

# The Christian Visitor December 2018



*We are called to share our Christian Faith and Christ's Love with all people.*

## Our Life Together in December

### 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.

### Sundays in Advent



**First Sunday in Advent: December 2nd**  
Theme: Hope

**Second Sunday in Advent: December 9th**  
Theme: Peace

**Third Sunday in Advent: December 16th**  
Theme: Joy

**Fourth Sunday in Advent: December 23rd**  
Theme: Love

**Christmas Eve Worship**  
**Monday, December 24th 8:00 pm**

### Jake's Boys and First Sunday of Advent December 2nd

Sunday, December 2nd 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 lighting 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 Sermon 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.

# More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

## December Serving Schedule

Communion Bread Baker—Cathy Hagan

### Sunday, December 2nd

**Greeters:** *Ralph & Freda Poe*

**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*

### Sunday, December 9th

**Greeters:** *Youth*

**Elders:** *Barb Meyer, Sue Walker, Marilyn Tjardes*

**Deacons:** *Mike Finis, Ryan Iverson, Janet Iverson  
Mary Alice McRae, Ed Hopkey*

**Worship Leader:** *Youth*

**Communion Preparation:** *Mary Alice McRae*

**Home Communion:** *Sue Walker and Mary Alice McRae*

### Sunday, December 16th

**Greeters:**

**Elders:** *David Hagan, Arlen DeWall, Don Eberly*

**Deacons:** *Adam Kincaid, Lori Rinehart, Sue McClard  
Beth Tabor, Leah McClure, Jay Kristensen*

**Worship Leader:** *Carol Hutchcraft*

**Communion Preparation:** *Leah McClure*

**Home Communion:** *Don Eberly and Leah McClure*

### Sunday, December 23rd

**Greeters:**

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

**Deacons:** *Tim Ricks, Katy Neal, David DeWall  
Kristine Medler, Jeff Elder*

**Worship Leader:**

**Communion Preparation:** *Jeff Elder*

**Home Communion:** *Cheryl Elder and Jeff Elder*

### Sunday, December 30th

**Greeters:**

**Elders:** *Barb Meyer, Sue Walker, Marilyn Tjardes*

**Deacons:** *Mike Finis, Ryan Iverson, Janet Iverson  
Mary Alice McRae, Ed Hopkey*

**Worship Leader:**

**Communion Preparation:** *Ed Hopkey*

**Home Communion:** *Marilyn Tjardes and Ed Hopkey*

## Outreach

**Food Pantry:** 120 items were received in November for the Shepherd's Closet Food Pantry.

2018 year to date: 502 items received

Next Pantry Sunday: December 2nd

## Men's Breakfast

December 2nd

Host: \_\_\_\_\_

## Elders Breakfast

December 9th

Host: Arlen DeWall

## Disciples Women's Ministry

Tuesday, December 18th 6:30 pm

Hstess: Sue McClard

Location: Sue's Home

Devotion: Sharon Higgins

Project: Visiting Christian Friends

## Sympathy

We express our sympathy to the Karen Rankin family upon the unexpected death of her son, Alan, on November 5th.

We express our sympathy to the family of Lila Parsons, who passed away on November 15th. A service was held on November 20th at the funeral home.

## Thank You

Thank you for the prayers, cards, visits, food, and kindness in this difficult time.

Sincerely, Karen Rankin

## Memorial Gifts

Memorial Gifts given to First Christian Church have been received in the name of

*Alan Rankin*

These gifts are added to our Memorial Fund for current and future projects, furthering our shared ministry and mission.

## Filling the Pulpit in December

December 2nd: Jake's Boys

December 9th: Mat Bowen

December 16th: Joe Culpepper

December 23rd: Beth Rupe

December 30th: Herb Knudsen

**Office Hours:**  
 Mon—Fri: 9:00 am—1:00 pm  
 Church Phone: 217-784-5460  
 gcfcdoc@yahoo.com  
 fcdocgc.com

# December 2018

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
							<b>1</b> 8:00 AM City Recycling
<b>2 1st Sunday Advent</b> 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Youth Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship--Jake's Boys 11:30 AM Advent Decorating	<b>3</b>		<b>4</b> 9:00 AM Prayer	<b>5</b> 7:00 PM Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00 AM Food Pantry
<b>9 2nd Sunday Advent</b> 8:00 AM Elders Breakfast 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Youth Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship--Mat Bowen	<b>10</b>		<b>11</b> 9:00 AM Prayer 6:30 PM Church Board	<b>12</b> 7:00 PM Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 8:00 AM City Recycling
<b>16 3rd Sunday Advent</b> 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Youth Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship--Joe Culpepper	<b>17</b>		<b>18</b> 9:00 AM Prayer 5:30 PM Girl Scouts 6:30 PM DWMM	<b>19</b> 7:00 PM Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00 AM Food Pantry
<b>23 4th Sunday Advent</b> 9:30 AM Youth Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship--Beth Rupe	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> 8:00 PM Candlelight Service		<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>26</b> 7:00 PM Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Youth Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship--Herb Knudsen	<b>31</b> <b>New Year's Eve</b>						

**LOCAL  
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES  
December 2018**

- 5 Jennifer Hagan  
7 Tyler Ricks  
11 Harry & Mary Ellen McClure '57  
14 Angela Back  
Ron Hoffman  
16 Joe Higgins  
Harold Stimmel  
Nick Tabor  
17 Kristine Medler  
Barb Meyer  
21 Harold (Vic) & Eleanor Baize  
22 Harry McClure  
25 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!!  
30 Arlen & Sue DeWall '75  
Tanya Farney  
31 Brenda Mott



**Handel's Messiah**

Sunday, December 2nd  
3:00 pm

Gibson City Bible Church

**Christmas Offering  
Sunday, December 16th and 23rd**



Supporting our Regional Ministries  
in the Christian Church (Disciples of  
Christ) in Illinois / Wisconsin

One hundred percent of this special offering goes to The Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin to help provide services to local congregations, such as supporting the congregations in times of crisis, providing camps for children and youth, helping congregations call their next pastor, and partnering to do global ministry together.

**Youth Sunday  
December 9th**

The youth will serve as worship leaders for our service on Sunday, December 9th. They will also be providing special music with the chimes choir. Come and support our youth!

**Christmas Card Tree**



The Christmas Card Tree will be placed in the narthex to receive your Christmas greetings to church members and friends.

We invite you to donate any postage savings to the Christmas Offering.

**Administrative Assistant** - Jennifer Hagan  
**Choir Director** - Tim Ricks  
**Church Pianist** - Joan Ricks  
**Custodians** - Jeff and Cheryl Elder

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
9:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. Worship Service  
Church Phone 784-5460  
Email address: [gfcfcdoc@yahoo.com](mailto:gfcfcdoc@yahoo.com)  
Website: [fcdocgc.com](http://fcdocgc.com)

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