

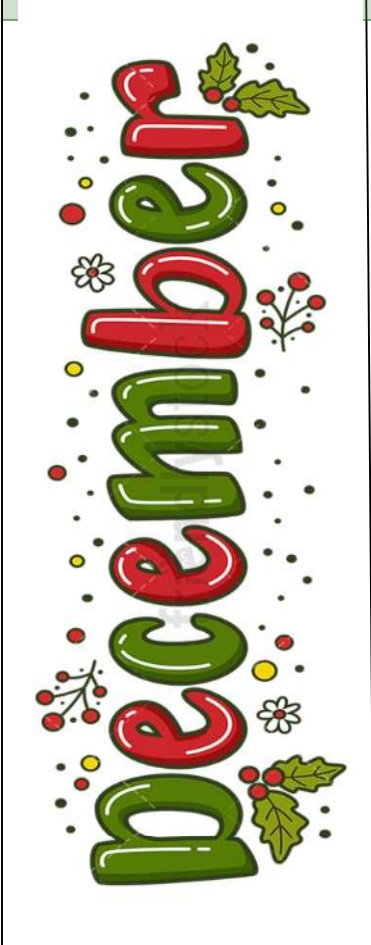


The Marshall Christian

A Message from our Pastor...

Service Time
10:00
Indoor Service

December General Board meeting will be December 13 at 6:00 pm



Christmas Is Coming!

Christmas is coming! Isn't that wonderful? And this will be my first Christmas with the First Christian Church, here in Marshall.

As your pastor's wife, it has been my pleasure to meet so many of you, and participate in so many of the events and activities of the church. I plan to continue doing just that, and I hope to get acquainted with everyone.

But with Christmas coming, I know that there will be a special "shine," so to speak, on everything to do with this wonderful church.

With the Chili/Soup Supper, on the first of December (the fundraiser whose proceeds are given to 12 helping organizations in Marshall) things will be off to a good start. What better way to celebrate Christmas, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, than to help those in need?

Then the Advent season will begin, the four-week season when we prepare our hearts and minds and souls for Christmas. There will be Advent candles, and Scripture readings, and of course, the beautiful music and decorations in the Sanctuary.

Christmas itself almost seems like a 48-hour period—Christmas Eve (on Sunday this year) and Christmas Day (this year on a Monday). Both are special, special times. They are times when we will all rejoice in the birthday of Jesus.

I do so very much look forward to these seasons, at this church, this year!

May God bless us all with a joyous and meaningful Christmas,

Rev. Sally DeMasters



(cont'd page 1)



Reaching Out



Welcome to the new monthly update from the FCC Outreach Committee that we're calling "Reaching Out". This update accompanies a letter in the November newsletter that hopefully informed members of the overall, yearly outreach activities and projects that are designed to reach out beyond the walls of the church to help others.

The "Reaching Out" monthly update will let readers know what is happening currently so that any help that is needed is communicated to everyone. It will include the 'how-to' for each project and report on the results of outreach projects.

So let's get this inaugural update started!

January provides a breather from the busy November and December activities.

FCC will provide a meal for the MVC Christian student group on Sunday, January 28. If you would like to be part of a team that provides a supper for about 25 college kids, please let Ginger or the office know.



The Mitten Tree is in the parlor and will be 'decorated' with donated mittens, hats, socks, gloves, and more. All the items will be donated to area schools in January. (Tip: As items go on sale, think ahead to next year's Mitten Tree!)

And every month, you have the opportunity to bring non-perishable food items to add to the large box inside the East entrance. These items will be given to the Community Food Pantry which informs us that giving really slows down after the holidays, but the need remains.

Recap of November and December activities: The biggest outreach event of the year, the Chili/Soup Supper & Eats, Sweets, and Treats Sale, was Friday, December 1st. At the time of this writing, we don't have results to share, but the participation before the event was phenomenal!

A crew of 15 members made almost 300 soups and meals for the Eats, Sweets, and Treats Sale in less than three hours under the incredible direction of Tiffany Thornton. Thank you to everyone who donated groceries and time to make this happen.

Outreach committee members created six scenes for Holiday Backdrops. They are amazing! Thank you for the creative work and for all of you who helped spread the word with your fun pictures. Hopefully, these upbeat scenes helped draw people into the church and provided a little extra joy.

Thank you to the many who helped set up the chili supper, cook, serve, and clean up. It's heartwarming to see the way our congregation works together to make this fundraiser happen!

Other ways FCC reached out in November and December included:

CWF assembled 108 Personal Hygiene Kits that will be shared with area schools for students who lack these basic supplies.

Members filled 16 shoeboxes with toys and gifts for Operation Christmas Child. These presents are headed to kids in desperate situations around the world.

Several hundred boxes of Jell-O were collected for the Holiday Project that provides food and gift assistance to area families. We will continue collecting through December 12.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way. Ginger calls this time of year "the season of asks". It seems that so many of our outreach efforts occur in November and December, and it can be overwhelming. In 2024, we hope to spread the non-perishable asks out over the year. Watch the newsletter and bulletins for info.

Perhaps instead of "the season of asks", we should think of this time as "the season of opportunities for helping"; for 'Reaching Out' to our community.

Thank you for all the support,
FCC Outreach Committee



December Birthdays and Anniversaries



BIRTHDAYS

- 1—Paxton Joliff
Molly Krog
- 2— Jeff Wise
- 3— John Fletcher
Cyndi McCord
- 6— Stacey Smith
- 10— Chris Layton
- 12— Gwen Clemens
Bert Shannon
Christy Snider
- 14— Brienne Asbury
Heidi Joliff
- 15— Nicki Coslet
Sherry Shannon
- 18—Karolyn Caldwell
- 20— Jill Buck

- 20- Meg Kissner
- 21— Emily Kueker
- 22— Leslie Coslet
Linda Dryer
- 23— Amanda McCord
- 24- Carolyn Buck
Kevin Dryer
Seth Cline
- 26— Ann Pannell
- 27— Virginia Bryant
Jeff Dryer
Jo Wilhite
Wayne Wise
- 28— Kevin Ash
Vic Hessel
Tyler Smith
- 31— Sarah Dowell
Abby Gass



ANNIVERSARIES

- 1— Justin & Abby Schroeder
- 10—Matthew&Jessica Green
- 12— Loyd & Ann Pannell
- 17— Paul & Michelle Scarff
- 23— Todd & Christy Marshall
- 26— Ed & Ginger Reis
- 31—Josh & Natalie Hoffel-meyer



We will be collecting jell-o until December 11th. Please help us reach our goal by bringing in a few boxes before the deadline.

Church closings due to inclement weather will be announced on KMMO , and a One-Call will be sent with as much notice as possible.



Our Church is signed up to “ring the bells” on December 18th from Noon-8:00 PM in front of Wal-Mart. Equipment provided will be the bucket, the bell, an apron or two, and a huge warm thermos of hot chocolate! Ok...the last item isn't provided, but wouldn't that be nice? There's one thing missing...you! If you would like to help spread the Christmas cheer, please call the office for available time slots. There will also be a sign up sheet in the Parlor. Merry Christmas!

IT CAME WITHOUT RIBBONS

IT CAME WITHOUT BOWS

IT CAME WITHOUT packages, boxes, or bags.

MAYBE CHRISTMAS, HE THOUGHT doesn't come from a store

MAYBE CHRISTMAS perhaps, means a little bit more.

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 1st Sunday of Advent	4	5	6	7 Church Ladies Luncheon 11:00 at Bloomfields	8	9
10 2nd Sunday of Advent	11 Last day to collect Jell-o	12	13 General Board Meeting 6:00	14 Praise band practice 5:30	15	16
17 3rd Sunday of Advent Congregational meeting following service	18	19 CWF 9:30 Church Parlor	20	21 Praise band practice 5:30	22	23
24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM	25 Christmas office closed	26 office closed	27	28 Praise band practice 5:30	29	30
31						

Bits and Pieces...



The Congregational meeting, to approve the new budget, has moved from December 3rd to December 17th. This brief meeting will take place immediately following the 10:00 worship service.

The Church Ladies Luncheon will meet at Bloomfield's to kick start the holiday season off right with good food, and great friendship. Join us December 7th at 11:00 ...all are welcome!



In the past, our Church has adopted a family for Christmas. This year we would like to do something different...we would like to adopt elderly individuals at various nursing homes that have no family. We are hoping you can help us out by bringing in items so that we can make several gift bags. Ideas would be comfy blankets, Christmas candy, any hygiene products such as chap stick or lotion, large print crossword books, ornaments, snacks, small Christmas décor, etc. You can drop off your donation at the office through December 17th.



January Birthdays and Anniversaries



BIRTHDAYS

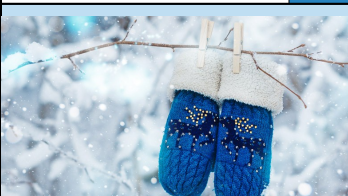
- 1—Christy Coslet
Ann Rea
- 2— Amber VanDyke
- 4— Jarred Amary
- 5— Emily Ward
- 7— Larry Wright
- 8— Jim Jackson
- 9— Doris Ash
- 10— Tim Clemens
- 12— Sandra Miller
Karla Seigfreid
- 13— Tom Phillips
Owen Schroeder
Doug Swinger
- 16— Kathryn Jones
- 19— Darlene Arnett

- 19- Brad Richards
Charlot Thornton
- 21— Alexia Bowlen
Megan Phillips
- 22— Roger Barnes
Adrienne Layton
- 23— Trevan Joliff
- 24— Vince Buck
- 25— Judy Frerking
Parilee Jackson
- 30— Linda Clark
Jeff Kreisel
George Porter
- 31— Missie Kreisel



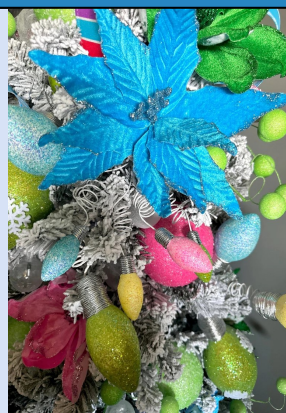
ANNIVERSARIES

- 2— Chris & Lori Layton
- 20— Jim & Sue Crawford
- 21- Prichard & Lois Mencl
- 28— Butch & Doris Ash



Our Mitten Tree is up and waiting to be filled! Please help us cover the tree with "warmth" so that we can help keep little hands comfy this season.

If you would like to remember a loved one with a Poinsettia displayed this year, please have them in the Church office between December 18-20. If you would like them back, they will be available for pick-up after December 27th.



This year our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Sunday, December

24 at 7:00 PM. Join us as we share together in communion and lighting of candles. The service will be held in the Sanctuary.

CWF will meet for a Christmas Coffee on December 19 at 9:30 AM in the Church Parlor. Those attending are asked to bring something to "nibble" on while fellowshiping and singing. All ladies are invited to attend!



January General Board Meeting will be on the 10th at 6:00 PM in the Church Parlor. We hope to see you there!



January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Office Closed</i>	2 <i>Office Closed</i>	3	4 <i>Praise band rehearsal 5:30</i>	5	6
7 <i>Epiphany Sunday</i>	8	9	10 <i>General Board Meeting 6:00 PM</i>	11 <i>Praise band rehearsal 5:30</i>	12	13
14	15	16 <i>CWF meeting</i>	17	18 <i>Praise band rehearsal 5:30</i>	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 <i>Praise band rehearsal 5:30</i>	26	27
28	29	30	31			

The Christmas Story
By Leanne Guenther

Once upon a time,
 A long, long time ago.
 Begins the story of a baby,
 That most of you should know.
 His daddy's name was Joseph,
 And Mary was His mom,
 This babe was very special
 He was God's only Son.
 Some angels came from heaven,
 And they began to sing.
 To the shepherds in the fields below,
 "Glad tidings do we bring!"
 A bright star lit the heavens,
 To light the magi's way,
 To the baby in the manger
 Who was born on Christmas day.
 And all who gathered round Him,
 Rejoiced and praised His birth.
 For the babe, the King, named Jesus,
 Is our Saviour here on earth!

www.MissionPromise.com

"You may be the only Jesus people see".

Thank you to all who helped with our Annual Chili Supper. What an undertaking! To help others is the best gift we can ever give, and this project helps so many in our community! A big warm hug to Ginger McGraw, for her continued hard work and dedication in the organization of such a meaningful ministry. Merry Christmas!



December Newsletter

January Newsletter

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



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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.

Church Staff

Minister– Rev. Randal DeMasters

Custodians– Ron & Carol Schupp

Financial Secretary– Ken Bryant

Office Admin.– Hope Richards

Music Director– Hope Richards

Pianists–Hope Richards

Kay Wise

FCC Praise Band -

Elizabeth Cline, Kevin Dryer,

Lori Layton, Joe Palan, Hope

Richards and Kay Wise