



First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ

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Mission Message

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Look for us on facebook!

Volume 45

DECEMBER 2011



Our mission is to announce the Good News of God's love for all, by letting the joy of our relationship with Jesus shine through our daily lives, seeking to make disciples for Jesus, baptizing in his name and teaching toward maturity in faith.

Sunday School
9:15 a.m.

Worship
8:00 a.m. &
10:30 a.m.



“O Come, All Ye Busy”

It's that time of year! Time to buy the Christmas presents, plan that gathering with friends, go see Christmas lights, and did I mention decorating your house for all the friends and family that are going to show up this holiday season. We are truly people who stay busy. As I looked over my calendar for the month of December, I realized just how busy I can get during this month. This month is definitely a time when the appointments on our calendars outnumber the times we have set aside for self-care. It's a funny word; "self-care." I believe the first time I heard this word was in seminary. I would define self-care as; to care for one's self, to nurture our being, to slow down. The big problem with self-care is that most people don't do it.

Many times our lives are so busy being caught up caring for the job, caring for others, caring for Christmas, that we forget to care for ourselves. We forget to take the needed time off to rest and reflect. For an extrovert like me, self-care is really hard. I get my energy from being around people. For me to rest and take care of myself often involves spending time alone, doing nothing or just taking a nap. These are activities that terrify extroverts. We don't like being alone, we don't want to sit and there is always something we need to be doing with our time.

I can imagine that Jesus felt the same way during much of his ministry. In the Gospels we continue to see instances when Jesus has to go away and hide from the crowd or go off by himself to pray. I believe this is Jesus practicing self-care. For Jesus, there was always going to be poverty, there was always going to be people who needed help and there was always going to be a need for the word of God to be preached. But despite all of the demands on the person of Jesus, he took time for self-care. During Advent, I believe we should all try to slow down and rest, while reflecting on the meaning of this Christmas season.

In the season of Advent, we celebrate Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. It has dawned on me that all of these themes have absolutely nothing to do with the chaos and busyness that surrounds us this time of year. In fact, the exact opposite is true. Self-care is difficult anytime of the year but it is especially hard during the holidays; a time when we need it the most. This Advent season take time to care for yourself. Be still and know that in the silence of our soul is a peace that can accomplish much more than our busyness.

Merry Christmas, Adam

DON'T FORGET YOUR ADVENT CHALLENGE:

For each family in our church: To spend as much on donated food for our local food pantry as you would spend on your Christmas dinner.



Sermon Schedule

Sermons for December

December 4, 2011

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Title: "Giving up on Perfect"

December 11, 2011

Guest Speaker: Rev. Brandon Gilvin

December 18, 2011

10:00am –One Service

Title: "Christmas Cantata"

December 25, 2011

10:00am –One Service

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-2 & Luke 4:16-19

Title: "Jesus Wish List"

GOLDEN LEAVES

We will be meeting and having a potluck meal on Thursday, December 8 @ 10:30am. Guest speaker, Rev. Ed Peeples.

Advent Book Study

Our Advent Bible Study this year is going to be on Mike Slaughter's new book, "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday."



"This Christmas, cut through the hype that leaves you exhausted and broke at the end of the year. Instead, experience the peace of knowing that God is truly with us, the joy of giving sacrificially, and the love of a Savior who gave everything he had for us. In five short, engaging chapters, Pastor Mike Slaughter inspires readers to approach Christmas differently, and be transformed in the process."

Sundays from 4 – 5:30 p.m. December 4, 11 & 18.



Poinsettia
ORDERS

Order your poinsettias today!

Cost: \$10.00 Order form on back of Connection Cards.

Orders need to be into the office by:

Wednesday, December 7 by noon.



Congregational Meeting

Congregational Meeting
Sunday, December 4
following both worship services

There will be a Children's Christmas program again this year on December 11th at the 10:30 service. We will be practicing on Sundays, from 9 to 9:30. Sherry Krohn and Megan Davidson

Christmas Program



Martha Kimberlin
Franeline Parris
Frances May
Bob Raynes
Lorene Hocker
Jackie Dean
Don Smither
Edith Fournier



Our sincere sympathy to the families of Art Reece, Georgia Wrigley, Joe Hocker, Donna Cooper, Steve Jansen's father.

Sunday, December 18

10:00am

"The Mystery and the Majesty"

By Joseph M. Martin



Christmas Cantata

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 11-Christmas Children's Program- during 10:30am service.

Friday, December 16-Tree of Remembrance service 7:00pm

Sunday, December 18-Christmas Cantata-10:00am service

Saturday, December 24-Christmas Eve service-7:00pm.



MEMBERSHIP



Thanks to everyone that helped and to those who attended the Thanksgiving Dinner. We had some really good food and great fellowship.

Coming up on Dec. 11th. we are having a soup and salad lunch after 10:30 service. We are having a guest speaker that Sunday, so if you have a favorite soup or salad you would like to share please let Iliene Smither know. Mark your calendar and plan to have lunch with us.



DRIVE-THRU NATIVITY



We need you!! Please join us for the drive-thru nativity on Saturday, December 17th from 5pm to 7pm, and we need LOTS of volunteers. There will be a sign-up sheet in the sanctuary. We will need people to help with costuming, refreshments, and especially filling the scenes! The more people we have, the better! See Ryan or Megan Davidson for more information.

CHANCEL CHOIR

MODIFIED CHANCEL CHOIR SCHEDULE Please join us!!

Regular Choir Practice 7pm – 7:45pm

Christmas Cantata Practice 7:45pm – 8:15pm



INSTRUMENTALISTS WANTED!

If you play an instrument, we'd like to know! If you're uncomfortable playing solo, no problem! Groups are needed, too! We appreciate all of the musical talents our church members possess and would love to hear more! Please contact Megan Davidson if you might be willing to play sometime. There are plenty of opportunities for various instruments so please don't be shy! Any instrument at any level is welcome!

Disciples Women / CWF Christmas Brunch



Saturday, December 10, 2011
10:00am-12:00pm

All women are invited.

Look for more information to come.

SUGGESTED FOODS

Canned vegetables	Pasta	Pudding	Cereal
Canned fruit	Dry Beans	Flour	Soup
Canned meats	Crackers	Powdered Milk	Rice
Macaroni & cheese	Cake mix	Vegetable oil	Sugar
Peanut butter	Baby food & related items		

Food Pantry

Thank you for your donations and volunteering your time, this past year.



Volunteers are needed Fridays (anytime) from noon to 7 p.m. If interested, please contact Lyle Krohn.



MICAH

Our next scheduled Outreach night is Monday, December 12. We will be leaving the church at 4:00pm, returning no later than 8:00pm. If you are interest in attending, make sure Brenda has your name. We have a limited number of spots opened.

DECEMBER THEME

In December we will be focusing on the theme, “Who’s Birthday is it?”

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We held our wrapping / packing party on Saturday, November 19. We were able to provide 27 shoe boxes. This will be a yearly mission event for us. If you have any shoeboxes throughout out the year you have no need for we will take them. Also when you are out shopping if you come across a good bargain, please pick it up to donate. We will be collecting year round.

THANKSGIVING YOUTH FEST

We want to thank the elders, choir members and spouses for joining us and a wonderful fest. We defiantly learned what it meant to be a Christian family.



You can help the youth and recycle your empty aluminum cans by bringing them to the church. A wooden box for the cans is located on the west side of the church. In order to prevent loose cans in our bin, please tie all of your bags shut, before placing them in the bin. Thank you!

SPIRITUAL MENTORS—Yes, Sign me up!

People who are intentional about participating in the spiritual formation and Christian education of our young people. What do young people need in their lives-the wisdom and thoughtfulness of more mature Christians. Being in ministry with youth is extremely rewarding. Youth are honest, up-front, and excited about their relationship with Christ.

- Share your faith, building relationship
- Hospitality
 - These people really care about me here.
 - They really want the best for me.
 - I’m not a number or an outsider here. I have a place.
 - They know me by name and greet me personally.
 - Acknowledge me on special occasions. (birthday, etc.)
 - I’m being invited to be with them, part of the Body of Christ.
- Be present at rites of passage for youth in the church
- Pray for our young people on a regular basis
- Offer pastoral care to youth in times of anxiety and challenge
- Show interest and be a support person to youth for mission trips, summer camps, retreats, Sunday School, Youth Group, etc
- Set an example for young people in the way they live, worship, play, and interact with others

**BE A PART OF BUILDING A FIRM
FOUNDATION FOR OUR YOUTH.**

Questions, contact Brenda



**YOU COULD
HELP FEED OUR
YOUTH**

Thank you for your support! Please keep bringing in your receipts. It takes awhile to collect \$500.00 in receipts to receive \$75.00 in pizza. It takes the full \$75.00 to feed the youth group one meal. Thank you for helping us provide a good meal for these youth. The box for your receipts is located in the back of the church.

OUTREACH



KFC-Keep Funding Churches Bucket is January 1.

Adopt-A-Family Christmas Project –more information below

December 4-Christmas “Moments for Missions” with offering collected December 18.

December 11-Brandon Gilvin, Associate Director for Week of Compassion will be here.

Soup Luncheon after 10:30am service.

December 12-Micah Ministry



Families are available who need our help to provide Christmas gifts for their families.

A sign up sheet and names (as Christmas tree ornaments) should be on the wall in the narthex by the time you read this.

If you wish to give one or more presents:

Open your heart and pray. Pray for the families in need. Pray for guidance in giving. Pray that all the needs of the community will be met.

Each family has its own color for ornaments and corresponding colored sign up sheet.

Take an ornament from the tree.

Sign your name beside the matching number on the color coded sign up sheet. If you choose to buy clothing, sizing are listed on the back of the ornament.

Shop. With a Christian heart, purchase something that will give you joy as a giver and will bring joy to the recipient.

Tape the paper ornament to the gift-name side p.

Bring the gift to the church by December 14, 2011.

“Verily I say unto thee, inasmuch as thou hast done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, thou hast done it unto me.” Matthew 25:40



Sunday, December 11, 2011

At this meeting we will be focusing on electing the Chairperson for 2012 and discussing scheduling.



MERRY CHRISTMAS



“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” 2 Corinthians 9:15.

We need look no further than God himself to see what generous giving looks like. As we celebrate Christmas, the season commemorating the best gift of all; the gift of God’s son Jesus Christ, we invite you to ponder what generous giving God is calling you to. If you are able, give generously to the work of the church and the missions and opportunities God puts on your heart. If you are hurting or are in need, please let us know how we can help. Have a Blessed Christmas!



Disciples Women / C.W.F.

~A reminder to continue saving barcodes from Best Choice items plus barcodes from Campbell soup products. The CWF receives \$30 for each 1,000 Best Choice codes and this money goes to our outreach concerns. The Campbell soup codes are sent to Woodhaven Learning Center for their many programs. Thanks for all your help!



Thank You!

We wish to thank all of our wonderful church friends and family for the thoughts and prayers and beautiful cards during the difficult times with the passing of our mom. We truly appreciate each and every one of you!

The family of Lou Ella Atkinson (Holly Christensen)

We at Hope Haven want to wish you greetings and glad tidings this holiday season. Your continued support ensures cheerier holidays for so many women and children.

From the clients, staff, volunteers, and the Board of Directors...
Happy Holidays!



Thank you! Thank you!

As I write these words, they seem inadequate to express what I feel. First I feel I have had an outstanding group of people in my ministry group. No matter what they were asked to do they were always willing to jump in and do the job well. Also a huge thanks to all the wonderful people who provided children's moments and worship leaders. All did excellent jobs and were very dependable. You are much appreciated, Milly

AUTO CLINIC



**Sponsored by:
Colby's CarClinic**

**Saturday, December 17, 2011
9:00am-2:00pm**

The purpose of this auto clinic is for minor repairs, such as oil change, brakes, belts, hoses, starter, alternator, and tune-ups. The owner of the vehicle will be responsible for the cost of parts and supplies. Labor for repairs will be donated by Colby's CarClinic.

Pick up and fill out a Vehicle Maintenance Assistance Form located on the back table in the sanctuary. Take this form with you for the repairs.

Questions: Colby's CarClinic 380-3000



Births

Maise Alice Schnelle
Born: November 16 @ 2:41am
Parents: Gabe & Allie Schnelle
Big Sister: Mia



Disciples Men/CME

Tuesday, December 8 & 8:30am
Come join us for breakfast!!

SERVING IN DECEMBER

8:00am Worship

Elders: Milly Long

Deacons: Frank Long & Denny Long

10:30am Worship

Worship Leader: Jessica Gipson

Greeters: Doug & Judy Manning

Sound: Richard Smither

Acolyte: Youth

Elders: Bill & Mabel Maxon

Deacons: +Nate Mathews, Jamie Mathews, Iliene Smither, Shorty Hocker, Ryan Smither*

#Jim Emmons & Georgia Cornell -Dec. 18

+Denotes Deacon in charge *Denotes Balcony

#Extra Diaconate

Communion Prep:

Iliene Smither

Communion Calling:

4-Beverly Tinsley

11-Lyle Krohn

18-Sherry Krohn

25-Don Smither



Children's Moments:

4-Sherry Krohn

11-Jamie Matthews

18-Tiffany Harmon

25-Georgia Cornell

Musicians:

<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>Choir</u>
4- Jo Irwin	Jo Irwin	Jo Irwin
11- Jo Irwin	Jo Irwin	Jo Irwin
18-	Sherry Krohn	Janet Allbaugh
25-	Janet Allbaugh	Janet Allbaugh
24-Christmas Eve-Jo Irwin and Janet Allbaugh		



DEC. BIRTHDAYS

1-Gary Carroll

5-Larry Zeiler

7-Eleanor Bohannon

9-Seth Kenyon

10-Ernest Parker

10-Ron Raynes

10-Harold Roth

11-Richard Lawson

11-John Shepherd

13-Twanitta Barnes

14-Robert Kilp

14-Miles Wray

15-Jerica Williams

16-Frances May

17-Scott Fitzgerald

19-Don Moore

20-Phyllis Mathews

22-Sherry Krohn

24-Matthew Wray

25-Bill Miller

26-Fred Bouchard

27-Kaleb Kenyon

27-Gary Mathews

27-Rebecca Murphy

28-Mary Hocker

30-Matthew Hawley

30-Gary Smither

31-Ryan Brown



DEC. ANNIVERSARIES

14-Al & Joan Frock

20-Bill & Paula Nicholson

22-Andrew & Kelly Cave

27-Adam & Tiffany Harmon



The Thrift Shop is in need of volunteers. They particularly are looking for cashiers and or persons to sort and hang clothes for sale.

If you are able to donate a few hours to this ministry, please contact Kathy Schrock at the shop. 816-884-2279

Thank you, Mary Parker



**THANK YOU
TO ALL WHO
HELPED**

**DURING OUR
FALL CHURCH
CLEAN UP DAY**



December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

<p>4- KFC Collection 8:45am Elder's Meeting Congregational Meetings-following both services 4:00pm-5:30pm Advent Book Study</p> <p>6- 6:30pm Ministry Chairs 7:00pm Ministry Groups</p> <p>7- 10:00am-2:00pm Cass County Homemakers 6:00pm-8:00pm CYF Youth Group 7:00pm-7:45pm Chancel Choir 7:45pm-8:15pm Christmas Cantata practice</p> <p>8- 10:30am Golden Leaves 3:30pm Exercise 4:30pm TOPS</p> <p>10- 10:00am CWF Christmas Brunch</p> <p>11- Brandon Gilvin –Guest Speaker from WOC Soup Luncheon –<i>following 10:30am service</i> 4:00pm-5:30pm Advent Book Study</p> <p>12- 4:00pm-8:00pm Micah Ministries</p> <p>13- 8:30am Disciples Men / CMF 6:30pm Board Meeting 7:00pm Disciples Women/CWF Rachel Circle</p> <p>14- 6:00pm-8:00pm CYF Youth Group Christmas Caroling</p>	<p>14- 7:00pm-7:45pm Chancel Choir 7:45pm-8:15pm Christmas Cantata practice</p> <p>15- 3:30pm Exercise 4:30pm TOPS</p> <p>16- 7:00pm Tree of Remembrance Service</p> <p>17- 5:00pm-7:00pm Drive Thru Nativity</p> <p>18- 8:45am Elder's Meeting No 8:00am worship service 10:00am Christmas Cantata Service 4:00pm-5:30pm Advent Book Study</p> <p>19- Disciples Women/CWF Deborah Circle</p> <p>21- 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p> <p>22- 3:30pm Exercise 4:30pm TOPS</p> <p>24- 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service</p> <p>25- 10:00am Christmas Worship Service</p> <p>26- Church Office Closed Church Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>28- 5:00pm CYF Youth—Plaza 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p> <p>29- 3:30pm Exercise 4:30pm TOPS</p>
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FACTS AND FIGURES

Sunday, October 30

8:00am Worship	30
Sunday School	28
10:30 am Worship	66
General Fund	\$1,930.41
Used Book Sale	\$1,277.65

Sunday, November 6

8:00am Worship	32
Sunday School	30
10:30am Worship	67
General Fund	\$3,609.84

Sunday, November 13

8:00am Worship	26
Sunday School	31
10:30 am Worship	58
General Fund	\$1,798.29
Book Sale	\$40.00

Sunday, November 20

8:00am Worship	39
Sunday School	29
10:30 am Worship	71
General Fund	\$1,620.73
Special Offering (Thanksgiving)	\$307.25
Memorial (Joe Hocker)	\$80.00

Sunday, November 27

8:00am Worship	29
Sunday School	28
10:30 am Worship	61
General Fund	\$1,750.10
Food Pantry	\$40.00
KFC	\$14.00
Memorial (Joe Hocker)	\$790.00
Memorial (Lo Kircher)	\$25.00



RECYCLE YOUR INKJET CARTRIDGES

Note: At this time we are not collecting cell phones.

THANKYOU! THANKYOU! THANK YOU!

We want to say a special thank you to Mary Riemenschneider for arranging, setting-up and cooking the pumpkin goodies. Thank you to all those who helped in this ministry. We can never repay you for all your caring and hard work.



Mary ended up with some extra spice. Which she has combined to make pumpkin pie spice. If you would be interested, in a jar of spice, stop by the church office.



Elevator Operator

We now have an elevator operator available, on Sundays. If you would like to volunteer to be a operator, contact Frank Long.



The deadline for the Church Newsletter is Sunday, December 26, 2011

Please turn all articles into the church office or email them to office@harrisonvillefcc.org or brenda@harrisonvillefcc.org



Secret Place WINTER edition is available.
Get your copy today!.

October 31, 2011

General Fund: Balance in checking--\$8,774.46
 Balance in Demand Plus--\$6,424.05
 Memorial: Balance in Investment Savings--\$6,722.04
 Endowment: Balance in Yoder savings--\$1,455.50
 Balance in Mauck/Morse flex plus--\$19,491.95
 Income (year to date)--\$129,596.08
 Expenses (year to date)--\$141,571.81