



The Christian Messenger, April 17, 2024

Sharing the Sweetness

by Stephanie Himmel, youth minister

Recently Ralph Newport of Columbia, Missouri reached out to us about an old First Christian Hannibal church cookbook he'd found among his late wife's belongings. He graciously offered to mail it to us. This week it arrived, and church staff enjoyed looking at it during our Monday meeting. Stephanie takes up the tale:

In a recent delve into Ancestry.com, I stumbled upon a nugget of familial history that left me feeling both nostalgic and newly connected to First Christian Church. I learned of a great-great-aunt and uncle who were once active members of First Christian Church back in the early 1900s. Though my family's lineage at the church may not span numerous generations, this newfound knowledge seemed to bring me closer to the saints of old whose faithfulness paved the way for the community we cherish today.

As I flipped through the pages of our 1969 FCC Cookbook on Monday, waiting for a meeting to start, I stumbled upon a name that struck a chord within me: "Bonnie Wright." Although not a direct blood relative of me, my children, Oliver and Xander, were the paternal great-grandchildren of Willie and Bonnie Wright. It was a sweet moment when I shared Willie's "Last Supper" picture with my sons, and now, I have another treasure to pass down to them.

Prompted by a sense of duty to share the joy, I texted a picture of Bonnie's coveted "Quick Chocolate Cookies" recipe with her daughter, affectionately known as MawMaw Jill to my boys. She expressed just how timely the gesture was. On Friday, she was telling a coworker about how she wanted to bake her mother's chocolate cookies, but she no longer had the recipe. Now, thanks to a serendipitous mailing from Ralph Newport, she can once again indulge in the sweetness of her childhood memories.

As we look ahead the upcoming Appreciative Inquiry process, let us be encouraged to know that it is within this sacred space that we have the opportunity to not only reflect on our past but also envision a future steeped in love, service, and blessing for all who call First Christian home. Each of us, like essential ingredients in a cherished recipe, contributes a unique flavor and texture to the sweet blend of our congregation. In embracing this collective responsibility, we become stewards of God's grace, entrusted with the sacred task of nurturing and sustaining the legacy of faith that binds us together as one.



Forecast for Sunday at FCC: Appreciative!

By Doug Job, interim senior minister

One more time, here are the highlights about our Appreciative Inquiry Experience this Sunday, April 21:

- we'll set the tone in worship, asking God to guide our time toward blessings and insights
- we'll gather in our Fellowship Hall at 11:30 am
- we'll all wear name tags with our first names
- we'll eat a simple lunch of sandwiches (provided by our Fellowship Committee) and potluck salads
- then you'll go to your assigned breakout group with a Transition Team member and four to five other First Christian friends
- your TT member will share her or his answer to the first Affirmative Inquiry question
- you'll take turns answering it, listening and responding to others in your group
- you'll answer the rest of the questions
- your TT member will note your answers (and may record your discussion to help accurately report on it later)
- you'll leave to enjoy the rest of your day with our gratitude for your thoughts, hopes, and presence

Sound good? Let's have this GREAT BIG PARTY!

(If you have any questions or notions to share, please call me at church at [573-221-0783](tel:573-221-0783), or my mobile at [706-248-0194](tel:706-248-0194), or text my mobile, or email me at revjob@gmail.com because I am extremely excited for you to have a great experience.) God bless us! —Doug

P.S.: Thanks to everyone who's offered to bring a salad to share ... I look forward to all the deliciousness!



Appreciative Inquiry Questions

1. Best Experience: Reflect on your entire experience with First Christian Church. Recall a time when you felt most alive, most involved, spiritually touched, or most excited about your involvement. What made it an exciting experience? Describe how you felt. Did anything about this event change you as a church member?

2. Values:

(i) Our congregation: What do you value most about First Christian Church? What is the single most important thing that your church has contributed to your life?

(ii) Being a church member: What makes you feel most connected to your church?

(iii) Our denomination: What is it about being a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that you value? What is the single most important thing that being from your denomination has contributed to your life?

3. Core Value: What values give life to First Christian Church? What do you think is the core value of our church? What is it that, if it did not exist, would make your church totally different than it currently is?

4. Three Wishes: If you had three wishes for First Christian, what would they be?

**FCC YOUTH
CAMP FUNDRAISER**



FEATURING:
TWO BY TWO
6:00 PM | 27 April 2024
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
1101 Broadway, Hannibal MO

Admission is free! There will be baked goods available for a free will donation and a love offering collected to benefit students attending summer camp.



Happy Birthday!

- 17 Ginger Dunn, Shyre' Griffith
- 18 Jack Blanke
- 19 Linda Barker, Jeffrey Gentry
- 21 Steve Barker, Kara Bates, Roger McGregor
- 22 Sandra Burroughs





Happy Anniversary!

17 Phil & Sharon Bergman, Kevin & Kelly Mundle

20 Andy & Carol Greening

23 Mike & Lynn Shulse

Arrangements for Betty Hams

10 am Visitation

11 am Memorial Service, sanctuary

Burial at Grand View

Lunch upon returning from the cemetery, fellowship hall

This Week's Events

April 10 - 2024

Transition Team, Wednesday, 4/17 at 6 pm,
parlor

Face to F.A.C.E., Thursday, 4/18 at 5:30 pm,
Java Jive

Women's Bible Study, Thursday, 4/18 at 1 pm,
parlor

Appreciative Inquiry Experience, Sunday,
4/21 at 11:30 am

Adult Volleyball, Monday, 4/22 at 6:30 pm in
the gym



Serving & Giving Opportunities

F.A.C.E.

Serving in the Lord's House: April 21, 2024

*If you cannot serve in your allotted spot, please find a replacement and contact the church office with their name.

Offertory Prayer: Paul Lewellen

Greeters: Lent Johnson & Sandra Ahlum

Communion Prayer: Tammy Heimer

Ushers: Al & Linda Kennett

Call to Worship: Shirley Collier

Sound: Cory Combs

Deacon Prep/Cleanup: Mike & Angie Wood

Video: Barry Casey

Children's Moment: Stephanie Himmel

Serving Deacons: Janet, Alice, Peyton, Dunn;
Mel Gordon & Sandy Conn

Youth Volunteer: Debra Wasowicz

Youth Meal Volunteer: Sue Giroux

Global Ministries (DOC & UCC) Weekly Prayer Request

Lord, teach us to pray...

Weekly Global Prayer Concerns:

Have something for an upcoming newsletter?

Send in photos of FCC family and events! Upcoming events? Announcements to share with the FCC family?

Contact the church office!



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