



The Messenger

DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

message from THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

“He went to the church, and walked about the streets, and watched the people hurrying to and fro, and patted the children on the head, and questioned beggars, and looked down into the kitchens of homes, and up to the windows, and found that everything could yield him pleasure. He had never dreamed of any walk, that anything, could give him so much happiness.” — Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

Christmas is in the air! The inevitable flurry and bundling and prepping and wondering, has already begun.

But FIRST...there’s Advent! December 3, is the first Sunday of Advent!

The word “Advent” comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means “coming” or “visit.” During this season (which lasts four weeks and ends on Christmas Eve), we prepare for the coming of the Christ child. We ready our hearts and our minds for the new thing!

Nobody really knows when and where Advent began, but drawing upon Adam Adolf’s work in *The Liturgical Year* (Pueblo Books, 1978), we are able to sketch an outline of the origins of the season. It appears, that the first faint traces of Advent emerged in popular piety and custom in a variety of places throughout the world, by early fourth century. In particular, in Western Europe, Christians observed a period of fasting and preparation for baptism. In other parts of the world, adherents fasted to honor the saints and as an act of repentance (almost like a mini-Lent). Over time, Rome fixed the length of the season, the Reformation established themes for each Sunday (Second Coming of Christ, John the Baptist--times two!, and pre-birth), and ecumenical partnerships established more recently gave name to the broader themes of Peace, Love, Joy, and Hope.

Today, we use Advent as a time of centering, breathing, waiting, and hoping. Many Christians make it a priority to perform small acts of kindness for the stranger, to give generously to their church and other organizations of value, and to spend intentional time in prayer. (THANK GOODNESS we don’t have to fast anymore!!)

No matter how you choose to prepare for the coming of this blessed Child...know that the blurred, flurry of ‘too much’ or ‘not enough’ is not part of God’s expectation. Instead, we are invited to sink into Hope, search for the Light, and find our Center as we open ourselves, and maybe even the world, to some ‘new thing’ that is about to emerge (and note, like Easter, the new thing *always* emerges out of the abandonment and fear and helplessness).

“I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach!”
— Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

I look forward to sharing this season with you!

Peace, rt+

the people came NOVEMBER

Attendance and Giving

Attendance	10/29	11/5	11/12	11/19	11/26
Worship	71	104	91	86	101
Sunday School	32	43	35	35	33
Tithing	3457	7748	3705	5061	1371



- Eddie Davis
- Family & Friends of Armond Schelp;
- Gary’s father
- John Hodges
- Carl Neilson
- Jack Lane
- Jodelle Alexander
- Emily, Chris Boswell’s mother
- David Phillips
- Sue Wright
- Mary Hicks
- Steve Hicks
- JoAnn Preston
- Wade Ross
- Bud Mosby
- Kathleen Scroggham, Tammy Schelp’s aunt
- Pat Roberts
- Agnes Forson
- Carl Neilson
- Nancy Tennant
- Jane Sander
- Janice, mother of Steve Hicks
- Brandon Sander
- John Smith
- Ilene Blogin
- Ruth Weathers
- Timothy Dudley, friend of Mary Hicks
- Darlene Logan
- Dottie Babb
- Tom Fisher
- Valerie Lipari
- Hannah Neilson
- Roberta Lowman
- Beverly Sue Ryan
- Jim Holladay
- Karen Norton
- David Edds, Veronica Lara’s uncle
- Emmrie Stewart

Please notify the office for any updates or corrections regarding prayer requests.

note of GRATITUDE

Thank You!

Thank you to Farrell Morrow who donated a new American flag for the pole in front of our church.

to the CONGREGATION

Ministry & Announcements

Worship this Advent: A Christmas Carol!



What comes to mind when you think of Christmas? Maybe it's a tree decorated with ornaments, with gifts underneath or maybe you picture a child wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger? Maybe it is all the Christmas carols that radio stations begin to play 24 hours non-stop beginning at Thanksgiving or classic movies, like *White Christmas* or Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*?

Well, that's our Advent theme this year!

It begins with "Marley was Dead." What a creepy way to begin a Christmas Story. But it is Marley's death that triggers Scrooge to examine his life. But Marley isn't the only one dead. Scrooge is just as good as dead—his soul is as frigid as the bleak midwinter air. But by the end of Scrooge's frightful journey we find that Scrooge has found new life.

Advent and Christmas is a time to wonder if we are living in God's embrace of grace and justice, or have we succumbed to the numbing values of our selfishness and greed. This year, I am going to use Dicken's carol to help us tell a divine truth.

The chimes of the clock tower bells in "A Christmas Carol" provides a wake-up call for Ebenezer Scrooge and turns him from his resentment, fear, and isolation. He is born anew. That is the hope we find in the Christmas event. We, too, can be woken up and redeemed into renewed life, joy, passion, generosity, humility, and love.

So, join us this Advent/Christmas season starting December 3.

Deck the Halls!



'Tis the season to celebrate the Birth and prepare by adorning the sanctuary with the beauty of Christmas! Please join Local Church Life in decorating for the holidays on Saturday, December 2nd at 10 am. We SO appreciate the many hands that transform our church in His honor! Please contact Jana Lane if you plan to decorate!

All-Church Mission Project



On Sunday, December 3rd, the Boy Scouts will lead us in an all-church mission project following the 11 am worship service in Disciples Hall.

Movie Field Trip—*The Star*



Let's kick off the start of Advent together! On Sunday, December 3rd, we'll meet at the church @ 4:15 and carpool to the 5:05 showing of *The Star* at the Northland 14 (4900 NE 80th St., KCMO). This is an animated retelling of the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Pageant—Calling All STARS!



Youth and children are encouraged to attend the first pageant rehearsal on Friday, Dec 8th. Parts will be assigned and a read-through will happen . . . you won't want to miss it! The Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 17th, during worship.

Northland Disciples Youth Group



On December 10 at 5:00, the Northland Youth Group will gather here, at First Christian Church, for an Advent/Christmas party! All ages, 2nd grade through 12th grade are invited.

A Christmas Outing for the Littlest Ones!



Let's go see *A Charlie Brown's Christmas* at the Coterie Theater on December 16. We'll meet at the Crown Plaza for lunch at 12:00; show starts at 2:00. The cost will be \$5 per person IF we purchase group tickets in advance. So, please contact Rev. Trish via email at revtrish@fccnkc.org immediately, to let her know of your interest!

Longest Night Service



On Saturday, December 18, there will be a brief service of scripture and prayer at 5:00, where we will acknowledge the shadow side of the holiday season. We will find respite in each other's company and we will rest in the Spirit of the Holy One.

God and Church: Boy Scouts



Did you know, that nearly every Sunday, for at least an hour and a half, the Boy Scouts have gathered with their leaders, to learn about the faith? During their time they have studied the humanity and divinity of Jesus, his ministry while on Earth, and our call to live out that ministry through service, worship, and faithfulness. On December 31, these Boy Scouts will lead our worship services as they share what they have learned and will receive their award, during a brief ceremony between services. Please support these young men, as they carry the mantle of faith into their future!

Baseball Cap Collection



Baseball caps are being collected for the Jamaica Medical Mission Trip in February (10th-19th). Any size, type, or condition of baseball caps are being requested. Please leave them in the DCC Room. Contact Chuck Logan for more information.

December Board Meeting Cancelled



Since we have no Action Agenda items for December's Board meeting and no end-year financial reports can be available this early, it seems best to cancel this month's meeting.

Instead, see you at church sharing this joy-filled Advent season and all its wondrous events.

to the Disciples Women

Ministry & Announcements

Disciples Women's Ministry

We invite you to join us in Disciples Women's Ministry Monday, December 4th, at 9:30 a.m. in the DCC room.

Deborah Group

For our December 14th meeting we will be going out to eat to celebrate the Christmas season rather than our regular meeting in the lounge. We will gather at Ted's Restaurant in Liberty at 6 pm.

We will return to our cozy lounge for meeting and learning on January 11th. We are studying different Women of the Bible at each meeting. Royal women, wounded women, unnamed women, etc. There are so many of them for us to learn from! Questions?? Contact Vicki Kistler.

December BIRTHDAYS

and Anniversaries

- 1 Larry Moss
- 3 Eddie Davis
Adrian Fragoso
- 6 Donna Thompson
Wade & Frances Ross
- 8 Maria Rucker
- 9 Cassidy Boswell
- 10 Bob Seely
- 13 Audrey Weis
Avery Sander
- 15 Peggy McQuitty
- 18 Anthony French
Rick Lunsford
- 19 Judy King
- 20 Katy Cole
- 21 Lindsey French
- 23 Carl & Judy Neilson
- 26 Travis Kistler
- 27 Twyla Smith
- 31 David Ross
Chassity Stewart

time to CELEBRATE

Joyful News

On November 26th, we celebrated the Dedication of Rhett Kriekemeier, son of Lindsey & Robert, grandson of Walt & Jana Lane.

free lunch HOT DOGS

Served in November

- 11/1 852
- 11/8 860
- 11/15 960
- 11/22 Closed



nuts and bolts of MINISTRY

Who's Serving Where This Month?

SERMONS MINISTRY

December 3, Advent 1: "Bah Humbug! Making Change"

December 10, Advent 2: "The Remembrance of Christmas Past: Hope from Heartbreak"

December 17, Advent 3: "The Life of Christmas Present: Look Upon Me" – Children's Pageant during both services!

December 24, Advent 4: "The Hope of Christmas Future: Death-Defying Acts"

December 24, Christmas Eve: "The Redemption of Scrooge: Keeping Christmas Well" at 5:30

December 31, Christmas: "God Bless Us—Every One!"—Boy Scouts will lead our worship!

TEAM AND TABLE MINISTRY

Team 3A (8:30)

Elders

Christy Boswell
Mark Brewer
Bob Painter
Beverly Sue Ryan
Bob Seely

Deacons

Chris Boswell
Jennifer Finch
Lois Kuhlman
Debbie Matteson
Debbie Painter—Communion Prep
Twyla Smith

Team 3B (11:00)

Jason Sharpsteen
Jackie Stewart
Joe Stewart

Tammy Schelp

Care Calls for December—

Hospital Calls for December—

Coffee Service for December — Seekers Class

LAY LEADER & ASSISTANT TELLER MINISTRY

Lay Leaders/Tellers for November are:

8:30

3 Dennis Kenslow
10
17 Christy Boswell
24 Bob Seely
31 Mark Brewer

11:00

Jason Sharpsteen
Cristie Sharpsteen
Antonio Fragoso
Vicki Kistler
Jeff Tennant

Assistant Teller

Dennis Kenslow
Pat Hodges
Jennifer Finch
Lois Kuhlman
Marty Burke

Website: www.loveourchurch.org
E-mail: office@fccnkc.org
Office Hours: M-Th 9:30 am-1:30 pm

11:00 Praise & Worship Service
10:00 am Sunday School
8:30 am Traditional Service

Sunday Worship Times

816-842-2341

North Kansas City, MO 64116

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of North Kansas City

First Christian Church

