**Casey First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

200 SE 8th St. · P.O. Box 303 · Casey, IL 62420

(217)932-2773 · cfcc@caseyfcc.org · www.caseyfcc.org

Rev. Brian McCreanor · pastorbrian@caseyfcc.org

**Sunday Services: 9 am Sunday School · 10 am Worship**



***To Know Him-Love Him-Share Him***

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APRIL 2018 SERVING SCHEDULE

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **APRIL 1ST** | **APRIL 8TH** | **APRIL 15TH** | **APRIL 22ND** | **APRIL 29TH** |
| **ELDERS** | Ruthie Wimbley Kathy Hayes | Peggy Hickox Larry Patchett | Nina Meeker Debi Sinclair | Sherri Butcher Cindy Stephen | Moe Wimbley Sherri Butcher |
| **ELDERS SHUT-INS** | Sherri & Kathy |  |  |  |  |
| **DEACONS** | Kenny Shobe  Steph Shobe Devan Smith | Cheryl Stifal Jeanne Unzicker Marcia Vidoni | Jeri Bland Paula Blair Bill Brewer | Linda Coleman Cassie Ramsey Sharon Richardson | Connie Roberts Kenny Shobe Steph Shobe |
| **PREP. COMM.** | Kenny & Steph | Cheryl & Jeanne | Jeri & Bill | Linda & Sharon | Kenny & Steph |
| **DEACONS SHUT-INS** | Bill & Shellie |  |  |  |  |
| **WORSHIP**  **LEADER** |  | Patty Clapp | Sharon Richardson | Larry Patchett |  |
| **GREETER** | Larry Patchett | Patty Clapp | Peggy Hickox | Sherri Butcher | Graham’s |
| **SOUND** | Ken Whitton | Michael Stephen | Brad Hickox | Ken Whitton | Michael Stephen |
| **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** |  | Michael Stephen | Kathy Hayes |  |  |
| **CHALLENGER REFRESHMENTS** | Grahams | Peggy Hickox | Eleanor Markwell | Bonnie McCash | Larry Patchett |
| **SERMON** | Rev. Jacqueline Morgan | Rev. Jacqueline Morgan | Rev. Jacqueline Morgan | Rev. Jacqueline Morgan | Rev. Jacqueline Morgan |

**FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK….**

Good-bye! a kind good-bye,  
I bid you now, my friend,  
And though 'tis sad to speak the word,  
To destiny I bend  
  
And though it be decreed by Fate  
That we ne'er meet again,  
Your image, graven on my heart,  
Forever shall remain.  
  
Aye, in my heart thoult have a place,  
Among the friends held dear,-  
Nor shall the hand of Time efface  
The memories written there.  
Goodbye,  
S.L.C.

To Jennie —Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens—S.L.C.)

Twain was said to have written this poem about his niece, to whom he was very close, who recently died.  Now I understand in my departure no one is dying, but make no mistake about it, this is goodbye forever in the sense that my time as your pastor is over and will never be again.  There may come a time when we see each other in this small world, and even smaller town—I still live here!—but my time as your humble servant and shepherd has come to an end and will never be again.  In that sense it is final . . . as final as it gets.

I want to begin by saying Thank You.  Thank you for opening up your homes to me and my family and for the hospitality you shared.  Thank you for opening up your hearts and your minds to me and sometimes, to new ways of doing things.  We ate together, laughed together, cried together, and prayed together, and I am grateful.  I leave you with my heart full and grateful.  I also leave, however, with a torn heart.

My heart is torn with worry that with all we accomplished we did not accomplish enough.  My heart is torn about the fact that there is more work to be done and more growth and change to take place.  My heart is torn about the fact there is more we can learn from and teach each other.  But, alas, this is true of every relationship as it comes to a close—there is always something more that can be gleaned and added to life’s wisdom coffers.

In addition to my gratitude, I want to wish you well.  I wish you and Jacqueline well on your new journey together.  Remember, she is a spiritual leader, not a decision maker or a dictator.  She will love you even if you don’t love her, so love her.  I wish you well on listening to her wisdom and taking into consideration her observations and suggestions for how to continue your return to health.  Healthy congregations are the only kinds of congregations that grow.  I wish you well in realizing your future story and faithfully living into your ministry plan in covenant with each other and with God.

There is a final issue with my departure that I must address: grief.  When someone leaves grief is natural.  There are those of you who will ***not*** grieve my departure, and that is okay.  Leave room, space, and time, however, for those who will grieve.  Their grief and their fond memories of me are not a commentary on Jacqueline or the work that was done to hire her. Their grief is not a comment on a desire for me to stay—that was never an option.  Grief and praise and comments like, “I’m going to miss Brian,” are not meant to mean that they wish I could or would stay and are not meant to as a criticism of the work that was done between the search team and God to find and call Jacqueline to be your new pastor.  Grief is not at all a lament that Jacqueline’s arrival is impending.  Let people grieve, even if you aren’t going to miss me and are really excited about Jacqueline’s arrival.  To those who are grieving: give yourselves time to grieve my leaving, but do not let your grief linger.  Embrace Jacqueline—physically and emotionally—soon and often.  Welcome her presence among you and with you.  Take heed of her wisdom and guidance.  Pray with her and for her often.  Remember, she will be the person, the Pastor, who will laugh with you, cry with you, celebrate with you, and pray with you and for you ceaselessly.

My family and I enjoyed our time here in the land of giant stuff.  My family and I enjoyed our time here with YOU!  We are grateful for the hospitality, for the lessons, for the consideration, and for the love.  I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers always.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”  Hebrews 11.1

Have faith.

With much Love, Blessings, and one final Aloha,

Brian

**Prayer Requests**

Bentlei Freeman

Terri Fulton

John Galey

Paul Gordon

Rich Grafton

Sue Hills

Kay Hunsaker

Bill Johnson

Erin Larsen

Sue Liffick

Karen Mitchell

Troy Richardson

Randy Rue

Ron Rue

Dave Sauer

Jerry Self

Scott Stephen

Shawn Stifal

Mary Sue Watson

Wayne & Joan Wemple

Bob William

Steve Wimbley

Daniel Winn

Bob Bluhm

Linda Brown

Patty Clapp

Bill Coleman

Sheryl Comer

Bill Cross

Bob Daugherty

Pauline Davidson

Gene Denney

Dale Finney

Bryce & Jennifer Fitch

**Casey Health Care Heartland Active Military**

Patty Hickox Vera Ingle Brandon Blair

Ruth Fitch **Simple Blessings** Daniel Daugherty

Robbie Morey Laura Snider Mitchell Markwell

Janet Cooper

**April Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**4 Kyle Carver 15 Tennyson McCreanor**

**6 PK Johnson 17 Tony & Sherri Butcher**

**7 Devan Smith 18 Gene Decker**

**11 John & Lynda Graham 20 Gage Newlin**

**12 Marsha Rue 21 Jennings McCreanor**

**13 Danny & Shellie Simpson 23 Jerry Nichols**

**15 Sharon Rue 23 Bill & Tricia Garver**

**15 Nick Sherwood 30 Nate Gilbert**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | April 2018 | | | | |  |
| Sun | **Mon** | **Tue** | **Wed** | **Thu** | **Fri** | Sat |
| **1**  Easter Sunday | 2  9:00 MML  4:30 B/S  5:30 WW | 3 | 4  7:00 Board Meeting | 5  5:30 Choir | 6 | **7** |
| **8** | 9  9:00 MML  4:30 B/S  5:30 WW | 10 | 11 | 12  5:00 Red Hawk  5:30 Choir | 13 | **14**  2:00-9:00 pm  Fellowship Hall Reserved for  4-H Dinner |
| **15** | 16  9:00 MML  4:30 B/S  5:30 WW | 17 | 18 | 19  5:30 Choir | 20 | **21** |
| **22** | 23  9:00 MML  4:30 B/S  5:30 WW | 24 | 25  7:00 Elders Meeting | 26  5:30 Choir | 27 | **28** |
| **29**  5th Sunday Sing @ Casey First Baptist Church | **30**  9:00 MML  4:30 B/S  5:30 WW | MML-Monday Morning Ladies  B/S- Boy Scouts  WW-Weight Watchers | | | | |

Announcements & Upcoming Events

**Farewell Dinner**

**for the McCreanors**

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**Sun., March 25th**

**After Worship Service**

**Meat provided**

**Bring a side dish**

**CFCC Board Meeting**

Wednesday, April 4th

7:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

**Rev. Jacqueline Morgan will be joining us beginning on Sunday, April 1. Please be in prayer for her as she prepares to move to Casey and lead our church. Please pray for our church as we transition to a new minister.**

**April Community**

**Free Meals**

**4:30-6:00 pm**

2nd-First Baptist

9th-Casey White Oak

16th-Methodist

23rd-Nazarene

30th-Moriah

**One didn’t**

Three men were tried for crimes against humanity. Two committed crimes. One didn’t.

Three men were given government trials. Two were given fair trials. One wasn’t.

Three men were whipped and beaten. Two had it coming. One didn’t.

Three men were given crosses to carry. Two earned their crosses. One didn’t.

Three men were mocked and spit at along the way. Two cursed and spit back. One didn’t.

Three men were nailed to crosses. Two deserved it. One didn’t.

Three men agonized over their abandonment. Two had reason to be abandoned. One didn’t.

Three men knew death was coming. Two resisted. One didn’t.

One, two, three men died on three crosses. Three days later, two remained in their graves. One didn’t.

--Author unknown

**Easter Offering**

**March 25th & April 1st**

Ministries that receive funding from the Easter Offering include: the [Center for Faith and Giving](http://centerforfaithandgiving.org/), [Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries](https://www.obrahispana.org/), [Communication Ministries](http://disciples.org/dns/), [Council on Christian Unity](http://councilonchristianunity.org/), [Disciples Church Extension Fund](http://www.disciplescef.org/) / [Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation](http://www.hopepmt.org/), [Disciples of Christ Historical Society](http://discipleshistory.org/), [Disciples Home Missions](https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/), [Disciples Women](https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/disciples-women/), [Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries](http://www.globalministries.org/), [Higher Education and Leadership Ministries](http://helmdisciples.org/), [National Benevolent Association](https://www.nbacares.org/), [National Convocation](http://nationalconvocation.org/), [North American Pacific/Asian Disciples](http://www.napad.net/), and [Treasury Services](http://disciplesmissionfund.org/treasury-services/).