

# First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



**December 20, 2023**

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rev kate's Office Hours: Wed & Thurs 9:00am-12:00pm

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." Sometimes the best gift we can give is the gift of our time, our presence with our loved ones.

Our presence brings such wonderful gifts:

- Hope: Hope is an essential survival tool because it reminds us that the hard times do not have the last word. Hope is not simply a wish. Hope calls us into action based on a belief that things can be different. We can work to bring about the better world that we hope for.
- Peace: We can be present with those who are experiencing life as less-than-peaceful, or those who feel alone. But this might also be true of how we are personally feeling in this moment. The gift of Christ's peace reminds us that we can have serenity even in the midst of non-peaceful situations. Peace is not simply the absence of conflict. Peace is an ever-present gift of wholeness, a gift we can open at any time when we stop, breathe, and trust that we are never alone – God is always with us.
- Joy: We celebrate the gift of being truly, joyfully present to make this world a better place. Bringing the joy of this marvelous season spreads the "good news of great joy," the angels told about! Joy is a spontaneous gift we experience throughout our days – a gift it is our privilege to share! But this gift of joy is always with us, waiting to be shared. Joy reminds us that this is indeed the day that God has made! Let us greet God and each other every morning with a joyful and thankful heart!
- Love: The gift of God's unconditional love is the essence of the birth of Christ. The Holy One wanted to be so present to us that God's Spirit became flesh to share in our human experiences, human experiences like touching, healing, comforting, and challenging. We are called to love as God loves us remembering, the more love we put into the world, the better the world will be.

Our Advent preparations are almost finished. I challenge each and every one of us to continue sharing the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love throughout the end of 2023 and continuing to 2024.

Merry Christmas!



# With sympathy

Our deepest sympathies to the families of Dave Ramsey, Katherine Ford, and Mickey Smith (Roger Smith's brother) on their passing.



THANK YOU to Dawn Blair for cleaning up the grounds near the office entrance and putting greenery out for the winter!

Thank you to the FCC Board for the bonus Christmas gift! *rev kate, Jamie, Keven, Debbie, Loree & Kelly*



Women ReJoyce Sew Time had their quilts and fleece blankets for high school and middle school students blessed by the congregation on Dec 17. Those, along with wool socks, were delivered to the schools this past Monday.

- \*Pastor Doug Gilpin
- \*Terri Gromowski
- \*Sharon Patton
- \*Scott Patton
- \*Maggie
- \*Rodney Christmas
- \*Jody Embrey
- \*Tony Lupo
- \*Marge Coulter
- \*Jimmy & Cindy
- \*Bob Sparks
- \*Sawyer Crowder
- \*Donna Trierweiler
- \*Barb Bollinger
- \*John Charles
- \*Holiday travelers
- \*Carol Teter
- \*Michael Earhart's dad
- \*Larry
- \*Family of Mickey Smith
- \*All Caregivers
- \*Lee Wandfluh
- \*Amy W.
- \*Richard Dick
- \*Roger & Alice Latham
- \*Lily (& her drs)
- \*Bill Dick
- \*Susan O'Callaghan
- \*Mike Gromowski
- \*Janice Ruoff
- \*Kenna McCracken
- \*Jeannie Barbosa
- \*Janice Christmas
- \*Randy Wykoff
- \*Sandy Aspey
- \*Jean Arn
- \*JoAnn Bennett
- \*Ed McCray





# Children's Christmas Program



*Christmas Tasting Party*

*December 17, 2023*





Merry Christmas

From your FCC Staff

rev kate

Keven

Debbie

Jamie

Kelly

Loree

## Memorial Poinsettias

### In loving memory of:

- \* *Alvin & Bess Adkins, Merle & Crystal Adkins, Lester & Helen Fothergill, from Beverly Adkins & Family*
- *Wilton Adkins, from Beverly Adkins & Family*
- *Brad Arn, from Andrea, Malloreë & Molleigh & Family*
- *Dylan Archdekin & Paul & Doris Dick from*  
*John & Becky Pulley*
- *D.A. & Donna Beattie, John and Alice Blair from Donnie & Dawn Blair*
- *In Honor of JoAnn Bennett & Memory of Norm Bennett from*  
*Kate Titsworth*
- *Bob & Bessie Combs from Steve Combs and Susan Burns*  
*Families*
- *Vicky Combs from Steve, Bobby, Megan, & Latham Combs and*  
*Amber & Brad Barker*
- *Oneida & Kenneth Gillespie from Becky Schweizer and*  
*Debbie Smith & Families*
- *Melvin & Edith Hagan, Jim Thompson and Dorothy Kincaid*  
*from Jim & Nancy Hagan*
- *Gene & Joyce Holt from their family*
- *Tom Lewis from his family*
- *Joe Lyle from Mary Kay Lyle and family*
- *Tom McManus from Bobby, Megan & Latham Combs*
- *Lavern Power from Brian, Cindy, Maverick & Kataleena*  
*Spangler*
- *Estel & Charlene Praiswater from Ralph & Judy Young*
- *Alan Price from Paula Price, Andrew & Cindy Price, Jordin*  
*Holly & Riley*
- *Calvin & Rita Schweizer from Steve & Becky Schweizer*  
*and family*
- *Robert & Jody Steinman from Brian & Cindy Spangler*  
*& Family*
- *In Honor of Jamie Willis (thank you for everything) from*  
*Kate Titsworth*
- *Stella Zalenski from Lenny & Susan Zalenski*