 4:30 pm Chili Cook-Off

Monday, January 29

7 pm Elders' Meeting

Tuesday, January 30

7 am Prayer Time

Wednesday, January 31

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group
 5:15 pm Bell Practice
 6 pm Choir Practice
 6 pm Mid-Week Program

Thursday, February 1

6 pm Praise Team Practice



We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Mona Lee Healy (79) who passed away on January 16th.

Board Splinters 1/8

Deaconesses: hosted a successful Wassail, had a meeting on 1/7 to brainstorm ideas, will have a Chili Cook-Off on 1/28 and will sponsor an all church cleaning day when it's warmer.

Minister: we had a strong December; we have begun a new series entitled "The Truth Is..." a serious teaching on big topics, such as worry, success, marriage, religion and more; the GFL class began with 8 enrolled; we have offered a leadership training at LCU for current and future leaders; and we have begun a 12 month teaching series for the Men's Breakfast entitled "Apostles Creed."

Associate Minister: made 3 home visits, held a Youth Christmas Party, finished the fall semester at LCU, gave the devotion at the Christmas Eve Evening Service and starting a small group study on James in January.

Elementary Minister: she is having 9-10 in S.S. and averaging 28 on Wednesday nights, the kids played bells at the Christmas service, reviewing 2 VBS programs for sometime in July and made a large Bible on display as a teaching tool.

Worship: the Live Nativity went well, had great December with Christmas Eve Services, great turn out to decorate and de-decorate and the next meeting will be February 5th.

Outreach: they helped several families and the St. John's ladies are helping us with food for the Back Pack Program.

Stewardship: reported that we ended the year with \$27,280 in the black, we are blessed!

Personnel: they met with Dolo Wishard and hammered out a job description with pay for the rest of the Children's Ministry through May 2018, Feb. 6 they will hold a 90 day evaluation of the program, will also start talking about any summer programs and there will be a Personnel Meeting on Jan. 24th.

Trustees: received a bid from Mattox HVAC for the narthex, glass repair, door on Ed. Bdg not locking, need to repair the wall in the garden per the insurance companies' request and they need 2 more trustees.

Seniors Minister: made 5 hospital calls, 10 home/nursing home calls and 21 phone calls to check on the elderly in regards to heat and food needs while it has been so cold.

New Business: appointed Marilyn Purcell to the Personnel Committee, approved Pastor Steve Hayes and Steve Morgan's housing allowances for 2018, and appointed Julie Nichols and Lorie Olson as deaconesses for new 3 year terms.



Building Fund balance:
 \$259,906.68

Serving Communion

Sunday, January 21

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Don Inman, Denny Booker, Jack Browning, Tim Buford

10:30 am — Herb Ault, Jeff Maninfor, Bob Morgan, Josh Recker

Sunday, January 28

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Don Inman, Dan Cunningham, Tom Dickerson, Steve Lane, Jack Little

10:30 am — Max Betty, Donica Brand, Dennis Goings, Amy Maninfor

Church Attendance

January 7th — Traditional: 94, Contemporary: 77 = 171
 January 14th — Traditional: 88, Contemporary: 83 = 171

Return Service Requested

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 Associate Pastor: Steve Morgan