

Family Connection

December 2 2019

A Publication of Christ's Family Church

Volume XXXII— Issue # 11

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.

Light in Darkness

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

We just got through Thanksgiving and for many that may be what it seems like – a journey to get through. We shared our thanks for the things in life we have received and as soon as the turkey has settled, we go pedal to the metal into Christmas. Christmas is “*the most wonderful time of the year*” according to song it is also hap-happiest season of all. That is what we are all told and expected to feel in these days but for some these can be dark days and not very happy. Two members of our congregation lost fathers recently and are dealing with the sorrow and sadness of the separation of death. We lost a neighbor suddenly last Wed. We went out to dinner on Tuesday with the couple for a wonderful evening of food and fellowship and Wed. the man came in from getting the mail and sat in a chair and passed away. We will treasure that last meal with him. Another member of our church has father who was diagnosed with cancer and has taken residence in a nursing home for his last days. Someone is dealing with a mother who is not recovering and gaining strength from a recent surgery. We know of a lady who may have to take her husband out of a nursing home and take him back home. I had a recent conversation with a couple that has a daughter who needs care because of a handicap and wondering how as they age will they care for her.

Where is the light in the midst of all the darkness around us and so close to many of us? We must not lose sight of the fact that the darkness of this world cannot overcome the light of Christ. The darkness has never overcome the light and it never will. That is the solid foundation we put our lives on as we face the dark days in our life. As we light the Advent candles this season let them be a reminder to all of us that the light of Christ overcomes all darkness in our lives. “Joy to the World the Lord has come. Let earth receive her King!”

~Pastor Brian

Congregational Meeting December 8th following worship service:

The following individuals will be presented for an affirmation vote before the congregation:

Elders - 3-year term: Jim Patterson & Nancy Zylstra
2-year term: Don Kincaid
Deacons - 3-year term: J.T. Andringa, Calvin Moss
1-year term: Greg VerMeer

2020 proposed budget sheets are available on the information desk

No business brought from the floor can be voted on without prior approval from the consistory

Year End Giving

Year End Giving - A reminder that in order to receive credit for 2019, gifts must be either dropped off at the church office or postmarked by December 31, 2019. Any gifts received after that date will be credited to your 2020 giving.

December 1 - 7

Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	7:14 GAP Women's Prayer Group
	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Shawl
	12:00 p.m.	Backpacks due
Thursday	5:45 p.m.	BSF Leader's mtg.
Friday	5:30 p.m.	Christmas Caroling

December 8 - 14

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Christmas Cantata Congregational mtg. following worship
Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Praying the Word

December 15 - 21

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Children's Program
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	7:14 GAP Women's Prayer Group
	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Shawl
Thursday	12:00 p.m.	Backpacks due

December 22 - 28

Sunday		No Discipleship Classes
Tuesday		Office Closed
	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday		Office Closed

December 29 - January 4

Sunday		No Discipleship Classes
Tuesday		Office Closed
Wednesday		Office Closed

Weekly Events

Sunday - 8:15 Adult class, 9:30 Worship, 10:45 Sunday Discipleship
Monday - 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study Fellowship
Tuesday - 6:30-9:00 p.m. Adult Volleyball
Wednesday - 5:30 p.m. Family Dinner, 6:30 Circle of Friends, Choir, Middle School
Friday - 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

October

YTD Oct.

General Fund Offerings and Other Income*	36,607	506,206
Total General Fund Actual Expenses	63,738	548,539
Total Surplus/(Shortfall)	(27,131)	(42,333)
Total Budgeted Expenses	57,848	578,477

- Year to date General Fund Offerings include \$22,101 of donations received as a restricted gift designated for 2019 expenses

Grow as a disciple of Jesus...

As Paul pointed out in his letter to the church at Philippi - disciples of Jesus are never done growing! **We have discipleship classes on Sunday morning for ALL ages and stages of life.** Come check it out this Sunday!

Here's what is coming up this month...

Dec. 8: CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - No Sunday Discipleship for Adults & Youth



Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph –
Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 1:26-56

The baby Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy, as well as other Old Testament prophecies, about the coming Savior. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus fulfilled God's plan of redemption that God planned before the world began.

Dec. 15: The First Christmas Carol – *Philippians 2:5-11*

In Philippians 2:5-11, we see Christ as the ultimate example of humility, leaving heaven to come willingly to earth as a fragile and lowly infant. His human life has provided us with an example of obedience, moving from the manger to the cross with the continual choice of God's will over His own comfort. Ultimately, He was exalted by the Father when, after the cross, He was raised to the throne, and one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Jesus as Lord.

His Mission, Our Mission: God calls us to adopt the humble servant posture we see on display in Christ's first coming.

The Gospel Project 4 Kids: **Jesus Was Born –**
Luke 2:1-20

The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He was God's Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus came into the world to save people from their sins and to be their King.

Dec. 22 & 29: No Sunday Discipleship classes

WHERE WILL CLASSES MEET?

The Gospel Project for ADULTS

8:15 am class - Room 202

10:45 am classes – Room 201 & Conference Room

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 & Toddlers – FLC Nursery

Preschool – 5th Grade – Lower Level

Additional Sunday Discipleship class for Adults:

The Heidelberg Catechism

10:45 am – Room 202

Come check out the richness and beauty of the Heidelberg, one of the foundational catechisms that has helped shape and maintain our reformed tradition.

Weekly Fellowship group for Adults:

Fellowship & Prayer Group

10:45 am – FLC Room 110 (Lower Level)

This group meets to share conversation and prayer.

Prepare your heart to celebrate Christmas!

Advent is a special time to prepare your heart to celebrate Christmas by focusing on the hope, love, joy and peace that only Jesus can bring. We have a Family Advent Guide that you can use to create some great family time experiences during the season. Each week you will open your Bibles to read suggested verses, talk together, pray together, sing together and enjoy an activity. There are also further reading verses to explore throughout the following week. **Pick up your Family Advent Guide today at the Children's Ministry shelf in the lobby or downstairs at the Children's Ministry welcome table.**

ADVENT DEVOTIONS ON WEDNESDAYS!

Join us after the Family Night Dinner on

Wednesday, December 4 & 11...we'll share a devotion from the Family Advent Guide. You will also get materials for the Family Activity at the Wednesday Advent Devotion time so you can do it at home.

EVERYONE is invited to join us (not just families with kids)!



The Christmas Celebration 4 Kids & Youth

The Christmas Celebration 4 Kids and Youth program will be part of the Sunday morning Worship service on December 15.

We are learning the songs on Sunday mornings! We'll be practicing every Sunday at the start of the Discipleship hour (at around 10:55 am) in the CFC Kids large group area in the lower level (at the foot of the stairs). *It is really important that your kids stay to learn the songs for the program!!*

We will have rehearsals for speaking parts on Wednesday

Dec. 4 & 11 at 6:30 pm following the Advent Devotion. We will also record some rhymes with kids dressed as angels this Wednesday, Dec. 4 during the rehearsal time.

DRESS REHEARSAL – Saturday, Dec. 14 at 3:30pm! It is VERY important that your child attend the DRESS REHEARSAL.

We will be fitting costumes and helping ALL participants know when to go on stage and when to stand! **Costumes will be provided, but optional for most.** We hope to have a lot of angels, shepherds and some wise men as well!

Please help us tell the good news about what we celebrate at Christmas...and WHY!

Wednesday nights are Family Nights at CFC!

You are invited to come and have dinner with our CFC family on Wednesday night from 5:30-6:30 pm in the FLC gym!

We will need some servers and clean up help each week.

You can sign up to provide some serving or clean up assistance at the information table...or at the first meal.

Here is what is coming up on the menu:

Dec. 4: Hot dogs and dessert

Dec. 11: Scalloped potatoes and ham, veggies, dessert

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:

Advent Devotion in the gym!

Adults can enjoy singing praises with the choir in the main Sanctuary.

Kids and Youth - **Christmas Celebration rehearsal and recording!**



Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval. John 6:27

Children's Ministry is a great way to give your time to food that will not spoil!

Opportunities to SERVE

Nursery: (Sundays during worship service, once every 3 months) Share Jesus' love with His youngest as you play with and care for babies through 3 year olds while their parents worship.

Teaching Kids to WORSHIP: (Sundays during worship service)

Help kids in 1st-2nd grades read through the Bible passage we are using in the worship service in a kid-friendly Bible and explore it in an age appropriate way. *You can sign up to lead this time once or twice...or join a rotating schedule.*

Here is a link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4EA4AA2DAAF85-teaching>

Young Children & Worship: (Sundays during worship service)

Help 3 ½ year old – Kindergarten age kids learn to worship using a unique storytelling format and multi-sensory materials. *You can sign up to lead this time once or twice...or join a rotating schedule.*

Here is a link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4EA4AA2DAAF85-young>

Sunday Discipleship 4 Kids: (As needed on Sundays from 10:45-11:45 am) Get your feet wet as a substitute leader on Sunday morning as we seek to help kids grow as disciples of Jesus! Contact Becky at beckyschuetz6@gmail.com.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8 9:30 Christmas Cantata, Cong. Meeting, Bake Sale	9	10 1:30 Praying the Word 6:30 Volleyball	11 5:30 Family Meal 6:30 Circle of Friends, Choir, Middle School	12 12:00 Backpacks due	13 	14 3:30 Dress Rehearsal
15 8:15 Adult Class 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday Discipleship	16	17 6:30 Volleyball	18 9:00 GAP 10:00 Prayer Shawl	19	20 7:00 Men's Basketball	21
22 9:30 Worship, No Sunday Discipleship	23	24 6:00 Christmas Eve Service Office Closed	25 Office Closed PB vacation	26	27	28
29 9:30 Worship, No Sunday Discipleship	30	31 Office Closed	1 Office Closed	2 	3	4
5 8:15 Adult Class 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday Discipleship	6	7 6:30 Volleyball	8 9:00 GAP 10:00 Prayer Shawl	9	10 7:00 Men's Basketball	11

PRAYERS:

David Brown - Kim Day's father passed away, funeral Thursday in Indiana
Alvin Dobbels - Susan Border's father burial Wednesday
Maurice VanderVinne - Steve's father has colon and liver cancer, resident in nursing home in Morrison
Sue Wright - hip surgery on Wednesday
Dick Kvach - home recovering from bladder surgery
Ember Madsen - recovery from hospitalization for dehydration and infection
Sarah - Reg & Linda Shoemsmith's daughter, strength as she trains her body to walk again
Ed Hanssen - for less pain & healing in his knee and back
Bomi - Steve & Ellen Keller's granddaughter, nerves not working in her intestines
James Blohm - Shirley De Wy's son-in-law, doing infusions and physical therapy, getting around better, nerve pain in torso and legs



And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior ..."

Youth Ministry

On Wednesday nights our Middle School is working with the younger kids to help create a worship experience for the entire congregation that will show the beauty and joy of Christ's birth while honoring His mission on Earth. This season 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 opportunity to learn about Christ, preparing our hearts for a season that can seem to overwhelm and distract us, in a casual interactive way as we master the story to tell everyone. All youth are welcome to help with practice and to help present on December 15 during the worship service. We need actors, singers and joyful people!

Also, everyone is invited to join in on Christmas Caroling on December 6, we visit church family and friends that are homebound and can't make it out and about this season.

The Annual Bake Sale and Congregational Meeting are on December 8. 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

Open House in honor of Carol Schipper's Retirement and Birthday

Saturday, December 14th from 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Christ's Family Church Family Life Center
Come help Carol celebrate!
No presents.....just your presence!!!!

You're invited to YouthHope's Christmas Open House Showcase!

Come enjoy delicious Christmas Treats, Fellowship, and Meet the Youth Hope Staff!
Art exhibits, spoken word, music and more from Youth Hope kids and teens!
Friday, December 13th 6pm-8pm
Moline Youth Center 3928 12th Avenue Moline, IL



Annual Resolution Run 5 K Run/Walk Benefiting YouthHope Saturday, January 4, 2020 9:00 a.m.

YouthHope's Moline Youth Center
3928 12th Avenue Moline IL
Indoor Post Race Party
Hot cocoa, snacks & vendors
Register online at:
www.getmeregistered.com/
YouthHopeResolutionRun



WE HAVE NEW FAMILY TABLE TALKERS FOR DECEMBER! The Table Talker theme for November is PATIENCE.

Pick up your Family Table Talker at the Children's Ministry Resource area in the lobby or downstairs in CFC Kids and **get ready for some great family time!!**

Nursery

Are you an organized person with a heart for babies and toddlers who wants to serve God through a ministry at CFC? We are looking for someone to **Chair the Nursery Committee!** The Nursery Chairperson will ensure we have a safe, loving environment for our littlest children on Sunday mornings during worship service. This person will manage volunteers, schedule the staffing of the nursery, and provide annual training to volunteers among other things. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Sara Fossey at sarafossey@yahoo.com.

Thank You

THANK YOU

It is with grateful, comforted hearts we "Thank You" for all the cards and words expressing sympathy, love, peace and hope at the passing of my mother, Alva Jean - "AJ". We are fortunate beyond measure to have the support of encouragement from our church family.

Our joy comes from knowing that Mom is re-united with Dad experiencing what God has promised - eternal life in Heaven in the arms of Christ.

Jim and Becky Meurs



Advent

Advent is the period of time beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ending with Christmas Eve.

Some people begin to thinking before December arrives. Others are halfway through the month and still saying, "I just can't seem to get in the mood for Christmas; maybe when it snows or ..." They are waiting for something to happen to get them in the mood.

In a spiritual sense, that is what Advent is all about. It is a time for us to prepare to celebrate that great event, the first coming of Christ. In Galatians 4:4 we read that God had prepared the world for the coming of Christ. In the same way, Advent is not just a time of waiting expectantly but a time of preparing for the Christmas celebration.

Trinity Snowman

When you see a snowman
Three snowballs round,
He is reminding you
That in God Three In 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 wide open.
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."



A charitable deduction reminder

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 night, soup suppers, etc. that generate contributions 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.