

**First  
Christian  
Church  
(Disciples of Christ)**

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# The Echo

Volume 13, Issue 12

December 2013

## **Advent Dates and Deadlines**

The Holiday season is one of the busiest times at FCC. Here are some important dates to keep in mind as we begin our Advent season:

December 1: Service with music provided by our bell choir.

December 8: Service provided by the choir, Lessons and Carols. Food and wrapped toys must be at the church by the end of service.

December 11: The MSU women's basketball team will be here to wrap all the other items. A big thank you to the bell choir for feeding them. We are still looking for two more people to provide salads/desserts. See Sarah Chaney.

December 15: Service provided by the Youth. Also, we will deliver the Christmas items to the families immediately after church. We will need many volunteers, so if you would like to do this, please speak with Mike or Dayna Seelig.

December 24: Christmas Eve service at FCC at 10pm.

**The following activities will be on hiatus during the month of December:**

- Feldenkrais
- Yoga
- Meditation
- Board meeting



## NOTES FROM THE PASTOR:

Sometime over the next couple of weeks, take time to read the lyrics of the Christmas carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem”. Phillip Brooks got it right - what is born in us is the culmination of hopes AND fears. Hope and fear are two sides of the same coin. God comes to us right smack dab in the middle of all our fear. The message is “Do Not Fear”. We are not to fear because fear paralyzes. During this season, we are to look to our deepest fears for hope. The Christ comes to free us from our fears when we honestly face them. We can trust our fear as indicators of where hope can enter in. If we ignore them, our fears just kind of hang around like a fog. When we talk about them, pray about them, look at them, then hope is given like the sun, burning them away. Let us not hide from the events of our lives or of the world; let us see the coming of the Lord in them.

Emmanuel – God With Us. God is right here, in spite of us and because of us. Because of God’s love for us, he is coming. Hopes and fears – you choose. To choose fear is to miss the coming. As the psalmist says, ‘even though I walk through the valley of the shadow, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.’

God is with us. This is the guide toward Bethlehem, toward Jerusalem, toward Calvary, toward life.

“Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel”.

*Pastor Malley* 

Thank you to everyone who is helping with the Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach. We wanted to provide some dates for those who are purchasing toys, clothes, household items and food for Christmas. Tables will be set up by Sunday December 1 for the gifts and food.

If you are providing toys you are asked to wrap the toys and mark the gift with the child’s first name before you bring it to church. Each child’s name had a number on the slip that you received at church. That is the table number where the gifts should be placed.

We are asking that all toys, clothing and food arrive at the church on Sunday, December 8. MSU’s Women’s Basketball team will be wrapping all of the clothing including shoes. Please bring the clothing and put it on the corresponding table with the family number. If you will put a sheet of paper with the child’s name on top of the clothing and or shoes it will ensure the gifts get to the right recipient.

There will be a separate table set up for the food.

Thank you again for your quick response to donate your time, money, shopping and delivery skills to make this year’s outreach a success. –

We also want to thank those who provided lunch for the People’s Clinic each week during the month of November. Those people are: Scharline Whidden, Joyce Hart, Emma Lou Gross, Etta Jane McCarty, Alta Blair, and Anita McNeal.

Outreach Committee: Mike and Dayna Seelig, Co-Chairs

The Youth had a great time shopping for the Thanksgiving baskets this month. This is a wonderful opportunity for the youth to be involved in the outreach programs that our church provides to the community. Before we left to go shopping, we talked about how thankful we are to have the blessings that we sometimes take for granted like food on our table and a warm home. They asked some great questions about how the families are selected and how they will pick up their food before the holidays. Thank you to Kathryn Rodgers, Kaitlyn Reynolds, and Chris Prichard for helping with the shopping trip. Thank you to Eric Carter for letting us use his SUV to transport all of the food. It is wonderful to see the youth, from youngest to oldest, work together to help others in need!

The Youth have been working very hard to put together a wonderful Christmas Program which will take place on **December the 15<sup>th</sup>** during the church service. Please make plans to attend this service and support our youth. They have a very important message to sing...oops, I mean bring (hint, hint). You don't want to miss it! Thank you to Pastor Molly, Chris Prichard, and Connie Kibbey for your assistance in preparing the program.

Reminder to youth and parents/guardians, we will have a dress rehearsal on December the 8<sup>th</sup> immediately after the service until 1:00 p.m. I will be in touch with you through email between now and then to provide you with the part that needs to be practiced.

As the holidays and new year are upon us, I would just like to thank the whole congregation for their support with all of the youth programs this year. It has been a blessing to be a part of the lives of our talented and loving youth who are growing in faith and teaching us important lessons each day.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mary Claire Williams  
Youth Director

This month we are diligently working and preparing for the Advent season. In the spirit of remembering what we are thankful for on a daily basis, I am thankful for the teamwork and community support within this church that allows for the staff and volunteers to both prepare holiday programs and outreach while still actually enjoying the season themselves and not being completely overloaded and wishing away the season for a break. What a wonderful gift to all of us and something that, again, sets us apart and creates a sense of comfort, welcome, and warm family festivity! Welcome home everyone, and remember: everyone can and should sing! (Especially now that I've heard you all and your beautiful singing voices in my secret stealthy "audition" during this week's anthem...mwa-ha-ha. The choir wants YOU!)

—Diana Knoll, Choir Director



During the month of November, our church received a check for \$230.30. **The cost of healthy food rises each month—PLEASE continues to re-load and use your Kroger card to continue to fund this ministry.**

For those who enjoy reading the sermon Bible passages for the month, they are as follows:

- December 1: Matthew 24: 36-44
- December 8: Lessons and Carols
- December 15: Youth service
- December 22: Matthew 1: 18-25
- December 29: TBA



### December Birthdays

- 1– Alta Blair
- 1– Stephen Brashear
- 1– Eric Carter
- 2– Jean Hoff
- 2– Karen Ross
- 6– Larry Fannin
- 7– Jami Hornbuckle
- 10– Michael Young
- 17– Pastor Molly
- 19– Jack Bizzel
- 21– Sasha Reinhardt
- 22– Jeremy Skaggs
- 27– Ryan Brown
- 28– Kathryn Rogers
- 28– Kristi Skaggs
- 31– LaRaisa Davis-Morris



**The church office will be closed December 25, 26, and 27 for Christmas. Office hours will resume December 30.**

If you would like a copy of any service, see Roger Fischer. We have a plethora of blank DVD's!

### Treasurer's Report

Income for November

*\$10,452.00*

*The average income needed to pay the church expenses is*

*\$9,829.03*

### December Deacons

Mary Claire Williams, Mickey Reffitt, Liz Reffitt, Fran Helphinstine, Etta Jane McCarty, and Charlene Bradford.

We made a total of \$1,156 from the silent auction! Thanks to all those individuals who purchased and donated items!

### SNO-GO

In the event that inclement weather forces us to cancel events going on at the church, we will publish those closings on WKYT's Sno-Go crawl and online at <http://www.wkyt.com/closings>. We will also post a message on the website.

**LIVING MEMORIAL FUND**—Glenn and Eva Johnston gave in memory of Troy Burgess.

### Mack Fund

In memory of Troy Burgess  
George and Catherine Burgess

### Children's Church

In December, the children will enjoy the Advent service activities, so Children's Church will resume in January. If you would like to volunteer for January, please see Ryan Brown.

### Time to Order Poinsettias!

This year, we are ordering poinsettias from the MSU Horticulture department! If you would like to make a donation or purchase a marble colored poinsettia with gold paper in memory or in honor of an individual, please detach this form, fill out the appropriate information, and turn it in to the church office by noon on Wednesday, December 18. *The church is ordering the poinsettias, so you don't have to order them yourselves this year.*

A donation or  A poinsettia

In honor of or  In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

## December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 Bell Service</b> <i>Bells @ Grange City                      Christian Church</i>	2	3	4 <i>Bells @ Faith Pres.                      Church                      6:45 Choir</i>	5	6 <i>5-7 Sanctuary re-                      served</i>	7 <i>Bells @ US                      Bank</i>
<b>8 Choir Service</b> <i>9:45 Sunday school                      10:45 Service                      Food and toys due                      Bells @ Hillsboro Chris-                      tian Church</i>	9	10	11 <i>6:45pm Choir                      MSU Women's BB                      team wrapping</i>	12	13	14
<b>15 Youth Service</b> <i>9:45 Sunday School                      10:45 Service                      Delivery after church                      5pm Elder meeting</i>	16	17	18 <i>5:30 Bells                      6:45pm Choir</i>	19	20	21
22 <i>9:45 Sunday School                      10:45 Service</i>	23 <b>No Board meetings</b>	24 <i>10pm Christmas                      Eve service</i>	25 CHRISTMAS <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	26 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	27 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	28
<b>29 5th Sunday Offering</b> <i>9:45 Sunday School                      10:45 Service</i>	30	31				

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**Rev. Molly Smothers, Minister**  
Diana Knoll, Choir  
Mary Claire Williams, Youth  
Ryan Brown, Secretary  
Chia-Ling Hsieh, Organist  
Michael Young, Pianist  
Sarah Chaney, Bell Choir  
Lindsey Morris, Nursery  
Katie Messer, Nursery  
Darrin Roe, Custodian

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The Youth shopping for Thanksgiving baskets.  
Photos by Chris Prichard.