

July Birthdays

BIRTHDAYS

4- Alex Higginbotham
 7- Jacque Dryer
 8- Mia James
 Marshall Krause
 9- Christopher Arnett
 Cooper Halsey
 11- Wayne McReynolds
 12- Abby Shroeder
 14- Richard Mencl
 15- Dan Brandt
 17- Wayne Buck
 Lindsey Sullivan
 18- Sam Krog
 19- Kelsey Payne
 20- BrynaLynn Clark
 Buddy Coslet

22- Norman Gibbins
 28- Charlene Crawford
 28- Lynn Phillips
 30- Bryanne Payne
 31- Rachel Clemons
 Elizabeth Cline

July Anniversaries

1- Marshall & Pat Krause
 4- Kevin & Jacque Dryer
 6- Jared & Jeremi Jackson
 11- Leroy & Kay Wise
 12- Jerry & Judy Frerking
 Jim & Parilee Jackson
 14- Wayne & Carolyn Buck
 16- Seth & Elizabeth Cline
 18- Bert & Melisa Shannon
 Wane & Vickie Wise
 21- David & Kara Clark
 23- Vince & Jill Buck
 26- John & Trish Fletcher

HAPPY
4th of july
 INDEPENDENCE DAY

Dear First Christian Church,

It has been great being with you in worship, fellowship, and so many projects and activities.

This church has been such a welcoming place for me, and I have enjoyed it. Now, however, I will be doing something different. I will be the pastor of Hale United Methodist Church, starting in July.

It turns out that I am not really suited for retirement from the ministry, and it brings me great joy to accept God's call in this way.

Thanks so much for everything, and may God bless you,
 Rev. Sally DeMasters

"Reaching Out"

a message from the Outreach Committee

On May 28, First Christian Church partnered with St. Peter Catholic Church to host a Community Blood Center blood drive at the Knights of Columbus in Marshall. Because it was a first-time event for both churches, our donation goal was a modest 25 units. Thanks to our fantastic community, we met and exceeded our goal collecting 32 units – 128% of our goal!

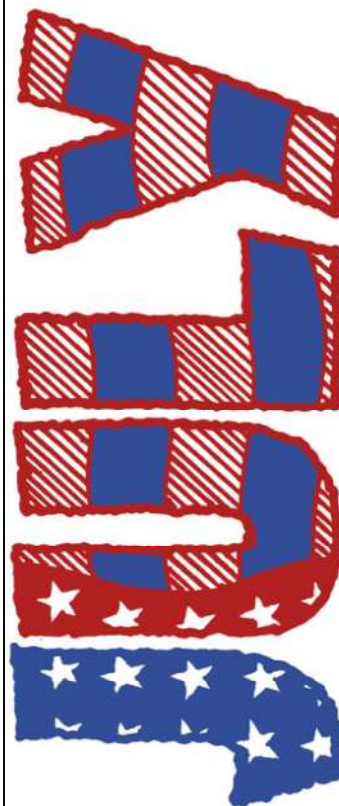
The Community Blood Center provides all the blood and blood products for Fitzgibbon Hospital.

Many thanks to all the donors and volunteers in their efforts to reach out to help those whose lives and well-being depend on blood donors. As someone said, "Blood is like a parachute; if it's not there when you need it, chances are you'll never need it again."

The Outreach Committee is committed to lead FCC in its efforts to follow Christ's command in Matthew 25: 34-40 to help the hungry, thirsty, sick, unclothed, imprisoned, and strangers. If you have ideas for how we can serve those individuals, please let the office know or become a member of the Outreach Committee.

**A Message from our Pastor...**

There will not be a July General Board meeting. Executive Board will meet on August 13th at 5:00, followed by General Board at 6:00 PM.



Can you hear it? I am just beginning to catch the off and on sounds. It might mean something different for those in other places but, for us there can be only one meaning. Yes indeed, it is getting toward the FOURTH of July. The great celebration of our great nation's birthday (Not quite 250 years old). I guess it is not polite to tell a lady's age. But, the United States of America does not seem to mind.

We hear on the news so much of what is wrong with our country, it is easy to become jaded, embittered, or just plain discussed. We need to hear the good as well. However since good things do not bring viewers to the news, I guess we will still be hearing the worst.

Well, I figure that hearing the worst is part of what is the best of our nation. We have a free press and many freedoms which much of the rest of the world do not have. Being able to hear what may make us feel bad is one of our country's best attributes.

Those in our past have done a pretty good job of giving us today the freedoms of a free nation. So, for all of that and the many great things this country has and is, I say, "Happy Birthday" you great big nation. Please keep burning the fires of freedom as we remain a beacon of democracy to many in the world.

Happy Birthday and carry on! We will give as much help as you need to stay free and to continue on the path toward the greatness so well deserved.

Blessings, Rev. Randal

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

The 'Christmas Pageant', as it came to be known, was first performed at First Christian Church in 1949 and annually thereafter for sixty years. It returned to our sanctuary in 2024. Responses from church and community members to *The Pageant of the Holy Nativity* was so positive and gratifying that we will be offering it again this year, and planning has begun!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 30 at 6:00 pm.

If you would like to be in the Pageant cast or help in a supporting role, please let Lindsey Parton (660-815-4606) or Tiffany Thornton (660-815-3214) know by September 26th.

To ensure cast members will be able to make the practices, we have set the following dates.

Wednesday, November 12 – Choir and Directors (Choir will have prior practices TBD.)

Monday, November 17, 6:00 pm – Cast and Costume Directors

Wednesday, November 19, 6:00 pm – Everyone: Cast, Choir, lighting, directors, et al

Sunday, November 23, 6:00 pm – Everyone

Sunday, November 30, 3:00 pm – Everyone (practice, eat, dress, PERFORM!)