



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

120 North McArthur Street
Macomb, IL 61455-2101

PERIODICAL CHALICE TIDINGS



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Volume XXV, Issue 51

December 18, 2014

SERVING THIS WEEK OF December 21

Worship Leader: Cindy Moon
Elders: Char Carden (bread), Jan Rockwell (cup)
Diaconate: Dorothy Loop, Larry Loop, Peggy West
 Elizabeth Bailey, Rick Webster, Kim Cunningham
Balcony: Samantha Adams, Margaret Taylor, Natalie Workman
Preparatory: Marcia Higgins, Sherri Wagner, Sharon Butcher
Greeters: **Front** Judy Graves
Central East Mary Raymer
Balcony South Dan Reed
Elevator Jeanna Montgomery

Sanctuary Superintendent(s): Jonelle Schauble
Children's Moment: Shannon Reed
Children's Church: Jan Rockwell
Soundboard Tech:
Coffee Fellowship Time: Joyce Randall
Hospital Caller: John Carden
Financial Escort: Karen Chatterton
Sunday Morning Office Staff: Janet Shank

Kelly Ingersoll,
Minister

Bill Froom,
Chancel Choir Director

Carol Harmon,
Organist

Annetta Holt,
Administrative Assistant

Paul Huff,
Custodian

Mariah Chapdelaine,
Youth/Children's Choir Director

Brandi Collins,
Nursery Supervisor

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December 24, 2014

6:00 P.M.

We will be holding our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve service this year on December 24 at 6:00 pm.

Please mark this date and time on your calendar and plan to bring your friends, neighbors and family to this celebration service.

Kelly's Korner

Presents are easy to receive, aren't they? On birthdays and Christmas, presents are expected. Other special times of the year, they are nice to receive as well—you know, appreciation days for bosses and administrative assistants, anniversaries, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Valentine's day, my spouse is feeling extra nice even though it's not Valentine's day, or any day really. At such times, we receive the kindness and caring of individuals who are along for the journey of life with us.

Christmas is that time to remember how God journeys with us. In the birth of Christ, God initially entered the world in a new way to be with us. In the celebration of Christ's birth each year, we have the opportunity to find God's presence with us still. We have the opportunity to say yes to the ways that God wishes to work in our lives.

In the gospel of Luke, Mary receives a visit from the angel Gabriel. She says yes to a very scary proposition. A young woman says yes to being the mother of Christ. Unwed, yet engaged, her husband to be, Joseph, could leave her. The rest of her society would look down on her with shame and disgrace. But, God's grace lifted her above all this and now she is praised for her faithfulness.

Do we need visits from angels to do what is faithful? Or can we remember the stories of our faith and find the presence of the divine at work in us? Presents are surely to come in the next week or so. Presence is with us now...and always. Thanks be to God! See you Sunday and Christmas Eve.

Peace,

PRESENCE, Also

December 21
December 24

Luke 1:26-38
Matthew 1:18-23

Presence Accepted
Emmanuel!



Sunday, December 21

Eric Reed opens/closes church

Eric Reed drive(s) van

8:30 AM Prayer Group
9:00 AM Sunday School
9:30 AM Children's Christmas Program

10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM Worship

2:00 PM Grand Prairie

Elder: Char Carden

Deacons: Rich & Sue Cangro

4:00 PM Everly House

Elder: Char Carden

Deacons: Rich & Sue Cangro

Wednesday, December 24

6:00 PM Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 28

Rod Burg opens/closes church

Rod Burg drive(s) van

8:30 AM Prayer Group
9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship
10:30 AM Worship

Birthdays & Anniversaries

20 Rod Burg
23 Connie Workman

Sunday, December 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sermon: Presence Accepted

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Lectionary Readings:

II Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46-55
Psalm 89:1-4, 19.26
Romans 16:25-27

Sunday, December 28 First Sunday after Christmas

Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 61:10-62
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

Advent Hymn by Dan Merrick, 1983

*And There Shall
Come a Day*

And there shall come a day
When out of Zion's hill
All will be taught the ways of God
And do His holy will.

And there shall come a day,
A day of joy and light,
When peace shall reign and God will break
Into the world's dark night.

"And there shall come a day",
The ancient prophet cried,
"When nations shall destroy their swords
And God will be their guide".

O Celebrate that Day!
The Day of Holy Birth;
The Christ whom prophets told of old
Has come to reign on earth!

**Advent Meditation based on
Merrick hymn by Bill Froom, 2014**

The discussion is held in church staff meetings every year—shall we sing only advent music until the actuality of the birth at Christmas? Dan and I decided, one Advent near the time this hymn was written, to follow the unpopular path and celebrate with only Advent music until Christmas. The experience guided me when this question was asked at my interview for FCC-Macomb... "What will you do about using Advent music vs. Christmas music?" The new minister was asked the

same question. Sadly, but wisely, we both presented the view that we would have to be in consultation with each other as a staff (certainly prayerfully considering congregational needs).

The balance of Advent and Christmas remains an enigma. As Christians we have become passionate, yet impatient for Christmas music. We have heard the stories and sung the glories since our youth. Anticipate what? We know He's coming and want to sing about the birth right now. (They are actually beginning the process of Christmas commercially as I write this devotion in September!)

Dan's hymn, *And There Shall Come a Day*, perfectly illuminates the path for a theologically correct, anticipatory Advent. There SHALL come a day when all will be taught, when peace shall reign, when God will be our guide. It is not instantaneous. Advent is a process.

What darkness in your life needs light? What longed for birth will cause you rejoicing on Christmas Eve? You see, when Christmas is simply a story we know BY heart, singing Christmas hymns from the start of Advent is logical. Knowing what is coming we globally sing *Joy to the World*. However, if we are living the Advent journey FROM the heart, then we can anticipate redemption on a personal, experiential level and deeply rejoice on that *Silent Night*.

I pray with anticipation that there shall come a day when my personal darkness will be over. With God as my guide, I will celebrate what the prophets foretold, as the illumination of Christ comes to reign in my heart.



It is time to sign up for Fellowship time for January, February and March 2015.

The church furnishes coffee and juice. You need to bring a homemade dessert. You also need to make the coffee, set out the juice and clean up afterward.

Please think about joining this outreach and sign up now!

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Parlor.

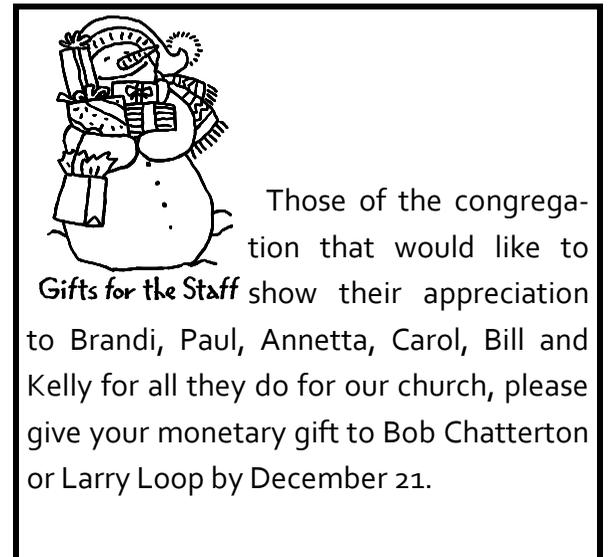
On December 21, the children and youth of FCC will present a special Christmas Children's Worship Service from 9:30-10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The service is designed to help every child (and the child in all of us) remember the true meaning of Christmas. The service is open to everyone, especially families with small children, and will include a costumed procession, special music and a short play.

A children's worship bulletin and candy canes will be give to all children in attendance.

Please invite your friends and family to this special celebration of Jesus' birth.

Coffee fellowship with a birthday cake for Jesus will follow the service.





2015 FCC WINTER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

January

Sunday 11 Church Committee Recruitment Day -
Check out the various committee's activities, find a place that fits & serve with the church

Monday 19 National Human Traffic Awareness Day
National Day of Service—FCC Youth (& adult helpers) service project

February

Sunday 1 Souper-Bowl Sunday—canned foods collection for food pantry
Inmates Spaghetti Supper—prepare dinner for McDonough District Jail and Macomb Fire House

March

Sunday 15-Friday 20 Spring break inter-generational mission trip to Indianapolis

Ongoing:

Sewing ministry, Prayer shawl ministry, Loaves & Fishes, Habitat for Humanity, Youth for Christ

Please contact Jan Rockwell (rockwell@macomb.com) or Rev. Ingersoll (Kelly@fccmacomb.org) if you have interest in serving in any of these areas



The Christian Action and Outreach Committee extends thanks to all who have generously contributed to special calls for help this past summer and fall!

You welcomed and invested in the life of a homeless man. You have given money and household products to help the men and women of the Samaritan Well as they strive for a better life through "Thankful for a Home". You have contributed to Loaves and Fishes with food and service.

You have sewn quilts for women and children in Budapest, Hungary who are survivors of human trafficking and made dresses for girls in Africa. You have made prayer shawls for those who are ill, in hospice, or mourning. You have rung bells for Salvation Army, supported Youth for Christ fund raising and Pizza Friday, and provided meals for Habitat for Humanity.

Finally, you have supported Special Olympians and provided for a Christmas party.

During this Advent season, please know you have brought hope and love to those in need. *As you have done to one of the least of these...*

As we celebrate anew the Good News of God-with-us, the coming of our Lord, what gifts shall we bring? Matthew 2:11 is the theme verse for this year's campaign. *On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

Whatever it is, may we present our gifts in humble thanksgiving and with joyful extravagance!

The Christmas Offering is used to support our regional ministries and offices. The region helps us connect with one another—through annual assemblies, church camps, men's and women's groups and local clergy clusters. The region supports local church efforts in the search and call for a new minister, and in many other ways.

The Christmas Offering will be accepted at FCC again on December 21 and will be used to support the Il-Wis Region.