

The Marshall Christian

LXI

NO. XII

December 2019



Elder/Deacon Serving Schedule

December 1 & 8

Elders:

Dan Brandt
Kris Milliron

Deacons:

Cindy Brandt
Doug Harvey
Chris Layton
Becky McRoberts
Erin Meyer

December 15 & 22

Elders:

Wayne Buck
Mark Harvey

Deacons:

Butch Ash
Jill Buck
Vince Buck
Bill Jackson
Nancy Jackson

December 29 & January 5

Elders:

Gwen Clemens
Buddy Hannaford

Deacons:

Lin Alexander
Tim Clemens
Brenda Coffman
Hope Richards
Melissa Shannon

Outside Communion:

December 8

Lloyd Bentley
Gwen Clemens

December 22

Wayne Buck
Mark Harvey



“It’s All About Family”

In the life cycle of the church, these days of preparing for Christmas are about preparing ourselves to receive the Christ Child once again. But I know that an equally important aspect of the season are the ways we prepare to receive and spend time with family and friends. We think of our family as we buy gifts, bake special meals, decorate our houses for them; go to parties and attend church services with them; and send cards to them. We anticipate those gatherings to share a meal, presents, and conversations that will become memories. It’s all about family.

Since I entered into full-time ministry twenty years ago, my Christmas preparations have been focused on the Advent Season within the church because my own family – my sons, in-laws, 9 grandchildren, parents, and siblings – all live in other states. That means that the church family has filled that gap in my Christmas preparations for twenty years. I’ve been blessed to have spent my Christmas Eves with you and members of other church families, and if we were to go to our sons’ homes or any other relative’s home, we would drive on Christmas Day, often to drive back home the next day.

Our separations from our family has caused us to miss many milestones in their lives, or to take weeks of vacation to be

there, or to make quick trips driving through the night in order to make it back home for Sunday services or to be at work the next day. Living such a distance from family has been the greatest sacrifice that Rhonda and I have made in my ministry.

This is the primary reason that Rhonda and I began looking for another church to serve in the past year – a congregation that would allow us to be closer to our family. After discussions with seven congregations, including three that provided offers, we felt led by God to move to Kansas where I will serve as the senior minister at First Christian Church of Augusta. It is a smaller congregation than the one here in Marshall. This decision...is all about family.

Thank you for the love and support of this church family for the past six and a half years. I appreciate the times you have been willing to make changes and be open to new ways of being faithful to God in the world today. I am grateful for God’s call that led us to this church, and now we respond to God’s leading as we leave. I will hold you in my prayers during your time of transition. After January 5 I will no longer be your pastor...but I will continue to be your friend. Through January 5 I will be both your pastor and your friend. It’s all about family.

In God’s Grip, Loy

December Anniversaries & Birthdays

BIRTHDAYS

- 1– Paxton Joliff
Molly Krog
2– Jeff Wise
3– John Fletcher
Cindy McCord
6– Stacey Smith
10– Chris Layton
12– Gwen Clemens
Cyrus McCord
Bert Shannon
14– Brienne Asbury
Heidi Joliff
15– Sherry Shannon
17– Bryant Eads
18– Carolyn Caldwell
19– Madison Gaba
20– Jill Buck
Meg Kissner
21– Emily Kueker
22– Leslie Coslet
Linda Dryer
23– Amanda McCord
24– Carolyn Buck
Kevin Dryer
25– Tyler Merchant

- 26– Ann Pannell
27– Virginia Bryant
Jeff Dryer
Jo Wilhite
Wayne Wise
28– Kevin Ash
Vic Hessel
Tyler Smith
31– Abby Gass
Randall Wilson

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1– Justin & Abby Schroeder
10– Matthew & Jessica Green
12– Loyd & Ann Pannell
17– Paul & Michelle Scarff
18– JW & Jill Clemens
23– Dale & Lois Pontius
Tom & Donna Bailey
26– Ed & Ginger Reis
27– Paul & Linda Crews
David & Marlene VanHorn
28– Loy & Rhonda Hoskins
29– Norvelle & Colleen Brown
31– Josh & Natalie Hoffelmeyer

Special Offering this Month



On December 15 and 22 we will be receiving our special Christmas offering.

This offering remains in the Mid-America Region to support our local churches and the regional oversight.

Jell-O and Pudding for Holiday Project



We are collecting boxes of Jell-O and/or pudding mixes for the Saline County Community Holiday Project. We will turn them in on December 10. You can bring your boxes to add to the stack that is being built in the Sun Room. Our goal is to collect 600 boxes.

Poinsettias

If you wish to provide a poinsettia in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone, please bring yours to the office by noon on December 20.



Are you ready for some chili? On Friday, December 6, FCC will host our annual chili supper and silent auction to benefit local organizations. I hope you decide to be a part of it! It's fun to see the whole church come together to make good things happen for the people in our community.

On Wednesday, December 4, at 5:30 PM, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall to set up the tables, put out the silent auction items and the bid sheets, organize the chili supper ingredients, and have a pizza party. We hope you can join us.

You may still contribute items for the silent auction, but please do so as soon as possible. If you haven't signed up to bring a dessert, we could sure use more. Please let Virginia Bryant know if you can make the chili and/or help serve Friday evening. It's always nice to have a lot of people for cleanup, too. We're all tired after working all day, so many hands make light work.

Advent Devotionals

Advent Devotional Books are available in the sun room and parlor to assist us in preparing our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child. The daily meditations through Christmas Day offer short readings and prayers connected with Scripture. "Written in the Stars" will help you make the most of this season. There are enough devotion books for each family to take one.



We will again be using the call messaging system if there is a need to cancel worship services or other events or gatherings due to bad weather or dangerous road conditions. We will also be putting messages out through KMMO radio, 102.9 FM.

Next Newsletter

We hope to mail out the next newsletter by December 20. The deadline to have articles in will be December 18.

December Meetings

The December meetings of the Executive Committee, Church Board, and Elders will be held on Tuesday, December 3 this month. We will have our annual December congregational meetings following both services on December 29. The budget for the next year will be presented for approval.



This year our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will be held on a Tuesday night. Join us at 7:00 p.m. for a short, meaningful worship featuring scripture readings and hymns that will help us welcome the Christ Child again into our world...and into our lives. We will share together in communion and the lighting of candles. Glow sticks will be available so the young kids can participate, and this year each family will be given a souvenir Christmas tree ornament.

Bell Ringing

Our church has volunteered to ring the bell for the Salvation Army at the entrance to Wal-Mart on Saturday, December 7. Pairs of volunteers will be there from 10:00 until 6:00 that afternoon. A sign-up sheet is up in the parlor.



Upcoming Sermons

December brings with it the Advent Season. The four Sundays before Christmas will be Sundays of Advent. For those Sundays and the Christmas Eve meditation I have chosen to share a sermon series on how we can experience Christmas based on our five senses and still follow the traditional themes for each Sunday.

Dec. 1	"What Hope Sounds Like" (<i>Hanging of the Greens</i>)	Isaiah 2:1-5
Dec. 8	"What Peace Looks Like" (<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>)	Isaiah 11:1-10
Dec. 15	"What Joy Tastes Like" (<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>)	Matthew 11:2-11 & Psalm 34:8
Dec. 22	"What Love Feels Like" (<i>Christmas Sunday</i>)	Isaiah 9:2-7
Dec. 24	"What Christmas Smells Like" (<i>Christmas Eve</i>)	Luke 2:1-16
Dec. 29	Loy on vacation – Favorite Christmas Carol sing	
Jan. 5	"Follow God" (<i>Epiphany & Pastor Loy's Last Sunday</i>)	Matthew 2:1-12

Youth Events

Sun., Dec. 1	NO YOUTH (Thanksgiving weekend)
Wed., Dec. 4	Elem.youth group, 5-6:30pm @ Covenant Jr. high youth group, 7-8:30pm @ Covenant
Sat, Dec. 7	Elementary youth to Columbia Food Bank for Kids Helping Kids Day & Christmas fun; leave at 7:30am
Sun, Dec. 8	Jr./Sr. high youth to Crown Center for Ice Skating & Christmas fun; leave at 1:30pm
Wed., Dec. 11	Elementary youth group, 5-6:30pm @ Covenant Jr. high youth group, 7-8:30pm @ Covenant
Sun., Dec. 15	Sr. high youth group, 7-8:30pm @ FCC
Wed, Dec. 18	Elementary youth group, 5-6:30pm @ Covenant Jr. high youth group, 7-8:30pm @ Covenant
Sun, Dec. 22	NO YOUTH – MERRY CHRISTMAS
Wed., Dec. 25	NO YOUTH MERRY CHRISTMAS
Sun., Dec. 29	NO YOUTH MERRY CHRISTMAS
Wed., Jan. 1	NO YOUTH HAPPY NEW YEAR

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>No Youth Group</i>	2 <i>Bells @ 11</i>	3 <i>Board Meetings</i>	4	5	6 <i>Chili Supper / Silent Auction</i>	7 <i>Bell Ringing Salvation Army</i>
8 <i>No Youth Group</i>	9 <i>Bells @ 11</i>	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 <i>Bells @ 11</i>	17	18	19	20	21
22 <i>No Youth Group</i>	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve Service</i>	25 <i>Office Closed</i>	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27	28
29 <i>No Youth Group</i>	30	31				

(over 300 in Marshall/Slater alone) have the opportunity to serve in the community up to four hours each month, during their work shift.

Per typical me, I threw myself into this, meeting with over two dozen non-profit agency representatives to coordinate volunteer times. During one meeting, I overstepped and offered a spare room here at First Christian Church to store donations for the Saline County Holiday Project. 'Just a couple toys in a corner of a spare room won't hurt; no one will notice', I thought.

I am so very grateful for the graciousness (and forgiving hearts) of our congregation, and the overwhelming generosity of our

community!! Donations have filled one room; I've now commandeered a 2nd room for cleaning and sorting. NWCS volunteers have worked over 20 hours going through countless truckloads, trash bags, and boxes!

Luke 12:48 reminds us that "To whom much is given, much will be required," and Acts 20:35 declares that "it's better to give than to receive." Sometimes we look within the church walls to see and hear Christ; yet rarely have I experienced this more than through the giving hearts of our community and through the hands and feet of volunteers. God is good!!

Grateful, Kris Milliron



God Is Good!

I'm going to use this time to share a bit about my 'big girl job', with Northwest Community Services, where I've worked for over 29 years. (Let's be honest, being a Youth Director is 65% being a 'big kid').

This past October, I was given permission to implement an employee volunteer program at NWCS, where all employees

Who Should We Help?

It doesn't get easier for me. It always hurts in some way. Seeing, almost daily, people in need, well....it makes you look at life a little differently.

Their situations may be different, but the pain and worry remain the same for those who come into the office and need help. Some have children. Some have had a medical situation. Some may be trying, but can't make the money stretch to meet the bills. They need food, clothes, help with shelter, help with utilities. The list goes on and on. Some days I can listen sympathetically, and try to point them in directions where they can receive help that is beyond what we are able to do.

That's...sometimes. Other times I can't turn it off. I take it home with me. I carry it out of this Church like a huge blanket that has been soaked with sorrow, and yes...it is too hard to carry.

It's not always about what we can give them. Sometimes they need to know resources— places they can turn to for needs that

require long term help. Other times it's a little easier— a few groceries or gas to get to a doctor's appointment. Regardless the situation, I always try to make the best judgment calls and decisions I can concerning each individual. I have found myself lately putting so much thought into those who come in for help. I am not jaded by any stretch of the imagination, but the wool has definitely been pulled over my eyes a few times. So, it makes me question who REALLY needs help, or who is just "using the system". At this time of year the office gets flooded with people who need help. So trying to disperse what we have, so that many can receive help, is the reason I want to make sure those truly needing help are getting it. As I sat here one day this week, sorrowfully going over all the people who had recently come in, I told my husband I hoped I was making good choices. My heart was breaking because of all the need. Who did I try to get help for, and who did I let fall into the cracks? My husband looked at me and said something that

made me stop and think. He said, "Honey, Jesus didn't look through the crowd when he fed them fish and loaves of bread. He fed them all". He was right. How could I figure out the intentions of anyone who came into our Church? How was I to truly know their daily struggles? In that moment I was reminded that it is not my place to judge. It is not my place to say one person needs more help than the next. I am here to only offer "fish and bread" to those who need it.

Several people come to the office each year, and I know many leave here feeling like we have reached out to them. Thank you to all of you who help make it possible to be an outreach through your generosity. We ALL are needed to make a difference. And differences you have made! Because of your love, understanding and compassion, in a world that can be very cruel, lives have been changed. Thank you for your kind hearts.
Learning and Leaning, Hope



Our Christmas Family

The family our Church is adopting this year is a non-traditional family. A woman, we will call "Mary", took on the responsibility of five children.

"Mary" was a friend of the mother of these children ever since she was a young girl. They had lost contact over the years. Around five years ago, Mary's mom had reached out to her regarding getting back in contact with this friend she had not seen in 10+ years. At that time in 2014 the mother of the now 17, 15, 8 year old was living in a homeless shelter in Kan-

sas. She started to have communication with Mary and stated how she did not want to have her children being in the shelter. She was living life and was making some "bad" decisions and didn't also want the responsibilities of the kids. In 2014 Mary and her husband took in the oldest three. The mom got pregnant two more times, which is the now five and three year old, and they were handed over to Mary and her husband at birth. In May 2019 Mary's husband left her and the kids. As a now single mom she had to get a job. In June she started working for NWCS and due to that she no longer gets assistance

which makes it difficult to make ends meet.

Mary lives and works in Slater, and rides her bicycle to and from work year round. This Christmas, we want to give back to someone who has given so much. We are asking our Church family to help us gather items for the children, and/or monetary donations to help them acquire a vehicle.

In this world, where most of us are blessed with more than we realize, it is difficult to imagine not having a vehicle, shelter, or food and water. I know we can pull together to make positive changes in a situation that seems so dire. Donations taken through Dec. 15.

First Christian Church
130 North Jefferson Avenue
Marshall, MO 65340

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**Visit our
Church Website!**

Stop by our website at www.fccmarshallmo.org to check out upcoming events and activities, serving schedules, bulletins and newsletters, and information about our groups, ministries, staff, etc.

Contact Information:
firstccoffice@yahoo.com
Phone: (660) 886-3338

We're on the Web!
fccmarshallmo.org

Church Staff

Senior Minister– Rev. Dr. Loy Hoskins
Music Director–Hope Richards
Youth Director– Kris Milliron
Custodians– Ron & Carol Schupp,
Chris Layton
Financial Secretary– Ken Bryant
Office Admin.– Hope Richards
Pianists– Donna Smith, Kay Wise,
Judy Morris