



The Marshall Christian

LXII

NO. I

Mid-December / January 2020

Elder/Deacon Serving Schedule

December 29 & January 5

Elders:

Gwen Clemens
Buddy Hannaford

Deacons:

Lin Alexander
Tim Clemens
Brenda Coffman
Hope Richards
Melissa Shannon

January 12 & 19

Elders:

Roberta Reed
Carol Schupp

Deacons:

Carolyn Buck
Jacque Dryer
Kevin Dryer
Ron Schupp
Katie Shannon

January 26 & February 2

Elders:

Jean Dowell
Wayne McReynolds

Deacons:

Tyler Clemens
Gary Dowell
Missie Kreisel
Amber VanDyke
Leroy Wise

Outside Communion:

January 12

Roberta Reed
Carol Schupp

January 26

Jean Dowell
Wayne McReynolds



“We’ll Keep You Close, as Always ”

I write this as I sit in my church office surrounded by boxes I have packed. It reminds me of the Michael W. Smith song, ‘Friends’ with the lyrics, “Packing up the dreams God planted in the fertile soil of you. Can’t believe the hopes He’s granted means a chapter in your life is through.” As a minister, I follow God’s call wherever and whenever it leads me. In our 42 years of marriage, Rhonda and I have lived in 5 states, 11 towns and 16 different homes. We’ve never lived in any town longer than seven years. I must admit that some of those moves were not what I really wanted, but they were always God’s plan. Some were just times when I had to say, “not my will, God, but your will be done.” So... during the 2nd week of January we will be in our 12th town, where I will serve my 8th church, after moving into our 17th home.

Each town, each congregation, each church family is a chapter of my life. I will fondly remember the ‘Marshall’ chapter of my life. Thank you for being a wonderful experience for Rhonda and myself. While I begin a new chapter in Kansas, I have confidence in you, the people of First Christian Church of Marshall. I have faith that the good work God began in you almost 178 years ago, will continue, as God’s blessings in your faith and work continue. I am honored and blessed to have served you, served beside you, and been

served by you for 6½ years.



In God’s Grip...and in God’s Love,
Pastor Loy



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.



Plan to join us as we start 2020 off with a fellowship dinner following the 10:30 worship service on January 5. This will be the final Sunday that Pastor Loy and Rhonda will be with us, so everyone is invited to be prepared to offer a few words of appreciation or share a memory of their time with us.

January Anniversaries & Birthdays



- 1- Ann Rea
- 2- Amber VanDyke
- 3- Don Kennedy
- 4- Jared Amary
- 5- Emily McDonald
- 7- Larry Phillips
Larry Wright
- 8- Jim Jackson
- 9- Doris Ash
- 10- Tim Clemens
- 11- Michelle Alspach
- 12- Sandra Miller
Karla Seigfreid
- 13- Tom Phillips
Owen Schroeder
Doug Swinger
Oleta Wilson
- 16- Kathryn Jones
- 19- Darlene Arnett
Brad Richards
Charlot Thornton

- 20- Jessica Parker
- 21- Alexia Bowlen
Megan Phillips
- 22- Roger Barnes
- 22- Adrienne Layton
- 24- Vince Buck
Madelyn Cox
- 25- Judy Frerking
Parilee Jackson
- 27- Jonathan Alspach
- 30- Linda Clark
George Porter
- 31- Missie Kreisel



- 1- Ed & Mona Baker
- 2- Chris & Lori Layton
- 20- Jim & Sue Ann Crawford
- 21- Richard & Lois Mencil
- 28- Butch & Doris Ash

New Members

McKenzie Vose joined the church by profession of faith in November and was baptized on December 15. Don and Ma-linda Swigert joined by transfer of mem-ber-ship during the 8:00 worship service on November 24. As you see these new members, please welcome them.

We will again be using the call mes-saging system if there is a need to cancel worship services or other events or gath-erings due to bad weather or dan-gerous road con-ditions. We will also be putting messages out through KMMO radio, 102.9 FM.



Congregational Meeting

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.



To those who washed windows, raked leaves, shampooed my carpet, worked on my smoke detectors, cooked food and /or brought the food to me- a HUGE thank you. Everything everyone did is such a blessing. First Christian Church Can't be beat!
Madelyn Cox

We want to thank all our First Christian Friends/Family for your well wishes, thoughts and prayers for our sweet girl, Alisa. You all kept us uplifted during her illness and recovery. God is good. He still answers prayer! She has improved greatly and is glad to be home and back in Church again. She is still weak but so very much stronger than she was. Thank you all!
Ed & Mona Baker



Thank you to everyone who gave our "Christmas Family" a helping hand this year. Because of your generosity, we were also able to help two other families who reached out to us for help. The amount donated this year was around \$1500! Wow! One again, thank you for being kind and giving servants of God. Merry Christmas everyone!

“Ding Dong Merrily on High”

I always look forward to the Christmas Season. I mean, what ISNT there to love about it? The lights, Christmas music, excitement of kids as they count down the days until Christmas morning, parties, laughter, and family get-togethers. And let's not forget all of the Christmas goodies and treats! And to go with that...stretchy waistband pants! But, with the good also comes the bad. I spend so much of my time trying to make the holidays special for others, that sometimes I can get lost in the bustle and forget to stop and watch the snow fall. This year was no different.

As I realized that Christmas would be here before I could get out all the verses of “Twelve Days of Christmas”, I felt myself go into panic mode. Trees to adorn, presents to buy, presents to wrap, decorations to go up, programs to prepare, costumes to order, cookies to bake, cookies to eat, (yep, we all need a treat), a house to clean and of course...more shopping! During this busy time I was trying to find volunteers to help with various church activities. I was frustrated because I kept getting “No’s” and, “I would but I don’t really have time” responses. Really? Not even an hour to give? Why, why, ...wait! I was saying the



same thing! Here I was trying to find volunteers, when I myself had not volunteered for anything extra than my normal every day chaos. Hmmmm, I did some soul searching. Perhaps I should volunteer myself. How could I expect others to be willing to give up their time during this busy season if I wasn't willing to do so as well? So, I signed up—I signed up to ring the Salvation Army Bell, along with my more-than-willing spouse Brad.

I will tell you the truth, I did NOT look forward to doing it. I had a busy day that Saturday already, and tossing in an additional hour of duties would surely turn my world all topsy turvy. Each day that grew closer to the Saturday where we would stand outside of Wal-Mart and do our “duty”, would bring more dread. I finally had to have a pep talk with myself and say it was going to be ok...an hour would go by, although it would surely seem like 12 hours, and I would be able to get done what I needed to. So, with much reluctance, that Saturday afternoon, I put on my gloves, coat, and best fake smile I could muster, and relieved the bells from Ed and Lloyd. Now I must say, being there with Brad made it pretty ok to start with...he makes life fun period. And at the very least, I was



getting to spend time with him. But I was not prepared for HOW much fun we would have. Within the first five minutes, we got to say “Merry Christmas” 15 to 20 times! Little kids would come up to deliver their handful of change, and look at us like we were Santa's helpers! Young and old gave. Rich and poor threw in money. Before I knew it 15 minutes had passed. What?? Why, this was going too fast. Brad and I started playing Christmas songs and making our bells tones synchronize with the music. I think we even sang a note or two. How could we help ourselves? We let kids who gave money “jingle” the bell...quite the hit! One little girl hid behind the corner, peeking out at Brad. When he waved at her, she

smiled so big, waved frantically, and took off running. Oh my heart! When Mark and Diane showed up to relieve us, I was shocked at how quickly it was over. I was even more shocked...at how much I got out of it. The thing I had fretted

over and complained about the most, turned out to be the thing that put me in the Christmas spirit. As for bell ringing next year? Sign us up!

May you all find the joys of Christmas, and the spirit that fills your hearts, in places you never even imagined it could be. Merry Christmas everyone, and a Happy New Year!

Learning and Leaning, Hope



Upcoming Sermons

Dec. 22 “What Love Feels Like” (Christmas Sunday)
 Dec. 24 “What Christmas Smells Like” (Christmas Eve)
 Dec. 29 **Loy on vacation** – Favorite Christmas Carol sing
 Jan. 5 “Follow God” (Epiphany & Pastor Loy's Last Sunday)

Isaiah 9:2-7
 Luke 2:1-16

Matthew 2:1-12

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