



# Chalice Tidings

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
120 North McArthur Street, Macomb, IL 61455-2101

Volume XXVI, Issue 48

December 1, 2018

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Minister

Samantha Dawe  
Nursery Assistant

Bill Froom  
Chancel Choir Director

Carol Harmon  
Organist

Paul Huff  
Custodian

Allie Hulen  
Children's Choir Director

Erin Jacobs  
Administrative Assistant

Ben Kersey  
Youth Minister

Sarah Maier  
Nursery Supervisor

## Advent 2018

### *Festival of the Creche*

November 30 6:00-8:30 pm

December 1 3:30-6:00 pm

### *Advent Study*

Tuesdays, December 4, 11, 19

5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Childcare is available

### *Annual FCC Christmas Music Worship Service*

Sunday, December 9 at 10:30 am

### *Sunday School Christmas Pageant*

Sunday, December 16 at 9:00 am

### *Christmas Eve Candlelight Services*

Monday, December 24

6:00 pm AND 11:00 pm



# Kelly's Korner

How different could Christmas be this year? Too often the season gets so busy. We shop 'til we drop so we can present a beautifully wrapped gift. "This is for you," we say. We go from this party to that party to the next party thinking, "This smile on my face is for you." We receive treasures from well-meaning friends with a dour spirit, faking joy, with the knowledge, "For you, I'll receive this gift and find a way to re-gift next week or next year." Our hearts are broken as we trudge through the holidays missing loved ones who have passed from us... "For you, I'll be brave and act as if I'm ok." We grieve a broken relationship, stressed about having to spend time with her or him at some gathering, and we dig deep and think, "For you, for all of you, there will be no embarrassing scene."

It is often easier to wear a mask and act as if all is ok than be our genuine selves.

And none of this masking takes away from the fact that some shopping is fun and that some good moments will be shared. It's just not always easy. It's just not always smiles and puppies.

If Christmas can be more about faith and God and Jesus (you know, the real reasons for the season), we will find more contentment during the holidays. There will still be stress and anxiety and busyness. If we proactively journey to the manger, we will find a bit more joy. What could this look like?

- Admitting to ourselves that we are lonely, that we miss some people in our lives, and then saying that it is ok and even right to miss them.
- Attempting to mend a relationship, no matter the outcome.
- Reading a Christmas book or watching Hallmark TV.
- Reading the Christmas story...or the Bible in general.
- Praying more intentionally.
- Seeing a therapist.
- Finding a new spiritual discipline like exercise or yoga or attending Advent study or ringing the Salvation Army bell or finding some other way to serve the needs of others.
- Acknowledging negative thoughts (we all have them, so it's ok), shaking them out of our brains and replacing them with more positive thoughts. By the way, we cannot just ignore negative or sad thoughts and expect them to go away. They will return and return. We must acknowledge negativity and sadness before we can move on to a better place.

All of these are proactive faith strategies. Maybe reading this list has spurred other thoughts. It is not an exhaustive list.. How great would it be to make one part of life better—for you?

For You is our Advent theme. As we journey to the manger yet again, we will remember familiar words of the season. God will nudge us to new ways of being and receiving these good gifts. In faith, life can be better but it takes effort and time. Prepare for Christmas as gently or boldly as you must. Just pay attention to God's still, small voice, "This is my son, born to bring peace and hope and joy and love...for you."

Peace,





## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Donna Bainter

The Stephen Ministry met on Monday November 12, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. with 5 present. Jean Vaughn opened the meeting with prayer.

Last month we sent 11 cards, 1 phone call, and 4 visits.

We decided to have our Christmas Party on Tuesday December 11 at 5:30 p.m. at Gelsosomos Pizzeria.

We finished our chapter of "Caring for Patients in Long Care Facilities." We will start a new study in January 2019.

Remember, anyone interested in going to the Stephen Ministry classes in St. Louis on April 28 – May 6, 2019, contact Jean Vaughn.

## PROPERTY

*Larry Loop*

The third floor renovation has been approved by the property committee, trustees and the church board at an estimated cost of \$32,500.00. There is \$3,000.00 in donations for this project. The additional money will come from the memorial fund if needed. Improvements will include new flooring, baseboard, molding for steps, skim coating the hallway and both stairwells, painting, additional chairs, cabinets, bulletin boards, window treatments and signage. We hope to start work in January or February.

The youth have a donation with no amount specified. Projects being considered are new flooring for the youth space, new ping pong and/or pool table, and striping for the basketball court.

It has been suggested that a \$10,000.00 donation designated for any property project, originally thought to be used for basement and second floor renovation to include flooring, painting and office furniture, be used for a larger vision of upgrading other parts of the building, which would require a short term Capital Campaign. Additional projects being pursued are dropped ceilings and new light fixtures, new Sunday school furnishings, repairing or replacing the northeast and front steps, replacing and relocating the emergency cupboard, repairing or eliminating entry canopies, repairing the youth space window wells, security cameras, and an automatic door opener for the elevator entrance. We have started acquiring bids and estimates.

A clear barrier has been ordered and will be installed on the railing at the sanctuary level of the elevator by Macomb Glass. They will also replace 8 sidelights in the education building that now have embedded wire hopefully during the third floor construction. These have both been safety issues.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*Norma Kentner*

Please come early to church at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 16th (snow date, December 23) for our Sunday School Christmas Pageant, *Simply Christmas*. We will be celebrating the story of Jesus' birth with readings, songs, ukuleles, special lighting, costumes and scenery! After the program, there will be Christmas cookies in the Parlor provided by the Christian Education Committee. Join us for a meaningful addition to your Christmas season!

Our 3rd-5th grade class has been making air-dry clay crèche figures that will be set up for the Festival of the Creche event. Thanks to Jan and Dean Rockwell for their direction with this fun project. Also, look for the tall, skinny Christmas tree in the parlor by the kids' table. The Sunday School classes are making ornaments to decorate their very own tree!

Bids are in and plans for the Renovation of the Education Wing have been approved by the Trustees. Plans are to tentatively begin work at the end of January or beginning of February. The CE Committee will serve as the Design Team, picking out colors for laminate flooring and paint. Blessings and gratitude to the anonymous donor who so generously gave funding for this exciting project. Thank you to the Renovation Team: Larry Loop, Barb Houck, Carolee Sellers, Jean Vaughn, Char Carden, Kelly Ingersoll and Dave and Norma Kentner.

## FCC BOOK CLUB

*Norma Kentner*

We are taking December off from Book Club and discussing ***The Five People You Meet in Heaven*** by Mitch Albom on Thursday, January 3 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Norma Kentner still has additional copies of this book (used, \$5) available.

## SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

Rod is again organizing the bell ringing schedule to raise funds for the Salvation Army. FCC has served on Black Friday and our members will be ringing on Dec. 22 & 24th. If you can take an hour, sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board near the parlor.

## PRAYER SHAWL

Roselyn Chown's group will be taking a holiday break and meet again January 8. Children's blankets are the item most are working on; although warm caps have been also appreciated by those who frequent our Emergency Cupboard.

## FCC EMERGENCY CUPBOARD

The emergency cupboard requires stocking almost on a daily basis now. The need in the community is great! Perhaps a family would like to take a week as their Advent project. Directions are printed on the stocking shelves near the elevator entrance. You can stock your car with a week's worth of items if you are concerned about access to the building. The Cupboard is available 24/7.

## OUTREACH AND ACTION

*Jan Rockwell*

### Loaves and Fishes

Rod Burg reports that Dot Foods donated \$5,000 of food in November. To give an estimate of monthly costs at L & F; \$8,580 was spent on food for October & around \$6,000 awarded to families in shopping vouchers for items at Hy-Vee or Jackson Street Market. When shopping, we might thank those two stores for their generous participation with the food pantry.

### Samaritan Well



The bountiful collection for "Thankful for a Home" donations was delivered by board members Nita Burg and Jan Rockwell. Rod Burg loaded his pick-up with the items. Thank you to all who shared with the residents of the women's and men's shelter! At this time, both shelters are filled including one new born infant. Aren't we blessed to be able to help that "mother & child" find a warm place this Christmas season?!

### Inter-Faith Alliance of Macomb (IAM)

A nationally active hate group announced their intention to rattle our community at the WIU football game on Sat., November 17th. Our church, through IAM, participated in a community-wide response by holding a "Love Rally". Many FCC members attended the rally held in the parking lot near Hansen Field. Josh Fink's band, Chew Toys, provided some of the music.

McAllister's donated cookies and tea for those attending.

As part of IAM's response, Pastor Kelly facilitated an area-wide sign campaign, LOVE ONLY.

The peaceful, love-filled rally was a wonderful partnership of the community & campus.

Though the hate-group's intent was to cause division and perhaps stir violence, the day produced a sense of fellowship and new friendships.

### Secret Santa Party

Babs Becker has organized this year's Secret Santa Party for our area friends and members with special needs for WEDNESDAY, December 5th. The Fellowship Hall doors open at 5:00; Santa should be arriving shortly after 5:30. Our generous congregation has been donating towards gift cards for each special needs person. In addition, there may be small gift surprises for good girls & boys.

Pastor Kelly makes the party lively as the MC for the evening. Games (thank you - Ben Kersey & Nita Burg) & music (thank you - Tim & Sue Adams) bring out the fun.

As in the past few years, Dr. Emily Schupe's Foods & Nutrition students will be assisting & bringing their yummy cooking & tremendous Christmas spirit. Disciples Women have graciously volunteered to make desserts for the event. The FCC youth are addressing Christmas cards for the guests.

This is a wonderful time for all who attend & help organize.

If you want to be part of this joy-filled evening, please call the office. To attend, make your reservation with the church office by Sunday the 2nd.

**DISCIPLES WOMEN**

*Char Carden*

The Thanksgiving dinner was enjoyed by approximately 140 people.....a success indeed.

The Celebration of the Creche starts Friday evening, Nov. 30th. The ladies salad luncheon is Saturday, December 1st. This is a wondrous time and you can learn more about the decorations on our Christmas tree on the altar.

*Christmas will always be for us  
A time to reflect on Christ,  
The gift God gave to all the world  
Was the gift of his life.*

*Christmas is more than all this  
And the only reason why  
We celebrate Christ's birth together  
And the wonder of his life.*

*We know Christmas is not about tinsel,  
Nor fancy Christmas wreaths,  
Nor is it about all decorations  
That adorns our Christmas trees.*

*So remember as you celebrate  
Just what it is all about  
And invite the Lord to join with you  
Instead of leaving him out.*

*And it is not about holly or mistletoe  
Hanging from our doors,  
Nor is it about gifts that are left  
By the jolly Santa Claus.*

*For He will always be the reason  
We celebrate this day  
No substitute the world may offer  
Can take that meaning away.*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!!**

**DISCIPLES MEN**

*Dean Hansen*

Disciples Men will meet at The Old Dairy  
December 1 at 8:00 am.

Third Thursday Men's Group will meet  
at Chubby's December 20 at 7:30 pm.

**TRUSTEES**

*Dean Rockwell*

The trustees meeting will be  
December 17 at 5:30 pm followed by the  
Church Board meeting at 7:00 pm.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Ben Kersey, Youth Minister

Nothing incites as much simultaneous joy, stress, and worry (and a little more joy) as those two words. December is upon us and so is the hustle and bustle it brings. The church is no exception. There are gifts to buy, lights to hang, stockings to stuff, family to tolerate, work time to request off, and the list goes on. The holidays are never ending chaos that we cannot help to love through all of the up and downs.

Quite often, in all the hustle of Christmas time, it can be easy to forget the point of it all. Although the birth of Christ is the true "reason for the season", I'm always drawn to the peacefulness afforded by his coming. Stop, breathe, and think about the peaceful joy of that night when our Savior was born. Mary knew her baby was special and we know it too. There's peace in knowing the Savior has come and that he's given us the opportunity to share it with the world. So take that peace and love and use it to calm your mind and spirit in these coming days.

### DECEMBER ACTIVITIES FOR COLLEGE AGE YOUTH (grades 6-12) and JYF (grades 3-5)

#### College Age

2 - 8:00 pm

#### Youth - 6 - 12 Grade

2- 5:00 pm *Risks*

9 - 5:00 pm *Bumper Sticker Theology*

16 - 4:00-6:30 pm Christmas Party

23 - 5:00-7:30 pm Movie Night at the Ingersoll's

30- Holiday No Meetings

#### JYF - 3 - 5 Grade

2- 5:00 pm *JYF*

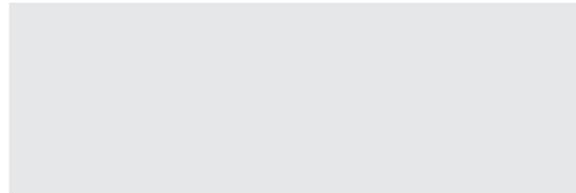
16 - 4:00-6:30 JYF Christmas Party





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**PERIODICALS  
 POSTAGE PAID  
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# December

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

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