



The MESSENGER

➤ *Welcome Holly Irvin*



Holly's first official day with us as our next Director of Music and Youth will be this Thursday, January 5.

➤ *Disciples Women's Ministries*

As we look forward to 2017, may the promises we celebrated at our Savior's birth, move us to a more complete service for Him. DWM will meet Thursday, January 5, at 1:00 PM in the Conference Room next to the elevator. All ladies of the church are invited to share in this time of service, learning, and fellowship. Our first project



of 2017 will be the annual Love Boxes that are sent each February to all FCC college students and military personnel. Please be sure the office has the most current

address of your student or military person. There will be a list of items you can help with on an easel in the Centrum mid-January. Please stop to see how you can help. Our boxes are somewhat limited in size (due to cost of postage) and some items we have found travel better than others, so please check for suggested donations. This year the project managers are Mary Helen Haskell and Pam Yerkes, if you have questions. This is one way our FCC family can keep in touch with those far away. We will continue our study of memorable "Women of the Bible" though this year. The lesson this month will be on MIRIAM, and be given by Kim Rott. Our appreciation goes out to all those who have volunteered to share in this study. Please join us for an hour or two to make new friends and renew old friendships.

➤ *Gifts for Another Table*

Non-perishable food items brought to church this Sunday, January 8, will be given to St. Vincent de Paul food pantry. Suggested items are canned fruits and vegetables, boxed meals (Hamburger Helper, mac & cheese), canned soup, crackers, peanut butter, jelly, and cereal.

➤ *Undecorating*

We are going to need help taking down the beautiful Christmas decorations in our Sanctuary. Please plan to help us starting after the 9:00 AM service on January 8. Many hands make work light and fun.

➤ *Brown Bag Bible Bunch*

We will take a Christmas break until January 11 and then resume our 4-month study comparison of the 4 Gospels on Wednesdays at noon.

➤ *Kelley's Farewell Reception*



Please celebrate Kelley Becker's ministry with us by attending a reception in her honor on January 15, her last Sunday with us. It is our chance to say thank you and goodbye, wish

her well in her new venture, and enjoy a light lunch together. Help make this a strong send-off for Kelley in Fellowship Hall after the 10:15 AM service.

➤ *Inclement Weather*

Please check the church website, Facebook, email, church answering machine, and WJBC 1230 AM radio during inclement winter weather for church service and meeting cancellations.

➤ *Wednesday Supper Club*



January 18 5:30 PM

MONICAL'S PIZZA

2103 N. Veterans

NOTE CHANGE FOR WHICH MONICAL'S
(Best Buy strip mall between Jewel & new gym)

Note number attending
on Sunday attendance pad OR
Phone FCC office (829-9327) BEFORE 4:30 PM
MONDAY, JANUARY 16

Witness of the Faithful

Attendance:	Offerings:
12/24: 225, 71	12/24-12/31
12/25: 64	\$19,023.80
1/1: 117	1/1/17 \$12,843.63

Prayer Concerns

Awaiting Tests/Surgery: Susan Cleaver
Aftercare: Gail Corbett, Jeff Courtright, Mickey Drexler, Gene Fowler, Jan Violano, Jim Wills
Other: Connie Lindenbaum **Treatment:** Dave Eyman
Assisted Living: Alma Samuels (at Taylors' home)
Hospice: Darlene Bethel, Marsha Reeves
Nursing Homes: Judy Feezor (Aperion); James Fry, Marilyn Kopp, Merle Murray, Virginia Warren (Heritage, Blm.); Sonna West (Heritage, El Paso); Harold Goyen (Heritage, Normal); Corena Meyer (Liberty, Clinton); Niola Daily, Dave Dungan, Lois Murray (Martin Health); Roberta Blomgren (Sugar Creek)
Military: Chris Kavanaugh (Marines, CA); Harley Scott (Phillis niece/Navy, VA)
Sympathy to: ... Luella (Don) Mahannah family on the December 21 death of her Mother, Goldie Hoffmire, of Eureka ... family and friends of O.V. Lancaster on his death December 25 ... Duff (Herb) Knudsen family on the December 31 death of her Father, Robert Anderson, of CA

Notes

- Reminder, we are not ordering numbered offering envelopes for 2017. Please use the ones available in the pew racks and write your name on them.
- During 2016, we wrote 1,677 Sunday morning prayer cards.
- Additional Christmas greetings from:
David Bradbury, Jeff & Madonna Courtright
Damery family, Erickson family,
Week of Compassion office
- An additional poinsettia for the Sanctuary from:
Gillian Rongey in memory of Richard Rongey

A Note about our Growing Legacy Circle at First Christian Church...

First, Legacy Circle ... what is that?

The Legacy Circle are faithful servants who have designated a future gift to our church. There are several ways to give a future gift to the church. Some of our Legacy Circle members have remembered the church in their wills. Others have named the church as a beneficiary in their life insurance policies. There are several ways to give a future gift to the church. If you are considering such a gift, please contact one of the church trustees (Alan, Marty, Don, Linda, and Becky). They will be happy to meet with you, listen to your wishes and discuss various possibilities.

Second, what is a legacy gift?

It is a gift permanently insuring that your stewardship will continue to enhance the work of First Christian Church. It is a blessing for future generations.

Third ...

With the beginning of the new year we hope you will prayerfully consider designating a future gift to the church.

Fourth ... Jump into action!

A legacy gift extends your giving beyond your lifetime, so get started!

Saving the best for last ...Two others have made lasting gifts to our church. Our Legacy Circle is growing. We now have 15. Will you join us in 2017?

— The Trustees

HELP (Please) TIME TO FILL "LOVE" BOXES

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS: see easel in Centrum for samples

Items have to be a certain size to fit in the mailing box. We have cut-away reminders for you to take. Please place items in the box under easel. Deadline to bring items: February 2.

ADDRESSES: submit for your college students &/or your military family members. As we are sending food items, it is imperative we have current addresses. Students can be under grads, grad school, living at home or away – we want them to know our church is thinking about them. Please submit to Dawn at office@blmfcc.org.

Hello Friends!

Another year has passed and a new year is upon us. May your 2017 be filled with hope, love, prosperity, spiritual growth, and improved health for you and your family.

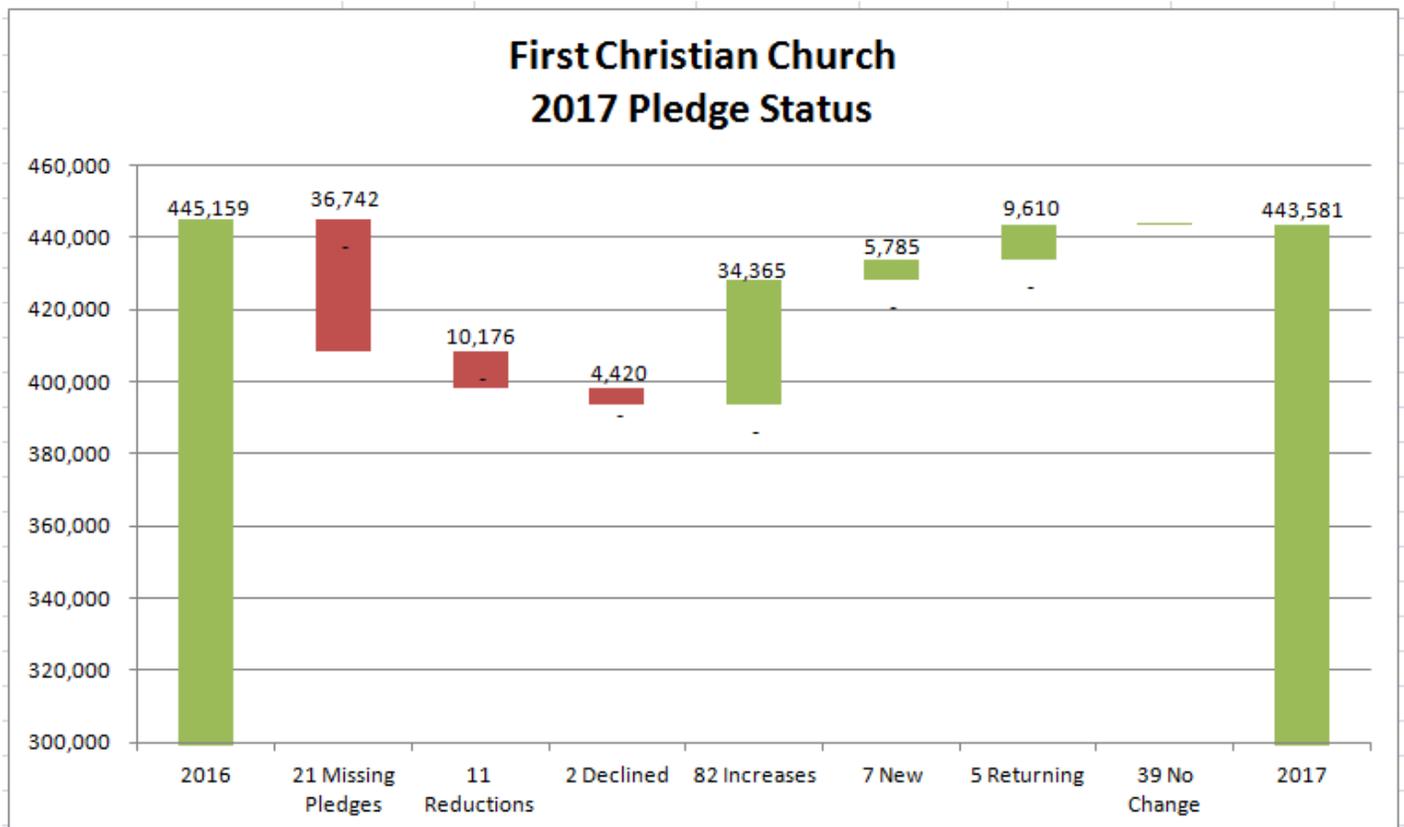
Financially, FCC will finish 2016 with NO deficit. Thank you for your generous support to help bridge the gap. This will definitely help FCC start 2017 on the right financial foot.

As of 1/2/17, 146 stewardship pledges have been submitted, compared to 155 pledges in 2016. In 2016, \$445,159 was pledged. So far \$443,581 has been pledged for 2017. See chart for more details.

If you have not yet submitted your 2017 stewardship pledge, please do so as soon as possible. Also, please prayerfully consider increasing your current 2017 pledge. Please contact the church office to provide any updates. Soon the 2017 budget will be finalized and will be presented to the congregation for approval. Our goal is to submit a surplus budget, while making minimal cuts to ministry budgets. Every little bit of your financial support helps advance the work of your church.

With your commitment, dedication, and support I look forward to what 2017 has in store at First Christian Church.

Blessings to all!
Ryan Newton,
FCC Board President



A long obedience in the same direction...



How was your 2016? Were you ready for 2016 to be over so you could move on to 2017, or did you want to hang on to it a little bit longer? What good things and what not-so-good things happened? Did you face any tough challenges? How was your health? Did you lose someone close to you? Did you make new friends? Did you celebrate a birth or wedding?

Every year has its ups and downs. There are events that lift our souls, and others that leave our souls desolate. What will 2017 bring to you?

The good news is we don't know. We don't have a clue what 2017 has in store for us. The future is wide open, and God promises to be with us no matter where we go or what we do.

The path ahead, though unknown, is ours to blaze. Circumstances may not always allow us to choose the path we want. National and global politics, our economic status, personal loss, etc., may limit what we can do.

Nevertheless, we still have some control over our future. Will I choose to live into 2017 hopefully? Will I focus on the people around me, or will I remain selfish? Will I seek to make a difference wherever injustice, poverty, or violence exist? Will I choose life?

2017, like any other year, will bring us times of joy and sorrow. Sometimes we'll be up, and other times down. We'll experience change, some we'll embrace, and some we'll seek to avoid. Although circumstances may limit our choices, we still have an important role in shaping our future and our world's.

God's promise is real. No matter where you may go, what you may do, or what you may become, God stands firmly beside you. No matter what, God loves you. Even if you veer off the path a little, God remains with you to guide you back to where you need to be.

Working together, choosing hope and life, and opening ourselves to God's love can make 2017 the best year yet. Let's do it!!

-- Jim Warren

An old year is in the books, and a new year has opened. 2016 ended with the solemn drop of a ball, and 2017 crashed onto the scene with noisemakers, fireworks, and kisses.

2016 was quite a year, wasn't it? Of course, the big news last year was the Chicago Cubs winning their first World Series in 108 years. Everything else pales in comparison.

There were some other noteworthy events, to be sure. We experienced a contentious presidential campaign that brought to light, and even intensified, divisions in our country. We're waiting anxiously to see what Donald Trump will do after January 20.

Here are a few more highlights of 2016: Zika, Syria and Aleppo, Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, FL, Brexit, Pokémon Go, hacked emails, Brazil Olympics, Hurricane Matthew, Dakota Access Pipeline, and Ghost Ship warehouse fire. Terrorism struck around the world: United States, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria-Aleppo, Turkey, Jordan, Libya, Somalia, Egypt, India, Netherlands, France, and Nigeria. Among those who died last year were: Prince, Fidel Castro, Antonin Scalia, Carrie Fisher, Debbie Reynolds, George Michael, Zsa Zsa Gabor, John Glenn, Florence Henderson, Arnold Palmer, Mohammed Ali, Nancy Reagan, and David Bowie.

Whew! What a list!! What a year!!

One worship service
January 15 at 10:15
AM for Kelley's farewell

Children/Youth Sunday
School and Youth
Groups will resume
January 22

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bloomington's Oldest Continuing Congregation - Founded 1837



401 West Jefferson Street
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

Return Service Requested

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

Bloomington, IL 61701



Serving Sunday, January 8

Acolytes: Bethany Warren, Lydia Warren
Child Care: Trish Logan, Corin Chapman
Deacons: Stacey Erickson, Brian Metz
One and All Deacons: Liberty Nussbaum, Matt Davis
Jr. Deacons: Brennon Reed, Abby Logan
Driver: Darrell Arvik
Elders: Madonna Courtright, Darrell Arvik
Homebound Elders: Jill West, Kathie Chapman
Fellowship Time: Ron & Nancy Gramley
Fill Candles: Marla McElroy
Greeters: Cindy Rousey, Pete Whitmer
Information Center Host: Teri Arvik
Scripture: Art Taylor
Sound Tech: James Nussbaum
Time for Children: Linda Lehmann
Video Tech: Austin Metz
Worship & Wonder Greeters: Sue Brumme, Chip Jamerson
Pulpit: Jim Warren – Matthew 2:1-12

Mailed: January 4, 2017

Serving Sunday, January 15, 10:15 AM

Farewell for Kelley

Acolyte: Ethan Rocke
Child Care: Trish Logan, Kathie Chapman
Deacons: Scott & Valerie Fisher, Holly Rocke, Robyn Loftin
Jr. Deacons: Sam Warren, Sadie Newton
Driver: Gary Thompson
Elders: Kathie Chapman, Faith Russell
Homebound Elders: Madonna Courtright, Darrell Arvik
Fellowship Time: Reception for Kelley
Fill Candles: Marla McElroy
Greeters: Art & Camille Taylor; Bill, Susan, and Tom Chaney
Information Center Host: Mary Helen Haskell
Scripture: Don Mahannah
Sound Tech: -
Time for Children: Jean Harper
Video Tech: Chip Jamerson

Sunday Traditional Worship 9:00 AM
One and All Worship 10:15 AM
Sunday School for All Ages 10:15 AM
Youth Groups..... 5:00 PM

Senior Pastor

James Warren.....212-6873

jwarren@blmfcc.org

Minister Emeritus

John Trefzger

Associate Pastor

Kelley Becker.....826-8513

kbecker@blmfcc.org

Communications Coordinator

Jenifer Metz 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

tloqan4@hotmail.com

Music

Lou Ann Fillingham, organ/piano

lafillingham@comcast.net

Bill West, One and All Music Coordinator

billwest211@gmail.com

Office(309) 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