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THE CRUSADER (USPS139220) published weekly except the week after/of Christmas by First Christian Church,  
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### Tuesday, December 5

12noon Funeral Luncheon – L.H.  
1:30pm Caring Ministries  
4-7pm “McTeacher Night” at McDonalds  
on E. Main St.-King School Fundraiser  
6:30pm Elders Mtg.

### Wednesday, December 6

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

### Thursday, December 7

9:15am Church Women United @ Q’s Café

### Sunday, December 10 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. of Advent

8:30am Worship  
9:30am Coffee time in small hall  
10am Sunday School  
10am Worship  
4pm Blue Christmas Service

### Monday, December 11

7pm Worship Ministry Team  
7pm Men’s Bible Study

### Tuesday, December 12

6pm Board Mtg.  
6pm Council of Ministries  
7pm Ministry Teams

### Wednesday, December 13

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

## SERVING SCHEDULE December 10, 2017

### 8:30am Worship

**Greet at North Street, Prayer Cards & Offering, Serve Communion:** Janet Foster, Jan Unger

**Prepare Communion, Greet at Broad St. & Serve Out if Needed:** Rachel Rose, Linda Mowrer

**Offering:** Linda Mowrer  
**Communion:** Chris Mowrer  
**Prayers:** Donna Flicek  
**Phone:** Larry Thurman

### 11:00 a.m. Worship

**Clean up Communion, Greet at Broad St., \*Acolyte, Serve Out if Needed:** \*Renée and Erik Galvin

**Greet at North St., Prayer Cards, Offering, Serve Communion:** Marge Patterson & Mack Glass

**Elder Serving In:** Bruce De Voss  
**Elder Serving Out:** Donna Flicek



December Coffee hosts:  
Friendship Class

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



# The Crusader

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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Galesburg, IL 61401 Phone: 343-9960  
For Church News call 345-4020  
Church e-mail address: [fccgalesburg@gmail.com](mailto:fccgalesburg@gmail.com)  
Web Page – [www.fccgalesburg.org](http://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](mailto:sjackson@sandburg.edu)

Secretary – Terri Oehlert [fccgalesburg@gmail.com](mailto:fccgalesburg@gmail.com)

Bookkeeper – Lynda White [fcclwhite@gmail.com](mailto:fcclwhite@gmail.com) Custodian – Bob Conley

Co-Pastors: Gregory S. and Martha-Jean Fitch [pastorgreg02@gmail.com](mailto:pastorgreg02@gmail.com) & [pastormj02@gmail.com](mailto:pastormj02@gmail.com)

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### **Sunday, December 10**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

#### **Message by Pastor Greg Fitch,**

*“The Colors of Christmas: Blue – Emmanuel, God With Us”*

Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23

**8:30am** Worship, Quest Band plays,  
“Emmanuel”

**9:30am** Coffee time in small

**10am** Sunday School

**11am** – Worship, Choir sings “*To Us a Child of Hope is Born*”, ~ Herman/Morison  
Advent Candle lighters: Carolyn Spratt and Earlene Crouse

## BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

### **Sunday, December 10 at 4pm**

Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who recently died; it may be a time that is always difficult due to lost dreams, broken relationships – ill health, stress or financial strain.

We invite you to a “Blue Christmas” service on **Sunday, December 10 at 4pm** for a time of prayer, music and candle lighting – a service of Hope. Come worship and/or invite someone you know could use some extra support & join them at the service.



Thanksgiving Special Offering Received: \$265.00



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- ... **CCIW Prayer list:** Marshall Ave. Mattoon, FCC Maywood, Mechanicsburg CC.
- ... All our nursing home residents and shut-ins.
- ... Continued prayers for **Scott VanVelsor**, that he will get his new medicine. – Jess, Larry & Kathy VanVelsor
- ... New City Church in Mbandaka.
- ... **Lynne Bruyn, Blair Bruyn, Steph Line** and family.
- ... Prayers for all who are ill, and safe travel for all.
- ... **Kathy Barker, Pastor Greg's** aunt passed away last week. This is his mom's sister.
- ... Please pray for good treatment this week.
- ... Prayers for **Linnea** and family on the passing of her mother. Blessings for Kimler's.
- ... Prayers for **Neill Unger** who is having his ankle evaluated this week.
- ... Safe travel for a daughter & family in Europe this week, and for a grandson looking for a job.
- ... Praise for a successful cookie walk!
- ... Safe travel for **Logan** and crew as they finish work in Mexico and head home.
- ... For a friend's father who was in an accident. He's 90 and in the ICU at OSF.
- ... Sympathy & comfort to **Eva Seiler and family** on the recent passing of her brother-in-law.



### THE GIVING TREE

On the Giving Tree in the sanctuary are tags that have "wish list" items from the King School teachers. Please take a tag or two, purchase the items, then bring them back to the church and place them in the two boxes under the tree. Be sure to attach your tag(s) to the items so they will know which teacher's room to take them to. Thanks to all you special Christmas elves!

There is a complete list on the bulletin board showing all the items we are asking for.



### CHRISTMAS POTLUCK BRUNCH & UGLY APRON CONTEST

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am  
No Sunday School

Please ring a brunch item or two to share.

Drinks and table service provided.

We're having an Ugly Apron Contest – it doesn't have to be ugly to be worn, only to win 😊 40 years in the drawer, Grandmas give it the light of day. Eligibility: men, women and children. Rules: Chef aprons are allowed, food spots do not count, and no political statements allowed. The prize winner that is seated at the table will be the first table in line for the potluck!

*There will be a brief Congregational Meeting to vote on the slate of nominees for 2018.*

### "A CHRISTMAS TO BELIEVE IN"

#### Kids Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

Join us & invite your neighbors and friends!



### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

8:30am Worship

9:30am Coffee time in small hall

10am Sunday School

11am Worship

8pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Come join us for music, skits and Silent Night as we circle the sanctuary. Let us celebrate Jesus' birth!

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

New Year's Eve Worship

9am Sunday School ~ 10am Worship

*There will be no youth Sunday School today.*

Message by **Richard Stanley**





**BOARD MEETING – DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> @ 6PM**



**DECEMBER  
DISCIPLES WOMEN MEETINGS**

- Thurs., Dec. 7 9:15am** Church Women United at Q's Café
- Thurs., Dec. 14 10:30am** Disciples Women Council Mtg.
- Thurs., Dec. 19 9:30am** Ruth Circle at Sue Johnson's
- Thurs., Dec. 21 1:30pm** Lydia Circle at the church

**DECEMBER  
CHURCH  
MEETINGS**

- Tues., Dec. 5 1:30pm** Caring Ministries, **6:30pm** Elders Mtg.
- Tues., Dec. 12 6pm** Council of Ministries and Board Meeting,  
7pm Ministry Teams
- Tues., Dec. 19 6:30pm** Trustees



**DECEMBER YOUTH & CAN-DO KIDS SCHEDULE**

Youth group and Can-Do Kids will meet on **Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>** and **20<sup>th</sup>** from **5:30-7pm**; with our Christmas parties on **December 20<sup>th</sup>**.  
**"A Christmas to Believe In"**, kids Christmas program will be held on **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**. Invite your neighbors and friends!

*There will be no youth group on December 27<sup>th</sup> or January 3<sup>rd</sup> – enjoy your Christmas vacation.*

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



**FROM THE PASTOR**

Last week I told you about my great love for nativity scenes. Well, I discovered another nativity scene that I really love, and it is pictured here to the left. It is an outdoor nativity scene at a church. From the picture you can't tell a lot about it other than the barn and the big angel, standing watch over the holy family, and wise men worshipping.

But taking another look, there is something special about the creche. There lying in the manger, asleep in the hay, is a sleeping puppy.

Apparently, this stray puppy was seeking shelter in the town, when he saw the tiny manger. Exhausted and without a home, he curled up against the baby Jesus and fell asleep. And several people just happened to see the special scene before he woke up, so they could capture this picture.

Not much is known about this little dog, or what happened after the picture was taken – however the picture has "gone viral" now for several years.

But what spoke to me about this picture is that when you are tired and in need of help – a place to rest – or just loving arms to hold you and protect you, there is no better place than in the arms of Jesus. I truly believe that as we turn to Jesus and lay our burdens at His feet, He will give us His comfort and love and He will carry those burdens for us. And yes – we can sleep in peace, resting in His arms!

This week, we are going to have our "Blue Christmas" service at church on **Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4pm**. This is a time set aside for those who are carrying burdens – maybe of grief or pain, discouragement or just plain anxiety and stress. Come to this service to lay those burdens at the feet of newborn Prince of Peace. Light a candle and give thanks for Jesus being your light in the midst of the darkness.

Giving thanks for each of you and for the promises we have in Jesus, Pastor **MJ**

