

July 11, 2017



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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FCC's Vision Statement

First Christian Church seeks to be a family of disciples, growing with God's grace and serving others in faith, hope and love.

On Sunday morning during the children's moment, we talked about prayer beads as a way to help us focus our prayers and keep us on track as we pray. For many of us, prayer beads – although an ancient practice - are a new concept. Most of us know about Catholic rosaries (even if we just know they exist), but there are several other forms of beads that are used throughout the Christian church – both Catholic and Protestant.

In early Christianity, the monks and nuns had significant prayer lives (as they do today). They would memorize and recite the 150 psalms. The lay people, who were uneducated and illiterate at that time, were unable to fully participate in that part of the church's prayer life. Nevertheless, they wanted to be faithful in prayer throughout the day.

The Pater Noster ("Our Father" in Latin) cord was created as a way to help the lay people join with the monks and nuns in daily prayers. Instead of reciting psalms, the people would pray 50 "Our Father's." And to help keep track, the Pater Noster cord was created. It is a straight rope with beads numbering 10, 50 or 150 with a cross on one end and a tassel on the other.

You may think that saying the Lord's Prayer over and over is a strange thing to do. If praying a prayer is just to check a box on a list, it will be a strange thing to do. Prayer that uses prayer beads or repeated phrases tends to be more contemplative, more reflective, more meditative. The words of the prayers themselves become second nature and the mind is freed up to ponder the deeper mystery of a relationship with God. Many of us don't do this kind of prayer often; it can be really hard to settle in at first. That's part of the reason beads are used so often. They help calm and focus us as we explore our relationship with God. I'll share more on contemplative prayer in the coming weeks.

Pastor Lory

Tuesday, July 11

9am – Bandana Bags
11am – Summer Lunch Program

Wednesday, July 12

9am – Men's Coffee
2pm – Tech Rehearsal
2:30pm – HOPE Team

Saturday, July 15

6pm – Emmaus Group at Denison

Sunday, July 16

9:30am- Prayer Team
9:50am – Sunday School
10:50am – Worship
12pm – Potluck Lunch
1pm – Board Meeting
5pm – Youth Group

Monday, July 17

9:30am – Kids Summer Movie at Cinemark (\$1)

Bandana Bags – TOMRROW!

The Children's Advocacy Center has requested more bandana bags to give to children who come to the CAC. Please drop off new bandanas at the church office. Bandana Making Day is July 11 from 9am-12pm!!!



The Gathering Sunday School Class is hosting a Ladies' Lunch THURSDAY, July 13 at 11am in the church fellowship hall. All ladies are invited. If you need a ride, please call the church office and we will come get you. Join us for this time of fellowship!



Dick Towers, Robyn Jackson, Patrick Whalen, Sue McAulay, Lois Bueker, Linn Scalf, Jean Campbell, Leanne Bueker, Gerald Hutchings, Nancy Bailey, Eulice Howell, Ted and Norma Porter, Natalie Hutchison, Connie Gates, Charin Clayton, Don Cook, Robbie Morrow, Georjeana Nutt

Servers for July 16, 2017

Elders: Mary Jackson, Fran Neeley

**Deacons: Rosie and John Fielding,
Bobby Scalf**

Lay Reader: Bill George

Homebound Communion: Mary Jackson

Communion Prep: John Fielding

Coffee Fellowship: The Wilson's



Scripture Text: Matthew 6:5-13
"Thy Kingdom Come. Thy Will Be Done."

**Prayer for our HOPE Transformation
Journey:**

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with us as we take counsel through HOPE for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(from *Book of Common Prayer*)



Remember to pray for those on your list!
Also, be praying for opportunities to invite people to church this summer!