



The Marshall Christian

LXI

NO. I

December 2018– January 2019

Elder/Deacon Serving Schedule

December 30 & January 6

Elders:

Jean Dowell
Gwen Clemens

Deacons:

Cindy Brandt
Tyler Clemens
Doug Harvey
Missie Kreisel
Charles Marsh

January 13 & 20

Elders:

Kathryn Jones
Lloyd Bentley

Deacons:

Vince Buck
Julie Hoffelmeyer
Ginger McGraw
John McGraw
Leroy Wise

January 27 & February 3

Elders:

Ken Bryant
Virginia Bryant

Deacons:

Butch Ash
Gary Dowell
Doug Harvey
Missie Kreisel
Shirley Schultz

Outside Communion:

January 13

Jean Dowell
Greg Schultz

January 27

Ken & Virginia Bryant

December Worship Leaders:

Dec. 30– Paul Crews
Jan. 6– Carol Schupp
Jan. 13– Tiffany Thornton
Jan. 20– Jean Dowell
Jan. 27– Ken Bryant

“A New Thing” “

Isaiah 43:19 – I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

You’ve probably heard me say it before – God’s plans for us do not change, but they often do include change. God’s plans and ultimate purpose for us might involve us doing one thing in one way for a while...and then changing to do a completely different thing or doing the old thing in a new way. I know this to be true in my life.

Nineteen years ago, I was a college professor in Kansas. I had been teaching at the college level for nine years and had been at that college for five years.

Things were going great. I was chair of the education department. But I had also been a part-time youth pastor for 14 years. My involvement in the church had grown to the point that I was on the regional youth cabinet, leading the district youth cabinet, participating in six or seven church camps every summer across three different regions, and spending a lot of weekends on retreats and mission trips in addition to the time I spent working with the local youth, which met twice a week. I was also an elder in the church and would preach occasionally.

I was happy with life, even though I struggled to find a balance between the college and the church and family and my other

commitments. That’s when God called me into full time ministry. I turned in my resignation letter in April without any idea what God had planned for me. Three days later I was told about a church in Arkansas seeking an Associate Pastor to work with their youth. A phone call to the church brought about a trip there for an interview...which led to us moving to Arkansas and me becoming a full-time minister. It was God’s affirmation that obedience to God is better than me thinking that this business of following God is about me.



Beginning January 6 our worship services will be held at 8:00 in the chapel and 10:45 in the sanctuary. If you typically now attend the 10:00 worship service, it will begin with music and songs at 10:30, and the worship will begin at 10:45. Our hope is that this service will be more relaxed with smoother transitions and a more welcoming atmosphere for visitors. We plan to still include a variety of music, children’s sermons, and of course – communion. Although this service will not be as ‘high church’ as what we’ve done in the past, there will be a few special Sundays each year (Easter, All Saints Sunday, Christmas Sunday, etc.) when we will return to our more formal worship with the minister wearing a robe and stole, processions, more responsive hymns, etc. If you attend the 8:00 worship service, it will continue as is, but we encourage you to try out the 10:45 service also...because...hey, God is doing a new thing in us.

In God's Grip, LOY

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– Thomas Phillips
Owen Schroeder
Doug Swinger
Oleta Wilson
- 15– Dora Lee Shannon
- 16– Kathryn Jones
- 19– Darlene Arnett
Brad Richards
Charlot Thornton
- 20– Jessica Parker
- 21– Megan Phillips
- 22– Roger Barnes
Adrienne Layton

- 24– Vince Buck
Madelyn Cox
- 25– Judy Frerking
Parilee Jackson
- 27– Jonathan Alspach
- 30– Linda Clark
George Porter
- 31– Missie Kreisel



Anniversaries

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



New Year's Resolutions Sermon Series

The first six Sundays of the new year will lead us to a sermon series on resolutions – promises we can make to ourselves to be more faithful Christians. The new year and the new 10:45 worship service encourage us to make some changes that will be pointed out in this “A New You” series. The lectionary readings assigned to these six Sundays lend themselves well to a call for all of us - to challenge us to do our best in the year to come to make some positive changes in our spiritual lives. Three of the messages will focus on our commitments to the church and three on our commitments to Christ.

Fellowship Dinner...

Will be January 20th. Soups and sandwiches is the menu. There will be Vegetable soup, cheese & broccoli soup, potato soup, pasta soup and many more!



Thank you so much to all that came and worked in my yard. Also, for the delicious meals that were brought to me.
God Bless, Eloise Rutledge

Charles and Ruth Marsh want to express their appreciation for all the acts of kindness over the past months while Granddaughter Rachel was ill and passed away. We are so grateful for all the prayers, delicious food, cards and special thanks to Rev. Dr. Loy Hoskins.

Words cannot convey the sense of love I have for all the Church family. Your prayers, calls, the beautiful cards and covering for me here at the Church. I thank God every day I was able to help my family while we cared for my niece, as she traveled down her end of life road. Thank you for the beautiful flowers that grace my home, reminding me of your love, and God's love working in, and through, this Church family.

Roberta Reed & family of Joetta Boydston

Inclement Weather Policy



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 once again putting messages out through KMMO radio, 102.9 FM.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

This year our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will be held on a Monday 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.



The past few months have been a whirlwind of faith exploration, laughter, joy, friendships, and plenty of grace. We've had plenty of new faces join us, almost doubling our youth group numbers! Yet, Christ has remained in our midst throughout - guiding, leading, and occasionally pushing us.

In addition to much conversation and prayer inside the church, we've had plenty of opportunities to BE Christ outside of the church building. The youth collected and delivered food for the Food Pantry, visited community members in nursing facilities, completed yard work, and much more.

We finished off our season by hosting 'A Great ADVENTure' for children and parents to experience Christmas through crafts, lessons, story, and song. I would like to close this year by thanking the congregation for their support and prayer. Thanks to Chris and Morgan Roberds for their prayer, presence, and passion; to Dan and Cindy Brandt & Tim and Gwen Clemens for welcoming us into their homes and hearts; and to Loy for his support, guidance, and much patience.

Wishing all of my church family a blessed Christmas and joyful 2019.

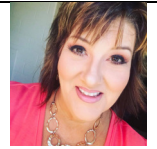
Grateful, Kris Milliron

Santa!

Well folks, it's almost here...Christmas day! The excitement for me is still as fresh as it was when I was a kid- I would wait for Christmas morning to see all the gifts and treasures left by Santa. Santa! Wow, what a gift-giver he was! As a child, I remember thinking how my parents couldn't afford to get me what I most desired for Christmas. But Santa? Well, that was a different story! And he never failed me. But, as all kids learn at some point, whether it be from kids on the playground, or a parent "coming clean"...there is no Santa. Or isn't there?

The magic of Santa, for most of us, is instilled at an early age. From that first Christmas, we hear his stories, go see him at malls, and even sit on his lap to get a picture. For me, I thought of him as someone who loved me and was always oh so happy to see me, even if it was only once a year. The sight of him sitting in his big chair, clothed in red and white velvet, laughing that heartfelt belly laugh as he asked each child what they wished for..that was Christmas! I remember wishing I could grow up and marry him..be Mrs. Claus! Some girls plan their weddings early. Me? I just wanted to bake cookies, wrap packages, feed reindeer and be married to Santa!

Santa had the kindest soul of anyone I had ever known. Cheerful, kind, giving, warm.



And anything done, was done with love. That...is Santa. I figured out long ago, after taking a few years off to cry over the fact that Santa wasn't a real guy, that "Santa" was actually something greater than the suit and beard. He was the spirit of human kindness. I wanted to be Santa to someone. I wanted to live a life that helped others, especially those who seemed to have little joy in their lives. Even if for only a day, or moment, I wanted them to know a complete stranger cared... like Santa.

Today, I am Santa. You are Santa. People who give, help, reach out, wipe tears, give to the needy, hug a stranger, laugh with a child, give unexpected gifts...we are the Santas. As this year draws to an end, I want to thank each of you for spreading the joy and love of Christmas to those who needed it the most. There is a saying- "Sometimes we are the only Bible someone will ever know". Sometimes, we are the only Santa someone will ever know. To me...they are the same. I will carry the spirit of Christmas, and the love of God, with me throughout each day of the year. I will give until I can give no more. It's selfish really. Because in giving...I receive.

May your Christmas be filled with family and love, and many "Santa moments"!

Learning and Leaning, Hope

Upcoming Sermons

Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.	
Dec. 30	"Paul's Lesson on Fashion"	Colossians 3:12-17
Jan. 6	"A New You: Be Part of A New Thing" (<i>Epiphany</i>)	Matthew 2:1-12
Jan. 13	"A New You: Live Into the Spirit of Your Baptism" (Baptism of the Lord Sunday)	Acts 8:14-17
Jan. 20	"A New You: Share Your Gift"	1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Jan. 27	"A New You: Gather Together in Worship" (<i>Blanket Sunday</i>)	Nehemiah 8:1-10

First Christian Church
130 North Jefferson Avenue
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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:

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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