

THE DISCIPLE



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
801 63rd St., Downers Grove, IL 60516
630-968-7818 Fax: 630-968-6384
Email: firstccdg@gmail.com Web: fccdg.org

January 2020

Rev. Rick Hamilton, Minister

Carol Clifford, Editor



*“Called to be the presence of
Christ in our community”*



New Year's Resolution

As many of you know, I work part time at the church and I work part time at a fitness center. Everyone at the fitness center is warning me to get ready because the first six weeks of the year are crazy. You already know why. The first six weeks of the year is the period of time in which all the New Year's resolution folks are at the center. Every year in January fitness centers everywhere are super busy. Apparently it takes about six weeks for the bulk of those resolutions to lose their resolve.

Preparing for the resolution crowd got me to wondering what else those same folks resolve to do. How many of them also resolve to get their spiritual side in order? How many of our friends and neighbors are thinking about their spirits? What would happen if the members of First Christian Church who are on social media all posted about our fantastic place to get our spirits in shape?

So here is my resolution: I am going to create what I hope is a really good Facebook post for the New Year. I am going to post it to my personal account and to the church account. Then, I hope you will consider re-posting it to your own page. Let's see if this social media marketing thing works. And in the process, let's see if we can make the early part of the year a busy time for churches too.

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



REFLECTIONS AND IDEAS



The New Year is here bringing in a new decade. Did you make a New Year's resolution? I do not make resolutions, but I do have renewed goals for myself. I will continue to have a positive outlook on life and have goals that should be manageable. I need to be a bit more organized and would like to have a healthy lifestyle which should bring some rewards.

We have an opportunity at church to list some goals for our congregation by having a leadership retreat in January. All of our elected officers including all of the elders and deacons will meet on Saturday, January 11th at church from 9:00 to noon. This will be in place of our regular monthly meeting. I encourage attendees to come with ideas for planning our future programs. We would also like to have suggestions for modifications of current events.

Thank you to all who participated in any way at our Coffee House in December. It was a fun evening and the music, singing and skit all added up for a great way to begin our holiday season. Also, many thanks go to those who helped at the Parkway Gardens Christmas party! Our volunteers were especially needed this year since their church members were more involved in another one of their church programs. Your toys were much appreciated by the many children attending the event. The smiles on the faces of the children and their parents showed their delight with the event.

See you in church for another great year together!

Blessings for the new year, **Joy Claffey**

PROPERTY REPORT



Basically no report as I am having great difficulty dealing with nerve and shoulder pain. Seeing pain dr. this week.

Way before the official start of winter (Nov. 11 to be exact), we had the first measurable snowfall and the first snowplowing of the parking lot and driveway.

I have enjoyed being Property Coordinator for the past seven years. My decision not to continue was a good one turns out to be a good one as I am now facing medical challenges in the coming new year. I will always be available to help our new Property Coordinator, Barb Bates.

Wishing all of you a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!



A LITTLE HUMOR...



Johnny's Mother looked out the window and noticed him "playing church" with their cat.

He had the cat sitting quietly and he was preaching to it. She smiled and went about her work. A while later she heard loud meowing and hissing and ran back to the open window to see Johnny baptizing the cat in a tub of water.

She called out, "Johnny, stop that! The cat is afraid of water!"

Johnny looked up at her and said, "He should have thought about that before he joined my church."



Christian Education

Our Christian Education groups will be back in session in January. The OWLs (Kindergarten – 5th grade) will be studying elements of the Worship Service and their significance while the Middle School (6th – 8th grade) group alternates weeks, studying Rick's sermons one week and then discussing them the following week.

Adult Sunday school is continuing a study of the lesser gospels. This study examines the gospels not included in the canon. We are reviewing what is in them and why they were excluded. A six-video study entitled *The Pursuit of Peter* will then start January 19th. Please join us – 9:00 am Sundays!

Feed the Body and Soul is continuing Wednesday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. We are enjoying a light supper, fellowship and a lively study led by Rev. Rick Hamilton. Beginning January 8th, we will resume our study of the New Testament with Mark. Join us! A new signup sheet for dinners is in Fellowship hall. Please sign up if you can provide a dinner.

The Nursery is continuing for our young ones. We continue to need volunteers! While the sanctuary has entertainment for the children, sometimes the nursery is needed. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall, if you can help!

Karen, Sue, Deb, Joy, Alice, Tammy and Angela



*To know God's will is man's greatest treasure;
to do his will is life's greatest privilege.*



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!

Note: Due to the Holidays – we are resuming from our Holiday Break on January 6th – Join us!

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
 - World
- A brief closing prayer

To Join by Conference Call:

1. Call (712) 770-3743
2. Enter the access code: 390193

For more information email Karen Johns:

johns.karen@gmail.com



Current Fund Balances --by date - As of 12/31/2019

Account	12/31/2019 Balance
Bank Accounts	
General Fund - (Operating Budget)	0.00
Hope For The Future - Savings Fund	43,899.88
In-As-Much Fund	887.40
Ladies Annual Tea	0.00
Memorials	1,360.00
Pass Thru Funds	0.00
Property Reserve	1,366.14
SPECIAL Disciples Mission Outreach Funds	296.00
SPECIAL Music & Worship Fund	7.45
The Back To School Fair Fund	4,415.16
Youth Fund	1,330.77
TOTAL Bank Accounts	53,562.80
OVERALL TOTAL	53,562.80



JANUARY LUNCH BUNCH



Lunch bunch will meet following worship on
Sun., Jan. 19th at:

Harvest Pancake House and Grill
339 West 63rd Street,
Westmont

Please join us to celebrate time together. Look for the sign-up
sheet in Fellowship Hall. See you there!

Martha and Alice

Budget - Current Year
1/1/2019 through 12/31/2019 Using Budget:2019 Annual

Category	Actual	2019 Budget	Difference
INCOME	125,991.15	146,623.00	-19,631.85
100_income	125,991.15	146,623.00	-19,631.85
120-Identifiable: Giving	122,881.79	132,523.00	-9,641.21
130-Loose offering	635.82	600.00	35.82
140-Space Use Donations	200.00	10,800.00	-10,600.00
150_Fundraising	1,015.14	200.00	815.14
160-Other Income	1,258.40	1,500.00	-241.60
EXPENSES	125,517.96	146,623.00	20,105.04
200-Ministry	2,670.98	3,900.00	1,229.02
210-Worship	570.98	800.00	229.02
220-Evangelism	0.00	400.00	400.00
230-Disciples Mission Fund	2,100.00	2,100.00	0.00
250-Stewardship	0.00	200.00	200.00
260-Christian Development	0.00	400.00	400.00
300-Property	20,842.70	30,900.00	10,057.30
310-Maintenance & Repair	3,673.98	5,500.00	1,826.02
330-Grounds	9,396.18	10,400.00	1,003.82
340-Utilities	7,252.56	7,000.00	-252.56
350-Improvements	519.98	8,000.00	7,480.02
400-Office Administration	10,922.50	10,600.00	-322.50
410-Insurance & Bonding	6,339.00	5,800.00	-539.00
420- Office Expense	3,762.72	4,000.00	237.28
430-Payroll Service	820.78	800.00	-20.78
500-Personnel	91,081.78	100,223.00	9,141.22
520-Sr. Min. Housing Allowance	39,000.00	39,000.00	0.00
530-Sr. Min. Pension	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00
540-Sr. Min. Prof. Expenses	829.13	1,000.00	170.87
550-Office Manager Salary	21,497.00	21,497.00	0.00
560-Pianist Salary	12,857.00	12,857.00	0.00
570-Choir Director	0.00	8,186.00	8,186.00
580-Custodian Salary	7,683.00	7,683.00	0.00
590-Staff FICA	3,215.65	4,000.00	784.35
Net Difference:	473.19	0.00	473.19



Thank You, Thank You, Thank You...

The staff of First Christian Church would like to thank you for the kindness and generosity you extended to us this year. Thank you and blessings for the New Year.



The staff, Rick, Carol, Bill, and Rick

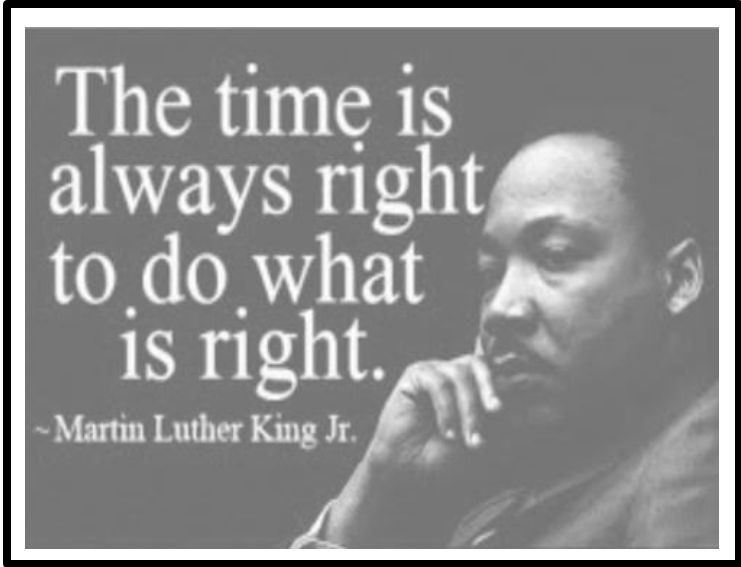
Did you know...?

By: Bobbie Dean



Interesting Facts About Germany:

- *Germany is the land of the Grimm fairytales. If you go to the town of Hamelin, you will find painted rats on the pavements guiding you around the city!
- *Frankfurt is your one-stop shop for toys. Here you will find everything from handmade dolls to wooden toys.
- *Looking for teddy bears wearing leather pants? Munich has them in plenty.
- *Silent Night is really a German song. It was composed in 1818 in Austria.
- *Kris Kringle comes from the German word Christkindl, which means Christ Child. It is this Christ child who brings gifts to Germany on Christmas, and not Santa Claus!
- *The Christmas Pickle is a legend, but some families still hang the pickle on the tree and the first child to find it receives a present.
- *In Rothenburg you can enjoy Christmas all the year round, at the Christmas Market in Reiterlesmarkt.
- *Germany is slowly closing all its nuclear power plants. There should be none by 2022!
- *Germans have the strangest queens – the Apple Queen, Saxon Fish Queen, Beer Queen, and more.
- *Germans like square pillows instead of rectangles. And the pillows are huge, so beware if you bring your own pillowcases from home!
- *Germans don't have house numbers. The postman delivers mail by the last name, even in apartment blocks.
- *When you go to eat at a restaurant in Germany, don't expect the automatic glass of water. You have to buy your bottled water here. In fact, beer used to be cheaper than water!



Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 20, 2020



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------|-----------------|
| Jan. 1 | Marve Huizinga |
| Jan. 3 | Sue Huizinga |
| Jan. 3 | Don Peterson |
| Jan. 7 | Dixie Franklin |
| Jan. 9 | Kathy Payne |
| Jan. 22 | Alexis Darling |
| Jan. 24 | Becky Daigle |
| Jan. 25 | Angela Reese |
| Jan. 25 | Tammy Reese |
| Jan. 28 | Katie Ritchie |
| Jan. 30 | Zachary Thurman |



SERVING SCHEDULE



ELDERS Bread /Cup

Jan 5	Daphne Hayes	Bob Reese
Jan 12	Martha Anderson	Becky Daigle
Jan. 19	Bill Cook	Barb Bates
Jan. 26	Bob Reese	Martha Anderson

DEACONS Prep and Serve Serve

Jan. 5	Mac Flores	Jim Claffey
Jan. 12	Galilee Flores	Marve Huizinga, Ron Smith, Gail Reese
Jan. 19	Dan Johns	Suellen Cook, Don Peterson, Sandy Allen
Jan. 26	Jeff Igel	Galilee Flores, Jim Claffey, Marve Huizinga

POWER POINT

Jan. 5	Barb Bates
Jan. 12	Joy Claffey
Jan. 19	Larry Carley
Jan. 26	Don Peterson

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Jan. 5 - 26	Please consider volunteering for one of these dates
-------------	---

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Jan. 5	Tammy Reese, Angela Reese, Deb McClelland
Jan. 12	Tammy Reese, Angela Reese, Sue Huizinga
Jan. 19	Tammy Reese, Angela Reese, Joy Claffey
Jan. 26	Tammy Reese, Angela Reese, Karen Johns

COUNTERS

Jan. 5	Marve Huizinga and Larry Carley
Jan. 12	Bob Reese and Barb Bates
Jan. 19	Don Peterson and Marve Huizinga
Jan. 26	Dick Anderson and Sandy Allen

FOR EVERYTHING A SEASON

Wanting his sons to learn not to judge too quickly, a man sent each, in turn, on a quest to look at a pear tree far away and report what he saw. The first son went in winter, the second in spring, the third in summer and the fourth in fall. Finally, the father gathered the young men together. “What did you see?” he asked.

The first son reported seeing an ugly tree, bent and lifeless. The second disagreed, saying it was bubbling with fresh new life. The third son reported finding a tree laden with sweet-smelling, beautiful blossoms, while the fourth insisted it drooped with ripe fruit.

The father and his sons were all correct, for they'd seen the same tree, though at different seasons of its life. “Don't judge a tree -- or a person -- based on just one season of life,” he counseled his children. “Who they are can only be known at the end, when all life's seasons have been lived.

“Furthermore,” he added, “don't give up on your own life if you experience a hard season, such as winter, or you'll miss out on the renewal of spring, the joy of summer, the fulfillment of autumn.”

