

The Christian Visitor December 2020



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

Our Life Together in December

Christmas Eve Services

There will be multiple worship options for Christmas Eve this year. We encourage high-risk individuals who feel safe doing so to attend a sunrise service at 7:00am. Candlelight services will be held at 5:00pm and 6:30pm. Masks and social distancing will be required at all service opportunities. There will also be an online option for those who wish to worship from home.

Chain of Prayer December 24th

We are doing a Chain of Prayer on Christmas Eve from 8:00am-4:00pm. Slots are available for sign-up in 30-minute increments. An online sign-up will be posted in the Weekly Update.

Christmas Card Tree



The Christmas Card Tree has been 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.

Elders Meeting

The Elders will meet on Sunday, December 20th immediately following worship.



Recycling Volunteers December 5th & 19th

First Christian Church is in charge of recycling for the month of December. Volunteers will be needed on December 5th & 19th from 8:00-10:00am and 10:00-11:30am. Contact the church office if you're able to help.

Adopt-A-Sidewalk

We are still looking for shovelers for our Adopt-a-Sidewalk program. This is a new initiative we are launching this year where volunteers are assigned to shovel certain sidewalks when there is snow. Please contact the church office if you are willing to help in this effort.



ATTEND- ANCE		SUNDAY WEEK					
		1	2	3	4	5	AVG
2020	JULY	46	44	33	-		41
2020	AUG	-	44	47	41	-	44
2020	SEPT	34	44	53	39		43
2020	OCT	45	36	46	31		40
2020	NOV	50	40	-	-	-	45

Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Tuesday, December 8th at 6:30 pm.

More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

Merry Christmas Family of First Christian Church!

Advent has arrived. Time to soak in the Christmas Holidays. I don't know about you, but after the year 2020 some hot chocolate and an Elvis Gospel Christmas Album go a long way to help restoring the soul! But perhaps nothing restores the soul more than celebrating the incarnation of Jesus, the sacrifice of Mary and Joseph, and the love of God during Advent. This year we plan to celebrate all these things together. Yes, together. The Elders of this Church and myself are committed to offering an in-Person gathering this Christmas.

On the day of Christmas Eve we will be offering four different ways to worship together. We invite all high-risk individuals to a sunrise Christmas Eve service beginning at 7:00 am. This will be an intimate, morning worship service that will include music, prayer, and scripture readings. There will be limited communal elements and no singing at this service. The service will last approximately 30 minutes. Masks are required.

Following the morning service at 8:00 am we are inviting individuals or families to reserve 30-minute time slots for prayer and communion. One of our Elders or myself will be present during this time to administer the sacrament and pray with your family. We are asking you reserve your time slot by Dec. 20th using the online link in the Weekly Update. The altar will be cleaned after each use. The communion elements come pre-packaged and disposable for cleanliness standards. Masks are required.

We also are hosting two candlelight Christmas Eve services. Service times are 5:00 pm and 6:30 pm. This time will include communal singing of carols, scripture readings, and provide us with the hope of Jesus. We will be socially distancing. Masks are required. I look forward to worshipping with all of you who come.

Our final way to worship together is through our online worship and meditation guide. We will release an at-home, interactive Christmas eve service mid afternoon of Christmas Eve.

Pastor Mat

Small Groups

Thursday Small Group

The two small groups meeting on Thursdays have combined and will meet on December 3rd and 10th at 6:00pm at the church.

DWM

The Disciple Women's Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month. These brief gatherings provide a casual atmosphere for the women in the church to study and encourage each other in faith and family. Next meeting: December 15th at 6:30pm at the church

Men's Fellowship

The men's group will not meet in the month of December.

Seekers

The Seekers Adult Sunday School class is not currently meeting while we have two Sunday morning worship services.

Hustlers

Hustlers Group does not meet during the month of December.

Thank You!!

Thank you to everyone who attended the drive thru baby shower for Elizabeth & Mat on November 22nd. It was good to see everyone come thru and shower them and baby Ada with gifts and love.

Thank you to everyone who helped provide food for our Procession of Giving on November 22nd.

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church for Advent on November 29th.

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

December 2020

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 6:00 PM Rise	3 6:00 PM Thursday Small Group	4	5 8:00 AM Recycling FCC Volunteers
6 2nd Sunday Advent 10:15 AM Worship 5:00 PM High School Ministry	7	8 6:30 PM Church Board	9 6:00 PM Rise	10 6:00 PM Thursday Small Group	11	12	
13 3rd Sunday Advent 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	14	15 6:30 PM DWM	16	17	18	19 8:00 AM Recycling FCC Volunteers	
20 4th Sunday Advent 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Elders Meeting	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 7:00 AM Sunrise Service 8:00 AM Chain of Prayer 5:00 PM Worship Service 6:30 PM Worship Service	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26	
27 10:15 AM Worship	28	29	30	31			

**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
*December 2020***

- 5 Jennifer Hagan
- 7 Tyler Ricks
- 11 Harry & Mary Ellen McClure '57
- 14 Angela Back
- 15 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 Tanya Farney
- 31 Brenda Mott



Sunday School

Sunday school is not currently meeting while we have two Sunday morning services.

Rise Youth Group

Our Rise Middle School Youth Group meets each Wednesday at 6:00pm outside, weather permitting, with prepackaged snacks and a short lesson. Rise will meet in December on the 2nd and 9th before taking a break.

High School Ministry

Our High School Ministry meets each Sunday at 5:00pm in the youth room with prepackaged snacks and social distancing. High school will meet on December 6th before taking a break.

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

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

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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217-784-5460
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED