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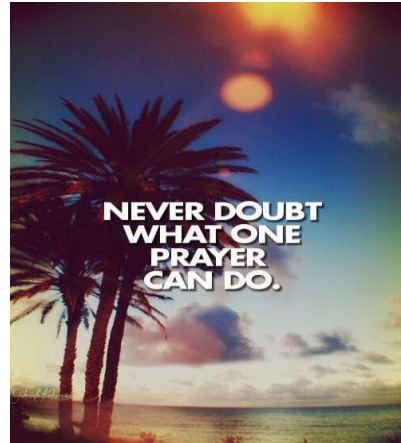
December 20 – 4th Sunday of
Advent - Worship online
10am Virtual “Christmas
Brunch” Fellowship on
Zoom
6pm Advent Film Festival via
Zoom – “Muppet Christmas
Carol”

December 24 – 7pm Christmas
Eve Worship on Zoom and
Facebook Live

December 28 – Worship on-line
with *Renee Galvin* speaking
10am Adult Sunday School
Via Zoom
6pm Advent Film Festival via
Zoom – “The Polar
Express”

December 31 – *Happy New Year!*

January 6 – Worship on-line –
10am – Adult Sunday School



... for **Scott VanVelsor** and for his
caregivers and medical staff. And for
the many family members who have or
have had coronavirus.

...for **Christina Griswold**, who has
completed her radiation!

... for **Judy Krueger**, whose mother,
Marcella Krueger is now on Hospice.

... for **Kathy Neave** and **Margaret Ann
Sandberg**, both on Hospice.

... for those ill with coronavirus and for
those grieving the many lives that have
been lost.

... for the work of the vaccine and the
return to health of our country.

... for **Oscar Pekombe**, in Mbandaka,
Congo, who has an injury that became
infected and has been suffering for 2
weeks. He appreciates our prayers.



Crusader

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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Director of Music – Steve Jackson sjackson@sandburg.edu

Secretary – Christina Griswold fccgalesburg@gmail.com

Bookkeeper – Lynda White fccwhite@gmail.com

Co-Pastors: Gregory S. and Martha-Jean Fitch pastorgreg02@gmail.com &
pastormj02@gmail.com

Vol. 74, No. 30, December 16, 2020



December 20, 2020

Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch

“I Believe ... Even When – in Love

Scriptures: John 3:16-17, I John 4:7 & 19

December 27, 2020

Message by Renee Galvin

“I Believe – The Time Has Come”

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40

Worship will be pre-recorded and shown on Facebook, our
webpage and YouTube by Sunday morning.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A “VIRTUAL” CHRISTMAS BRUNCH FELLOWSHIP!

Join us online via Zoom on **Sunday, December
20, 2020 at 10am** for a Virtual time of Fellowship!

It will be so good to see each other, share stories and
pray together. We will meet for 45 minutes – and
you can even come and go if you need to. Grab a
cup of coffee and let’s celebrate Christmas together.
Just click on the link below to join in on Sunday:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83279481500?pwd=NIY3M29yUGRiSm1wVGNxd3pNdVkydz09>





GET A SMALL GROUP TOGETHER & GO CAROLING!

How about getting another family or a couple of friends and go caroling – social distanced? Go to people's front yard or the window of a nursing home resident – and sing a few songs to cheer them this week. Need to know where to go? Call Pastor MJ for suggestions. Why not fill the

night/the darkness with music and the love of God?!

DEADLINE EXTENDED GET YOUR PICTURE IN!

We will be showing pictures and videos of our church family before and after the Christmas Eve service as a “Christmas card greeting”. So get your picture of your nativity scene or special Christmas decoration in to Pastor MJ by texting her at 368-5338 or email at pastormj02@gmail.com now no later than December 19!



ADVENT MOVIE FESTIVAL 2020

“I Believe...Even When”

Join host Misty Stecher on Sundays at 6pm during Advent to have devotion and fellowship

Sunday, December 20 – **Peace**: The Muppet Christmas Carol

Sunday, December 27 – **Believe**: The Polar Express

Watch movies on YouTube before or after our devotional time.

Click on the zoom link below to join in:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79000274281?pwd=akxZdUpnT1FFNTFlbXRyanFJOW9Mdz09>



JOIN US FOR A CHRISTMAS EVE TO REMEMBER

December 24

6:45pm – Pre-service

Music & Christmas Card

7pm Service

Lessons & Carols

Communion & Candlelight!

CLICK ON THE ZOOM LINK BELOW

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81876313537?pwd=cExndjZuWmRHWjJIMERjQXFURnQvQT09>

Beginning at **6:45pm on Christmas Eve**, we will be blessed by a string quartet pre-service music by Steve Jackson, Luke Acerra, Hannah Edwards, Jon Wellerdieck and Sophie Edwards. While we are listening to this beautiful music, our virtual Christmas card of everyone's pictures/video greeting will be shown. At **7pm**, our service will begin, which will include great music, retelling of the Christmas story, communion and candlelight.

You will need to gather items for our time of communion (bread/cracker – juice/water) and a candle and matches/lighter.

At the end of the service, everyone will be asked to turn out the light in your room and light a candle as we sing “Silent Night” together and see each other's faces in candlelight! We will proclaim once again that the darkness cannot extinguish the Light of Christ.



For those who are unable to do Zoom, the service will also be broadcast at the same time on our Facebook page – live. The only difference is you will be watching the service, and not able to participate live in the candlelight portion of the service. After the service, we will quickly get the recording up on YouTube and our webpage. Therefore, there are MANY opportunities for you to be a part of this year's “virtual” Christmas Eve.

In this unprecedented year – when we are all missing that “in-person” time of worship, let us give thanks for the technology that still connects us together as a church family – and for the wonderful birth of Emmanuel who is with us always!



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 2021 OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Dear members of First Christian Church,

The following is the slate of officers that have been nominated to serve our church for the upcoming calendar year. This slate was approved by the General Board on Dec. 8, 2020 and must now be approved by the congregation. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, for safety reasons we will not be having an “in-person” congregational meeting. Therefore, we are asking for your vote by phone or e-mail. Please review the slate of officers as presented below. Members may then vote by e-mailing the church at fccgalesburg@gmail.com or by leaving a voice mail at 309-343-9960. If you call in your vote, please identify yourself so we may track who has voted. Members who do not vote by voice or e-mail will be considered as an affirmative vote. The deadline for votes will be 5:00 pm Dec. 29, 2020. If you have any questions about the slate of officers or the voting process contact me, the pastors, or Neill Unger.

Chris Mowrer, Vice Moderator

Board Officers

- Moderator of the Board- Neill Unger (7)
- Vice-Moderator of the Board- Chris Mowrer (5)
- Secretary- Karen Bjorkman (3)
- Treasurer- Lynda White (staff)
- Financial Secretary- Jan Luallen (5)

Elders (for terms ending 12/31/2023)

1. Chris Mowrer (1)
2. Mary Runge (1)

Diaconate (for terms ending 12/31/2023)

1. Karen Bjorkman (2)
2. Kaleb Brown (1)

3. Raeleen Brown (1)
4. Janet Foster (1)
5. Candi Moulton (2)
6. Jake Runge (1)
7. Chris Wood (2)
8. Marla Wood (2)

Trustees (for terms ending 12/31/2023)

1. Chuck Boydston (2)
2. Ruthann Smith (2)

Trustee Emeritus: Larry Thurman

Ministry Moderators

- Elders: (will select their own moderator)
- Diaconate: Tracy Jackson
- Disciples Women: (will select their own moderator)
- Education: Misty Stecher
- Evangelism:
- Fellowship: Leslie Wilt
- Finance:
- Membership:
- Outreach: Steph Line
- Trustees: (will select their own moderator)
- Worship: Renee Galvin

(Note: for Elders, Diaconate, and Trustees, the numbers in parentheses following the nominee’s name indicates if this is a first or second consecutive term)