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Mattoon First Christian Church

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The Associate's Corner

Fall is on its way and that means football, and football, and more football. Flag football, JFL football, Mattoon Green Wave football, Illini football, and Bears football, or your NFL team of choice football. We have fans of all ages rooting for players of all ages; some players making millions, some playing for fun; some standing for the national anthem and sadly, some not. And this football season will not end until February!

A fan is someone who is an enthusiastic admirer. I can honestly say that the only athlete that I was really a fan of was Dr. J, the basketball player. I loved his dunks and I loved his afro!

Growing up in the church, I guess you could say I was a fan of Jesus. I went to Sunday school, I was baptized, and I even read the bible occasionally. But He was not at the top of my fan list. I was just a fan on Sundays.

Jesus does not call us to be His fans. He calls us to be His followers. He's not concerned with cheers, or accolades or even numbers. He is concerned about our heart and our commitment. In Matthew 9 Jesus calls Matthew. "As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him." To follow means to come after or walk down the same road, like the term "heading down the same path." As followers, we should be heading down the same path Jesus walked, imitating His life, using His words.

"You were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps." Whether we like it or not, we represent Jesus every day. Pick up your cross and follow Him daily. Make a good impression!

Steve Morgan



Building Fund balance:
\$257,331.68

SALT News

October 12th at noon all seniors are invited to a carry in lunch. They will also have a hobby and craft time when they can share their interest with each other.

First Christian Church will once again hold their annual Coats 4 Kids Drive. We are now accepting new or like new coats. You may put the coats in the designated box in the narthex. The drive will be held on Saturday, October 21st from 8 am—noon.



All Church Picnic

CHURCH Everyone is invited to an All Church Picnic on Sunday, October 1st at the Peterson Park Pavilion from 4-7 pm. The church will provide the chicken, tea and lemon-aid. Everyone is requested to bring side dishes to share, your own table service and an item to auction off with the proceeds going to purchase a new kitchen refrigerator. There will be music, fun and games for all. If you have an orange "Love God, Love People" t-shirt, please wear it.

Ladies SS Class

All ladies are invited to check out the Ladies Sunday School Class. They will begin a new lesson on September 24th. "Pew Sisters" a study of what God is doing in real women from depression to grief to cancer, women from all over the church share their stories.

Bakeless Bake Sale

The Auxiliary at Heartland Christian Village is having a Bakeless Bake Sale for the month of September. If you would like to make a donation to help with their projects please make your check payable to HCV Auxiliary and place in the offering plate.

Church T-Shirts

The church will be selling the "Love God, Love People" orange t-shirts for \$10 per shirt. If you would like one please sign-up in the narthex and then place the money either in the office or in the offering plate with a note for that you are paying for a t-shirt. We have to have a minimum of 15 shirts to place an order and all the money turned in.



The FROG and ROCK (middle school and high school) students meet each Sunday evening from 5-7 pm.

Our Mid-Week Children's program for K-5th grades and JHH meets each Wednesday from 6-7:30 pm with supper provided.



Deaconess Meeting

All Deaconesses please mark your calendars for the upcoming meeting on Tuesday, October 17th at 6 pm. There will be many items to discuss and sign-ups for the 2018 communion preparation and funeral dinner schedules.

Church Life

Sunday, September 17

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

Monday, September 18

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting
 3:45 pm Stewardship Meeting
 7 pm Christian Education Meeting

Tuesday, September 19

7 am Prayer Time
 6:30 pm Ladies Softball Game

Wednesday, September 20

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

Thursday, September 21

6 pm Praise Team Practice
 6:30 pm Marriage on the Rock

Sunday, September 24

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 Meeting

Monday, September 25

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting
 6 pm Evangelism Meeting

Tuesday, September 26

7 am Prayer Time
 6:30 pm Ladies Softball Game

Wednesday, September 27

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

Thursday, September 28

6 pm Praise Team Practice
 6:30 pm "Marriage on the Rock" Small Group



Serving Communion

Sunday, September 17

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Don Inman, Dan Cunningham, Tom Dickerson, Carroll Gibbons

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

Sunday, September 24

8:30 am — John Armstrong, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Don Inman, Steve Lane, Jack Little, Bud Miller

10:30 am — Dennis Goings, Amy Maninfior, Nick Maninfior, Bob Morgan

Thank You Notes

Thank you for the prayers, cards and visits during my illness. It lifted my spirit and I appreciate you all.

Sandy Pierce



Thank you for your prayers and the support that you have given me during the loss of my daughter, Julie. The dinner following her memorial service was lovely and much appreciated. Thanks to Pastor Steve for the kind and meaningful words that he delivered at her service. God bless all of you.

Marilee Blair

Board Splinters

Associate Minister: reported that he has started 2 graduate classes at Lincoln Christian University, he is preaching the next 4 weeks, held the Youth Group Kick-Off Event on Sept. 10th at the Morgan Farm with 30 students attending, regular youth group will start on Sept. 17th, and Marriage on the Rock starts on Sept. 14th with 9 couples.

Elementary Minister: reported that Mid-Week will start Sept. 13th, had a successful volunteer meeting and having a Cook-out at West Park to advertise Mid-Week on the 12th.

Worship: reported that they had finalized the September 3rd Celebration Service and specials for the month.

Outreach: reported that we received a very generous amount of food for the Back Packs from the 1st Presbyterian Church; paid for rent, utilities and school supplies for those in need and considering doing Thanksgiving Baskets for \$20 per family.

Evangelism: reported they are taking orders for t-shirts for \$10 each with a minimum of 15, October 1st All Church Picnic at Peterson Park from 4-7 pm with the chicken provided and please bring a side dish to share and something to auction off.

Stewardship: reviewed the expenses and income, meeting September 18th and August was a good month.

Personnel: reported they met on Sept. 5th, divided out evaluations, giving salary proposal to stewardship, and completed the Holiday Schedule for 2018.

Seniors Minister: took 23 to Branson, 11 nursing home visits, 2 hospital visits, 4 home visits, served as elder and at the communion table, attended a staff meeting, helped with backpacks, taught 4 Sunday School classes, attended men's breakfast and volunteered 3 hours at the Food Center.

New Business: accepted the staff 2018 Holiday Schedule.

Church Attendance

Sept. 3rd — Traditional: 124, Contemporary: 88 = 212

Sept. 10th — Traditional: 127, Contemporary: 72 = 199

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