

«BAG» «ZIP\_COUNT»  
«NAMELINE»  
«STREET»  
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP» «PLUSFOUR»

THE CRUSADER (USPS139220) published weekly except the week after/of Christmas by First Christian Church,  
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#### Anniversaries:

9 – Travis & Misty Stecher

#### Birthdays:

1 – Linda Bramlett  
2 – Bella Nalley  
3 – David Wilt  
11 – Laura Reid  
12 – Christopher Frakes  
17 – Blair Bruyn  
18 – David Edwards, Marnie  
Herring  
22 – Dixie Gustafson  
28 – Steph Line



... for **Shannon Edwards** and her son **Daniel**, for strength and hope as they are apart from one another.  
... for **Pam Whittom** and **Cheryl Siems** as they grieve the death of their dear sister Karen Jehling.



We thank God for the life of **Karen Jehling** as she went home to be with the Lord on November 30, 2021. Funeral arrangements are pending. Karen was a member in our church since 1964 and was one of our Caring Ministers. Please keep in your prayers her son Bryan and wife Amy and Karen's grandkids. To send cards, their address is: 1966 E. Todd Drive, Tempe, AZ 85283



# Crusader

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

301 N Broad St. Galesburg, IL 61401  
309-343-9960



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Co-Pastors: Gregory S. and Martha-Jean Fitch

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Vol. 75, No. 24 ~ Nov. 30, 2021



December 5, 2021  
Message by Pastor Greg Fitch  
Second Sunday of Advent  
"Find Peace in Your Struggles"  
Scripture: Luke 2:8-20; Isaiah 9:6-7

December 12, 2021  
Message by Pastor MJ Fitch  
Third Sunday of Advent  
"Find Joy in Discouragement"  
Scripture: Luke 1; Psalm 13



Worship will be in-person at 9:30am and on Facebook Live at 9:30am and later on Sunday morning on our webpage and YouTube



**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**  
**A Service of Healing and Hope – December 5 at 3pm**  
If you are grieving or struggling, if the Christmas spirit eludes you this season, or you just need a quiet, spiritual break in the midst of busy times, we invite you to join us for this special service.



## DISCIPLE WOMEN'S FUNDRAISER ON DECEMBER 5

Dear Women of First Christian Church –

In past Decembers we have stirred up batches of cookie dough, or made candy to sell at our annual Cookie walk. But not this year or last year. So we have decided to switch gears.

Instead of all the scrumptious goodies we would definitely enjoy, the Disciple Women's Council is asking you to "beat the heat". No hot oven door to open and close as you bake those cookies. Instead we are asking you to estimate how much you would have spent on ingredients, electricity, time and effort, and donate cash instead. All donations will be sent to Disciples Mission Fund to be used around the world. Our mission budget this year is \$1,000.00.

On **December 5<sup>th</sup>** we will ask for your donations to be dropped in the offering plate designated for Disciple Women or mailed to Carolyn Spratt at 1113 Monroe St.

Whatever the amount, big or small. It will truly be appreciated by one and all.

## MEN'S NIGHT OUT ON DEC. 16

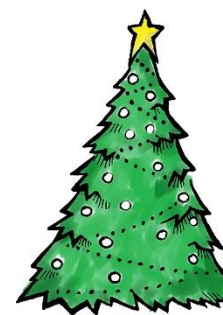
Men's Night Out will change from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday so the next event will be at **5:30pm Thursday, December 16** at Pizza Ranch. All men of the church are welcome to join us for food, fellowship, and a brief devotional. Everybody pays their own way.



## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT SERVICES

**Friday, December 24th at 5pm**

Invite your family and friends to join us as we celebrate our dear Savior!



## LOOK FOR THE GIVING TREE THIS ADVENT SEASON

*The real joy of Christmas,  
Lies in giving - not taking from others,  
It is the only joy that  
Increases by leaps and bounds -  
When you give as much as you can to others.*

We are all "gearing up" for a joyous Christmas season! We are reminded that Jesus is love, not only through His resurrection, but also His birth. One of the best ways you can reflect on the love of Jesus is by giving back to those in need.

You are invited to give to our Blessing Box throughout this Advent Season. Look for the "Giving Tree" in the Sanctuary, close to the choir loft. Place items in the boxes provided that are helpful during winter or to provide for a household as they struggle to meet day to day needs. It will increase your joy by leaps and bounds.

The following suggested list of items will be on a slip of paper in the sanctuary. This makes it easy to grab one and take with you while you shop.

Gifts that help keep our neighbors warm: hats, gloves, mittens, socks, blankets, gently used boots.

Gifts that help maintain homes: dish soap, cleanser, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, sponges.

Gifts that help with personal hygiene: bath soap, deodorant, period supplies, lotion, chap stick, nail clippers, files, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, & floss.

Gifts to help with babies and small children: diapers, wipes, underwear & socks.

Gifts to help make the season bright: cocoa mix, tea, devotionals, candy, note pads, pens, etc.

Christmas is one of the best times of year to be a witness of the love of Jesus. Our neighbors seem to be seeking more, hurting more, and needing more this time of year. The act may seem small to you, but it can make a huge difference in the life of those who are in need the most. When you seek to love others, you are living the true meaning of Christmas.

## BUCHANAN COMMUNITY CHORUS PRESENTS

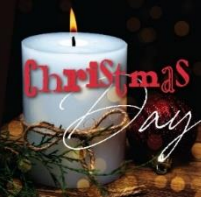

**"Welcome Back to Christmas"**

**Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm here at FCC**

**Free will donation. Masks required.**



# DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Note: Worship is in-person as well as Facebook Live at 9:30am</i>	<i>Note: Adult Sunday School and Wednesday Bible Study are both on Zoom and in person.</i>	<i>In person classes are held in the Conference Room, along with Zoom, at the same time.</i>	<b>1</b> <b>9:30am and 5:30pm</b> – Bible Study <b>5:30pm</b> – Youth group	<b>2</b> <b>8:30am</b> – Staff meeting <b>5:15pm</b> – 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary <b>6pm</b> – Girl Scout leaders	<b>3</b> Church Family Dinner & Movie – <b>5pm</b> meet at Pizza Ranch and then <b>6:45pm</b> “The Chosen Christmas Movie” <b>7pm</b> – Buchanan Community Chorus Concert	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>9:30am</b> Worship <b>11am</b> Adult Sunday School  <b>3pm</b> – Blue Christmas	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>1:30pm</b> – Caring Ministers  <b>7pm</b> – Choir practice	<b>8</b>  <b>5:30pm</b> – Youth group	<b>9</b> <b>8:30am</b> – Staff meeting <b>10:30am</b> – Disciple Women Council	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>9:30am</b> Worship <b>11am</b> Adult Sunday School	<b>13</b> <b>6:30pm</b> - Elders  <i>Newsletter Week</i>	<b>14</b>  <b>6:30pm</b> - Council	<b>15</b> <b>2pm &amp; 3pm</b> – Worship at Seminary Manor & Hawthorne  <b>5:30pm</b> – Youth group <b>7:15pm</b> – Choir practice	<b>16</b> <b>8:30am</b> – Staff meeting  <b>5:30pm</b> – Men’s Night Out at Pizza Ranch	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>8:30am</b> – Christmas Continental Breakfast <b>9:30am</b> Worship <b>11am</b> Adult Sunday School <b>4pm</b> – Children’s Christmas Program	<b>20</b> <b>7pm</b> - Trustees  <i>Newsletter Week</i>	<b>21</b>  <b>7pm</b> – The Weekend - Cluster	<b>22</b> <b>5:30pm</b> – Children’s “Happy Birthday Jesus” party <b>7:15pm</b> – Choir practice <b>7:15pm</b> – Historical Society	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>5pm</b> – Christmas Eve Service  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>25</b> 
<b>26</b> <b>9:30am</b> Worship <b>11am</b> Adult Sunday School	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	



SERVING SCHEDULE			
	DIACONATE	COMMUNION	OFFERING
DEC 5	Candi Moulton Janet Foster	Cindy Andrews	Tina Burns
DEC 12	Chris Wood Marla Wood	Chris Mowrer	Misty Stecher
DEC 19	David Wilt Leslie Wilt	Mary Runge	Steve Spicher
DEC 26	Jake Runge Earlene Crouse	Neill Unger	Carolyn Spratt

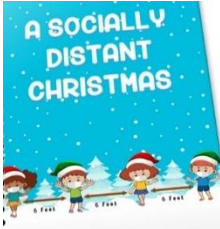
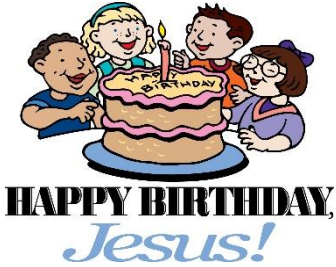


**ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS  
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 AT 8:30am**

Join us for a catered All Church Christmas Continental Breakfast on **December 19 at 8:30am.** Following the breakfast, the nominating committee will present the slate of nominees for upcoming year.

**“HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS”  
CHRISTMAS PARTY  
DECEMBER 22 AT 5:30pm**

The youth group will have a “Happy Birthday Jesus” Party on **December 22 at 5:30pm.** All youth are invited to attend a party to celebrate the Real Reason for the Season!



**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM!**

*“A Socially Distant Christmas”*  
Make plans now for the upcoming Children’s Christmas Program coming on **December 19 at 4pm.** You won’t want to miss it!

**THANK YOU FOR DECORATING OUR  
CHURCH**

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



**“CHRISTMAS WITH THE CHOSEN –  
THE MESSENGERS”**

Church Family Dinner and a Movie! On **Friday, December 3 at 5pm** we will have supper at Pizza Ranch together and then attend the movie: "Christmas with the Chosen - The Messengers" at the AMC Theater in Galesburg at **6:45pm.** Join us for just supper or just the movie or both! Tickets are \$12.50 each and are still available for this date. Other show dates available are **Dec. 4** at 1:00pm, 3:55pm or 6:45pm; **Dec. 5** at 1:30pm or 3:55pm; and **Dec. 6-9** at 3:55pm or 6:45pm. Tickets can be purchased at [www.fathomevents.com/events/The-Chosen-Christmas](http://www.fathomevents.com/events/The-Chosen-Christmas). What a great way to begin our Advent celebration - Rediscover the birth of Christ!

Dear church family –  
Thank you for all your kindnesses and prayers for Jim and our family. We were sustained by God through each of you. – *Diane and girls*