



Follow us at:



www.twitter.com/MattoonFCC



Mattoon First Christian Church

Web: mattoonfcc.com

From the Pastor's Heart

Please pray for our country, Common Sense would go a long way —

Obituary of the Late Mr. Common Sense

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

Knowing when to come in out of the rain;

Why the early bird gets the worm;

Life isn't always fair;

and Maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies; (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies: (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer Tylenol, sun lotion or a band-aid to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband; churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victim.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement. Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 3 stepbrothers; I Know My Rights, Someone Else Is To Blame, and I'm A Victim.

Not many attended the funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

May God Continue To Bless Our Land,
Pastor Steve

The Laura Catherine Young Van Gundy Memorial Scholarship has some 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.



SALT Luncheon

The SALT Group will meet for lunch on Thursday, February 22nd at noon in Campbell Hall. Please sign-up in the narthex if you plan to attend and mark if you will be bringing soup, sandwiches or a dessert to share.



Easter

Friday, March 30th at Noon

Good Friday Service at the First United Methodist Church with Pastor Steve bringing the message.

Sunday, April 1st

Sunrise Service at 7 am

Continental Breakfast 7:45-8:15 am (*youth fundraiser*)

Traditional Worship at 8:30 am

Continental Breakfast 9:30-10:15 am (*youth fundraiser*)

Contemporary Worship at 10:30 am

Board Splinters/Feb. 12

Elders: discussed the schedule, shut-ins and having an elder representative on committees.

Deaconesses: served 2 funeral dinners in January, the Chili Cook-Off went well with around 80-90 people in attendance and still selling pecans for \$10 per bag.

Minister: we had a very strong January attendance, the Lord is working with our counseling ministry with 6 families and individuals on various issues.

Associate Minister: started a small group study on the Book of James, officiated the funeral service for Mona Lee Healy, took youth group to Winter Jam in St. Louis, met with Bill Duey from Fit to Serve on how we can fit into that ministry and have 2 students in a new Believers Class.

Elementary Minister: studying Jonah in Sunday School, will be in Bagel Fest parade to advertise VBS which will be in the evenings July 22-26 and has a summer program planned.

Worship: discontinued the 5th Sunday 9:30 am combined services for 2018.

Outreach: we have a good group of people for the Pre-Pack Program.

Stewardship: expenses and giving are down.

Personnel: in December of 2017 the Board awarded a total of \$2,300 for a one time bonus to the staff, a total of \$5,000 was allotted for salaries increases and Jan's position has a new title: First Service Music Director instead of accompanist, choir director and bell choir director.

Trustees: signed an Organ tuning contract at a cost of \$685 for the year.

Seniors Minister: participated in 3 funerals (2 in Windsor), made nursing home and hospital visits, will have a SALT lunch on February 22 of soup, sandwiches and dessert.

New Business: Dennis Booker and Mark Scott were approved as new Trustees to fill 3 year terms.

Church Life

Saturday, February 17

7 am Leadership Conference at LCU

Sunday, February 18

8:30 am Traditional Worship

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship

5-7 pm F/R Group Meeting

Monday, February 19 (Presidents' Day/office closed)

Noon F/R Serving Lunch at PADS

7 pm Christian Ed. Meeting

Tuesday, February 20

7 am Prayer Time

Wednesday, February 21

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

5:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

6 pm Mid-Week Program

6 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, February 22

Noon SALT Luncheon

6 pm Praise Team Practice

6:30 pm Study on James

Sunday, February 25

8:30 am Traditional Worship

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship

2 pm Pre-Pack at the Food Center

5-7 pm F/R Youth Group Meeting

Monday, February 26

10 am Staff Meeting

Tuesday, February 27

7 am Prayer Time

Wednesday, February 28

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

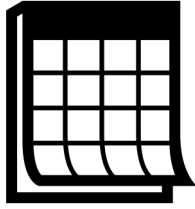
5:15 pm Bell Practice

6 pm Choir Practice

6 pm Mid-Week Program

Thursday, March 1

6 pm Praise Team Practice



Serving Communion

Sunday, February 18

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Don Inman, Denny Booker, Jack Little, Gene Swearingen, Colin VanDeventer

10:30 am— Jeff and Amy Maninfior, Nick Maninfior, Bob Morgan

Sunday, February 25

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Don Inman, Jack Browning, Tim Buford, Dan Cunningham, Tom Dickerson

10:30 am — Herb Ault, Max Betty, Donica Brand, Josh Recker

- 4 Harold Easton, Michael Davis, Tracy Beason
- 5 Teresa Stuttle, Beau Scott
- 6 Candy Tate
- 7 Doris Webb
- 9 Lois Carlyle, Michael Davis Sr.
- 11 Lisa Ballinger, Amber Eident, Bob Young
- 12 Cheryl Ballinger, Roger Freeman
- 14 Bill Daily, Cheyenne Jones
- 17 Don Inman, Charlotte Castle
- 18 Brad Bergstrom, Kelly Armer
- 19 M.J. Brand
- 21 Brian Ingram
- 27 Reece Newlin, Glenda Wright
- 29 Carolyn Sego



- 1 Max & Arlene Betty
- 20 Mike & Mona Bays
- 21 Gene & Norma Himes
- Rob & Kathy Newlin
- Steve and Shawnc Morgan
- 26 Scott and Meri Stewart
- 27 Brian & Heather Hinton



Woods' Retirement

We are writing to let you know **that we will begin a transition in April and conclude our "full time" service with CMF on September 30, 2018.** As you can imagine, this is neither an easy decision nor an easy transition for us. We first came to visit Africa in May 1986, then moved our family to Kenya in August of 1987 to begin ministry. Since 2004 we've been privileged to empower and work with more than 120 Tanzanian national families from 31 different tribes to plant churches in unreached places. Tanzania has become **"home"** for us.

Gary and Judy Woods

Left Over Food/Drink

We are so happy that many activities take place at the church. When using the kitchen please do not put any left over drinks or food in the refrigerator. Please take home, give-away or throw away all food or drink that is left over, unless you know someone is coming to get it. Thank you.



Building Fund balance:
\$260,031.68

Church Attendance

February 4th — Traditional: 107, Contemporary: 87 = 194
February 11th — Traditional: 55, Contemporary: 65 = 120

Return Service Requested

1600 WABASH AVE
MATTION IL 61938



Phone: 234-2928
Email address: fchurch@consolidated.net
Website: www.mattionfcc.com

Senior Pastor: Steve Hayes
Associate Pastor: Steve Morgan