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Mattoon First Christian Church

Web: mattoonfcc.com

From the Pastor's Heart

Two New Initiatives

I am so excited to see the increase in our attendance over last year. The word is getting out we have a complete program and the staff to grow at FCC.

Thank you for the time to rest and recuperate while on vacation. It was a time to think and to ask God for the next steps at FCC. There are two new ministries which we are to begin to improve our relationships with one another, to equip our members to share their faith, and to reach out to families through my counseling ministry.

The following is the concept, the details; start times will be advertised and promoted later.

A. Walk Across The Room (Evangelism)

This winter we held a pilot home group teaching this program. It was motivating and very successful. New people are attending our church as a result of it. And more will come as we build relationships within our circles of influence.

The goal for every Christian is to reflect Christ's love and follow his example by taking simple walks across the room—leaving our circles of comfort and extending hands of care, compassion and inclusiveness to people living outside of the church.

We will offer this powerful teaching in a four week Sunday School program and I will be leading the class. Please consider taking this class.

B. Expanded Counseling Ministry

Very few ministers enjoy counseling. I find great satisfaction in helping people with complex problems. I am replacing my weekday cycling classes at the Y with two evenings devoted to helping people and families, many with children who will find hope and healing.

I will be helping individuals and families with marital and relationship problem with their significant others (marital and pre-marital). This will be the focus point on this ministry. I will offer pastoral counseling and life coaching in the following fields: Financial, Marital, Pre-Marital, Divorce, Anxiety, Emotional Eating Disorders, Health and Fitness, Grief, Pet Loss and Co-Dependency.

A donation for the church will be requested for non-members plus the cost of materials, church members will be free.

Please pray for a couple who began counseling this week to save their marriage. They were referred by another couple who stayed the course two years ago.

May God Enlarge His Territory @ FCC,
Pastor Steve

Singles @ First

The Singles @ First Group will attend the Quarter Auction at the Mattoon American Legion on May 18th. The doors will open at 5:30 pm and the auction will start at 6:30 pm to benefit the Mattoon Food Bank.

Youth Sunday will be held on Sunday, May 21st at both services. We hope you will come and support the youth of the church and our high school graduates.

Happy Mother's Day to all the moms! On Mother's Day, May 14th, we will have a special gift for each mother.



Baby Bottles Blessings



The Local Outreach Committee is sponsoring a fundraiser for Choices. The fundraiser will begin on Mother's Day, May 14th, and end on Father's Day, June 18th. Baby Bottles will be available in the narthex on Sunday so you can take one home and fill it with your donation and return to the church. If you are writing a check please make your check payable to Choices and not First Christian Church because we don't empty the bottles.

Movie "Joseph"

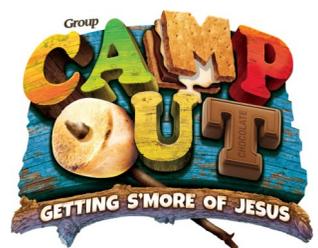
On Tuesday, May 16th the movie "Joseph" from a Branson theater will be shown at 1 and 6 pm. This show is a story of dreams, the power of forgiveness and is approximately 127 minutes in length.

Branson Trip

A Branson Trip will be offered on September 11th-14th. The cost per person will be \$300 which will include the hotel, transportation and 4 shows. More information is available on the Welcome Center in the narthex with deposit information.

Vacation Bible School

VBS will be held on Friday, June 2nd from 6-7:30 pm and on Saturday, June 3rd from 10 am-12:30 pm with lunch being provided. VBS is available for all children entering kindergarten thru entering 6th and JHH students. Registration will begin in the narthex on Sunday, May 14th and on-line at www.mattoonfcc.com



Little Galilee Camp



The 2017 Little Galilee Christian Camp dates are out! We are planning on students entering the 7th or 8th grades to attend July 9th-14th and students entering 9th-high school graduates to go attend June 11th-16th but other dates are also available. Children as young as entering the 2nd grade can start attending day camp! Please check out the complete list of dates on the bulletin board across from the church office or visit www.littlegalilee.com. The church will pay 1/2 of the cost for one camp for any child who regularly attends FCC. You must register by June 1st to get the early-bird discount for week long camps. To register go to the camp website and pay your half with a credit card and they will send a bill to the church for the other half.

Serving Communion

Sunday, May 14

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Don Inman, Denny Booker, Bud Miller, Gene Swearingen

10:30 am — Max Betty, Donica Brand, Chanon Fine, Dennis Goings

Sunday, May 21—Youth Sunday



Building Fund balance:
\$256,954.54

Church Life

Sunday, May 14—Mother's Day

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Service

Monday, May 15

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting

7 pm Christian Ed. Meeting

Tuesday, May 16

7 am Prayer Time

1 and 6 pm Movie "Joseph"

Wednesday, May 17

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

6 pm Chancel Choir Practice

6 pm Line Dancing at the Eagles

Thursday, May 18

5:30 pm Singles @ First at the American Legion

6 pm Praise Team Practice

Friday, May 19

8:10 pm Men's Church League Softball Games

Sunday, May 21—Youth Sunday

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service

Monday, May 22

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting

6 pm Evangelism Meeting

Tuesday, May 23

7 am Prayer Time

6:30 pm Men's Church League Softball Games

Wednesday, May 24

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

1:30 pm Joy's Ladies Small Group Study

6 pm Chancel Choir Practice (last one)

Thursday, May 25

6 pm Praise Team Practice

Church Attendance

April 30: One Service: 141

May 7: Traditional: 117, Ordination Service: 162 = 279

Thank You Notes

I emailed Robin and requested a little space in this week's newsletter to just say thank you. I appreciate your support for the ordination ceremony and appreciate all those who could join us for the reception. FCC will be a place I can look back on as my start in the ministry and appreciate the experience. It has been a whirlwind the last few years while I was taking coursework at Lincoln Christian University and that journey is behind me. For my first church as a pastor, the ministry "up north" in Cooks Mills at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church has been a real blessing! The people have been great and Miss Evelyn and I are looking forward to the next chapter of our ministry. Oh yeah, business at Paradise Café has been good also. I better go for now. Remember, keep the coffee hot and the biscuits done.

In His Service, *Pauly*

Board Splinters 5/8

Deaconesses: served 1 funeral dinner in April, have pecans and cookbooks for sale for \$10 each, 2018 nomination chairman is Doris Webb, next Deaconess meeting will be Oct. 17th, Thanksgiving Dinner on November 14th, Cookie Walk on December 2nd and Christmas Wassail on December 17th.

Minister: thanked the staff and church for a nice vacation, he was pleased with the Easter services, Good Friday service was well attended and great to worship with the FUMC, the staff is working as a team and our programs are solid, and he is in the process of advancing three new initiatives to help us develop fellowship, evangelism and children's ministries.

Associate Minister: they watched the Passion of Christ, the Easter breakfast and 30 Pieces of Silver raised over \$800 to help fund the summer trip to Tennessee and the last 2 lessons of the year were on dating and the topic of purity.

Elementary Minister: the Easter Egg Hunt went well, finished Mid-Week and gave away a tablet, had 5th grade graduation, VBS will be June 2-3 and the summer event schedule is done.

Worship: April was a busy month with Mercy Tree, Good Friday, Easter, Scott Wattles and Gary Woods. They discussed Mother's and Father's Day Gifts.

Outreach: the Easter Offering for Camp New Hope was \$1,868 and will promote the Baby Bottle Blessing for Choices.

Evangelism: Relay for Life will be August 19th and we will participate in the Bagelfest Parade on July 22nd.

Christian Ed: they are making plans for CPR training.

Stewardship: went over the April statements.

Personnel: will schedule a meeting.

Trustees: discussed broken glass in the door at the top of the stairs to the sanctuary, need to replace entrance mat and discussed rainwater coming in the alley area and west wall.

New Business: added Richard Eident and Steve Huckaba as "signers" on the checking account at First Mid Bank.

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Associate Pastor: Steve Morgan

Senior Pastor: Steve Hayes

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