

THE DISCIPLE



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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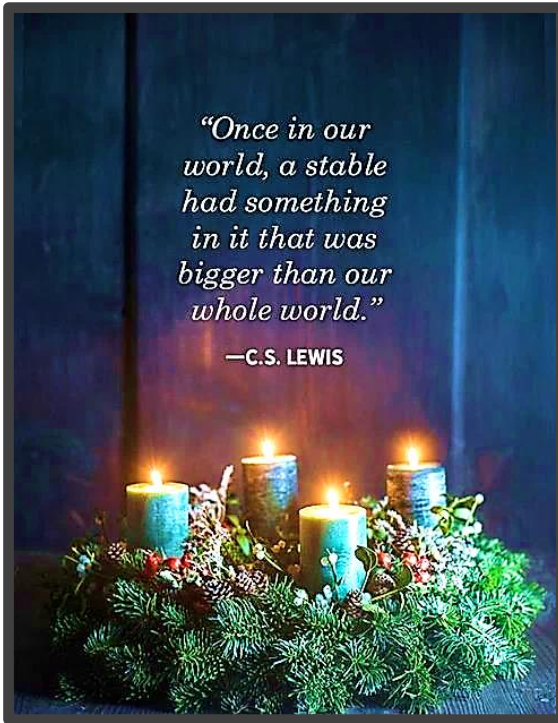
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December 2022

Rev. Rick Hamilton, Minister

Carol Clifford, Editor



*"Called to be the presence of
Christ in our community"*



December is here and there is so much I have to report to you in the life of our church. I don't love using my article for "businessy" stuff, but there is so much to be communicated. First some opportunities in the life of the church:

Feed the Body and Soul

The three lessons on Wednesday, November 30, December 7, and December 14 are a series called "Holidays of the Winter Solstice and New Year. We will look at the spiritual aspects, traditions and history of some of these "holy days".

Offering Envelopes and Numbers

On the entry table, you will find new offering envelopes, and will probably have a new "envelope number". If all goes as planned this will be the last time you ever get a new number at our church. We found a supplier that will sell us envelopes with no dates or year markings on them. If you use an envelope often, you have been assigned a low number. It will be your permanent number. If you are like me, and almost never use an envelope, your number will be higher. All this means that in the future we can re-order the "low number" envelopes as needed, but might never order the higher numbers again. Regardless, you should never have to change the number on your check ever again.

Giving Opportunities

We are still collecting toys and coats for our partner program at Parkway Gardens Christian Church. Please bring new toys, and new or gently used coats. FISH is always in need of food supplies and Barb Bates does a great job representing us with FISH.

Christmas Coffee House

The Christmas Coffee House will be held on Sunday, December 11. Look for more news in this newsletter.

WORSHIP and HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

I am excited about this year's idea for the Advent Wreath. We will be incorporating Advent into Communion and will be led by our Elders. This is a big change, but I think it is very spiritually sound and I am looking forward to it.

On Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24 we will meet for our normal Christmas Eve Service. This year, our service will be our main weekly service of worship. We will NOT meet in person on Sunday, December 25. I will be pre-recording a Christmas Meditation and Prayer which will air on our YouTube Channel at 10:30 a.m.

On Sunday, January 1, we will worship on our normal schedule at 10:30 a.m.

The office will be closed for the Holidays between Christmas and New Year's Day.

One more thing about worship: The Christian Year begins with the First Sunday of Advent. This year I will be starting a new initiative that I am calling "Just Jesus" and "Gospels Only" (I haven't chosen which name). The idea is that for at least a year I will be preaching only from the Gospel Texts: no letters from Paul or others, no prophets, no history; Just Jesus. I am looking forward to the experience, I hope you are too!

I look forward to seeing around our Lord's Table,

Rick



Parkway Gardens

This year, we are collection Toys and Winter Coats to be taken to Parkway Gardens. Please bring your donations to church by Sunday, December 11th.



SANDY'S SPOT...



As 2022 draws to an end, we are grateful for the social gatherings that we missed in the last two years. The return of the Ladies Tea, Christmas Coffee House, the annual dinner and maybe we will see coffee hour return in 2023. I always look forward to potluck dinners because the food is so good. I went to a potluck at Sharon's church First Congregational of Des Plaines and was so disappointed. Jack's Frozen pizza and Jewel macaroni salad.

After we sold the 817 property, I realized we really didn't miss it. The expenses of the property upkeep far exceeded its use to our needs. It seems like I am keeping this Chewy box in case I need a box. We do that and think I will need this; I better hang on to it.

I'm glad we are moving back to social gatherings and interaction with our friends. I haven't shared Thanksgiving with family since 2019 due to vaccination status. So, we are moving in a good direction.

Sandy



PROPERTY REPORT



We have received a contract for the repair of the eaves. It will be presented to the board for approval. J&R Herra was contacted for the annual checkup of our heating system. The Fire Department did an inspection and we received notice of a minor issue to be addressed.

Your property team,
Barb and Dan

FISH Pantry Update



Thank you for your generous donations for the month of November. They helped provide those in need have a Happy Thanksgiving. Thank you!

The items requested for December are:

- Dish Washing Liquid
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Napkins
- Kleenex
- Cleanser (such as Comet)
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- All Purpose Spray Cleaner
- Tall Kitchen Trash Bags (13 & 30 Gallons)



Current Fund Balances --by date - As of 11/28/2022

Account	11/28/2022 Balance
Bank Accounts	
General Fund - (Operating Budget)	6,408.62
Hope For The Future - Savings Fund	276,757.09
In-As-Much Fund	767.40
Ladies Annual Tea	0.00
Memorials	445.79
Pass Thru Funds	100.00
Property Reserve	24.27
SPECIAL Disciples Mission Outreach ...	55.00
SPECIAL Music & Worship Fund	7.45
The Back To School Fair Fund	427.73
Youth Fund	1,330.77
TOTAL Bank Accounts	286,324.12
OVERALL TOTAL	286,324.12

Budget
1/1/2022 through 11/30/2022 Using Budget 2022 Annual

Category	1/1/2022 Actual	- Budget	11/30/2022 Difference
INCOME	112,852.84	110,660.00	2,192.84
100_income	112,852.84	110,660.00	2,192.84
120-Identifiable Giving	110,694.00	108,900.00	1,794.00
130-Loose offering	388.00	440.00	-52.00
140-Space Use Donations	50.00	88.00	-38.00
150_Fundraising	0.00	0.00	0.00
160-Other Income	1,720.84	1,232.00	488.84
EXPENSES	106,344.22	111,159.00	4,814.78
200-Ministry	2,947.74	2,739.00	-208.74
210-Worship	449.50	275.00	-174.50
220-Evangelism	0.00	88.00	88.00
230-Disciples Mission Fund	2,200.00	2,200.00	0.00
250-Stewardship	298.24	88.00	-210.24
260-Christian Development	0.00	88.00	88.00
300-Property	19,300.60	20,163.00	862.40
310-Maintenance & Repair	1,693.91	3,663.00	1,969.09
330-Grounds	8,800.00	8,250.00	-550.00
340-Utilities	5,946.69	5,500.00	-446.69
350-Improvements	2,860.00	2,750.00	-110.00
400-Office Administration	9,204.78	11,861.00	2,656.22
410-Insurance & Bonding	5,804.36	6,460.00	655.64
420- Office Expense	2,688.21	4,576.00	1,887.79
430-Payroll Service	712.21	825.00	112.79
500-Personnel	74,891.10	76,396.00	1,504.90
520-Sr. Min. Housing Allowance	37,584.00	37,584.00	0.00
530-Sr. Min. Pension	5,500.00	5,500.00	0.00
540-Sr. Min. Prof. Expenses	280.80	913.00	632.20
550-Office Manager Salary	10,142.00	10,142.00	0.00
560-Pianist Salary	12,467.00	12,467.00	0.00
570-Choir Director	0.00	0.00	0.00
580-Custodian Salary	6,677.00	6,677.00	0.00
590-Staff FICA	2,240.30	3,113.00	872.70
Net Difference:	6,508.62	-499.00	7,007.62



**“God never gives someone a gift
they are not capable of receiving.
If He gives us the gift of Christmas,
it is because we all have the ability to
understand and receive it.”**

Pope Frances



Join Us for Monday Intercessory Prayer (MIP)!

Prayers are being answered! Please join us for MIP Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. from the comforts of your own home! Spending an hour with God feeling his support and love is a blessing at all times! Please note: there will be no MIP Monday December 26 due to Christmas week.

God is so good! We not only ask for God's help with our concerns, but we also spend time offering praise for all God is doing in our world. Recent praises were for:

- Naperville Turning Pointe Foundation's "Saturday Respite" Program helps families of autistic children have a break while their children are cared for with expert staff.
- A team of NYC firefighters saved two women's lives, who were hanging by their fingertips from the windowsill, by rappelling down the side of a burning building and being honored
- Latin America's first renewable, trash-trapping wheel (from a local environmental group) whisks away tons of garbage floating down one of Panama's most important but heavily polluted rivers before it spills into the Pacific Ocean.

God's is active and working throughout our world. Hallelujah! Join in our praise!

The **conference-calling** feature makes it easy to join from anywhere you are. Dial in to join us for the entire session or just to ask for your own prayer concerns. We welcome all prayer concerns! We document our prayer concerns each week and if you provide us with your email, we can send a copy to you each week.

Join us for a spiritually enriching hour with God! You are free to join in silently or add prayers as you like!

Our Monday night sessions include:

- A brief gathering of any additional prayers and prayer priorities
- A prayer devotion
- Prayers for our joys and concerns: personal, church, community, country, and world
- A brief closing prayer

To Join by Conference Call:

1. Call (607) 374-1123
2. Enter the access code: 390193

For more information email Karen Johns: johns.karen@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS COFFEE HOUSE



The Christmas coffee House is back. Please come to enjoy an evening of fellowship and fun with a lot of great acts and music.

The Coffee House will be held on Sunday, December 11th at 6 pm.

Sign-up sheets are out in Fellowship Hall. Please consider performing this year or at least sign up to help and bring “goodies”

Invite your family and friends. It’s a great way to get in the spirit of the holiday season.

STAFF APPRECIATION



As in the past, we use the Holiday Season to show our appreciation to our staff, Rick, Carol, Rick and Joe. If you would like to contribute to these gifts, please give your donation to Karen or Sandy. We will present the gifts after worship on Sun., Dec. 18th.

Church Chuckles

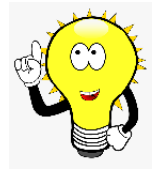
By Bobbie Dean



*Church Notes: When the pastor finishes today’s sermon, please join us in singing “Joy to the World.”

Did you know...?

By: Bobbie Dean



Marriage family, and kinship in Mongolia

Traditionally, families were the main unit of production in the herding society. The kinship system was patrilineal, and sons generally established households in a common camp with their fathers. Marriages were arranged by parents and a bridal dowry (usually consisting of animals) was negotiated based upon the social status of the families. The 20th-century norm became for children to choose their own marriage partners with less extensive parental involvement.

Several generations of families customarily live together in a nomadic camp known as a *khot ail* (group of tents) and share herding tasks. This camp generally consisted of two to seven households, serves as a way of pooling labor for herding and has numerous social and ritual functions. Besides the *khot ail*, a larger neighborhood group called *neg nutglinhan* (people of one place) generally consists of four to twenty *khot ails* that frequently move and work together.

Historically, the cultural pattern of old age support was ultimogeniture, and the youngest son would inherit the largest share of the parent's animals. Today, there is greater variation in inheritance depending on personality considerations and the economic and living circumstances of different family members.



Christmas Banner Fund



Once again, we have our Christmas Banner hanging and waiting for your Christmas Card. Place your greeting on the banner for the congregation to read. The money you saved from postage and fewer cards could be donated to our Christmas Banner Fund. Thank you.

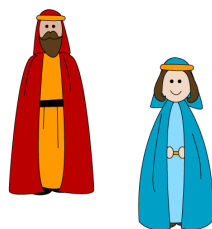
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Dec. 5	Ann Head
Dec. 9	Bill Cook
Dec. 12	Nancy Wendt
Dec. 12	Christopher Hayes
Dec. 19	Carolyn Johnson
Dec. 28	Joe laculla



Un-Holy Christmas Tale From the Inn At Bethlehem



Did you hear about the St
Michael's Primary School nativity play?

Two children are dressed as Mary and Joseph, and
they are on their way to the inn at Bethlehem.

Meanwhile on the other side of the stage, a lad in a
shepherd's outfit is on a mobile phone. He is
calling the inn to make a
reservation.





SERVING SCHEDULE

ELDERS

Lectern

Table

Dec. 4	Bob Reese	Bill Cook
Dec. 11	Karen Johns	Barb Bates
Dec. 18	Joy Claffey	Daphne Hayes
Dec. 24	Becky Daigle	Martha Anderson
Dec. 25	None	None

DEACONS

Prep and Serve

Serve

Dec. 4	Dan Johns	Don Peterson
Dec. 11	Mac Flores	Gail Reese
Dec. 18	Jim Claffey	Jeff Igel
Dec. 24	Galilee Flores	Jim Claffey
Dec. 25	None	None

COUNTERS

December	Marve Huizinga
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*If you look for me at Christmas
You won't need a special star –
I am no longer just in Bethlehem,
I am right there where you are.
You may not be aware of Me
Amidst celebrations –
You'll have to look beyond stars,
And the stores,
And all the decorations.
If you take a moment
From the list of things to do
And listen to your heart, you'll find,
I'm waiting there for you.
You're the one I want to be with,
You're the reason that I came,
And you'll find Me in the stillness
As I am whispering your name.
Love,
Jesus*

