

ADVENT
Special Edition
2018

The
CHRISTIAN
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
Visitor



Advent Worship: Something Unique & Special Each Sunday

Even though our Advent Worship will be grounded by the traditional themes of hope, peace, joy, and love, each week holds something very special and unique:

Advent 1 (December 2): We join all those who, throughout the ages, have yearned for a Savior who will come to redeem this broken world. Anthems, hymns, ancient prophetic voices, and the verses of the hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” will provide shape and substance to this very special service of Advent Lessons and Carols.

Advent 2 (December 9): Mark Knowles will offer his reflections on Hebrews 11:1-2, 32-40. This will be our last opportunity to hear Mark preach before he and Danielle begin their three

year assignment as Global Mission Co-workers in Lesotho (Africa).

Advent 3 (December 16): On this day, as we commission Mark and Danielle to witness to Christ’s love through their work with Global Ministries. Pastor Helen will reflect on the shepherds’ commission to go to Bethlehem to witness God’s love revealed in the Christ child. (Luke 2:15-18). This service will include a special time of prayer for Mark, Danielle, FCC, and the ministries of the wider church. Marco Cable, Area Executive for the Africa Desk of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, will be our special guest. Following worship, there will be a pitch-in meal that will give us an opportunity to send off Mark and Danielle in a fun and festive way.

Advent 4 (December 23): On the 200th Anniversary of the writing of the beloved carol *Silent Night*, Pastor Helen will reflect on some of the key phrases from this most cherished carol. Her hope is that as we sing *Silent Night* on Christmas Eve, our joy will run deeper still as we anticipate the coming of “heavenly peace.”

HOPE
Joy Love
Peace



Sunday, December 2

First Sunday of Advent

Lessons and Carols based on the "O Antiphons"

Sunday, December 9

Second Sunday of Advent

Text: Hebrews 11:1-2, 32-40

Sunday, December 16

Third Sunday of Advent

Commissioning Service for Mark Knowles and

Danielle Murry-Knowles

Text: Luke 2:15-18

Sunday, December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Text: Excerpts from Matthew and Luke

Telling of the story of Jesus' birth

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve

5:30 pm Family Service with Candlelight

7:30 pm Seasonal Concert:

Vivaldi - "Magnificat"

8:00 pm Candlelight Service with

Communion

Please join us this Advent season as we prepare for the birth of Christ through worship, reflection, music and celebration. More information about our special events can be found on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter.

**Christmas Special Day Offering
December 16 & 23**

Disciples Mission Fund Special Day Offerings provide an opportunity to highlight specific ministries as part of our faith celebrations. **The Christmas Special Day offering that will be received on December 16 and 23 supports the many important ministries of our regions.** [Please give generously to this year's Christmas Offering.](#)

Pastor's Pen
Helen's "How To" Guide to the Season(s)

Believe it or not, the Christmas Season* is **NOT** upon us, but two other seasons are: The Advent Season and the Holiday Season. Advent, marked by Christians around the world as the beginning of the church year, gives us opportunity to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. It calls for quiet contemplation, hope-filled waiting and praying, and intentional watching for signs of Divine Light that, even now, pierces the darkness of this fragile world.

In contrast, the Holiday Season (aka "The Holidays") calls for an increase in activity that discourages us from carving out times for quiet waiting and watching. Indeed, as we immerse ourselves in the festivities (and the busy-ness!) of the season, I frequently hear the mantra "so much to do, so little time."

As Christians, we can find it challenging to simultaneously navigate the clashing cultures and competing expectations of both Advent and "The Holidays." So, back by popular demand, I'm offering my (revised) guide designed to help you celebrate both seasons. It has helped me, and I hope it does the same for you!

- When you find yourself waiting in a line or in traffic, practice peace: breathe deeply and offer a quiet prayer for those in front of you and behind you.
- When you feel yourself becoming impatient or angry with someone, practice gratitude as you refocus your thoughts and attention on what brings you joy.
- Carve out just 3 minutes in the middle of your day (and set a reminder alarm) to pray for peace: peace in this world, peace for somebody you know, peace within your own heart.
- Get real: admit that life is not all "jingle bells." Then, instead of wishing that your life looks like a Norman Rockwell illustration, name its brokenness as you the refrain of Leonard Cohen's anthem.

Anthem:

Ring the bells that still can ring; Forget your perfect offering.
There is a crack in everything; That's how the light gets in.

- Get up early enough to watch the sunrise. As you acknowledge the reality of the world's darkness, watch the landscape change as the light begins to dispels the shadows. And hope!
- Pray for the hungry, and the homeless, and the refugee. Then feed and clothe and provide for them. That's how prayer works.
- Pay attention to the profound and hope-filled words of the Advent Carols that we will sing in worship. Because they are not "holly jolly" fluff, they will ground you in the deep, deep joy that comes as we wait expectantly for the coming of Christ.
- Rejoice, for Christ WILL come!

Advent Blessings,


Pastor Helen

*For Christians, the Christmas Season begins December 25 and continues until Epiphany, January 6.

**ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS
BASED ON THE GREAT “O ANTIPHONS”**

Sunday Morning – December 2

As we know, Advent is a season of expectation: the word itself means ‘coming’. It recalls ancient Israel’s hope for the advent of the Messiah, God’s Anointed One, a new King David. It also expresses the Christian hope for the fulfillment of God’s Kingdom and the expectation of God’s presence in human history. It celebrates Christ’s coming to lead the world from darkness to light.

This year, on the first Sunday of Advent – December 2 – we will again worship with an Advent Lessons and Carols Service. The seven lessons and seven carols at this service are chosen and organized around the so-called “Great O Antiphons,” a series of chants that were sung along with the *Magnificat* at Vespers on the seven nights before Christmas Eve. Each antiphon is a prayer for deliverance, and they all begin by addressing the Messiah by one of the prophetic titles found in the Old Testament:

O Sapientia (Wisdom)

O Wisdom, you came from the lips of God the most high,
Pervading and permeating all creation,
powerfully and gently ordering all things:
Come and teach us the way of prudence.

O Adonai (Sacred Lord)

O Adonai and Ruler of the house of Israel,
Who appeared to Moses in the flame of the burning bush
and gave him the Law on Sinai:
Come with your outstretched arm to redeem us.

O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse)

O Root of Jesse, who stands for as a sign to the peoples,
Before whom kings are silent and to whom the nations
pray with longing:
Come quickly to deliver us.

O Clavis David (Key of David)

O Key of David, ruler of the house of Israel,
You open and no one can shut;
You shut and no one can open:
Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and
in the shadow of death.

O Oriens (Dayspring)

O Dayspring, Splendor of Light everlasting:
You are the dawning sun, the Sun of justice.
Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the
shadow of death.

O Rex Genitum (King of the nations)

O King of the nations and fulfillment of their longing
You are the Cornerstone uniting all people;
you formed us from primeval clay..
Come and save us all.

O Emmanuel (God with us)

O Emmanuel, our King and giver of the law,
the people await you, their Savior:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

These so-called “O antiphons” – seasonal sentences sung before and after scripture - embed a striking acrostic: read in inverse order from last to first, the second letter of each antiphon spells out the words ERO CRAS, which in Latin means “tomorrow I will be with you.” The verses of the familiar carol *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* are derived from these antiphons and will be sung by the congregation as an introduction to each lesson.



Monroe County United Ministries
Meeting the Needs of Our Neighbors for Nearly 80 Years

It's that time of year when we're full of good cheer and many of us are expectantly looking forward to Christmas; but, what if we were unable to put food on the table? For nearly 80 years, we at FCC have helped support Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) with donations of money from the church, our congregants, and held food drives for their emergency pantry.

MCUM started out as a daycare facility. Later a food pantry and Opportunity House were added. Today MCUM clients on their first visit, meet with a coach to create a game plan to bring financial stability to their home. Resources include a Self-Sufficiency Center, a Food Pantry, Opportunity House for clothing and household items, and Compass Early Learning Center which is open in two locations and provides daycare on a sliding scale. MCUM's 30-year goal, recently implemented by its board, is to end generational poverty for its clients. **How could you not want to be a part of that?**

Over the years, MCUM provided the first pre-school facility, the first emergency shelter for the homeless, and was one of the first social service organizations in the county. Before becoming agencies of their own, Head Start and Community Kitchen had their beginnings at MCUM.

Each year during the Sundays in Advent, we mound together canned goods and cleaning supplies on the chancel. It is fun watching the mound grow as we go through the month of December. Please help us have a banner year by bringing in a gift each Sunday to place on the chancel, (see a wish list below) Monetary gifts are also accepted. You may make out a check to First Christian Church and write MCUM on the memo line. Please be generous as the need in Monroe County continues to escalate.

Natalie Garshaw, MCUM board member

MCUM Wish List of Current Needs:

Canned: Carrots, potatoes, mixed veggies, tomatoes, pasta sauce, fruit

Pasta

Baking Mixes: Jiffy, Bisquick

Personal Items: Razors, men's deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, tissues

Cleaning Supplies: All-purpose cleaners

Childcare: Christmas or winter themed crafts, tissue paper, paper plates, fabric for bulletin boards, old calendars with pictures, glitter, pine cones, cotton balls, clear plastic ornaments

Holiday GIVING

3 Ways to Share this Season

1

Shop & Share for MCUM on Sunday, Dec. 2, from 11:15-1:30-ish
FCC has committed to sponsor 3 families from Monroe County United Ministries' Compass Early Learning Center. The family members (11 individuals) have shared with us their Christmas wish lists. So on December 2 (after a pizza lunch) children, youth and families divide into groups, hit the stores, and make a few wishes come true. *Note: Funds for this annual event come from offerings collected weekly during Sunday morning learning hours.*

Bring food and cleaning supplies for MCUM's Self-Sufficiency Center

Each Sunday throughout Advent (Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23), children will carry supplies onto the Chancel to lay before the manger. This simple and symbolic act reminds us all that the gift of love we receive at Christmas is meant to be shared with others in concrete ways. *Plus, it helps FCC meet its annual goal of donating a ton (2000 lbs.) of goods to MCUM,* while also helping MCUM get off to a positive start in the new year.

2

3

Join FCC Carolers on Sunday, Dec. 16, at 4:00 p.m.

Ill health and winter weather keep some of our friends indoors for much of the winter, including the Advent season, when they would love to be at church. So we take church to them! Singing carols is a great way to create connections and shared memories between young and old. After caroling we meet up at a local restaurant for more fellowship over a hot meal. *Time can be as great a gift as money or things.*

Welcome New Members!

Please welcome our newest members, Chuck Rhoads and Chuck Jones, who joined FCC on Sunday, November 18.

Chuck Rhoads moved here a year ago from Martinsville, where he was a member of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Martinsville. He is skilled with his hands, having built and/or remodeled many homes over the years. The father of two sons who live in New Castle, he also enjoys being a grandfather.

He and his guiding companion Bertha (who helps him live independently without the use of his eyes) enjoy exploring Bloomington by foot. Chuck especially appreciates this city for its walkability, culture, and (except for Sundays) access to public transportation. He also appreciates being offered rides to church, because there are no buses on Sunday! His address is 1525 W. 7th Street, Bloomington, 47404.

Chuck Jones moved here this Fall from Atlanta, Georgia, where he has lived most of his life. Chuck is a former pastor, who recently retired from a second career in marketing. He moved here to be near family—and because during family visits through the years he fell in love with Bloomington.

Chuck is a credentialed Disciples minister who has done supply preaching and interim ministry in the Georgia region. His two children live in Atlanta and in Dallas, Texas. Chuck loves music, literature, great restaurants, sports cars and studying biblical theology. His address is 2615 E. Second Street, Apt. 5, Bloomington, 47401.

Meet the Architect on December 2

On Sunday December 2, David Allen, the architect with whom we have been working, will be with us throughout the morning. Following worship, David will make two back-to-back identical presentations. The first presentation will begin at 11:15 am and the second will begin at 12:15 pm, following our Learning Session.

In addition to sharing a little bit about himself, his own spirituality, and his understanding of sacred space, he will share some of the work he has done for other religious communities, including the Abby of Gethsemani in Kentucky (home to Thomas Merton), the Dome for the Sisters of St. Benedict in Ferdinand, Indiana, and the Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville.

Stories from FCC' Pilgrimage to Cuba

Those who participated in FCC's people-to-people pilgrimage to Cuba will share some of their stories and experiences in *The Christian Visitor's* December 12th edition. You will also be able to see pictures displayed in the Chapel Gathering Space by December 9. Be sure to ask about the trip as you see friends who participated!

Voices of Faith Meeting and Pitch-In Lunch on December 12

This new Disciples Women's group will meet December 12 at 11:45 am to meet and share a pitch-in meal as they continue to discern how to best carry out their mission to "connect and empower women to engage in dialogue and advocacy as we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. (*Micah 6:8*)" Join us!



Congratulations Evelyn and Juan Carlos Zamudio!

Evelyn and Juan Carlos Zamudio are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, **Vera Cecilia Zamudio Johnson**, born on November 18 in Toledo, Spain. Everyone is doing well. Greetings may be sent to their address in Spain: Calle Rojas 4, 1E, Toledo, 45002, Spain.

December Birthdays

12/01	Dave	Schilling	821 S. Park Ave.	Bloomington IN	47401
12/01	Connie	Daugherty	4412 Hillview Drive	Bloomington IN	47408
12/01	Bruce	Ervin	1222 E. Tremont Way	Bloomington IN	47401
12/03	Linda	Campbell	507 E. Woodridge Drive	Bloomington IN	47408
12/04	Evelyn	Butler	2414 E. Fifth Street	Bloomington IN	47408
12/04	Maria	Lee	3421 W. Tyler Lane	Bloomington IN	47403
12/05	Mary	Polk	715 S. Meadowbrook Dr.	Bloomington IN	47401
12/07	Don	Wendling	3722 Fairington Drive	Bloomington IN	47403
12/11	Thomas	Thompson	2430 Arlington Rd.	Bloomington IN	47404
12/14	Dell	Cripe	3930 W. Tapp Rd.	Bloomington IN	47403
12/14	Noah	Knepper	3616 S. Kingsbury Ave.	Bloomington IN	47401
12/16	Mary	Droste	800 N. Bell Trace Cir. Apt. 103	Bloomington IN	47408
12/16	Jennifer	Fettchenhauer	5537 E. State Rd. 46	Bloomington IN	47401
12/25	Marc	Wagner	2260 Olde Mill Drive	Bloomington IN	47401
12/28	Chuck	Zebendon	2309 Sussex Drive	Bloomington IN	47401
12/29	Gerry	Miller	2455 N. Tamarack Trail, Apt. 130	Bloomington IN	47408
12/29	Cole	Watson	913 S. Mitchell St.	Bloomington IN	47401
12/31	Bess	Lee	1028 S. Henderson St.	Bloomington IN	47401

Please let us know if we have left anyone off of the birthday list.

Staff Christmas Gift Contributions

If you would like to make a special monetary Christmas gift to our dedicated FCC staff, you may place a donation in the offering or mail it to the church and mark it "staff gift." This is your opportunity to thank the wonderful staff who serve us at FCC!

**First Friday Jazz Vespers: Anticipate
Friday, December 7 at 6:30**

This month, the First Friday lands well into the month and as we, as a congregation, have started our Advent journey.

The theme of our First Friday Jazz Vespers this month reflects our beginning of that journey with optimistic anticipation. The Stefan Lenthe Trio and Elena Escudero will again be leading us in our meditation that day. Take a moment at the end of the week to spend in a rejuvenating time of quiet and reflective meditation.

Reception for Mark and Danielle

Please join us for a special reception celebrating Mark and Danielle Murry-Knowles on December 16. We will gather in the Great Hall following worship at 11:15 am for an all-church lunch and a special program honoring their talents and ministries here at FCC as well as their continued ministry as they prepare for their move to Lesotho, Africa.



**Order your Christmas
Poinsettias!**

Purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one to be placed in the chancel during Advent and Christmas. You may also make a donation to the Permanent Fund in lieu of or in addition to flowers. The order deadline is Sunday, December 9.

FCC Holiday Office Hours

Monday, December 24: 9:00 am-Noon
 December 25 & 26: Closed
 December 27 & 28 Limited hours, please call
 Monday, December 31: 9:00 - Noon
 Tuesday, January 1: Closed
 Wednesday - Friday: Normal hours resume

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Sunday, December 2

8:30 am Meditation
 9:00 am Learning Session I
 10:00 am Worship with Children Worship
 & Wonder
 11:15 am Learning Session II
 11:15 am Handbell rehearsal
 6:30 pm CreatureKind

Monday, December 3

7:00 pm Women's Arts & Crafts

Tuesday, December 4

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Wednesday, December 5

6:30 pm MOPS meeting

Thursday, December 6

6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Friday, December 7

6:30 pm First Friday Jazz Vespers

Sunday, December 9

8:30 am Meditation
 9:00 am Learning Session I
 10:00 am Worship with Children Worship
 & Wonder
 11:15 am Learning Session II
 11:15 am Handbell rehearsal
 12:15 pm Board meeting
 6:30 pm CreatureKind

Tuesday, December 11

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Tuesday, December 12

11:30 am Voices of Faith
 (meeting and pitch-in lunch)

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule



*Don't Forget to Bring
Goodies!*

**Dec. 2: Emmaus Interpreters
Class**

**Dec. 9: Grades K-12 & Sharing
Table**

**Dec. 16: Sanctuary Choir &
Handbell Choir**

**Scripture Readings
for Sunday Worship**

December 2

Advent Lessons and Carols based on
the "O Antiphons"

December 9

Mark Knowles preaching
Hebrews 11:1-2, 32-40

December 16

Luke 2:15-18

December 23

Excerpts from Matthew and Luke
Telling the story of Jesus' birth