

Weekly Update

November 28, 2018

THIS SUNDAY **JAKE'S BOYS & FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

This Sunday will be a very special day for the First Christian Church Family. Jake's Boys will be our guests in the worship service bringing their wonderful singing which they share all over the area. It is also the first Sunday of Advent. At the close of the worship service we will open the beginning of the season of advent by the lighting of the first candle in our advent wreath. We will continue on with the preparation of decorating the sanctuary for the Advent Season in joy and thankfulness for the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. After completing the decorating, we will gather in the fellowship hall for a light lunch. Please join us on this special day.

MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE TO GIVE THE SERMON ON DECEMBER 9TH

The Search Committee has invited Mat Bowen to preach on December 9th. Mark your calendars to attend. We look forward to welcoming Mat and his wife, Elizabeth, on the afternoon of Saturday, December 8th through our worship service on Sunday. We are excited for the opportunity for Mat and Elizabeth to get to know us, visit our church, and show them our community. We have been very impressed with Mat and we look forward for the opportunity to get to know him better.

In order for the congregation to have a chance to meet Mat and Elizabeth, the search committee is planning a breakfast at 8:15 that morning and a catered meal following worship. Put it on your calendar to attend.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast will be held this Sunday at 8:00am.

SERVING SUNDAY DECEMBER 2ND

Elders: *Sharon Higgins, Melanie Warfield, Cheryl Elder*

Deacons: *Tim Ricks, Katy Neal, David DeWall*

Kristine Medler, Jeff Elder

Worship Leader: *David Hagan*

Communion Preparation: *Kristine Medler*

Home Communion: *Sharon Higgins and Kristine Medler*

Greeters: *Ralph & Freda Poe*

ADVENT AND ADVENTURES

Sunday marks the beginning of Advent. Advent signals hope with the coming of the birth of Jesus. It is the anticipation of Christ coming into the world. Peace comes from knowing that God is with us. Joy radiates from children and brothers in Christ singing praises to God. God wraps us in his infinite love that comes to us in the form of his amazing grace.

When we celebrate Advent, we celebrate with the benefit of knowing the miracle of Jesus birth, life, death and resurrection. We know God's love for us and his gift of grace.

When Mary and Joseph went through the birth of their first child, can you imagine their anxiety? Think of just the anxiety of having a first child, let alone the circumstances of the birth in an unknown place surrounded by strangers. There was not a support group among their peers

to tell them what to expect or to hold a baby shower for them. They were physically separated from their families. They were alone, with the exception that God sent angels to reassure and support them. But they were given assurances for the current events but could not begin to conceive of the events to follow. To say the least they were on an adventure.

As our church goes through Advent, we are also going through the anxiety of our future as a church. Like Mary and Joseph, we are anxious about what our future holds. We are uncertain about the direction of our spiritual leadership. We don't know who will help us teach our children God's word. We don't know who will be there to marry our young adults, sit with us in the hospital, or conduct our funerals.

What we do know as we go through these adventures ahead of us, we are going to go through Advent that brings us the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love to deal with whatever the future brings. **Immanuel!!**

Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

WORSHIP LEADERS AND GREETERS

Please consider serving as a greeter or worship leader in December. A sign-up sheet can be found in the narthex.

RECYCLING

First Christian Church will be in charge of recycling for the month of December. Volunteers will be needed on December 1st and December 15th from 8:00-11:30am. Sign-up will be posted in the narthex.

SEEKERS SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Seekers Sunday school class will not meet on Sunday, December 23rd.

PRAYER LIST

Rosella Jesse –Hollybrook Apt 42

Bill and Jean Kerchenfaut – new address

6235 Hoffman St #201

North Port, Florida 34287-2285

Harold Stimmel— Hollybrook Apt 34

John Revell

Harriet Farney

Margaret Meers

Patty Benz

Margaret Gambill

Jim McClard

John Weller

Evelyn Fawver

Barb Bennett

Irene Schaefer

Duff Knudsen

Marilyn Lowell

We also continue to pray for the Search Committee
and the Recruitment Committee

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

(November 28-December 4, 2018)

November

30: Joe and Tara Mouser '85

Keegan DeWall

Please send us (gcfccdoc@yahoo.com) additions or corrections of birthdays, anniversaries, or email addresses.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, December 16th. We are required to announce to the congregation two weeks ahead of time. We plan to hold the meeting if circumstances dictate that it is needed.

FUTURE GUEST MINISTERS

December 9th: Mat Bowen (Ministerial Candidate)

December 16th: Joe Culpepper

December 23rd: Beth Rupe

December 30th: Herb Knudsen

WEBSITE

The church's WEBSITE IS NOW LIVE and can be found at www.fccdocgc.com
On the website, you can view the church video made to help with the search process,
a calendar featuring upcoming events,
and copies of the Weekly Updates and Christian Visitors.

ATTENDANCE

FCC ATTENDANCE	SUNDAY WEEK					AVG
	1	2	3	4	5	
2018 JULY	46	41	42	41	30	40
2018 AUGUST	48	42	42	45		44
2018 SEPTEMBER	46	55	48	47	51	49
2018 OCTOBER	63	68	51	50		58
2018 NOVEMBER	51	52	55	54		53
AVG	50.8	51.6	47.6	47.4	40.5	

Average Monthly Attendance		
	2017	2018
July	30	40
August	35	44
September	49	49
October	46	58
November	51	53