



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Newsletter

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**NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)**  
**December 1, 2023**

**Pastor's Note**

Advent is upon us! The stores and advertisements have all moved on to Christmas morning and the gift-giving, commercial part of Christmas. As Christians, Advent slows down the season for us, and reminds us of the importance of anticipation – of waiting – for Christ's birth. The four weeks of Advent have themes important to our spiritual journeys – hope, peace, joy and love. Let's walk this important four week journey together, in our worship, in our personal prayer journey and in our lives, slowing down the process and being reminded of the simplicity of Christmas.

**Advent/Christmas decorating & breakfast**

We will gather Saturday morning, December 2<sup>nd</sup> to decorate the church for the season. The men's group will provide breakfast, the worship committee and DWF will provide the decorations, and we will all provide the labor! Breakfast will begin at 8:30 and decorating will begin by 9. Please join us for the time together as we prepare our church home for the season.

**Blue Christmas Advent Service – Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> – 3pm**

Christmas is known as a season of joy, and it is definitely that with the birth of our Savior. Yet, the Christmas season can also stir up feelings of grief, loss and sadness for a variety of reasons. Our capacity for sadness is as much a part of how we were created as is our capacity for joy – and we are also created with the ability to hold those feelings together in concert with each other by allowing both to have the space needed within our soul. The Blue Christmas service is also called the Longest Night service, and is designed to give space for the feelings of sadness that we may feel during this season. The service will be brief, hopefully meaningful, and honors the whole person as we continue our Advent journey together. This is also a good opportunity to invite someone who may have experienced a recent loss.

## **Bible Readers for December**

December 3, First Sunday of Advent – Robin Brooks - Myer  
December 10, Second Sunday of Advent – Eliza Husser Cave  
December 17, Third Sunday of Advent – Laura Kraft  
December 17, Blue Christmas -  
December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent – Lynn Malone  
December 24, Christmas Eve Service – Eliza Husser Cave  
December 31, First Sunday of Christmas – Judee Mitchell

## **Save these dates in December**

Saturday, December 2 – Decorating of Sanctuary – Breakfast will be served by the Men’s group – 8:30 am breakfast & 9am decorating  
Sunday, December 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 10 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Tuesday, December 12 – Board Meeting 6pm  
Saturday, December 16, - DWF – Trash to Treasure Sale  
Sunday, December 17 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent & Special Christmas Offering  
Sunday, December 17 – Blue Christmas Service at 3pm  
Sunday, December 24 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent service at 11 am  
Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve service at – 5:30 pm  
Sunday, December 31 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas service 11am

## **DISCIPLE MISSION FUND CHRISTMAS OFFERING** **SUNDAY DECEMBER 17, 2023**

You will have the opportunity to give to this Special Day Christmas Offering, which supports the regional ministries in 31 regions of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, across the United States and Canada. Regional ministries are where ministers are nurtured and congregations are provided the opportunities for work and worship. Regions also play a critical role in the preparation and authorization of ministerial ordination, both are key to church leadership and development. Regions partner with congregations to support the work required to call a new minister.

Donations for this Christmas Offering will support the regions in which the donations were made and the work they do to help the churches within those regions. In other words, our region will be supported by your donation. Thank you.

## 2023 DISCIPLE MISSION FUND THANKSGIVING OFFERING

WOW!! To date we have collected \$500.00 for our Thanksgiving Offering. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated. The Disciple colleges, universities and theological institutions are the recipients of this offering. Thank you for your participation.

### DWF News – next Trash to Treasure – December 16<sup>th</sup> , 9am to 1pm

We wish to thank the Congregation for their generous donations to the Trash and Treasure sale sponsored by the DWF. We had additional help the last couple of months and we appreciate your participation.

December is shaping up to be an extremely busy month for the sale. We will be requesting a \$1.00 donation for anyone attending. A very large trash bag will be given to you for that donation. You may fill the bag with anything that you feel you need from the items available. Please encourage anyone in need to take advantage of this “**gift-away**”.

At the New Year, we will be restocking the Trash and Treasure room with new items and we could certainly use help in cleaning the room as well as restocking. We thank the congregation for your faithfulness.

### **Looking for additional ways to serve?**

1. **The DWF** sponsored monthly Trash to Treasure sale is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. Volunteers are appreciated to help staff the sale and/or to help keep Room 3 clean and ready with new donations. Please check with Ida or Judee on ways you are able to help out. The monthly sale proceeds go directly to support various local charities whose missions we support.
2. **ACTS** relies on volunteers to help them bring their mission to action. A current listing of volunteer needs can be found on their website [www.actsofaiken.org](http://www.actsofaiken.org) by clicking the “Volunteer” link or call 803-649-3800.
3. **Walking Tall Ministries** serves the homeless population in the Gloverville area. They rely on volunteers to prepare food and lunch packs as well as other tasks. Their number is 803-226-6579 and their website is [www.walkingtallministries.unaux.com](http://www.walkingtallministries.unaux.com).

## **Missions Opportunity**

**New information regarding ACTS can be found in the Fellowship Hall, including volunteer applications take a minute to look.**

To make it easier to donate to **ACTS** and **Walking Tall Ministries**, we will be placing a basket for each ministry in the Sanctuary. These baskets will also be gentle reminders of our on-going commitment and connection to these two local ministries. We also have Walking Tall donation jar in the Fellowship Hall for weekly bread and bottled water.

**ACTs donation for December: Soup**

**Walking Tall donation for December: Donation jar for bread and water, Vienna Sausages; also an on-going need for 39 gallon trash bags**



**Happy Birthday to:**

Lynn Malone - December 21

April Virge - December 23

Judee Mitchell - December 27

Matt Shane - December 31

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

*The family of Sharon Nicodemus, Carol Bloomquist, Shirley & Steve Wahler, Vicki Rishel, Bill Bates, Liz Unzicker, Laurie Green, Sharon Finn, those impacted by gun violence, for the Ukraine, Israel & Palestine, Afghanistan, those experiencing effects of tornadoes, storms and other natural disasters, USA, the world.*

**CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR:** *Jerry Doleshall, Jesse Vega, Paul Wilson, Ida Bassi, Ken Chatto, Pam Owen, Kelley Jones, Tyler De Los Santos, Bryan Malone, Susan Poster Ullmann, Chuck & Elaine Johnston, Pastor Irene, Millie Clarke, Mickie Fink, Martha Albritton, Carol Kettel, Linda Cheadle, Tom & Connie Moomjy, Robin Brooks, Sabrina, Eliza Husser Cave, Dr. Walter Allen, Elsie Smith, Connie Santee, Austin and Sharon Moede, Tatyana Yatsenko, Ella Shakibatabar our Regional Church, those in public service, military service and for our Country.*

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