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THE CRUSADER (USPS139220) published weekly except the week after/of Christmas by First Christian Church,
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Tuesday, Dec. 4

4:45pm Yoga in the parlor
6:30pm Polar Express Leadership
Appreciation Night

Wednesday, Dec. 5

2pm Rosewood/3pm Hawthorne-Renée G.
5:30pm Youth & Can Do Kids
7:30pm Choir

Thursday, Dec. 6

9am Staff Mtg.
9:15am Church Women United @
First Church of God

Friday, Dec. 7

Office will close at noon today

Sunday, Dec. 9

8:30am Worship
9:30am Coffee time in small hall
10am Sunday School
11am Worship

Monday, Dec. 10

6:30pm Quilt Club Room 17

Tuesday, Dec. 11

4:45pm Yoga in parlor
6pm Council of Ministries
7pm Ministry Teams

Wednesday, Dec. 12

2pm Rosewood/3pm Hawthorne-MJ
5:30pm Youth and Can Do Kids
7:30pm Choir

Thursday, Dec. 13

10:30am Disciple Women's Council

SERVING SCHEDULE

Dec. 9, 2018

8:30am Worship

Greet at North Street, Prayer Cards & Offering, Serve Communion: Dori Oberman, Candi Moulton
Prepare Communion, Greet at Broad St. & Serve Out if Needed: Janet Foster & Jan Unger

Offering: Cindy Andrews

Communion: Neill Unger

Prayers: Donna Flicek

Phone: Larry Thurman

Education Building Greeter: Janet Christiansen

Acolyte: Carson Stecher

11:00 a.m. Worship

Clean up Communion, Greet at Broad St., *Acolyte, Serve Out if Needed:

*Don Mundy, Amanda Keith

Greet at North St., Prayer Cards,

Offering, Serve Communion: Mack Glass, Shawn Keith

Elder Serving In: Chris Mowrer

Elder Serving Out: Neill Unger



December Coffee hosts:

Friendship Class

**3rd Sunday
of the Month
Congo Coffee**



The Crusader

**First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**

301 N Broad St.

Galesburg, IL 61401 Phone: 343-9960



Church e-mail address: fccgalesburg@gmail.com

Web Page – www.fccgalesburg.org

Church Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

Organist – Amber Clark Director of Music – Steve Jackson sjackson@sandburg.edu

Secretary – Terri Oehlert fccgalesburg@gmail.com

Bookkeeper – Lynda White fcclwhite@gmail.com Custodian – Bob Conley

Co-Pastors: Gregory S. and Martha-Jean Fitch pastorgreg02@gmail.com & pastormj02@gmail.com

Vol. 72, No. 49, December 5, 2018



December 9, 2018

Second Sunday of Advent

Message by MJ,

“Angels Among Us: Nothing is Impossible”

Luke 2:26-38

8:30am Worship - Quest Band plays,

“Breath of Heaven”

9:30am Coffee Time in small hall

10am Sunday School

11am Worship, Choir sings *“The Angel Gabriel”*, arr. John Raymond

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

December 16, 6pm – Children's Christmas Program

December 23, 9:45am – Christmas Brunch

December 24, 7:30pm – Christmas Eve Worship

December 30, 9am Sunday School

10am – One Combined Worship Service,

Message by **Jordan Knight**.



Our Mission Statement: *Growing Spirit-filled, committed disciples of Christ.*



IN OUR PRAYERS

- ... Pray for **Nikotemo Sopepa**, Fiji Missionary.
- ... FCC Centralia, UniPlace Champaign, Chandlerville CC.
- ... New City Church in Mbandaka, DRC – praise for generous response to Congo offering.
- ... Praise for a successful cookie walk!
- ... Continued prayers for **Scott's** ALS condition and

for him to be able to get some rest.

- ... **David Fell**, last week of treatment, prayer that treatment is successful.
- ... **Harriett Anderson** is at Heartland, Room 110 and **Marie Collinson**, Room 122.
- ... **Margaret Coombs**, is at Marigold, Room 126.
- ... Safe travel for all who are traveling.
- ... **Rosemary Humphrey** – fell & crushed a disc in her back and is in quite a bit of pain.
- ... **Patty Cooley's** mother Theresa, who is ill.
- ... Our sympathy to the family of **Pat Sperry**. Pat passed away on December 2. Funeral arrangements are pending.

DECEMBER MEETINGS

- Tues., Dec. 4** 6:30pm Leadership Appreciation Night. All Aboard the Polar Express!
- Thurs., Dec. 6** 9:15am Church Women United
- Thurs., Dec. 13** 10:30am Disciple Women's Council Mtg
- Tues., Dec. 18** 9:30am Ruth Circle at Bonnie Glass'
- Thurs., Dec. 20** 1:30pm Lydia Circle at the church
- Thurs., Dec. 20** 5:30pm Men's Night Out - Pizza Ranch



DECEMBER YOUTH SCHEDULE Can Do Kids & Youth Group

Meetings in **December** will be on **Wednesday, Dec. 5, 12** and **19**. There will be a Christmas program rehearsal on **Sat., Dec. 15 at 9am**. We'll practice the program and then have pizza for lunch.

The Children's Program is on **Sunday, December 16th at 6pm**. We will not meet on December 26th.



Blessing Box: Drop in a coin for the blessing that God sent His Son into the world.



WELCOME ALICE MATTESON



It is with great joy that we welcome Alice Matteson to our church family. Alice came forward on Sunday, December 2, and joined our church through transfer of membership from a Baptist Church. She also rededicated her life to Christ – a commitment she has made to “give Jesus full custody of her heart, rather than temporary custody”! Alice shares this with us to help us get to know her better: *I was born in Tacoma Washington on the west coast and have 6 brothers and three sisters. I have lived in several states but think the west coast is the most beautiful. I love to work and have had several job titles from factory to nursing. I enjoy arts and crafts, gardening, going for walks, reading, going for walks... and the list goes on.*

I have desired to live for Christ for 5 years now. Like Jesus, people are my passion so, I look forward to knowing people.

Alice lives at 900 E Jefferson St #304 in Macomb, IL 61455 and her phone number is 309-331-5124.

GIVING TREE

It's that time! The giving tree is once again up in the corner of the choir loft in the sanctuary. This year a task force of FCC members have selected 4 families from King School to sponsor for Christmas.

However, if you have already purchased school supply items at the beginning of the year, we will gladly take those too!

When selecting an item from the tree please be sure to return the tag you have selected WITH the gift attached securely, so we can be sure the right gift and right size makes it to the right child.

In order to have gifts ready for delivery, please have gifts returned to the church by **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20.**

Thank you for being so giving during the season when many go without.





FROM THE PASTOR

“Angels Among Us”

The theme song for our Advent season, the days leading up to Christmas Day, is called “*Angels Among Us*” and was made famous by singing group Alabama. But it wasn’t written by them, it was created by a songwriter named Becky Hobbs. She had premonitions in the mid 1980’s that she might be about to die. Then on her birthday in 1986 she and her band were in a serious automobile accident in which

an 18-wheeler semi came rushing through a red light at an intersection, slammed into and totaled their van. They all survived and walked away from the accident with minor injuries. Becky said that she felt as if she’d been warned and delivered because of her guardian angel which kept them safe that day on the road.

After arriving back home she sat down at her piano and started writing, immediately having the title and many of the verses and melody but wasn’t able to complete the song until about 10 years later. In 1993 she and co-writer, Don Goodman, finished the song, and submitted it to Randy Owen of Alabama, and it has impacted people around the world since then.

When I first heard the song, I imagined heavenly beings descending to keep an eye and protective presence as we imagine angels will sometimes do. In addition to the mysterious presence of unseen beings, when you listen closely to the lyrics, you find that the people about us sometimes serve as God’s messengers of good news and healing ... and sometimes we just might be the “angel/messenger” God is using to touch another life.

As we continue to approach Christmas Day, watch for and thank God for the special blessings that come your way every day ... and watch for opportunities, great and small, to touch and bless another person’s life. The hope in all our actions is that God would be made known, and that others would find the path back to claiming and following Jesus the Christ.

Shalom,

Pastor Greg

GOOD NEWS!

OUR CHIMES ARE RINGING!

The tower chimes were installed when the top part of the church was finished in 1928. Since then they have rung out to tell the time and play hymns. They were donated by H.W. Wood.

In 1998, when the tower was being tuck pointed, all the hammers were lowered down and repaired by Bill Pugh. That was needed to put the chimes back to their original condition. Recently they have been repaired once again and are now chiming the quarter hours and playing 2 stanzas of a Christmas Carol at 12:02pm and 5:02 pm. They automatically turn on at 8am and turn off at 8pm. Be sure and listen when you are near the church or even several blocks away.



8 IS GREAT...

Eight reasons for why I’m grateful...



1. God. The weather wasn’t so much but He provided the people to brave it!
2. This was our 8th Annual Christmas Cookie Walk! Can you believe it?! Where has the time gone?!

3. Carmen, Jan, Willa, Karen
4. Brenda, Earlene, Bev, Sue, Bruce
5. It was great having Jeanie helping again.
6. All the door greeters - - you know who you are!
7. To You – all the cookie bakers and candy makers – what a spread!
8. Last but not least – the Disciples Women Board will be sending around \$900 to the Mission Fund. Woo-hoo!

Are we looking forward to December 7, 2019? You bet your sweet goodies we are!
God’s Blessings – **Carole Batterton**

May God bless you each day.