

First Christian Church – Disciples of Christ
803 Market Street
Mt. Carmel, IL 62863

SUNDAY SERVICE
December 15, 2019

Sermon
"The Message Is Still Being Told"
Rev. Virgil Knipp

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20
Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School 10:30 AM

WATCHING OUR FIGURES
Sunday Worship: 12/01/19 - 75
12/08/19 - 80

Website: www.mountcarmeldisciples.com
New Email: fccmc803@gmail.com



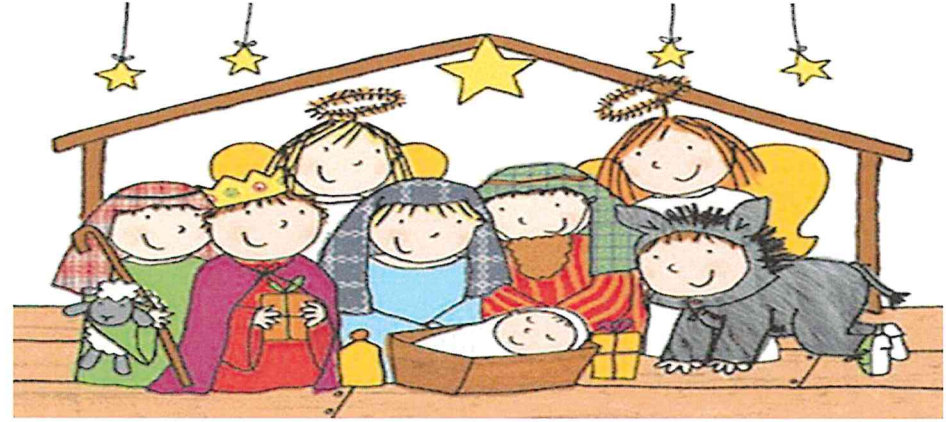
"Growing God's Family to Share God's Word"
First Christian Church



Visitor

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CCF Christmas Program and Carry-in Family Dinner

The Christian Children's Fellowship Christmas Program will be held at **5:00 PM on December 18, 2019** in the Fellowship Hall. The children will be putting on a short program to be followed by a carry-in dinner for the entire family. You are cordially invited to attend the program and the dinner. Please bring your favorite covered dish and celebrate the season and the children who attend CCF each week. They have been working very hard in preparation for this program. Let's show our support and appreciation for all of their efforts.



God's Work
Our Hands

SERVING IN DECEMBER

Deacons: Ben Ross, Darla Brooke, Ken Burkitt,
Duane Lewis, Larry Boewe, Shari Ross

Custodial Deacon: Jon Mayhue

Elder on Call: Jessica Williams

Sanctuary Straightener: Stacey Swift

Acolytes: Emma and Shelby Mayhue

Counters: Janice Alka and Jon Mayhue

Communion Preparers: Ginny Brown and Sarah Wiser

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OFFERING - December 1, 2019

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| General | \$2,564.00 |
| World Outreach | 8.00 |
| Sunday School | 7.00 |
| Camp fees | 10.00 |
| Bicycles | 895.00 |
| Christmas T-shirts | 330.75 |
| New Sign | 174.90 |
| Christmas offering | 100.00 |
| Thanksgiving offering | 95.00 |
| Poinsettias | 85.00 |
| Website | <u>200.00</u> |
| TOTAL: | \$4,469.65 |

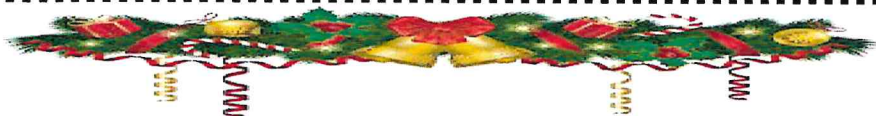
OFFERING - December 8, 2019

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| General | \$6,852.00 |
| Sunday School | 6.00 |
| World Outreach | 8.00 |
| New Sign | 130.00 |
| Coffee/tea reimburse. | 137.97 |
| Christmas offering | 55.00 |
| BBB | 30.00 |
| Poinsettias | 170.00 |
| Website | 100.00 |
| Blessing basket | 3.00 |
| Bicycles | <u>614.60</u> |
| TOTAL: | \$8,106.57 |

If you are behind on your giving and would like to get caught up before year's end, please note that there are only 20 days and only 3 Sundays left in 2019.

Upcoming Youth Activities

- Dec. 18 CCF Christmas Program/Family Dinner
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service
- Dec. 2 **No Youth** (due to Christmas Day)
- Jan. 1 **No Youth** (due to New Year's Day)
- Jan. 8 Youth group resumes
- Jan. 24-25 Mid-Winter Retreat



Glyn Draper, Kevin Pixley, Vesta Rigg, Ron DeFoor, Peg Geurin, Tracy Deckard, LuAnn Lemke, Emily Ewald, Laverne Sherman, Sylvia Spencer, Julia Corwin, Bob Nix, Jim Warmoth, Global Refugee Crisis, Betty & Mike Foshee, Joan Hackler, Devan Swift, Jennifer Koonce, Elaine Spencer, Bill & Pat Beesley, Mya James, Karen Hahn, Mary Peterson, Larry O. Gaines, Don Tharp, Leslie Glenn, Atticus Scott, Fred Xanders, Leon Dudley, Bob Stuessel, Kenny Webb, Jeannie Tennis, Rev. Brant Hazlett, Bev Williams, Don & Mary Jane Bellessa, Rich Kolb, David Taylor, Harold Mobley, Scott & Jennifer Nettleton, Marilyn Matthews, Jaxson Malcolm, Sue Wilkinson, Robin Crouch, Cathie Gorley, Kendall Brooke, Jeff Hyatt, Norma Beckerman, Sean Crawford, Connie Mayhue, George Beckerman, Joe Beckerman, Rosanna Peterson, Etta Rosignol, Dan Summers, Megan Bunnage, Misty Reed, Faith, Leslie Bone, Malvin Kepley, Blake Strine, and our country, its leaders, all servicemen and women, and natural disaster victims.

***The Prayer List is periodically updated. Let us know if someone needs to be removed or put back on. Please note that due to current privacy laws, you must have the permission of whomever you wish to include on the prayer list.**

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The FCC Choir will present a Christmas Cantata on December 22 during the morning service. Please invite your family and friends to join us.

Welcome

FCC welcomes our newest member, Barbara Minniear, to our congregation. We are so happy to have you join us.

Barbara Minniear
307 Forio Avenue
Mt. Carmel, IL 62863
(618) 262-5197

Birthday – July 16 Anniversary – November 18

Thank You

*The First Christian Church would like to say a very special thank you to our Treasurer, **Verlin Snow**, who is retiring at the end of this year. Verlin has worked tirelessly for over thirty years in this position and his contributions to the church have been innumerable! We deeply appreciate his service to the church and all that he has done through the years to make the church a success! May the Lord richly bless Verlin for freely offering his time and talents on behalf of FCC.*



Operation Christmas Child results...Stacey Swift and the CCF filled 24 shoeboxes with toys and necessities for children around the world who would otherwise not receive anything at all for Christmas this year. Our Seniors filled an additional 6 boxes, and it was reported that the total number of shoeboxes from various churches and ministries in Mt. Carmel, was 498! This is a new record for our area. Thank you to everyone who participated and blessed those less fortunate. **You have changed lives!!!**

Friendly Reminders

The WADI Food Distribution of Christmas food will be December 17th at the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church on 7th & Market Street.

A special offering for WADI will take place on December 29th.

The Diaconate schedule for 2020 has been posted. If anyone needs to change serving dates, please let Larry Boewe know.

The list of Communion Preparers for 2020 has also been posted. If any changes need to be made, please contact the church office.

The Pastors would like to thank everyone for the birthday cards they received. (Sue-Nov. 28th & Virgil-Dec. 1st) They also greatly appreciated the fruit basket given to them by the Senior group! You all are such a blessing to them!





The Pastors and staff would like to express our deep appreciation to the Congregation and Administration for your generous gifts to us this Christmas season. It is our privelidge to serve the people of First Christian Church. May

the Lord bless each and every one of you!

**Virgil, Sue, Kim, Jessica, Marilyn,
Gary, Brianna, Alisa, Tyler, and Zach.**

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN; AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER: AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL, COUNSELOR, THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE. PRINCE OF PEACE,

Isaiah 9:6





Safe Haven has a desperate need for volunteers at the shelter. Shifts last for four hours, and individuals can serve from 10am-2pm, 2pm-6pm, 6pm-10pm or even take an 8-hour overnight shift from 10 pm-6 am. Shifts are open seven days a week.

This Christian shelter was founded and is supported by our local churches and other donations from individuals and businesses. Safe Haven is not a violence shelter; anyone hiding or fleeing abuse has to be referred to a different shelter. Safe Haven is modern, new, very clean, extremely well-organized with clear rules and regulations which residents must follow. If they do not, they must leave. For questions, call Pat Harelson, Director, at 618-262-2677 or Doris Beckerman, volunteer, at 618-262-4718, or go directly to the location at 217 w. 3rd Street, Mt. Carmel, IL.



Consider This:

The story is told of a farmer who had little funds available for Christmas gifts to give his two children ages 10 and 8. It had been a rough year. His wife, who had been sick for several months, required his attention on a daily basis preventing him from conducting his farm work. To make matters worse, his wife died a few weeks prior to Thanksgiving. So, with little money in his bank account, he pondered what to do for his boy and girl.

Christmas day arrived and under the small decorated tree were two pairs of ice skates. This father called to the children to come and see what had been placed under the tree. Hurrying to see the children were amazed. The shinning new blades and the excitement to go skating was all the talk. The father, going to the back door, called once more, to his children, to come and see. In the back yard of the farm house was a frozen pond. The perfect place for ice skating.

What had taken place to make these children so happy? During the night prior to Christmas day, the father had found the two pairs of ice skates in a box from the winter

before. Polishing the shoes and blades and adding new laces, the children believed their gifts were new. Also, during the night the father had allowed water from his hose to drain into a low spot in the back yard to create an ice pond.

The point of this story is that so often we are led to believe that we must give outside of ourselves to create happiness. But the real joy for the one who receives a gift and the one who gives a gift is the one given from the heart of love.

Most all of us have been in place wondering what to give as gifts. I would say the most remembered gifts are the ones that are created by our own hands, because it comes from the heart. After all the greatest gift our world has ever received was given from the heart: THE HEART OF GOD

Virgil



The 2nd Annual Knipp Christmas Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall, December 25 at 1:00 pm for those who will be spending Christmas alone. You are cordially invited to bring a covered dish and spend this time with us. Ham and turkey will be provided. Please RSVP to the church office so we know how many to expect! Last year, we had 22 over for dinner, and we had a delightful time together!

S_pL_iN^T_eR_S from the BOARD
November 2019

Treasurer's Report:

- Membership Giving was again below budget need for this two-month period. The year-to-date shortfall has grown. General Fund spending is over budget. The annual deficit increased to a new larger total.

Property:

On-going projects:

- Repair and updating to women's restroom by Market Street entrance
- Hand rails leading to pulpit and choir loft
- Sound/video system
- Electronic sign.

New/proposed projects:

- Electrical receptacle was replaced in the candle room
- Volunteers sought to drive the bus for Sunday morning transportation ministry
- The cause of an increased water bill has been repaired.

Worship:

- Advent begins December 1
- November 24 - Hanging of the Greens, decorations will be removed January 5
- Poinsettia orders are being accepted – flowers will decorate the sanctuary December 15 -22

- Christmas Eve Service - December 24
- 5th Sunday Intinction - December 29
- Eudine Tyler has the sign-up sheet for Sanctuary Straighteners
- Thank you to the acolytes who faithfully serve - special thanks to Shelby Mayhue for coordinating this part of worship each Sunday.

Christian Education:

- CCF meets on Wednesday after school. The program is having growing pains due to the increasing number of students interested in attending and the lack of volunteers to support the program. More help is needed. Please consider how you can make time to lend a hand.
- CCF made 24 shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse through World Outreach. Young people are learning that even though their own resources are limited, they can still share with others.
- The Children's Christmas Program and Dinner will be held on Wednesday, December 18 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Parents of the 50 CCF, Chi Rho, and high school students are being invited to attend. A large turnout is anticipated. All members of the congregation are asked to welcome our guests by your attendance and by bringing one or two side dishes for the meal.

Stewardship:

- The proposed 2020 Budget was approved and will be presented for membership approval at the congregational meeting on December 8.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Sarah Taylor – Mission Trip to Kenya | 250.00 |
| Kristen Randolph – Campus Ministry | 100.00 |
| Samaritan’s Purse – Operation Child | 400.00 |
| The Ark Project | <u>600.00</u> |
| Total | <u>\$3,050.00</u> |

Membership:

- Regular Fellowship Time will begin in January 2020. A sign-up sheet is available.
- Cookie Day – Don’t miss this excellent monthly opportunity to help Wilbur Brown and the Cookie Day volunteers deliver twelve trays and visit with those members who cannot attend Worship on a regular basis.
- The Membership Committee discussed developing guidelines for active and non-active members. Previously, over 500 names were recorded as members. A recent update found 136 active members and 148 non-active members, leading to a more accurate membership number of 284.
- The second Birthday Dinner will be held Sunday, January 26.

Christian Action:

Bequest Requests:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Operation Share for Christmas | \$1,000.00 |
| Wabash County Museum – Hallock Exhibit | <u>450.00</u> |
| Total | <u>\$1,450.00</u> |

Mary Lou Owen Trust:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Southeastern Illinois Center for Pastoral Counseling | \$2,000.00 |
| Operation Share for Christmas | <u>2,000.00</u> |
| Total | \$4,000.00 |

World Outreach:

Bequest Requests:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Church Finance Council | \$ 250.00 |
| Church Mission Trip | 250.00 |
| Week of Compassion | 200.00 |
| Eureka College | 1,000.00 |

Administrative:

- Proposed Ballot for Congregational Meeting on December 15, 2019
 - o 2020 Budget
 - o Change name of “Administrative Board” to “Church Board” to eliminate confusion between the “Administrative Board” and the “Administrative Committee.”

- Change wording in By-laws, Section VI, PROFESSIONAL STAFF, to clarify and update
- Confirm/approve nomination of trustee and two junior deacons.
- Verlin Snow submitted a letter of resignation as Treasurer for First Christian Church effective January 1, 2020. Thank you, Verlin, for your many years of dedicated and faithful service.

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Trustees:

- \$100,000 line of credit loan was renewed at 5%.

Elders:

- Met for a short meeting, dinner and fellowship.
- Distributed 2020 Elders' schedule.
- Care Groups were established.

Youth:

- Jessica and three students to attend Summit on Friday, November 22
- Christmas Eve service will be held at 6:00 p.m. on December 24.
- Upcoming date to be determined - 3rd annual Chili Cook Off.

Executive Committee:

- Proposed amendment to By-Laws to be presented again at the January 2020 meeting of the Board: Add both the Chairman of the Elders and the Chairman of the Deacons to the Executive Committee.

Old Business:

- Pastoral Search Committee: The committee members met with Scott Woolridge, who has returned from a three-month sabbatical. Theresa Dulyea-Parker had filled in during his absence. The church profile is in the system. However, before any information can be posted online for prospective ministers, new requirements were added to the process. The members of your Pastoral Search Committee continue to work diligently to meet these requirements in order to find the best candidate(s) to present to this congregation.

Ministers' Report:

- Congratulations to Ali Mayhue for leading as Trustee during the last three years.
- More visitors are in attendance at worship and more children are in CCF and CYF activities.
- The Advent and Christmas Season is a time for new beginnings.
- Everyone is encouraged to keep up the great work and enjoy the ride God gives to us each day. Have fun, laugh, pray, sing and don't forget to smile. This opens the door for great opportunities for ministry.

Vice-Chairperson of the Board Comments:

- Everyone was thanked for participating with this statement, "It takes a village to run a church."