

The Christian Visitor January 2020



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

Our Life Together in January

Sunday, January 19th Disciples Women's Ministry "Blankets Plus"



During worship on January 19th, the Disciples Women's Ministry will receive a special offering supporting the "Blankets +" program of Church World Service.

For over 60 years, CWS has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including:

- Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster
- Tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields
- Wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens
- Literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to realize their potential.

Outreach



The Outreach committee will continue collecting the following items for Shepherd's Closet to assist individuals in need:

*Winter Hats and Gloves or Mittens
Please NO SCARVES
Children's Underwear (up to size 10)
Children's socks
Winter Boots*



Guest Minister January 5th

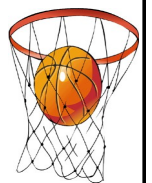
On January 5th, we will welcome Kip Hayden to our pulpit as guest minister while Pastor Mat is on vacation.

Monday Small Group Bible Study

The new Monday Small Group will begin January 13th at 6:00 pm and will meet weekly through the Spring semester. This small group is open and welcoming to anyone who wishes to study God's story together.

Jim McClard Open Gym

Please join us beginning Sunday, January 19th from 5:00-7:00pm for a fun night of basketball and fellowship at the GCMS middle school gym. We will continue meeting every Sunday through February 23rd.



Thursday Small Group Bible Study

The new Thursday Small Group meets every other week and will begin January 23rd at 7:00 p.m. We will begin at the church with a study from 7-8 pm followed by a social outing at Burgers and Beer from 8-9 pm. This small group will be geared towards young adults and families. Childcare is available upon request. Please contact the church office or Pastor Mat to request childcare.

More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

January Serving Schedule

Communion Bread Baker—Sue Walker

Sunday, January 5th

Greeter:s *Jerry & Ida Wahls*

Elders: *Sue Walker, Marilyn Tjardes, Angie Barnard*

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

Worship Leader: *David Hagan*

Communion Preparation: *Ryan Iverson*

Home Communion: *Angie Barnard and Ryan Iverson*

Sunday, January 12th

Greeters:

Elders: *Arlen DeWall, Don Eberly, Carol Hutchcraft*

Deacons: *Sue McClard, Beth Tabor, Leah McClure
Jay Kristensen, Gary Reiners, Ruth Reiners*

Worship Leader:

Communion Preparation: *Sue McClard*

Home Communion: *Arlen DeWall and Gary Reiners*

Sunday, January 19th

Greeter:

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

Deacons: *Katy Neal, David DeWall, Kristine Medler
Jeff Elder, Ruth Neal, Emily Elder*

Worship Leader:

Communion Preparation: *Kristine Medler*

Home Communion: *Melanie Warfield and Kristine Medler*

Sunday, January 26th

Greeter:

Elders: *Sue Walker, Marilyn Tjardes, Angie Barnard*

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

Worship Leader: *Sarah Higgins*

Communion Preparation: *Mary Alice McRae*

Home Communion: *Sue Walker and Mary Alice McRae*

Greeters / Worship Leaders

Please consider serving as a greeter or
worship leader in the coming months.
Sign-up sheets can be found in the narthex.

Elders Breakfast

January 12th
Host: Angie Barnard

Men's Group

January 5th
Host: Noel Hutchcraft

Disciples Women's Ministry

No Meeting in January
Project: Blankets Plus
Special Offering: January 19th

Hustlers

No Meeting in January
Next Meeting: February 2nd
Super Bowl Party

Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Tuesday,
January 14th at 6:30 pm. If you have any
items to add to the agenda, please send them
to the church office.

Copies of the Board Minutes and Treasurer's
Report are available on the table outside of
the Church office. Please take and read.

Grape Juice

Gifts of Welch's grape juice to be used in
communion are always welcome.

Outreach

Food Pantry: 5 items were received in De-
cember for the Shepherd's Closet Food Pan-
try.

2019 year end: 285 items received

Next Pantry Sunday: January 5th

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

January 2020

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3	4 8:00 AM City Recycling
5 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship - Kip Hayden	6	7 9:30 AM Prayer	8 7:30 PM Choir	9	10	11 9:00 AM Food Pantry	
12 8:00 AM Elders Breakfast 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Taking Down Decorations	13 6:00 PM Monday Small Group	14 9:00 AM Prayer 6:30 PM Church Board	15 6:00 PM "Rise" Middle School Youth 7:30 PM Choir	16	17	18 8:00 AM City Recycling	
19 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 5:00 PM Jim McClard Open Gym	20 6:00 PM Monday Small Group	21 9:00 AM Prayer	22 6:00 PM "Rise" Middle School Youth 7:30 PM Choir	23 7:00 PM Thursday Small Group	24	25 9:00 AM Food Pantry FCC Volunteers	
26 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 5:00 PM Jim McClard Open Gym	27 6:00 PM Monday Small Group	28 9:00 AM Prayer	29 6:00 PM "Rise" Middle School Youth 7:30 PM Choir	30	31		

Pastor Mat's Musings January 2020

Greetings Church family!

I am very excited for our new small groups starting this Spring! Small groups have served as a catalyst for church growth dating all the way back to Jonathan Edwards and the first Great Revival. Rick Warren, a pastor, scholar, and author speaks about small groups this way, "Small groups are not a ministry of the church, small groups are not a program of the church, small groups are not an outreach of the church, small groups are not an event of the church, small groups are the church." While Sunday morning worship provides us direction for our faith, small groups allow us the opportunity to journey in that direction together.

We will have two small groups this spring, both of which I will be a part of. The first will meet every Monday beginning January 13th at 6 pm and run through April. This is an open small group available to anyone who can make the time. If you can only make one Monday a month, that's okay too!

Our second small group will meet every other Thursday beginning January 23rd at 7 pm. The lesson will be from 7-8 at the church with a social hour at one of our community establishments to follow from 8-9. We will be going to Burgers and Beer on the 23rd. This small group will be geared towards young adults and families. Childcare is available for this small group. Please contact the church office or myself if you will need childcare during this small group.

As stated above, I am very excited for both of these small groups. Our lives are busy and our time runs short. I believe, though, if we prioritize this time together as a church that others will begin to see the type of love, peace, joy, and hope that First Christian Church offers.

With Peace,
Pastor Mat

	ATTEND- ANCE	SUNDAY WEEK					AVG
		1	2	3	4	5	
2019	JAN	69	34	26	37		42
2019	FEB	57	36	42	34		42
2019	MAR	42	43	40	54	53	46
2019	APR	83	67	86	67		76
2019	MAY	67	73	63	63		67
2019	JUNE	47	44	54	57	40	48
2019	JULY	57	48	46	62		53
2019	AUG	53	60	70	42		56
2019	SEPT	41	78	42	57	62	56
2019	OCT	60	61	64	67		63
2019	NOV	61	59	58	50		57
2019	DEC	125	62	59	62	48	71
	AVG	63.5	55.4	54.2	54.3	50.8	

Food Pantry January 24th & 25th

First Christian Church is scheduled to provide volunteers at the food pantry on January 24th and 25th. Volunteers are needed Friday night for setup beginning at 6:30pm and Saturday morning for distribution from 8:30-10:30am. Sign up in the narthex if you would like to volunteer to help.

In Our Prayers

The Prayer Group gathers in confidence at 9:30 am each Tuesday to honor prayer requests and remember those with on-going needs.

Harold Stimmel
Harriet Farney
Patty Benz
Evelyn Fawver
Irene Schaefer
Mike Lorenzen
Chet Goodrich



**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
*January 2020***

1	Alex Barnard	21	David Ricks
2	Ed Hopkey		Blake Warren
5	Stan Rinehart	22	Janet Glascock
6	Matt Barnard		Trey Van Winkle
	Jay Kristensen	23	Katie Ricks
8	Marilyn Hopkey	25	Francis Glascock
10	Noel Hutchcraft	27	Steve Parsons
11	Billy DeWall	29	Gary & Ruth
14	Karen Rankin		Reiners '72
16	Mary Ellen McClure		
	Ava Rylan Rexroat		
19	Desiree Mouser		



**Taking Down Decorations
January 12th**

We will be taking down all of the Christmas decorations after church on Sunday, January 12th. Please plan to stay for a short time after the worship service to help. Many hands make light work.

Sunday School

We offer Sunday school classes for grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and adults beginning at 9:00am on Sunday mornings. Our adult class will meet every Sunday in January. Our youth classes start back up on January 12th.

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

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
 10:15 a.m. Worship Service
 Church Phone 784-5460
 Email address: gcfcdoc@yahoo.com
 Website: fccdgc.com

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 P.O. Box 10
 Gibson City, IL 60936-0010
 217-784-5460
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED