



The MESSENGER

THE Wonder
OF CHRISTMAS
Wednesday, November 29
7:00 p.m.

A Musical
at Westminster Village
Presented by
The Chancel Choir of
First Christian Church


ONCE YOU BELIEVE, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

COME ONE! COME ALL!
FCC TASTING PARTY
December 10 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. Centrum
Mingle with church friends!
Enjoy the provided
homemade goodies!
First service, stay over...
Second service, come early!

In Awe and Wonder, Advent Begins...

December 3: Hanging of the Green
in the 9:00 service

December 10: Christmas Musical
in the 9:00 service
Tasting Party
at 9:45 in the Centrum
One and All service begins at 10:30



➤ *Advent Decorating* – This Sunday, November 26, 10:00-noon. Undecorating Sunday, January 7, 10:00-noon. The Worship Committee would welcome your helping hands!

➤ *Adopt-A-Family* – Our Reach Out Ministry invites you to look for the Christmas tree in the Centrum this Sunday. Choose a tag of a gift to give to a family in need in our community and then record it in the notebook nearby.



➤ *Advent Devotionals* – available Sunday!

➤ *Bible Study* – You are welcome to come read through the short Letters of Paul (currently I Timothy) on Wednesdays at noon in the Conference Room.

➤ *Thank You* – Jim and I would like to thank everyone for the gifts and notes of appreciation for “Pastor Appreciation Month”!! We are grateful for your kind words and generous gifts. It is a joy to serve God with you! -- Holly Irvin



➤ *Gifts for Another Table* – Don’t forget people from Regional Alternative School. Please bring the following items which will be helpful to these young people: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothpaste, lotion, diapers, chap stick (all sizes including travel size – many available at Dollar Tree/Dollar General).

➤ *Beautification Award* – On November 13, our church was awarded a beautification award by the City of Bloomington! John Hensley attended a ceremony and accepted the award. Many thanks to John & Rita Hensley, John Libert, Gary Thompson, Rob Blessing, Wally Calvert, John & Kathy Dailey, the Christian Motorcycle Association, and numerous other individuals for the hard work that enabled us to earn this award!



➤ *Disciples Women’s Ministries*



The December 7 gathering of the Disciples Women's Ministries will be their annual Christmas Luncheon. It is being held at Westminster Village at 12:00. A musical program will be presented by a mandolin group. Please sign up at the Information Center by December 3. All church women are invited. The cost for the luncheon is \$10 and will be collected at the luncheon. The menu will be chicken marsala, tossed salad, vegetable, rolls, and strawberry cake.

Marcia Christensen has received copies of the books to be used for our 2018 study: “Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts.” The cost is \$14.85. Please contact her if you have not already gotten your copy. Our first meeting of 2018 will be on January 4 at 1:00 PM.

Please be thinking of addresses of college students and military personnel to whom you would like to send a Love Box. February always seems to sneak up on us. Details will follow later. You may email to Dawn at the church office. Please put “Love Boxes” in the subject line.

Witness of the Faithful

Attendance: 11/12: 161, 35 11/19: 148, 32
Offering: \$13,861.30

2018 General Fund Pledge Campaign Update:

112 pledges = \$412,886. Pledge cards are available in the attendance pads in the pews or by calling the church office.

Prayer Concerns

Shirley Ryan AbilityLab: Sharon Warren

(Room #2236, 355 E. Erie Street, Chicago, IL 60611)

Awaiting Surgery: Vicki Hall **Treatment:** Sharon Warren

Aftercare: Bob Corbett, Lori Craig, Juanita Elliott, Dave Eyman, Peggy O’Neal, Brenda Phillis, Mary Smart

Hospice: Harold Goyen, Marilyn Thompson, Virginia Warren

Assisted Living: Alma Samuels (Taylors’ home)

Nursing Homes: Marilyn Thompson (Blm. Rehab); Paul Cope,

Jackie Hux, Merle Murray, Harry Schultz, Virginia Warren

(Heritage, Blm.); Sonna West (Heritage, El Paso); Harold

Goyen (Heritage, Nrm); Corena Meyer (Liberty, Clinton);

Niola Daily, Dave Dungan, Marlyn Mahannah, Lois Murray,

Barbara Thatcher (Martin Hlth); Roberta Blomgren (Sugar Crk)

Military: Chris Kavanaugh (Marines, CA);

Harley Scott (Phillis niece/Navy, VA)

Sympathy to: ... Carrie (Matt) Chapman family on the

November 8 death of her grandmother, Marilyn Hammer

... Jenny (Drew) Henneberg family on the November 19 death

of her father, Joe Lerner, of Morton

Birth: Zoey Rose Menken was born October 10 to Cody &

Kaleigh Menken. Grandparents are Tom & Sarah Butler.

Our Discernment Journey Continues

Two important gatherings of First Christian Church members have taken place. On October 29, 81 people were present to learn about the building, its history and current condition, and to begin to process what is happening within the broader church. Feedback from those in attendance mentioned the importance of getting current facts and figures about our church's building, financial trends, attendance, and membership.

The November 12 gathering provided opportunity for 72 people to give their input on what they have heard, what they are feeling, and what dreams they have for FCC. In addition, more information was presented on changes occurring in mainline, denominational churches. The afternoon concluded with those present completing a questionnaire to gather more input about our openness to change. A majority of those responding agree that:

- I can change usual times and worship styles to attract new members.
- I can worship as part of FCC in a different building in a new location.
- I am able to be part of a faith community that is focused more on mission, discipleship, and sacred partnering than on traditional worship.
- I am open to alternative ways and locations in which people gather to share God's love.
- I would like to be part of a team that explores new ways of worshipping.
- I will support a small group ministry by committing to regular, faithful participation in a group.



The participation and discussion at both of these gatherings reflect the incredible level of commitment present among the members of FCC. There is a willingness to be open to the new opportunities that are ahead of us while honoring our 180 year history and tradition.

These two meetings are just the beginning of our journey together. No ideas or opinions have been rejected; no decisions have been made. More opportunities will be available to learn, read, discuss, and dream. January 21, 2018, is tentatively scheduled for another chance to share ... maybe over a meal!

Getting together has been one valuable way to discern the future of FCC. If you haven't been able to attend a meeting, your questions and ideas are still valued and can be communicated by contacting any one on the core team: Marty Sallee, Alan Chapman, Don Mahannah, Linda Lehmann, Becky White, John Dailey, Ryan Newton, Holly Irvin, and Jim Warren. Of course, your prayers are also important and needed as we continue with this work.

"We are being called by God to something new" was one of the statements on the November 12 questionnaire that received the highest positive response! What a privilege to walk with God as we listen, learn, and pray about our future!

THE KING'S CARPENTERS

MISSIONARIES TO THE "LEAST OF HIS"

MIKE AND JULIE ROBINSON

WHAT A WONDERFUL YEAR WE HAVE HAD. WE ARE ALWAYS THANKFUL THIS TIME OF YEAR AND LIKE TO REFLECT ON ALL OUR BLESSINGS.

The Lord is always good, and we know that. Our year has been filled with many blessings and opportunities to serve. Many of you have been a part of our work and for that we are so grateful. Without your help we cannot serve those that need our help. Whether you have served on a site with us or financially donated or kept us in prayer, you are the heart and soul of what we do. God's blessings to all of you.

Sometimes we work in partnerships with other organizations that we don't always talk about. That was the case most of this year. Here are some things that have we have been a part of this year:

- We have continued to help 2 mothers of 3 kids that we started working with during Group mission blitz here in town last year. We have finished work that wasn't done by Group. We have since helped repair a furnace duct, new flooring for kitchen, living room sub floor (carpet), bathroom tile, one bedroom, a bed for one of the kids, food for the family, paint for a deck. They also help all they can to work on these projects.
 - We serve on the Board of Directors of the WBRP, West Bloomington Revitalization Project. In early spring the Tool Library and the offices of the WBRP bought the former Jesus House on West Washington Street. The building needed significant remodeling and Mike played a huge role in getting the building ready. There is also an apartment upstairs that he has volunteered many hours to provide a sufficient living space for a family in our community.
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- In March we returned to Real Faith Christian Church, DOC in Clarksdale, MS. Mike touched up a few things and ordered some things they needed. They have since opened a second church in South Memphis. We are so proud to have helped finish their building along with many of you supporting them and us in the process.
 - In May Julie went the FCC youth mission trip to St. Louis and did the cooking for the group for the week. Also, working alongside the team on their projects.
 - Sometimes is it hard to think of many RAK Random Acts of Kindness that we do. Many times, we hand out hats and gloves to the homeless on the streets as we see need, provide a meal or give a ride. Without your donations we could not provide some of these needs.
 - Mike also joined the fall mission trip back to St. Louis to work in the Black cemetery to continue the process of clearing brush to uncover headstones.
 - Last Christmas Eve we helped serve a meal at the Salvation Army for those who have no family or are homeless. Many of you stepped up and provided desserts for that event.
 - Throughout the year we work with Regional Alternative School. One of their needs is a washer and dryer. Some of the students are young parents and need a place to do laundry for free.

So, we have not traveled far this year but worked locally and with our friends and followers at FCC we have succeeded in doing God's work.

It is our hope to work with FEMA or DHM in the Spring in Puerto Rico. Nothing is firm yet as there is a long way to go in that recovery process. Keep us in your prayers.

deductible gift to The King's Carpenters, NFP in their name. They will receive updates on our work and a handmade cross.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

MIKE AND JULIE ROBINSON

Some of our pictures



REAL FAITH CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN CLARKSDALE, MS



Jesus House now Tool Library



Awesome kitchen at Union Ave in St. Louis



Clearing brush at Washington cemetery



Mike, Desra and Felicia






The kids helping.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author

DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM Children's Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship 2:00 PM Christian Motorcycle Association 5:00 PM Youth Group WILL NOT MEET	27 10:30 AM Bridge 5:00 PM PPR 5:45 PM Bridge 5:45 PM Voice Lesson	28 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM NA 5:15 PM Music Connections	29 12:00 PM Bible Bunch 6:30 PM Choir @ Westminster Village 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	30 1:00 AM CCIW 5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons	1	2
3  Gifts for Another Table 9:00 AM Hanging of the Greens 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship 10:15 AM Youth Sunday School 5:00 PM Youth Group - Caroling/Avanti's	4 10:30 AM Bridge 11:30 AM CCIW 5:45 PM Bridge 5:45 PM Voice Lesson	5 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM NA 5:15 PM Music Connections	6 12:00 PM Bible Bunch 5:30 PM Hand Bells 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	7 1:00 PM Disciples Women's Ministries @ Westminster 5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons	8 1:00 PM Debbie Lubbert Visitation/Funeral	9
10  Tasting Party 9:00 AM Worship Service - Christmas Musical 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship 10:15 AM Youth Sunday School 5:00 PM Youth Group - Christmas Party	11 9:00 AM Home Sweet Home Auxiliary 10:30 AM Bridge 1:00 PM CCIW 5:30 PM Board Meeting 5:45 PM Bridge 5:45 PM Voice Lesson	12 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Don Shandrow Auditions 5:00 PM NA 5:15 PM Music Connections	13 12:00 PM Bible Bunch 5:00 PM Don Shandrow Auditions 5:30 PM Hand Bells 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	14 5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons	15 7:00 PM Square Dance	16 10:30 AM Bridge
17 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship 10:15 AM Youth Sunday School 5:00 PM Youth Group WILL NOT MEET	18 10:30 AM Bridge 5:45 PM Bridge 5:45 PM Voice Lesson	19 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM NA 5:15 PM Music Connections	20 12:00 PM Bible Bunch 5:30 PM Hand Bells 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	21 5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons	22	23 1:00 PM Baby Shower
24 10:00 AM Combined Service 2:00 PM Christian Motorcycle Association 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 5:00 PM Youth Group WILL NOT MEET 7:30 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 	26 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM NA 5:15 PM Music Connections	27 12:00 PM Bible Bunch 5:30 PM Hand Bells 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	28 5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons	29	30 Thomas/Ortiz Wedding Rehearsal
31 Thomas/Ortiz Wedding 10:00 AM Combined Service 10:15 AM One and All Worship 5:00 PM Youth Group WILL NOT MEET						

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #41

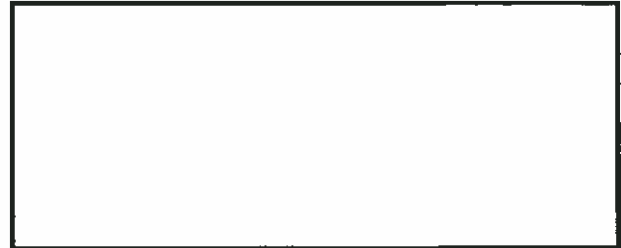
Bloomington's Oldest Continuing Congregation - Founded 1837



**401 West Jefferson Street
Bloomington, Illinois 61701**

Bloomington, IL 61701

Return Service Requested



Serving Sunday, November 26

Acolytes: Ellie Chapman, Maddie Chapman
Child Care: Trish Logan, Stephanie Reed
Deacons: 9:00 Stacey Erickson, Vicki Hall
10:15 Pat & Jenny Lawler
Jr. Deacons: Gabe Warren, Austin Metz
Drivers: Ryan Newton, Gary Thompson
Elders: Beverly & Al Leight
Homebound Elders: Camille & Art Taylor
Fellowship Host: Julie Robinson
Fill Candles: Ryan Newton
Greeters: Art & Camille Taylor, Bill & Susan Chaney, Tom Chaney
Information Center Host: Pete Whitmer
Scripture: Patty Thompson **Time for Children:** Holly Irvin
Sound Tech: Brian Metz **Video Tech:** Nate Damery
Worship & Wonder Greeter: Kim Cox
Pulpit: Ed Taylor of Hospice Compassus;
"Who Is Our King?" John 18:33-38

Mailed: November 22, 2017

Serving Sunday, December 3

Acolytes: Bethany Warren, Lydia Warren
Child Care: Trish Logan, Michelle Kiesewetter
Deacons: 9:00 Justin & Kim Cox
10:15 Peg Larson, Matthew Davis
Jr. Deacons: --
Drivers: Frank Lipscomb, Darrell Arvik
Elders: Susan Cleaver, John Hensley
Homebound Elders: Beverly & Al Leight
Fellowship Host: Bill Robitske
Fill Candles: Marla McElroy, Kathie Chapman
Greeters: Brian Metz, Austin Metz, Mark & Michelle Gramley
Information Center Host: Sharron Wright
Recycle: Frank & Lois Lipscomb
Scripture: Marla McElroy **Time for Children:** Heather Damery
Sound Techs: Brian Metz, Austin Metz **Video Tech:** James Nussbaum
Worship & Wonder Greeter: Karen Crusius

Sunday Traditional Worship 9:00 AM
One and All Worship 10:15 AM
Sunday School 10:15 AM
Sunday Youth Group 5:00 PM

Senior Pastor

James Warren.....212-6873
jwarren@blmfcc.org

Minister Emeritus

John Trefzger

Music

Holly Irvin, Director of Music & Youth Ministries
hirvin@blmfcc.org.....1-864-921-4874

Lou Ann Fillingham, organ/piano
lafillingham@comcast.net

Bill West, One and All Music Coordinator
billwest211@gmail.com

Communications Coordinator

Jenifer Petri.....808-1181
info@blmfcc.org

Office Administrator

Dawn Craig
office@blmfcc.org

Financial Secretary & Editor

Deborah Stumm
dstumm@blmfcc.org

Custodian

Wally Calvert
calvert62@comcast.net

Child Care Coordinator

Trish Logan
tlogan4@hotmail.com

Office 829-9327

401 W. Jefferson, Bloomington, IL 61701
M-F 8:00-4:30; Closed Noon-1:00

FAX.....829-2865

Website & Calendar.....www.blmfcc.com