

The Marshall Christian

LXX

No. 1

Mid December-January 2017

Serving Schedule

December 25th

Elders:

Dan Brandt
Tim Clemens

Deacons:

Cindy Brandt
Vince Buck
Dane Branson
Missie Kriesel
Tyler Clemens

January 1 & 8

Elders:

Ken Bryant
Virginia Bryant

Deacons:

Butch Ash
Tim Boedeker
Zach Crews
Josh Hoffelmeyer
Hope Richards

January 15 & 22

Elders:

Vickie Wise
Wayne Buck

Deacons:

Jean Dowell
Carla Fricke
Ginger McGraw
John McGraw
Jeff Wise

January 29 & February 5

Elders:

Vickie Wise
Paul Crews

Deacons:

Annette Miles
Makenzie Thomason
Lori Layton
Seth Layton
Wayne Wise
Wayne Buck
Wayne McReynolds

Children's Church

December 25- Tiffany Thornton

“The Christmas Search”

Christmas is traditionally a time of giving and receiving. We are often told that the giving of gifts is based on the story of the Wise Men bringing gifts to Christ at his birth. But the fact is that the first Christmas gift was when God gave his son so that we can receive salvation. Today we give and receive gifts, cards, greetings of the season and well wishes.

Rather than giving and receiving, the stories of the birth of Christ are, it seems to me, more about seeking and finding. The shepherds in the field, upon hearing the announcement of the birth said, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place.” When they found the child lying in the manger, they returned glorifying and praising God. The wise men from the East came to Jerusalem asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?” Later, when they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy, and they entered, knelt, and worshipped him. All of Israel awaited the coming of the messiah so often foretold by the prophets, but few of the people actually sought him. They knew what was to happen, but they weren't actively seeking. So many of the people in the crowded town of Bethlehem missed the greatest event of all time because they weren't looking for it.

In Jesus, Emmanuel, God is with us. He is with us always, even to the end of the age. The Advent season has been a time of watching, waiting,

and anticipating. Now the coming Christmas Day is a time to celebrate God's wondrous gift. The gift is there for all to receive, but it can only be found when it is sought. If you typically do not find any hope, peace, joy, or love in Christmas, maybe it's because you haven't been seeking the true source of those blessings. They are waiting to be found, and all who seek shall find. Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all else will be given to you. May your Christmas be spent in the joyful wonderment of searching and seeking this year.

In the search with you,
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.

Outside Communion:

January 8th

Ken Bryant
Virginia Bryant

January 22nd

Wayne Buck
Wayne McReynolds

Worship Leaders

January 1- Ken Bryant

January 8- Virginia Bryant

January 15- Tim Clemens

January 22- Wayne McReynolds

January 29- Paul Crews

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 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
Evelyn Wenzel
- 13- Thomas Phillips
Owen Schroeder
Doug Swinger
Oleta Wilson
- 16-Kathryn Jones
- 19- Darlene Arnett
Charlot Thornton
Brad Richards



- 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 Mencl
- 28- Butch & Doris Ash



Special Worship Times

On Christmas Day, December 25, we will have one combined worship service at 9:30 a.m. and on New Year's Day, January 1, we will have one combined worship service at 10:00 a.m. Please add your voices to the united worship on these days as we celebrate the birth of Christ and welcome the new year.

Tabletop ads at Mexico Lindo

An ad company out of Sedalia will soon 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 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.

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.



Looking Back at Our History

This year will be the 175th anniversary of our congregation. As we lead up to that celebration in September, we will include an article in each month's newsletter about the history of our church or a connection to the congregation's past. The following message was recently December 6th on our church website, and I found it appropriate for the first installment of this article:



I've wanted to write this for some time now. My name is Jennifer Conrad. My great grandfather is Harvey Baker Smith. My mother was Lynne Bennett-Wage. During our time in the Midwest and living at Whiteman AFB, my husband and I would visit the church during down times and look at the photos and visit the chapel dedicated to Harvey Baker Smith. I have many vivid memories of stories told by my mother of her grandfather and the impact he had in her life. That in turn has had a great impact on my life and left great memories of my great grandfather even in my life. I believe Harvey Baker Smith's faith and life has had a great impact in my family's life even today. His faith all those years ago has been handed down to active faith in mine and my sisters' lives. My older sister, Cynthia Jean Bennett, was dedicated by Harvey Baker Smith 60 years ago. I care about his legacy and I am thankful for the impact in my life. The last few years of my mother's life she spoke highly of her grandfather and Marshall and the church. I so enjoy visiting the chapel dedicated to Harvey Baker Smith. I hope to get back again for another visit. Please know that there are a few living relatives of this great man of God. Thank you. Jennifer Conrad.

If You Just Believe...

Once again my favorite season is here! though my happy meter always goes up 100 percent, sometimes it feels like a little of the “magic” has disappeared. Although I still love Christmas, I wish I could feel exhilarated about it like I did when I was eight. I am sure we can all remember the excitement of counting down the days until Santa would come. I still count down the days, but now it’s because I am trying to prioritize my duties and deadlines. As my husband said to me this past week, I have an industrialized Christmas regiment. Yikes! Not what I ever wanted my Christmas to be. For me, it started with my childhood, as it did for most of us as we develop our traditions. We were the typical struggling family where the father worked and the mother stayed home. There were not extras in the house. We were provided for and never went without. But Christmas Day, ohhhhh, things were different! There would be gifts from Mom and Dad. And of course...Santa would come and bring things that I knew my parents could never afford. Thank goodness for Santa!

Time went by, and Santa no longer brought the “big ticket gifts”. I was even told there was no such thing as Santa. But I still believed in him. Maybe not the big red suit with the white trim, or the man who drove his reindeers through snow and wind all around the world in one night. But...I believed in the magic of him, in the spirit people felt when this time of year made them a little kinder to each other. I may not have maintained the eight year olds wide-eyed excitement of mystical flying reindeers and Mrs. Claus waiting at the North Pole, but I still believed.

The years have not changed my mind about Santa. He comes in all forms now— buying a present for a child in need, paying a bill for a stranger, a cheery hello to someone you don’t know, a heartfelt tear as you watch a child in a play or recital. The magic of Christmas surrounds us as loved ones visit, mothers make holiday treats with their children in a kitchen filled with the smell of cookies, the glorious twinkling lights adorning buildings and homes. I had resigned myself to the fact that Christmas would always be special to me, but I would never get those small-child innocent feelings



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again. Or that’s what I thought..until this past Sunday.

Church had been cancelled due to horrific weather and road conditions. My husband and I ventured to our local Wal-Mart around noon to do some Christmas chores. As we were shopping, we heard a joyful “Ho Ho Ho” fill the air. Ah, the store Santa was making an appearance. He had only taken a few steps when a small dark-haired little girl, around five years old, ran to him with her arms swung open wide. When she reached him, she hugged him so tight that you could only imagine that she had waited an entire year for this! And indeed...she had. Lovingly, Santa held onto her just as hard, as if he too had counted the days to hug this little girl. Santa gave her a candy can as they loosened their embrace. I couldn’t hear the words they said as they parted ways, but I could see her smile. As Santa stood he noticed a smaller little boy sitting in a shopping cart. He walked over to him, and the boy hid his face, only darting his eyes up every few seconds to see if Santa was still there. Santa received no reaction from this child...until he started singing him a song. The little boy lifted his head, only a fraction, and watched as Santa sang “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town” to him. After he finished, another candy cane was given out. The little hand of the shy boy accepted his gift as, for the first time, his eyes met Santa’s. “Merry Christmas”, Santa called out, and turned to continue through the store. He made it only a few steps when a family with three small children went by. The children glanced his way, but kept walking past him. “Feliz Navidad”, he called out to them. They turned to him. The smallest of the three bolted to his arms and began speaking in Spanish. Santa...responded back in her language. One by one these three children spoke to Santa after first receiving a huge hug. When they were done, they left with their parents— their eyes sparkling so much that they almost matched mine. I wiped a few tears away as I watched this man, this “Santa”, share the magic that I had loved so dearly as a child. And yes, I felt eight years old again. I realized, the Christmas magic never leaves us, we just can’t always see it. Luckily on this day, I got to. But as my years curl around me like carefully placed ribbon, I realize I can hold dearly the memories of where the magic has been, and sometimes, if I am lucky, catch a few new ones.

Merry Christmas, Hope

Upcoming Sermons

Dec. 25	“Isaiah’s Christmas Announcement”	(Christmas Day)	Isaiah 52:7-10
Jan. 1	“Star of Wonder”	(Epiphany of the Lord)	Matthew 2:1-12
Jan. 8	“Baptism of the Spirit”	(Baptism of the Lord Sunday)	Acts 10:34-43
Jan. 15	“The Light of Epiphany”		
Jan. 22	Rev. Paul Koch, Mid America Regional Minister, to preach		
Jan. 29	“Beatitude Living”	(Laity Sunday)	Matthew 5:1-12

First Christian Church
130 North Jefferson
Marshall, MO

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Just a thought...

The Magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents
but in *His*
presence

**Visit the
Church Website!**

Stop by our church 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.

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,

Larry Smith

Financial Secretary– Ken Bryant

Secretary– Hope Richards

Pianists– Donna Smith, Kay Wise,

Judy Morris

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