

Family Connection

December 3, 2018

A Publication of Christ's Family Church

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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.



It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

That is one of the familiar sayings we hear at this time of year. It is very appropriate saying after our 12 inches of snow fall. But as I reflect on these words, I wonder what does Christmas look like. We probably all have a picture in our minds. Are holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas events that we reflect on or events that cause us more confusion? Thanksgiving is a time for family and feasting and many of us get way too much of both. My struggle with Thanksgiving is how it gets very little attention by people because of the days that follow. We often hear more emphasis placed on black Friday and cyber Monday then Thanksgiving. I didn't notice until this year that following those two events is a day called giving Tuesday which I think is a wonderful concept in thinking about the needs of others. The problem I have with the sequence is we think about others after we have thought about ourselves. We shop till we drop for two days for ourselves, family and friends and then if we have anything left over or any energy left, we give to help others on giving Tuesday. Christmas can also get lost in all the hustle and bustle of this time of year and I think we need to stop take a breath and enjoy the true meaning of Christmas. I read on Facebook today that we should not be as concerned about what is under the tree as to what is around the tree. Who will be around your tree this Christmas and what do they need? Another Christmas sweater, pair of holiday socks or maybe a pair of gloves. What we all need is to be warmed by the love of God who humbly came to earth on Christmas. Christmas needs to look a lot like God's love came down to earth for us! Help bring "Joy to the World".
~Pastor Brian

The **Annual Bake Sale** and Congregational Meeting is December 9!!! Drop off your treats before the service, in the kitchen or at the tables in the foyer; then visit the tables between our Worship service and the Congregational Meeting. We don't set prices for the treats, you are welcome to donate at will. The Bake Sale proceeds go towards offsetting the summer 2019 Service trip costs.

Year End Giving—A reminder that in order to receive credit for 2018, gifts must be either dropped off at the church office or postmarked by December 31, 2018. Any gifts received after that date will be credited to your 2019 giving.

December 2 - 8
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. 7:14 GAP
 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl
 Cook for Meal Site
Thursday 6:00 p.m. Serve @ Davenport Meal Site
Friday 5:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling
Saturday 9:00 a.m. Women's W.O.V.E.N program

December 9 - 15
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Worship, Cantata
 Congregational Meeting
 Bake Sale

December 16 - 22
Sunday 10:45 a.m. Membership Class
 5:00 p.m. Christmas Celebration
Monday Terri vacation
Dec. 18 - Jan. 2 PB vacation
Friday Terri vacation

December 23 - 29
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Worship - No Sunday Learning
Monday Office Closed
 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday Office Closed
Wednesday Terri vacation
Thursday Terri vacation

Weekly Events

Sunday - 8:15 Adult class, 9:30 Worship, 6:30 High School Youth
Tuesday - 6:30-9:00 p.m. Adult Volleyball
Wednesday - 6:30 Choir, Middle School
Friday - 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Amazon Smile

When shopping on Amazon, if you use [smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile), look for Christ's Family Church and a portion of your purchase comes back to CFC. Same products, same prices, it is an easy way to support our Church.

	October	YTD Oct.
General Fund Offerings and Other Income*	39,390	509,673
Total General Fund Actual Expenses	57,228	524,253
Total Surplus/(Shortfall)	((17,838)	(14,580)
Total Budgeted Expenses	56,300	563,003

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

2020 Vision
Inspiring Outreach
Growing in Fellowship
Serving our Community
Together

What's coming up in 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!

Dec. 9: Congregational Meeting

Dec. 16: The Son of God is Tempted – Matthew 4:1-11

Christ Connection: In order to undo the consequences of Adam's sin, Jesus steps into our world and overcomes the temptation to which Adam succumbed.

Jesus overcomes temptation on behalf of His people. Jesus' temptation is connected to His cross, the place where He conquered sin as our Savior.

Dec. 23 & 30: No Sunday Learning

Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Jan. 6: Nicodemus and the New Birth – John 3:1-21

Christ Connection: Nicodemus was a religious man who was interested in Jesus' teaching. Jesus told him that he needed new life, not more religious activities. Jesus' teaching on the new birth reminds us that there is no spiritual life apart from Jesus. God loved the world in this way: He gave His Son so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

Classroom locations:

The Gospel Project for ADULTS

You will be welcomed and blessed by each of these groups...they 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 Shoosmith, 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 – 5th Grade – Lower Level

Here are more classes for Adults 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?

NEED IDEAS FOR ADVENT?

Make Advent an opportunity for some great family time! Pick up an Advent Puzzle at the display table in the lobby and get some other great ideas for ways to prepare your heart to celebrate Christmas.

CALLING ALL CFC KIDS! Come help us make a video to show at 'One Night in Bethlehem'!

On Wednesday night (12/5) we are going to record a video to show at the conclusion of our One Night in Bethlehem event.

We will meet in the Circle of Friends room

6:00 pm – eat pizza

6:30-7:45 pm – we are going to take turns being

interviewed on camera and will draw some pictures to use in the video. Questions we will

answer include: *Why do we celebrate*

Christmas? Who is Jesus? Why did He come?

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO HELP WITH OUR NEW CHRISTMAS OUTREACH EVENT!

This Christmas we are going to try to spread the Good News a little broader by putting on an exciting new event that you can invite your neighbors and friends to enjoy with you...

One Night in Bethlehem

Sunday, Dec. 16 from 5:00-7:00pm

One Night in Bethlehem is more like a family experience than a play. You can come in your pajamas. We will have tour guides who take groups through a series of 5 stops to witness parts of the Christmas story.

We will conclude the evening by finding Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus in the Sanctuary, where ALL kids will be invited to become part of the story on the stage. We'll play bells and everyone will sing a few Christmas songs together to celebrate His coming.

There are many ways you can help make this special event happen...

Invite your neighbors, friends and family!

Look for the sign up board in the lobby. Some of the **opportunities to share in this mission:** you can serve as a tour guide, as a singing angel in a stop on the journey, supervise an activity booth, or even help by setting up or providing props for the market place.....**we are hoping to make this outreach as successful as VBS and Trunk or Treat has been in the past. PLEASE consider being part of this event!**

For more information or to sign up contact

Becky (beckyschuetz6@gmail.com or 563-940-7605).

Thanks for spreading the light of Christ this Christmas!!!

Women's W.O.V.E.N. Program Dec. 8th

Ladies, come to WOVEN on Saturday, December 8th at 9 am to celebrate the Christmas season. Bring a friend. We'll sing some Christmas Carols and enjoy some tasty treats.

We will be making a small craft plus collecting items for Friendly House Birthday Bags.

Items needed: Cake mix, can of frosting, a small bottle of cooking oil, pack of birthday candles and a foil baking pan (9x12). *Please help make some child's birthday special.*

2018 Congregational Meeting December 9th

Everyone is invited to attend the annual meeting. An affirmation vote will be taken to elect Sheryl Ver Meer as Elder and Pam Lundgren as Deacon. 2019 Budget will be voted on and copies are available on the Information Desk.

Reminder: Angel Tree gifts need returned by next Sunday, December 9th.

Membership Class

Have you ever thought about joining CFC as a member? Do you want to know more about what it means to be a member at CFC? Come join Pastor Kurt in the gym on 12/16 at 10:45 to learn more. This is a chance for you to come and learn about CFC, our beliefs, our denomination, our staff, and what it means to be a member. If you decide to join us, know that there is no obligation to join following the class. Lunch will be provided!

CHILI COOK OFF

Church family please note a change for the first of the year! We are moving Trivia Night and the Annual Chili Cook off. So mark your calendars for a great Annual **CHILI COOK OFF on January 6.** Hone those cooking skills over Christmas break and bring us your finest recipes to taste and share as we kick off 2019. Then plan on joining us with your trivia team on February 10, for our Annual Trivia Night Fundraiser.

A Charitable Deduction Reminder to Everyone

Financial contributions made to Christ's Family Church are deductible as long as no physical or tangible product or service is provided other than religious benefits. Due to this IRS restriction, bake sales, trivia nights, soup suppers, etc. that generate contributions for which you received some benefit will not be credited to your giving statements. Taxpayers are allowed, however, to deduct the difference between fair value of the good or service received and the money donated for such item, but Christ's Family church cannot determine that amount. Please see your tax advisor for additional clarification.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:30 Worship	3 DECEMBER	4 6:30 Volleyball	5 9:00 7:14 GAP 10:00 Prayer Shawl 5:30 Dinner, Cook for Meal Site 6:30 Middle School	6 6:00 Serve @ Davenport Meal Site	7 5:30 Christmas Caroling 7:00 Men's Basketball	8 9:00 Women's W.O.V.E.N. program
9 8:15 Adult Class, 9:30 Worship, Cantata, Bake Sale 10:45 Sunday Learning 6:30 High School	10 7:00 BSF	11 6:30 Volleyball 7:00 Day Care Program	12 6:30 Middle School	13	14 7:00 Men's Basketball	15
16 8:15 Adult Class, 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday Learning, Membership Class 5:00 Christmas Celebration	17 Terri vacation	18 6:30 Volleyball PB vacation	19	20	21 Terri vacation 7:00 Men's Basketball	22
23 9:30 Worship	24 Office Closed 6:00 Christmas Eve Service Cadena vacation	25 Office Closed	26 Terri vacation	27	28 7:00 Men's Basketball	29
30 9:30 Worship	31 Office Closed 7:00 BSF	1 Office Closed 6:30 Volleyball	2 January	3	4 7:00 Men's Basketball	5

Prayers:

Judi Odegard - Marc's mother, fell and broke her ankle
Barb Miller - a friend of Austin Chesney, passed away
Ed Bagby - brother of Rebecca Stansberry passed away
Judy Taylor - sister of Elaine Phillips passed away
Jill Brownell - recovery from surgery for broken fibula from a fall
Shirley Dean - passed away over the weeken
Max Pikulskiy - recovery from shoulder surgery
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
Phylis Stachaur - Catherine Moss's mother; recovery at home from surgery for broken hip
Cathy Akker - wife of Pastor Brian's cousin; moved to nursing home
Norma Lundgren - Greg's mother; strength after pacemaker procedure
Taylor Riffe - co-worker of Nichole Minch; 21-year-old woman struggling w/serious health concerns
James Blohm - son-in-law of Shirley De Wys; rare autoimmune disease
Karen Rascher - Don Downing's sister; breast cancer, finished w/chemo

Day Care News

December days are here. We are getting ready for our annual Christmas Program. This will held Tuesday December 11th at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. All of the children from infants to the preschoolers will sing. Ms Rebecca, our Bible story teacher, does a tremendous job coordinating the program. We appreciate Ms Carol Kuehl and her piano talents-it's not easy keeping time with little children, but somehow she manages and does a fabulous job! We would like to extend our invitation to all of you as well. It's always a wonderful program, with a few surprises too! We pray for a big turnout, but we also understand how busy we all get. The Christmas season is usually packed with so many things, parties, concerts, shopping, baking, traveling, etc.; we pray everyone takes time to remember the true meaning of Christmas. "Today in the City of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

Youth Ministry

On Wednesday nights our Middle School is in a new study, looking at the story of Christ's birth, but in a new way! Jesus is the plot twist in a story that began as far back as the creation of all things, think Genesis. We want to make sure we are celebrating ALL THAT JESUS IS and does, all of the promises He fulfills, by looking at the story that leads up to His arrival! This is a great study to prepare your hearts for a season that can seem to overwhelm and distract us. If you enjoyed our Easter devotional please visit Cadena for our Christmas devotional, while supplies last.

Signups for our High School Costa Rica trip have begun. Contact Cadena as soon as possible for your form and to pay your non-refundable \$200 deposit. We are finalizing flight information but the total trip **estimate** is \$1500. We will have lots of fundraisers, so please don't let the cost be a barrier to you joining us on this amazing opportunity, next summer, July 13-20, 2019.

Other awesome events this season are Christmas Caroling and dinner at Pizza Ranch on December 6. The Annual Bake Sale and Congregational Meeting on December 9. Be sure to come out and hear how the church is serving you, how we are all serving the community and help guide the decisions of Christ's Family Church.

If you have any questions or need to get a ride to any of the events, you can reach Cadena Trusty at cadenatrusty@yahoo.com, (563)320-3456

Free Yamaha Upright Piano

Would you like to introduce your kids to the world of music? Or would you like to have a high quality piano to sharpen your own musical skills? Either way, here is your chance to tickle the ivories with a free Yamaha upright piano. It's a beautiful, high quality piano. It was given to us to "take care of" 15 years ago by Nate and Sarah Stealy (former members of Christ's Family Church) as they moved to various places around the world working for the State Department. Nate and Sarah have remained overseas and no longer need anyone to take care of it; rather they are willing to give it away. All you need to do is stop by David and Sandy Schafer's house and pick it up. Then, it is yours to keep. If you have any questions, would like to see a picture, or would like to stop by and see the piano, please let the Schafers know. They can be reached at 563-505-1399 or at sandyschafer71@gmail.com.

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 Sharon Andringa. We are happy to shop for you and replenish the stock room. Thank you so much!

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 will 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.

Thank You

It is with grateful hearts that we send this "THANK YOU" to our Church Family for the many beautiful cards, notes and expressions of congratulations received for our 70th Anniversary. We truly are blessed to be part of CFC. GOD BLESS YOU!
Ken and Merle Berkompas

Thank you for the family of Christ's Family Church for your love and support. Your kind expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the family of Kaleb Shondel.

Thank you to the Outreach Committee for hosting the Thanksgiving Dinner. We appreciate everyone who helped in setting up, serving, helping clean up and anything else that made the event a success.

Thank you to the congregation for all the cards, gifts and words of appreciation for Pastor Appreciation month. We are blessed to serve such a loving and giving congregation.
Pastor Brian and Mary

Thank you to all who helped decorate the church this year. God's house looks beautiful.

The Trinity Snowman

When you see a snowman
Three snowballs round,
He is reminding your
That in God There and One are found.

The bottom reminds us of God the Father,
Our strong rock and foundation
The Creator of all living things.
People, tribes and nations.

The middle shows us God the Son
With His arms spread open wide.
Who died on the cross for each of us
Our sins Jesus' blood did hide.

The head reminds us of God the Holy Spirit
Who is our counselor and friend,
He speaks to our hearts and minds
Transforming us in the likeness of Him.

So when you see a snowman
In the midst of all the wintertime fun,
Listen carefully and he'll tell you,
"Remember God is Three in One."

