

«BAG» «ZIP_COUNT»
«NAMELINE»
«STREET»
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP» «PLUSFOUR»

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Anniversaries:

- 9 – Travis & Misty Stecher
- 19 – Paul & Jackie Esters,
Denny & Cindy Napier
- 20 – Kaleb & Raeleen Brown

Birthdays:

- 1 – Linda Bramlett
- 2 – Bella Nalley
- 3 – David Wilt
- 5 – Aaron Hossain
- 9 – Tracy Jackson
- 11 – Laura Reid
- 12 – Christopher Frakes
- 18 – Daniel Edwards, Marnie Herring
- 28 – Steph Line



... for **Jeff Nielson** who is being treated
for kidney stones.

... for **Mary Davis, Mary Gehring,
Jimmy Ellis and Al Bower** with cancer
... for health and strength for **Rosemary
Humphrey.**



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS – Dec. 3rd

During Coffee Fellowship on
December 3, we will celebrate
December birthdays. If you have a
birthday in December, you are invited to
bring treats to share.



Crusader

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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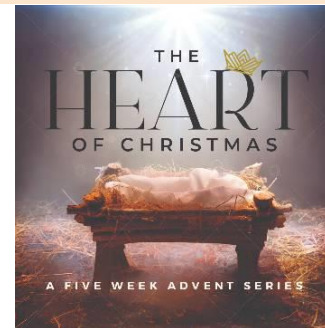
Dec 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

Message by Pastor Greg Fitch

“Hope is At the Heart of Christmas”

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7; Romans 15:4



Dec 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch

“Peace In the Heart of Christmas”

Scripture: Luke 2:8-14; Colossians 1:19-22

Worship will be in-person and on Facebook Live at 10am

SHEPHERDING MINISTRY

All Elders, Deacons and Caring Ministers

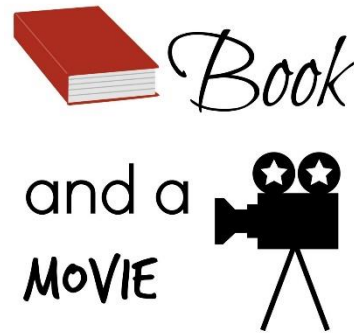
The Shepherding Ministry consisting of Caring Ministers,
Elders and Deacons will gather at the church in small hall at **7pm**
on December 5 for a time of devotion, praying over our pages and
signing Christmas cards. We hope you will be able to attend.



BOOK CLUB MOVIE EVENT DECEMBER 9

Our next book club will feature a made-for-tv movie based on a short novel: *“London Snow: A Christmas Story,”* by Paul Theroux. This little book is appropriate for all ages and is about 50 pages in length, if you wish to read it before viewing the hour movie. Reading the book is NOT a requirement, however, and we hope you will come to enjoy this delightful, little story. (This book may take a special library request.)

The Book Club invites anyone in the church to come view the movie with us (I hear there will be coffee cake). The date is **December 9 at 10am**. We will view the movie and have one of our very informal discussions afterwards. We hope to see you at this special Book Club event.



GIVING TREE DURING ADVENT SEASON

We will be collecting items on the Giving Tree in the Sanctuary throughout the season of Advent. The Giving Tree will benefit our own Blessing Box this year. Items such as gloves, socks, underwear, winter hats, hand warmers can be placed in the tree as “decoration” items. Larger items such as paper towels, toilet paper, cleaning items, personal hygiene items that won’t fit on the boughs of the tree can be placed under the tree. In regards to sizing, buy the size you or someone in your family would wear. There is a need for every size.

It is a blessing to serve our community through our sharing of everyday necessities we are so fortunate to be able to provide for our own families. Won’t you consider reaching out and giving an outpouring of love this holiday season?



COOKIE CUTTER CHRISTMAS – PART 2!

Our Disciple Women’s Council is bringing back a favorite get-together – cookies, coffee (or cocoa) and conversation on **Saturday, December 16th from 2 to 4pm** in our “Cookie Cravings Center” – otherwise known as Large Fellowship Hall. All we ask is for you to bring 3 dozen of your favorite

Christmas cookies or in three 1 dozen assortments. It’s your choice! Just take as many cookies as you bring. We will provide the boxes.

Also, if you’d like to submit a copy of your recipe, we will make a lovely “cookie book surprise”! Just drop it off at the church office or by email by **Monday, December 4th**. So let’s go ‘round the table and pick out our assortment and enjoy the fellowship that comes with! (Just don’t eat all the cookies! Save some for Santa! 😊)

Looking forward to seeing you there! And be sure to bring a friend who’s willing to make their 3 dozen too!

Thanking you in advance – *Disciple Women’s Council*



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE Sunday, December 10th at 3pm






Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who recently died; it may be a time that is always difficult due to lost dreams, broken relationships – ill health, stress or financial strain. All of these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and the spending of the season. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern – and to be reminded that we are not alone – and that we do have hope.

For these reasons, our church offers a “Blue Christmas” service on Sunday, **December 10 at 3pm**. We will have a time of prayer, music and candle lighting. Come and worship and/or invite someone you know could use some extra support & join them at the service.

Long-time member of the church, Don Billups, went to his heavenly home on Tuesday, November 28. Our deepest sympathy goes to his family and fiancée Carole Batterson.

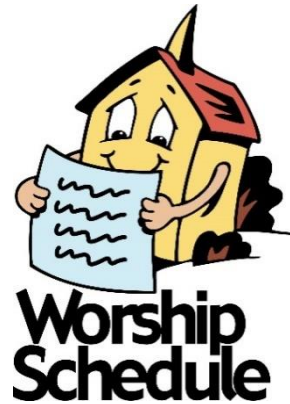


DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:45am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship 10am – Worship 11:30am – Disciples Sun. School	4 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous Newsletter week	5 7pm – Shepherding Ministry – signing Christmas cards	6 9:30am and 5:30pm – Bible Study 3pm – Worship at Hawthorne Inn 5:30pm – Youth Group 7:30pm – Choir practice	7 9am – Staff meeting 2pm – Worship at Knox County Nursing Home 6:30pm – Worship Committee	8	9 10am-noon – Book Club Movie Event
10 8:45am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship 10am—Worship 11:30am – Disciples Sun. School 3pm – Blue Christmas	11 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous 6pm – Council meeting 7pm – Elders meeting	12	13 9:30am and 5:30pm – Bible Study 5:30pm – Youth Group 7:30pm – Choir practice	14 9am – Staff meeting 10:30am – Disciples Women’s Council meeting 5:30pm – Men’s Night Out at Pizza Ranch and Ladies’ Night Out at Jimmy’s Pizza	15	16 2-4pm – Cookie Exchange
17 9am – Christmas Brunch and Congregational Meeting 10am – Worship	18 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous 6:30pm – Trustees Newsletter week	19 10am – Naomi Circle	20 9:30am and 5:30pm – Bible Study 5:30pm – Youth Group 7:30pm – Choir practice	21 9am – Staff meeting	22	23
24 8:45am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship 10am – Worship 11:30am – Disciples Sun. School 7:30pm – Christmas Eve Service	25  Office Closed	26 Office closed – Lorraine vacation	27 Office closed – Lorraine vacation	28	29	30
31 8:45am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship 10am – Worship – Guest speaker: Tracy Jackson					Note: Worship services are in-person as well as Facebook Live	Note: Disciples Sunday School and Wednesday Bible Study are both on Zoom and in person.

WORSHIP SERVING SCHEDULE

Dec 3 – Diaconate Serving: David Wilt and Leslie Wilt
Lead in Communion: Neill Unger
Offering Message: Leslie Wilt
Prayers: Pastor
Greeters: David and Leslie Wilt at North St.;
Larry Thurman at Broad St.; Don Mundy at
canopy door
Elders Serving Out: Steve Jackson and Chris
Mowrer



Dec 10 – Diaconate Serving: Chris Wood and Marla Wood
Lead in Communion: Steve Jackson
Offering Message: Pastor
Prayers: Cindy Andrews
Greeters: Chris and Marla Wood at North St.; David Wilt at Broad St.;
Leslie Wilt at canopy door



THE GATHERING PLACE

You are invited to a Dedication of our new fellowship area – “The Gathering Place” at **9:30am on Sunday, December 3rd**. There will be a short presentation, treats, and coffee.

We have a “treat schedule” calendar in the room and are asking for volunteers to sign up to bring treats, either homemade or bought is fine. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jan Luallen or the office.

Advent Devotional Books for 2023 as well as 2024 calendars are available in the office if you have not picked one up.



We extend our sincere thanks to Willa Jewsbury for all the many years she has served on Caring Ministries. She will continue her ministry of assisting those who are grieving but has “retired” from her other serving duties with Caring Ministers. And we thank Jan Lucas for agreeing to join the Caring Ministers – she will be shepherding those folks on pages 7 and 8 in the Directory.

THANK YOU FOR DECORATING OUR CHURCH

A special Thank You to Misty Stecher, who organized, and **all the many** volunteers who helped with decorating our beautiful church for the Advent and Christmas season during “hanging of the greens”. It was a great joy to be together as a church family working on the decorations. Everything looks simply gorgeous!



*Dear First Family,
I am terribly embarrassed that it has taken me this long to write a thank you note for your generous and unexpected gift card and for so warmly welcoming me into your fellowship. I truly enjoyed my time with you. You are a talented and committed congregation. It was my honor to assist you. You are also blessed with excellent dedicated pastoral leadership. – Forrest “Frosty” Krummel*

**SAVE THE DATE!
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS
AND FAMILY!**

**Christmas Eve Worship
7:30pm**

