



THE CHURCH VISITOR
A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR FRIENDS

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

307 W. Jackson, Mexico, Mo. 65265

No. 24

November 23, 2022

Vol. 74



Let's read and enjoy our Bibles.

Sunday, November 27, 2022:

(First Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14;
 Matthew 24:36-44

Sunday, December 4, 2022:

(Second Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13;
 Mathew 3:1-12

Sunday: November 27, 2022

Elders: Warren Nordwald and Kathy Spires

Deacons: Team 1

Jordan Bright, Ron Boswell, Ruth Gritton, Jim Medley, Sherry Medley, Kathy Peak, Jr. Deacons; Emma Higgins, Piper Higgins

Deaconesses: Connie Street and Becky Peterson

Liturgist: Carla Tanzey



Sunday: December 4, 2022

Serving Schedule

Elders: Sharon Slater and Ed Stephens

Deacons: Team 2

Jean Stephens, Bob Larkin, Kay Larkin, Alan Street, Connie Street, Jr. Deacons; Tessa Higgins, Jessica Stephens

Deaconesses: Carol Hines and Cathy Cidras

Liturgist: Martha Hagan

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Philippians 4:8

Focus on the Joy

So here is a confession that probably does not need to be made. I am very much in the camp of no Christmas decorations until after Thanksgiving. I am going to take a short pause here to ask for your forgiveness of my hypocritical actions as my family went and enjoyed Christmas shows and lights in Branson the weekend BEFORE Christmas. I am truly sorry for our actions and equally sorry for enjoying the time with my family 😊 (ok not really).

The main reason I am usually against all the early decorating is because of how quickly stuff goes back in boxes on December 26th. We as a western culture have fully embraced the secular Christmas of the songs, and gifts and “good cheer” and movies, but don’t dwell on the fact that in church tradition, Christmas STARTS on December 25th, not ends.

And yet, I am as guilty as anyone as enjoying the lights and the movies even though I put on my very best Grinch mask and complain about society missing the point. But what is wrong with good cheer and lights and hope and feeling good about our neighbors and wanting to help those in need; you know, all the things that even the secular world associates with Christmas? In short, not a dang thing.

But I don’t want us to blend the Secular and the Faith based. So I have a new thought this year. What if we give room for both. Put up your lights, sing the songs, watch the movies. Look at the shopping list and make the special goodies and get ready for the old fat guy that breaks into your house and leaves surprises. Enjoy the fun that it brings! And then on the 26th feel free to put all that stuff up.

But make extra time for the Nativity scene. Don’t let the department stores and the secular world tell you that Christmas is over. Keep seeking a star where the Christ Child lays. Keep making sure the neighbor is cared for. Let the neighbors look at the manger in your yard and the words “Hope, Peace, Joy and Love” a little longer than they think is necessary. Enjoy the people around you and let them know someone loves them. Say “Merry Christmas” when no one else will (but don’t get mad if they don’t say it back...even before Christmas).

Make sure the faithful parts get more attention than the secular. Make sure the gift of Christmas is really appreciated and just not boxed up because of a certain day on the calendar.

Ya know, I may just watch a funny Christmas movie tonight, because I like them (but don’t tell my family, because I will never hear the end of it).

Pastor Zane

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sunday, November 27, 2022

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

No Youth—Thanksgiving Break

Tuesday, November 29, 2022

Young Adult Lunch @ FCC Fellowship Hall 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

Kids 4 Christ (K-5th Grade) @ FPC 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Bell Choir 6:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m.
All Together Youth Ministry (6th-12th) @ FCC 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 4, 2022—Youth Sunday

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
All Together Youth Ministry (9th-12th) @ FPC 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Christmas Schedule

Sunday, December 4th—Youth Sunday Service at FCC

Wednesday, December 14th—Kids 4 Christ Christmas Program 5:00 p.m. at FCC

Sunday, December 18th—Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 18th—Living Nativity from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 20th—Blue Christmas Service at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 21st—All Together Youth Ministry (6th-12th Grade) Youth Christmas Meal 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at FCC

Saturday, December 24th—Christmas Eve Service 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 25th—Christmas Celebration 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall



Order Your Poinsettias

Poinsettia Sunday falls on **December 18th** this year. Decorate First Christian Church with poinsettias this Christmas by remembering or honoring someone special. Please write down the honoree name (s) and the giver (s) name. Submit this information to the church office no later than **December 14th**. You may bring the poinsettia to the church anytime between **7am-4pm December 12th-December 15th**. If those times do not work, please call the church office and we will work something out. Also, you may contact the church office if you'd like to order a poinsettia through the church. The deadline for this is **December 4th**. They are **\$7** this year. Please make your check out to First Christian Church and clearly note it "**Poinsettia Sunday**". Thank you!



Bright Spots!

Youth Sunday is **December 4th**. The youth have been working hard on music and readings. We are excited to celebrate the advent season.

December 21st is the Youth Group Christmas Dinner. Meat and potatoes will be provided. Youth are invited to bring their favorite sides, snacks or desserts.

Sara Bright



12/5	Matt Bledsoe	12/19	Lori Osbourn-Easterling
12/5	Colleen Vanlandingham	12/22	Dustin Graham
12/7	Landon Higgins	12/24	Don Archer
12/10	Rena Owen	12/26	Ralls Easterling
12/13	Carly Silver	12/30	Chris Peak
12/16	Marjorie Graf	12/30	Tom Bunge
12/17	Jim Medley		

For the month of November, the Outreach Committee would like for everyone to consider donating to the Mexico Senior Center in an effort to help the homebound receive a Christmas present. Please see the details below on where items can be dropped off and this year's wish list.



Christmas for the Homebound

This will be a Christmas Care Package. Our goals to help ease the financial crunch during the Christmas season. We also want them to feel the spirit and generosity that is the holiday season. We will collect during the month of November and will get everything together. We will make purchases & deliver the first week of December.

Items can be dropped off at: The Mexico Senior Center, 606 Park Street.

Please help us to ensure our Seniors enjoy the holiday season!!!
(573)581-7743



Wishlist:
Paper Towels
Toilet Paper
Kleenex
Kitchen Trash Bags
Kitchen Towels
Cookies
Candy
Wash Rags
Bath Towels
All donations are appreciated!

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