

# Family Connection

January 7, 2019

A Publication of Christ's Family Church

Volume XXXII— Issue # 1

**The mission of Christ's Family Church is: to lead people to Christ, to equip them for service in the Kingdom of God, to send them out to reach others with the Gospel that God may be glorified.**

Hey friends, Happy New Year! Here we are sitting in January of another new year. It's a time to look back on what was 2018. For some of us, 2018 was a joyous year; a year that prompted celebration. For others, 2018 was a year that brought pain; pain that we'd like to put behind us. For still others, 2018 may have been a year of frustration or indifference in which we found survival alone to be success! No matter where you fall on that spectrum, we can be sure of one thing, that 2018 is in our rear view mirror. This also means that 2019 is here whether we're ready for it or not. Time, no matter how we feel about it, marches on. So, as we head into 2019, I ask all of you the same question I ask myself. As everything else charges ahead in 2019, how are you going to grow in your relationship with Jesus? I challenge each and every one of you (alongside me) to find a way to challenge yourself spiritually this year. God will be faithful in changing you when you do so! Maybe for you, it's starting to read your Bible for the first time. Or maybe it's reading it more frequently. Or maybe it's reading a book of the Bible you either haven't ever read or haven't read in a while (may I suggest Lamentations? Healthy lament is a wonderful thing!) Or maybe it's committing to more intentional prayer time each day. Maybe it's connecting into a small group, or a Sunday Learning class. Just remember, know matter where you are in your faith, you can ALWAYS grow closer to Jesus. You can ALWAYS be made more like Jesus! So that's my prayer for myself, for you, and for CFC for 2019. That we would all be transformed more by the Holy Spirit in ways that are so radically different that they could only be because of God's work in our lives! May 2019 be that for all of us! And remember, that we (CFC) are here for this very reason. If you want to grow, but don't know how, let us know! Contact any one of the staff and we can work with you to identify a way in which God might be pushing you to grow! So again, happy new year to you and yours!

--Pastor Kurt



**Help CFC Kids Learn 2 Serve with a KEEP THEM WARM Hat & Glove Collection!**  
CFC Kids will be collecting hats

and gloves for King's Harvest Meal Site and Shelter during January...can you help? We want to help kids in need and the homeless stay warm this winter. We will be collecting hats and mittens from now until our Family FUN Night on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Look for the drop box in the lobby... or bring them to a Family Night Dinner!

**Come Wed., Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> 6:30-7:45 for a combined Extraordinary A.C.T.S. Night (Agents Change The Situation!) + FUN Night! Keep Them Warm Collection of Hats and Gloves/Family FUN Night**

Bring the whole family to a combined Extraordinary A.C.T.S. service project and Family FUN Night! Bring some warm hats and gloves, and invite your family and friends for some fun and games!

If you have any questions or suggestions – contact Mary Akker.

**2020 Vision  
Inspiring Outreach  
Growing in Fellowship  
Serving our Community  
Together**

## January 6 - 12

<b>Wednesday</b>	5:30 p.m.	Family Dinner
	6:30 p.m.	Circle of Friends
	6:45 p.m.	Middle School, Choir, Love Like That
<b>Saturday</b>	9:00 a.m.	Women's W.O.V.E.N program

## January 13 - 19

<b>Wednesday</b>	9:00 a.m.	7:14 GAP
	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Shawl
<b>Saturday</b>	8:00 a.m.	Men's Bible study
	9:30 a.m.	Consistory Retreat

## January 20 - 26

<b>Thursday</b>	6:00 p.m.	Elder's mtg.
	7:00 p.m.	Consistory

## Weekly Events

**Sunday** - 8:15 Adult class, 9:30 Worship, 10:45 Sunday Learning, 6:30 High School Youth  
**Tuesday** - 6:30-9:00 p.m. Adult Volleyball  
**Wednesday** - 5:30 Dinner, 6:30 Praise & Prayer, Circle of Friends, 6:45 Choir, Middle School, Love Like That  
**Friday** - 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

## W.O.V.E.N.—Saturday, January 12th at 9:00 a.m.

What do you know about the history and beliefs of the Reformed Church in America/ Would you like to know more? Pastor Brian will be speaking on the RCA and our commitment to Jesus' call to make disciples. Come, join us, and learn.

## Trivia Night—Sunday, February 10th

Sign up for Trivia Night begins now!!! Be sure to stop by the information desk to grab your form. We do need forms for everyone, this helps us organize and plan the evening's activities and childcare. We look forward to this event every year and we know you do, too!



**Friendly House Birthday Bags** - Thank you for your assistance to provide supplies to allocate and commit 30 bags a month to the pantry at the Friendly House. The stock room is empty and your considerations of necessary supplies or monetary donations are very much in need again. Place any purchases in the plastic tub in the narthex and give or send donations to Becky Meurs or Sharon Andringa. We are happy to shop for you and replenish the stock room. Thank you so much!

	November	YTD Nov.
<b>General Fund Offerings and Other Income*</b>	<b>54,410</b>	<b>564,083</b>
<b>Total General Fund Actual Expenses</b>	<b>56,063</b>	<b>580,316</b>
<b>Total Surplus/(Shortfall)</b>	<b>(1,653)</b>	<b>(16,233)</b>
<b>Total Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>56,300</b>	<b>619,302</b>

\* Year to date General Offerings include \$39,640 of donations received in 2017 as prepaid 2018

## Sunday Learning...

### The Gospel Project

Jesus is the Word of God...did you know the entire Bible is His Story? The Gospel Project points kids, students, and adults to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Come discover how God's plan of redemption unfolds throughout Scripture...and continues today!

#### Jan. 13: Jesus and John the Baptist – John 3:22-26

**Christ Connection:** John the Baptist said he wasn't the bridegroom but the friend of the bridegroom. As the friend, it was his responsibility to decrease in stature and take joy in the groom's wedding. Jesus is the bridegroom from above who came to give His life for His bride—those who receive His Word and believe in Him.

**Our Mission:** God calls us to find joy in pointing others not to ourselves or to our accomplishments but to the soul-satisfying, self-giving Savior.

#### Jan. 20: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman –

John 4:1-42

**Christ Connection:** Jesus told the Samaritan woman that a day was coming when worshipers would not focus on the physical location of Jerusalem or the mountain. One day worshipers would worship in spirit and truth. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, our worship is no longer confined by geography. We worship Jesus as the Savior of the whole world.

**Our Mission:** God calls us to open our eyes to see the harvest of people across the world who need the living water that only Christ can provide.

#### Jan. 27: Jesus Rejected in Nazareth – Luke 4:14-30

**Christ Connection:** Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah wrote about God's plan to send a Messiah who would bring good news and redeem people who were in captivity. Jesus read Isaiah's words and told everyone that He is the promised Messiah who fulfills Isaiah's prophecy.

**Our Mission:** God calls us to endure in our mission even when we face rejection from the people closest to us.

#### Feb. 3: Jesus and Zacchaeus – Luke 19:1-10

**Christ Connection:** Jesus' mission was to seek and save the lost. He is the One who seeks us while we are undeserving sinners, saves us according to His mercy through His work on the cross, and delights in our heartfelt expressions of repentance.

**Our Mission:** God calls us to express our repentance through exuberant generosity.

#### Classroom locations:

#### The Gospel Project for ADULTS

All use the same material, so feel free to visit any or all of them!

**8:15 am class** - Room 202: Mike Senneff, Becky Schuetz

#### 10:45 am classes:

Room 201: Reg Shoesmith, Bruce McEhinney

Room 202: J.T. Andringa, Don Kincaid

#### The Gospel Project for YOUTH

10:45 am – Youth Room – Family Life Center – Lower Level

#### The Gospel Project 4 CFC KIDS!

10:45 am – Children's Ministry area —Lower Level & FLC Nursery

**Babies** – FLC Nursery

**1 ½ years – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Lower Level

#### More Adult Classes at 10:45 am:

**Fellowship Time – Room 110.** Join Pastor Brian and Tom Schuetz for fellowship, and prayer.

#### **Crazy Love – FLC Conference Room**

Video series by Francis Chan, led by Amber Bush

It's crazy, if you think about it. The God of the universe loves us with a radical, unconditional, self-sacrificing love. And what is our typical response? We go to church, sing songs, and try not to cuss. God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself...are you listening?



## Wednesday nights to be Family Nights at CFC...but we need some volunteers to take over organizing dinner!

If Wednesday night dinners are to continue, we need some help planning the menu and checking to make sure all the food items are being provided. Can you monitor the sign ups, and coordinate servers for a Wednesday dinner?

We will send out a SignUp Genius invitation for you, asking for help with providing dinner items and serving.

You can sign up to oversee a dinner by clicking on this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d4ea4aa2daaf85-2019>

Contact Becky ([beckyschuetz6@gmail.com](mailto:beckyschuetz6@gmail.com) or 563-940-7605) if you have any questions or want to volunteer to oversee a week or two!

#### **Here is what is on the menu this week:**

Jan. 9 – Pulled pork, chips, carrot stick, fruit, and dessert

Jan. 16—Pancake dinner

**Come share a meal with your CFC family at 5:30 pm**, and then stick around...**we'll have something for all ages at 6:30 pm:**

#### **6:30 pm:**

**Adults & Youth** come worship and pray together from 6:30-6:45 pm in the Sanctuary.

**Kids** in 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades will have fun with our Circle of Friends, while those who are Kindergarten and younger will enjoy supervised play in the Nursery.

#### **Then at 6:45 pm:**

**Adults** can enjoy singing praises with the choir in the main Sanctuary...or join a group that will be talking about how loving like Jesus can completely change our relationships, our families and our lives! **'Love Like That'** with Pastor Kurt will meet in FLC Room 202. *Child care will be provided for children kindergarten age and younger.*

**Middle School Youth** will dive into Bible Study in the FLC Youth Room.

*Mark your calendar and plan to join us!*

#### **Wednesday Adult Discipleship Class**

God's desire a desire to see you grow as a disciple of Jesus. You are invited to participate in our next adult Wednesday night class. Starting on Wednesday 1/9 in room 202, Pastor Kurt will be leading a study called Love Like That by Les Parrott. This 6 week study series, will look at Jesus' life and character to give practical definition to what it means to love like Jesus. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Kurt

#### **7:14 GAP**

GAP invites all women to **come**, be part of the team! We meet consistently and specifically to **pray** for Christ's Family. With the New Year, we will be praying a powerful passage of Scripture from Hebrews 10. The command is given in verse 22, "let us draw near to God with a sincere heart." God has done so much for us to be able to draw near; we don't have to settle for a distant relationship! What an amazing time we would experience, for **all** of us to draw near together! It is for our good, our joy, and God's glory!

**Come and try us out . . . January 16th at 9 a.m. . . . Let's pray!**

#### **Men's Bible study—Sat., January 18th @ 8:00 a.m.**

Men age high school and older are invited to study God's word together. We will meet in the Youth Room use gym doors number 6 at 8:00 and finish at 9:15. Donuts, coffee and juice provided.

#### **Scoreboard Installed in Our Gym**

Volunteers recently installed a scoreboard in our gym for use by our various activities. The scoreboard was a gift from the North Ridge Church in Eldridge. They no longer had a need for one of their scoreboards and offered it to us. Thanks go to North Ridge and our own volunteers. Cost for installation was minimal. If you would like to learn how to use it contact Pastor Brian or Pastor Kurt.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>6</b> 8:15 Adult Class, 9:30 Worship, 10:45 Sunday Learning 5:00 Chili Cook Off	<b>7</b>  7:00 BSF	<b>8</b> 6:30 Volleyball	<b>9</b> 5:30 Dinner 6:30 Circle of Friends 6:45 Choir, Middle School, Love Like That	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7:00 Men's Basketball	<b>12</b> 9:00 Women's W.O.V.E.N. program
<b>13</b> 8:15 Adult Class, 9:30 Worship, 10:45 Sunday Learning 6:30 High School	<b>14</b> 7:00 BSF	<b>15</b> 6:30 Volleyball	<b>16</b> 9:00 - 7:14 GAP 10:00 Prayer Shawl 5:30 Dinner 6:30 Circle of Friends 6:45 Middle School, Choir, Love Like That	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7:00 Men's Basketball	<b>19</b> 8:00 Men's Bible study 9:30 Consistory Retreat
<b>20</b> 8:15 Adult Class, 9:30 Worship, Communion 10:45 Sunday Learning 6:30 High School	<b>21</b> 7:00 BSF	<b>22</b> 6:30 Volleyball	<b>23</b> 5:30 Dinner 6:30 Circle of Friends 6:45 Middle School, Choir, Love Like That	<b>24</b> 6:00 Elder's mtg. 7:00 Consistory	<b>25</b> 7:00 Men's Basketball	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8:15 Adult Class 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday Learning 6:30 High School	<b>28</b> 7:00 BSF	<b>29</b> 6:30 Volleyball	<b>30</b> 5:30 Dinner 6:30 Circle of Friends 6:45 Middle School, Choir, Love Like That	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 7:00 Men's Basketball	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 8:15 Adult Class 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday Learning, 6:30 High School	<b>4</b> 7:00 BSF	<b>5</b> 6:30 Volleyball	<b>6</b> 9:00 - 7:14 GAP 10:00 Prayer Shawl 5:30 Dinner 6:30 Circle of Friends 6:45 Middle School, Choir, Love Like That	<b>7</b> 	<b>8</b> 7:00 Men's Basketball	<b>9</b> 9:00 Women's W.O.V.E.N. program

**Prayers:**

**Linda Shoesmith**—knee replacement surgery on Wed., January 9th  
**Ben Ratekin** - recovering from double pneumonia  
**Jill Brownell** - recovery from surgery broken fibula from a fall  
**Adelina Pena** - Veronica Lowther's sister, pancreatic cancer, started chemo, pray chemo shrinks cancer so they can operate, she is in a lot of pain  
**Cathy Akker** - wife of Pastor Brian's cousin; moved to nursing home  
**Norma Lundgren** - Greg's mother; was laid to rest on Saturday  
**James Blohm** - son-in-law of Shirley De Wys; rare autoimmune disease  
**Karen Rascher** - Don Downing's sister; breast cancer, finished w/chemo

**Amazon Smile**

When shopping on Amazon, if you use **smile.Amazon.com**, look for Christ's Family Church and a portion of your purchase comes back to CFC. Same

**Day Care News**

Welcome 2019. Our year has started off great. Our classrooms are growing with new children. Welcome Liza, Haylee and Carson to our family. The four and five year old's have a fun filled January planned. They will be graphing their names by first letters, learning about national pie day. Having fun with penguins and learning about Martin Luther King and how important family is. And one of my favorites, reading the story Stone Soup and making it! The babies will be doing a lot of painting this month, from dump truck foot prints to footprint jelly fish. The three year old's will be brushing up on their shape recognition by having a shape scavenger hunt and learning some new dance moves. The two year old's will be Exploring Winter, we are hoping for some snow. (Sorry, but we are.) There are 3 toddlers with birthdays this month moving up to the two year old room! Happy Birthday to all the January b-days. January Bible stories are filled with stories of Jesus' growing up and stories with John the Baptist and Jesus being baptized! "Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe." Luke 2:11

# Youth Ministry

Many of you know we have moved our calendar of events around this year. We so enjoyed this year's Chili Cook Off, we had ties for first and second place, the youngest chefs taking home first, Robert Day and Justin Meyer winning. Together we raised almost \$450

This month our teens begin the planning and prep for our biggest fundraising event of the year. Be sure to make it to our planning meetings on Sunday nights. And mark your calendar for February 17 for the big night. We need all hands on deck, there is a lot of work that happens behind the scenes and there is something for everyone to do. We are excited to carry over family dinners from last year, so the entire family can come out for dinner and then stay for worship and bible studies!

If you've got questions or want to talk about ways to serve our youth, please contact Cadena Trusty, Youth Ministries Director, at (563)320-3456 or [cadenatrusty@gmail.com](mailto:cadenatrusty@gmail.com).

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## Pastor Brian's 2019 Sabbatical

I have served at Christ's Family Church for 16 years and will be 62 in the spring of 2019. I was granted a sabbatical in 2012 centered on being still and knowing God. It was a 3-month sabbatical. In the spring of 2019 it will be 7 years since my sabbatical. As I look at the years since the sabbatical, I can see there was personal spiritual growth and growth in the congregation as a result of that sabbatical. As I look to the future, I see the challenge of ministering to a younger congregation and having the spiritual stamina to keep myself fed and feed the congregation. Barring any healthy issues, I would like to continue in active ministry to age 68. The path I take is in God's hand, but I feel I have the passion and strength to lead CFC for those 6 years. One of my greatest spiritual needs is to step away from the daily demands of ministry for an extended period to refuel my spiritual tank. I would like to spend time in God's word and have rest for my soul. Recently I returned from the Getty Sing conference which renewed my excitement for worship and found I need to have more of that in my daily life. This sabbatical is centered around seeing and hearing God speak to me and carving out a way to make that happen on a daily basis. The seeing God will come through the Creation Museum and the Ark displays which can help stir my mind to bringing God's handiwork to life. My trip to the Holy Land was very moving experience to see and relate God's word to be more real and alive and I feel that these displays will have some of the same influence on my relationship with God. The hearing God speak will come at the Cove, where Billy Graham lived and was built for people to come and be drawn closer to God. At the cove I will hear Mark Yarbrough speak on Esther and even though God is not mentioned in the book of Esther he is still active in her life and using her. I want to hear God speak to me that he is still working even though he may not be the prominent voice in our nation today and be challenged to take a stand for God. Another hearing God experience will be at the Christian Reformed Conference Grounds where we will camp for a week. There are daily Bible studies which can help me as a face my personal challenge of reading God's word to speak to me instead of reading the Bible to speak to those around me which can be a pitfall in ministry. During this time there is time to rest my physical body and I would like to read and journal the book Growing Young which deals with ministering to the younger generation. I plan to have a time of prayer and sending off during a worship service prior to the sabbatical and will share my learnings with the consistory via a written report and with the congregation through messages. The dates of the Sabbatical will be June 7 through July 7, 2019.

## Come Enjoy a Pasta Dinner and Help Support Christian Care

Mark your calendars! Christian Care is hosting a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on January 18, 2019 at Trinity Anglican Church. Doors will open at 5:30, with dinner served at 6pm. Tickets are \$15 for a plate of pasta and a glass of wine (\$6 for a 2<sup>nd</sup> glass). All proceeds will go to help programs and services at Christian Care as we care for those experiencing homelessness in our community. To order tickets, contact Becki at [banderson@christiancareqc.org](mailto:banderson@christiancareqc.org) or call 309-786-5734.

## Have a Heart For the Homeless

Christian Care is proud to be co-hosting (along with Humility Homes & Services) the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Have a Heart for the Homeless fundraiser luncheon on February 2, 2019 at Jumer's Casino in Rock Island. Tickets are \$30/seat or \$230 for a table of 8. Tickets and more information can all be found at [christiancareqc.org](http://christiancareqc.org).

## Missions Our Church Supports

In December 2018 the congregation approved the church budget for 2019. Included in the mission budget was a new line which supports Bob & Amy Abel with \$4,000 annually. They have 2 young sons, Josiah and Judah. Bob has been an RCA pastor for 12 years but now is serving the mission called Remember Nhu. The RCA General Synod in June 2018 celebrated several new missionaries including Bob. Remember Nhu is working world wide to end child sex slavery. Bob is in a staff support role and also on the board of directors. Remember Nhu operates rescue mission homes & promotes foster care so that children are given a safe place to live & are introduced to Jesus.

Also included in the 2019 mission budget is a new line which supports Safe Families for Children – Quad Cities with \$500 annually. Pastor Kurt recommended this organization. It promotes short term foster care for children during the time the parents are getting back on track after a serious problem. Byron Baxter, Mission Committee

## Rebuilding Together Quad Cities

Several people at CFC have helped repair homes selected by Rebuilding Together. Other churches and organizations have helped also. For 2018 Rebuilding Together reports there were 40 projects, 207 volunteers and 2,200 hours of donated labor. Thanks to the volunteers at CFC! Byron Baxter, Mission Committee

## Food Pantry

The first Sunday of the month is food pantry Sunday. Please bring your contributions of canned, bottled and boxed foods, baby food, as well as household and hygiene items. There is a box in the closet in the lobby. We the deliver your donations to Friendly House. You can bring your donations at anytime.

## RightNow Media

If you haven't heard, we're giving all of you a FREE gift! It's our passion to help you grow in your relationship with Jesus and to equip you to help your family grow, and RightNow Media will help you do just that! If you haven't heard about this, or if you haven't received your FREE subscription, please contact Pastor Kurt for more details.