

# THE MESSENGER

“LIVE AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT”

December 5, 2018

## NOW AND LATER

Thank you. Both now - and later.

We as FCC have been blessed by you in many ways, but today I am thinking of one specific - financial giving.

Your ongoing gifts have enabled us to function in a positive, faith-filled way, without the worry or limitation of not enough money. Yes, I, too, remember a few times when we faced those tough decisions, but overall we've been in solid shape. Much more so than some others! Part of this is a trust issue, and we've tried to be responsible and above-board in our decisions and communications. Part of it is a faith issue, having enough faith in God to be generous on a consistent basis. So thank you again.

That's our giving now.

Let's talk about later - when you're gone.

A gift made through your will or other means is one that continues your ongoing giving - later. And it does so in a couple of ways. A gift that is undesignated/unrestricted will be used for current expenses, building and outreach, as well as through the Permanent Fund, where it will continue earning and giving year after year. I know some of you have done so already; I hope more of you will make such an arrangement. And I thank you.

It's a way to be faithful - both now and later.

*MCD*



## *Advent Celebration & Christmas Program*

Our Advent Celebration and Christmas Program (formerly Hanging of the Greens) will be this Sunday evening, December 9, at 6:00 PM. The God's Gang kids will be presenting, "Stars, Angels, Shepherds, Kings" in story, songs, and costumes, the Crossroads kids will be playing bells, and you won't want to miss it! We will also present the Chrismon for 2018 and the Congregational Christmas Card, with cookies and punch afterward by our Youth Group! Come join us!

## *Christmas Candies*

The FCC Relay For Life team will be selling assorted, homemade, Christmas candies between services and after on Sunday, Dec. 9. Stock up for your Christmas parties or just to enjoy yourself!

## *Advent Devotional*

The 2018 Advent Devotional, "How Do We Move Forward in the Midst of Change?" is out and available. Pick up a copy to follow along during Advent, or read through in one setting; you may also want to give a copy to a friend. Thank you to all those who contributed!

## *"Pray for Paris" Display*

As part of the "Pray for Paris" emphasis, we as FCC are praying for Wenz School through February. We are also asking you individually to choose a prayer focus. We are setting up a display of the various organizations chosen. Stop and see who is receiving a note, and make sure you are included.



Welcome to Aviva Grace Thomas, born to Jacob & Emily on Nov. 30, and welcomed home by big brother, Joseph, and great-grandmother, Carolyn Lanker.

Home from the Hospital:  
Dorothy Farnham  
Pat Hittle

Connie Houston  
Merle Hays

Congratulations to Mya Smittkamp, Drew Templeton, Taylor Shewey and families on their baptisms Sunday at 10:00!



-- Edna Creech, Pam Lobb & Rev. Mike for delivering the "Sock-It-To-Me" socks to Head Start last week;

- FCC volunteers who rang the Salvation Army bells last Saturday, and to the Disciples Men who set it up;
- Dennis Thiel for the 8:00 accompaniment;
- Cathy Clawson & Jennifer Osborne, Susan King & Mary Griffin for the Advent meditation and candle-lighting;
- Marge Houghland & Cindy Robinson for the "Giving Tree" info from the Circle of Light;
- Dick James & Monty Raley for the Staff Relations request for the Love Offering;
- Nels Kasey for the Children's Sermon;
- "The Joyful Ringers" for their holiday music;
- Coralie Smittkamp for help with the baptisms;
- The musicians who helped in the Advent Music Service;
- Cindy Robinson for the devotion at Golden Age.

**BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

God's gifts come wrapped in people.

**DECEMBER PRAYER**

"Dear Lord, we thank You for Your Son and our Savior, Jesus, whose humble beginnings in the manger led to a life of example for us. Amen."

**PARENT-CHILD DEDICATIONS**

We offer Parent-Child Dedications during our Christmas Eve service for parents of babies/toddlers. If this would be of interest to you, let us know.

**DINNER & RECEPTION - NEW LOCATION!**

The venue for the dinner and the reception following has been moved to the KC Hall because it has more space to accommodate the quickly-filling, limited seating. The rest remains the same: the "Dixon Retirement Reception" will be held Sun., Jan. 6, 2019, the doors will open at 11:15 AM. The freewill offering for the meal will be taken at the door. You must sign-up to attend the church dinner - only one name per line on the sign-up sheet. (One line = one chair!)

**LOVE OFFERING**

We are thankful for our FCC staff and all they do for us throughout the year. Our way of showing our appreciation for them is through the Love Offering. Our staff includes: Rev. Mike Dixon, Pastor John Snidle, Cheryl Clark, Peg Dixon, Kathy Peel, Connie Bean, Jim Mathis, Betty Kelly and Evelyn Harris. If you wish, you may designate your gift to an individual by putting their name on the memo line; undesignated gifts will be divided equally. In order to deliver these expressions of love before Christmas, all gifts must be turned in by Sunday, Dec. 16.  
- Thank you, Staff Relations

**CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS CARD**

The Congregational Christmas Card will be out this Sunday for you to share your greetings with each other. No monies will be collected this year.

**APPOINTMENTS**

At the recent Congregational Meetings, 2019 Chair Steve Webb made the required appointments for next year and beyond. Copies are available.

**BIBLE STUDY**

Bible Study is Tuesday mornings at 10:30 AM in the Jerusalem Room with room for you!

**ADVENT**

During the season of Advent we will share the decorations and traditions, including carols and candlelighting during our worship each week. We will also have our Advent prayer list. Come join us.

**INVITATION**

We will have invitations to worship and to Christ available this Sunday.

**OPEN DOOR SS CHRISTMAS DINNER**

The Open Door Sunday School class will have their Christmas dinner on Sunday, Dec. 16, at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

**THANKSGIVING OFFERING**

The goal for our Thanksgiving Offering is \$1350 to go to Disciples universities and colleges. Our final report is that we have reached \$995. Thank you for your giving.

**LUNCHES with BRIDGES**

Bridges is the alternative school we have hosted in numerous "LOL's". We learned last year that there are some days when they do not have a lunch provided, so - we have decided to provide for them. This is part of our ongoing "Beyond These Walls" project.

**BE SURE TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**

## CIRCLES IN DECEMBER

KOINONIA CIRCLE: will be going to Tuscola on Monday, Dec. 10. Meet at the church at 11:00 AM.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: will be going to Betty Jane's Kitchen on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at 12:00 noon.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER: will be going to Tuscany's on Thursday, Dec. 13, at 6:00 PM.

## ADULTS & KIDS CAROLING

The adults and God's Gang children will go caroling next Wednesday, Dec. 12, at 5:00 PM. Meet at the church and join us for a fun night out!

## SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

Rev. Mike will also be bellringing with the children on Wednesday, Dec. 19, from 3:00-5:00 PM at Walmart. Sign-up to participate!

## GIVING TREES

You are invited to participate in the "Giving Trees" gifts for group home residents. Ornaments on the trees at the entryways provide the information and gift ideas (no aerosol cans). That tag should be attached to your gift bag and then returned underneath the trees located at the entrances by Dec. 16. Thank you for supporting this cause!

## COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Community Kitchen is Monday, December 17. Please sign-up to help, we need volunteers!

## DISCIPLE MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Disciple Men's breakfast will be Sat., Dec. 15, in the church kitchen at 8:00 AM. Sign-up - all men are welcome - and join us as we give Rev. Mike our "send off".

## PASTOR'S CLASS PRAYERS

Dear God, Thank You for letting me enjoy Your love all my life. If You will, keep helping me cope with my mom and dad, and everything I deal with in life. Thank You for pets and animals and thank You for this opportunity to get baptized with my dad's permission. I love You for all You've done, Thank You. In Jesus' Name, Amen. - Taylor Shewey

Dear God, Thank You for Pastor's Class, my family, my church, my friends. Thank You for Jesus, for everything He did for us. Thank You for inviting me to live the Christian life. I want to be baptized to join the church and to be with You, etc.... In the future I want to be a better Christian. I praise You now and forever. In Jesus' Name, Amen. - Mya Smittkamp

Dear God, Thank You for Pastor's Class so I can get closer to Jesus Christ. I want to be baptized so I can become a part of the Christian family. I want to become better at praying more often. I look forward to confessing my faith. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

- Drew Templeton



YG/CR/GG Youth group. Enough said. Youth group is every Wed., from 6:30-8; 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade, all are welcome to participate. This week (Dec 5<sup>th</sup>) we are going to Chrisman to watch their light show parade! Then once we return we will decorate the basement for Christmas! Very exciting stuff, please come.

God's Gang and Crossroads are happening! The theme for this week is, of course, "Christmas Celebration," debatably the best theme ever.

Since this is the last God's Gang of 2018 (boohoo :( ) I think we should all give a big hip-hip-hooray and sing "For She's a Jolly Good Fella" to Mrs. Angel Templeton for leading and directing God's Gang for the last buncha years! Much to her sorrow I'm certain, she will be retiring as manager after 2018 and be giving the logistics and paperwork over to myself (Youth Pastor [John Snidle]). She will, thankfully, stay and participate DURING GG, but only as a regular helper. So again, give her a hug and a handshake and a thank you for her many years of service behind the scenes. Also say thank you to the regular helpers who serve weekly, they are all very appreciated as well.

Upcoming Events "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear." - Buddy the Elf  
December 12<sup>th</sup> we will be caroling around town! There will be two groups going out on Wednesday. First, the Children and accompanying adults will visit nursing homes and such at 5PM. The youth group will go out after at 6PM, serenading people in their homes.

If you would like to ameliorate your Wednesday evening with some lovely and definitely rehearsed musical tunes, sung by skilled youngsters, message/email/call me and you will be put on the list!

Upcoming events for high school and Jr. high include Frenzy, Ski Trip, and Mid-Winter. Our next event is Frenzy (our yearly overnigher in between Christmas and New Year's); so ready yourselves for one of our most popular events! There will be a live band, roller skating, a movie, games, food, tickets and prizes; the list is nearly endless. Start is Friday Dec 28 at 7pm until Saturday morning at 6am. For Jr High and High both! If you are a parent and could help chaperone, please say yes as soon as I ask you.

## MOST IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

I would like to bring this to everyone's attention because it is very important: TWENTY days until Christmas!! I hope you are ready and excited and decorated and joyful and pumped to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Merry Christmas!

- John Snidle, Youth Minister



# THE MESSENGER

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Michael C. Dixon, Senior Minister ~ John Snidle, Youth & Family Minister

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## COME WORSHIP WITH US

EARLY WORSHIP 8:00 AM ~ SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM ~ WORSHIP 10:00 AM

*MISSION STATEMENT* First Christian Church's mission is to grow disciples who are:

*"Believing in Christ,*

*Behaving as Christ,*

*Becoming like Christ"*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### ATTENDANCE

*We count because you count!*

**Dec. 2:** 8:00 - 48 10:00 - 120 Nursery - 4

**TOTAL WORSHIP = 177**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 0, 2nd-5th - 2, Jr & Sr High - 3, New Disciples - 11, Open Door - 16, New Horizons - 0

**TOTAL SS = 32**

### OFFERING TOTALS

**December 2, 2018**

General Fund	\$11,003.25
Sunday School	11.00
Love Offering to Staff	698.00
God's Gang	25.00
Choices Pregnancy & Health	10.00
Emergency Fund	60.00
Food Pantry	120.00
Dixon Retirement Gift	485.00
Reception Expense	250.00
Disciples Outreach/Missions	445.00
Week of Compassion	50.00
Thanksgiving Offering	198.00
Paris Ministerial Fellowship	50.00
Organ Fund	50.00
Building Fund	560.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,065.25</b>

### SERVING SCHEDULE: December 9, 2018

**8:00 AM:** ELDER: Dennis Thiel

DEACONESS: Pam Lobb

PIANIST: Evie Gill

**9:00 AM: Sunday School**

**10:00 AM: GREETERS:**

East: TBA

West: TBA

ACOLYTES: Mya Smittkamp, Sarah Littlejohn

WORSHIP LEADER: Nels Kasey

BREAD ELDER: Rick Kennedy

DEACONESS: Karla Pierson

DEACONS: Team 3, Jacob Thomas, Captain; Cory Craig,

Barb Free, Mike Kirk, Doc & Donna Moody, Jerry Thomas,

Dan Thomey

JR DEACONS: Team #3, Jaydin Seeley, Capt., Cheyenne

Miller, Cydney Miller

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Susan King

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Jenny McMahan

NURSERY HELPER: Sammy Milam

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Erica Garver

SOUND SYSTEM: Tony Peel

PROJECTION: Chris Milam

DECEMBER FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Steve Webb

DEC. USHERS: Dean Smittkamp, Ron Stickler, Steve Coombes

SCRIPTURES: John 1:1-5, 9-14; Philippians 2:5-11

SERMON: "Dear God, Was Jesus A Baby Like My

Little Brother?" by Rev. Michael C. Dixon



### END OF YEAR GIFTS

As we approach the end-of-the-year, you may want to consider a gift to the church. This will certainly benefit the church and our financial stress; it may also provide benefits for you and your taxes. And when you decide, make sure to send it in so that it reaches us before December 31 - with our thanks.