

# The Marshall Christian

LIX

No. XII

December 2016

## December 4th & 11th

Elders:

Vickie Wise  
Buddy Hannaford

Deacons:

Jean Dowell  
Carla Fricke  
Phoebe Jones  
Tiffany Thornton  
Wayne Wise

## **Serving Schedule**

## December 18th & 25th

Elders:

Dan Brandt  
Tim Clemens

Deacons:

Cindy Brandt  
Vince Buck  
Dane Branson  
Missie Kriesel  
Tyler Clemens

## Outside Communion:

### December 11th

Tim Clemens  
Fred Hartley

### December 25th

Loretta Green  
Paul Crews

## Worship Leaders

Dec. 4- Buddy Hannaford  
Dec. 11-Wayne McReynolds  
Dec. 18- Wayne Buck  
Dec. 25- Dan Brandt

## Children's Church

December 4- Virginia Bryant  
December 11- Jill Buck  
December 18- Katie Shannon  
December 25-Tiffany Thornton



## “Advent Stillness”

Psalm 46:10 tells us, “Be still, and know that I am God.” This scripture speaks to me in a powerful way this time of year. It is not the only time in the scriptures that we are given the advice to be still. In Acts 19:36 are the words, “...you ought to be quiet...”, and Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:6, “Whenever you pray, go into your room (or ‘closet’ in some translations) and shut the door...” The Message Version of the Bible says it like this: “Find a quiet, secluded place so you won’t be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace.”

J.R. Miller wrote that it is the quiet forces in life that affect us the most. The sunbeams fall all day, unheard by human ears, but in them is a wondrous energy. Gravity is a silent force, with no rattle of machinery and no engine noise, but it holds all the stars and planets in their orbits and moves them through space with unvarying precision. The dew falls without a sound at night as we sleep, yet it covers every plant with new life and beauty. Nature’s greatest miracles come to us in silence. The wheels of the universe do not creak or moan.

Confusion and noise are man-made. In a noisy time such as ours, we must find a time of solitude daily if we are to hear God in our midst. As we now enter into the season of Advent, the season of preparation to again welcome the Christ Child, we

also enter into the Christmas season filled with so many activities and events. Although it becomes more difficult for us to slow down and be still, it is even more important that we do so. So even in the busiest times of life, let’s find time to be still and give ourselves the opportunity to know God.



In God's Grip,  
LOY

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service**

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



## **Salvation Army Bell Ringing**

Our church has been assigned Saturday, December 17 to ring the bell for the Salvation Army giving at the entrance to WalMart. Pairs of volunteers will be there from 10:00 in the morning until 6:00 that evening. A sign-up sheet is up in the parlor.



**VOLUNTEER  
BELL RINGERS  
NEEDED!**

*Ring a bell...help change a life*

## December Birthdays and Anniversaries

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  
Holly Malan  
Heidi Joliff  
15- Sherry Shannon  
17- Bryant Eads  
18- Karolyn Caldwell  
19- Madison Gaba  
20- Jill Buck  
Meg Kissner  
21- Emily Kueker  
22- Leslie Coslet  
22- 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  
Carl O'Dell  
Tyler Smith  
29- Barbara Champion  
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  
26- Ed & Ginger Reis  
27- Paul & Linda Crewa  
AJ & Barbara Utlaut  
David & Marlene Van Horn  
28- Loy & Rhonda Hoskins

## 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. You can bring your boxes to add to the stack that is being built in the foyer. Our goal is to collect 600 boxes by the 5<sup>th</sup> of December.



## 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 15.

## 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.

## Nativity Festival

The Ministerial Alliance will be hosting a Nativity Festival on Saturday, Dec. 3(4-7 p.m.) and Sunday, Dec. 4 (1-7 p.m.) at Covenant Presbyterian Church. There will be snacks served, hundreds of unique nativities to see, and entertainment on Sunday.



## Congregational Meeting

We will have our annual December congregational meetings following both services on December 18. The budget for the next year will be presented for approval.

## Purchasing ads at Mexico Lindo

In just over a month, an ad company out of Sedalia will be installing 22 new table tops with ads for area businesses and churches, at the Mexico Lindo restaurant. We are seeking donations from members who are interested in helping fund the \$1,080 needed to purchase the table top ads. We have a start on the fund raising, and invite anyone who wishes to participate to write 'table top ad' in the memo portion of a check, then turn it in to the office or simply place in the offering plate. The most unique feature of the ad is the inclusion of a QR barcode.

## Late December/January Newsletter

We hope to mail out the January newsletter by December 20. The deadline to have articles in will be December 16.

## Advent Devotionals

Advent Devotional Books are available for pick-up at the Good News Station in the sun room 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 by a diverse group of the church's newest leaders, *Partners in Prayer 2016* will help you see the everyday incarnations of God among us, appearing in the midst of our struggles and celebrations. There are enough devotion books for each family to take one.

# That's the Plan...



In a world that is full of hustle and bustle, someone like me looks forward to extra days off. Imagine my excitement when Thanksgiving was upon us, which meant Thursday and Friday were bonus days off! The Church office was closed and the studio was shut down for family time. I knew exactly what I was going to do with my extra time...rest!

Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. was the beginning of the Thanksgiving holiday for me. A week earlier I had decided to have the family Thanksgiving dinner catered. Not everything mind you; I would still make the family favorites and the turkey, but the main sides I would have brought in, freshly made and ready to be served without hours of preparation. I knew my plan was a fail as I told my youngest daughter about it. She looked at me as though I had lost my mind! What was I thinking? Why, cooking for two days so that everyone could over-eat in a fevered furry was a family tradition! I quickly realized my thoughts of a catered meal were not my destiny, and I resigned myself to the fact that I would need to make an additional trip to the grocery store. But when? My work day usually ends at 10:00 p.m., leaving little shopping time. Well, since I was getting off on the 23rd early I could use that time to go food gathering.

According to my well-laid calculated plans, I would be done with everything by 7:00 p.m.

I left work on the 23rd at 3:00 p.m.— my plan was to be in comfy sweats and house shoes by 4:00 p.m.. I would start making all the desserts and side dishes, and prep all vegetables I would need for tomorrow's dinner. I was going to get a jump on Turkey day! I scientifically broke down allotted time needed for each dish, each task. Could it be? According to my well-laid calculated plans, I would be done with everything by 7:00 p.m. and could enjoy the rest of the evening with my husband, curled up together watching a holiday chick flick ( his favorite of course!). Time to get this plan into action! I made it to Wal-Mart, but a late lunch with my husband put me an hour behind. No worries, we could still be cuddled up by 8! As I made my way inside the store, I knew I was in trouble. The aisles swirled with customers and carts, all filled with birds and stuffing, cranberries and potatoes. The holiday spirit had not

seemed to catch on yet, because there were no jolly faces, and certainly no pleasantries as shoppers grabbed food and waved coupons. I gathered the items we still needed, a slow process that was only outdone by the line that awaited us to check out. Just a hint folks, the shortest line isn't always the best to take! I should have checked out the cashier, or perhaps the items filling the carts in front of us. But I didn't. I filed into place and waited patiently, ok...impatiently, as one by one the customers paid for their prized items and left the store. My turn! No price checks, no coupons, no price matching. I made it out in record time! It was now 6:30. So much for those sweats and house shoes. I loaded the car and headed home to start preparing dishes. I decided on three new dessert recipes. Good choice, if time isn't a problem! I readied the eggs so they could be deviled, made the desserts, prepared the Cherry Fluff, the Cherry Pretzel salad, and cut the onions and celery for tomorrows stuffing. I was wrapping things up. I was pretty excited that I had finished close to my estimated time. Wait, what? Was the clock wrong? Had the power went off and the poor thing had to be reset? Surely...it wasn't almost 11! What had happened to the plan? What had happened to the time? Did the food really take that long to prepare? Why was my stomach growling

with hunger? Why did my husband look ready to pass out? And why were the dogs already in bed? It was true...it was 11. I fought back tears as I realized quiet time with my husband would not be. He came into the kitchen and told me how wonderful everything looked and smelled. He reassured me that we would have more time together this long weekend, so I shouldn't be upset that the night had escaped us. Tomorrow was Friday. We could sleep in, get up and have breakfast in our PJ's, and head out to spend the day together at our leisure. He was right, all was not lost. We went to bed, and I made sure the alarm was set to off. Yes, we were sleeping in! What a treat! Or, so we thought. At 6:00 a.m. my phone rang. "Mom", my eldest daughter's voice said into my sleeping ear, " I hate to wake you, but I have a flat tire and I don't know how to change it". I woke up Brad, we threw on clothes, me over my PJ's, and headed to the rescue. So much for the relaxing extra days! At Christmas, we are going to do things different. No hustle bustle, no last minute shopping, and we are definitely sleeping in! At least, that's the plan.

Learning and Leaning,  
Hope

## Upcoming Sermons

Dec. 4	"What We Do Not Need at Advent"	( <i>Second Sunday in Advent</i> )	Matthew 3:1-12
Dec. 11	"The Joy of Advent"	( <i>Third Sunday in Advent</i> )	Isaiah 35:1-10
Dec. 18	"When Christmas is...Not so Perfect"	( <i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i> )	Matthew 1:18-25
Dec. 25	"Isaiah's Christmas Announcement"	( <i>Christmas Day</i> )	Isaiah 52:7-10

First Christian Church  
130 North Jefferson  
Marshall, MO

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*Just a thought...*



**Visit the  
Church Website!**

Stop by our church website at [www.fccmarshallmo.org](http://www.fccmarshallmo.org) to check out upcoming events and activities, serving schedules, bulletins and newsletters, and information about our groups, ministries, staff, etc.

*We're on the Web!*  
[fccmarshallmo.org](http://fccmarshallmo.org)

**Church Staff**

**Senior Minister– Rev. Dr. Loy Hoskins**

**Music Director–Hope Richards**

**Youth Director– Kris Milliron**

**Custodians– Ron & Carol Schupp,**

**Larry Smith**

**Financial Secretary– Ken Bryant**

**Secretary– Hope Richards**

**Pianists– Donna Smith, Kay Wise,**

**Judy Morris**

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