



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

204 S Washington
Nevada, MO 64772

THE BEACON

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Sr. Min. Bill Platt; **Assoc. Min.** David Rorabaugh; **Youth Min.** Gage Addington

Elder Emeritus: Ron Greenway, John McKinley and Glen Noble

Elders: Don Andersen, Scott Buerge, Doug Gammon and Wayne Jeans

Volume 38

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Issue 23

From the Pulpit

Daily I see the news which is full of the injustices of our world and pain fills my being. The pain is so full and deep within me. Compassion wells from deep within me as I see the man on the corner and realize that he is only one in several that I have seen today. I feel so small and helpless. As I go to make a visit at the hospital my heart aches with the family for all that they are enduring. Then I cry as I leave because my presence is all that I have to give. I stand in the line of bereavement just to express my wordlessness as we hurt over death. I understood from a young age the experience of a loved one's absence. All I can really give is my fragile understanding in their pain.

Then the thought begins to illuminate how does God feel? If I hurt who sees only a tidbit of this world's pain, how does God feel who sees it all.

Sometimes we are selfishly blinded by the deceitful whispers of Satan, that say that God could do something about it. The lie that surely our Creator whose universal, omnipotent ability could solve all the world's pain. We buy into the lie and forget the Bible's truth that God made us in His image (Genesis 1:27). Part of the image is our ability to choose and with choice comes consequence. God knows this. After all, He feels every pain of this world for choosing to make man in His image. God bears that consequence. Listen as John 1:12-13 describes God's desire, "Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."

Then, my day is made when I see a small happening of kindness. Maybe it is my old age, but I find that I am stirred, and my eyes begin to water, at small deeds of kindness. It may be as simple as a little one sharing their food with someone who has none. Or it could be a dear one kissing a broken being while they hurt. Or a stranger holding a dying patient's hand because they shouldn't be alone right now. Then, I realize that I see only a small tidbit, but God sees it all.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

May your Christmas be full of God's love. Bill



JESUS, OUR EMMANUEL, the Presence of God With Us, by Marty Parks, will be presented by the Chancel Choir and Narrators of First Christian Church during the 10:30 worship service on December 17th. You and yours are cordially invited to come and reflect on the wonder of the Christmas story through song, scripture and narration. The 8:00 am service will feature a regular service with a sermon. There will be **no 10:32 Service this Sunday.**

CHRISTMAS CAROLING FOR ALL WHO WANT TO SPREAD SOME JOY:

December 20th, leaving the church at 6:00 pm. Meet in the church parlor and dress layered to go in and out of buildings & the vans. There will be no Adult Bible Study that night.

CHOIR ON BREAK: Practices will resume on January 7th at 5:00 pm in the sanctuary and continue on Sunday nights until Easter. Please make plans to join our practices as we prepare an Easter cantata. I would be glad to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.

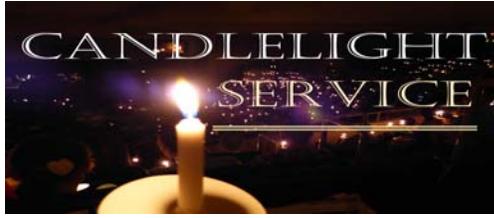
Singers and musicians are welcome at all services. Speak with the worship leader of the service you would like to help with. Honor Jesus with your desire and talents.

BIBLE CLASSES EACH SUNDAY MORNING ARE FOR YOUR BENEFIT. GET STARTED THIS WEEK IN THE WORD OF LIFE. We offer everyone opportunities on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM. There is more for your children at **LITTLE TREE MINISTRIES AND SEEKERGEN**, Wednesdays and Sundays, respectively. For you adults, we have a variety of classes Sunday mornings, then mid-week, including Bible studies nearly every Wednesday, and, every First and Third Thursdays of the month. **OPEN YOUR SPIRIT TO THE WORDS OF LIFE FROM YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER!**

THANK YOU, CHOIR AND HELPERS, for the many hours of preparation and practice you made, then presenting the Christmas Cantata to the glory of God. To God be the glory!

Sally and I pray that all of you will have a blessed Christmas as you draw close to the love of our God, who arrived in the humblest of means, but is returning in the Greatest Glory and Power.

Celebrating Emmanuel, David Rorabaugh



**Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion Service**
Sunday, December 24
5:30 pm



Dear Church Family,
Thank you so very much for the Thanksgiving basket. It was delicious.
In Christian love,
Judy and Audie Beck

To First Christian Church,
We appreciated the Thanksgiving basket. It made our dinner special. Thanks so much!

May God bless,
Shirley and Cathy Johnson



warmly. It may be cold!! Brrrr!!

Brighten the lives of others with Christmas music. Join the CAROLING PARTY
Wednesday, December 20 at 6:00 pm in the Parlor. Save the date to glorify the Christ born in Bethlehem. Remember to dress



You are invited to FCC's New Year's Eve Watch Party on December 31!!!
Come join the fun from 7:00 pm to midnight. Bring snack food and games. Then, enjoy lots of fun & games!!!

Life Choices Tree of Life will be going on all throughout December. If you would like to



participate, just pick a tag off the tree and check the back of it for what is needed. Purchase the needed item, tape the tag to what you have purchased, and place it under the tree. These items fill up gift baskets for each expectant mother who comes into Life Choices. The deadline for placing your item(s) under the tree is December 31. If you have any questions, please contact Pauline Jeans.



2018 Proposed Budget approved. At the December 3 congregational meetings held right after each service,

members of the congregation voted to approve the 2018 proposed budget. The complete budget is posted on the bulletin boards and available at the church office if you wish to view it.

Current year budget status

As of November 30, 2017, First Christian Church has received \$21,000 less in offerings and tithes than what was projected for the 2017 budget.

A Note From Finance - FYI

All year-end monetary gifts to the church that you want to claim on your taxes for 2017 **must** be received by Sunday, December 31 or they can be mailed with a postmark of **no later** than December 31. **We will not be able to accept checks post-dated after the first of January due to strict IRS regulations. Thank you!**



First Christian Church Cancellation Procedures: In case of inclement weather, cancellation information will be broadcast on the follow-

ing media: KOAM, KODE, KSNF and FOX 14 TV; the First Christian Church website, www.fcnevada.org; and the First Christian Church Facebook page.

Anyone needing a ride to Sunday School/ Church in our vans, please let us know by calling the church office at 667-3540 by noon on Friday.



To help support our local **Community Outreach Food Pantry** we are collecting non-perishable food and dry goods. A box is in the parlor for collection. **Suggested December products are:**

Canned tuna, canned chicken, canned veggies, soup, peanut butter, oatmeal, jello, and jelly.



An Eldership Training Session will begin Monday, January 8, at 7:00 pm in Pastor Bill's office. All members are invited to attend. Even if you do not intend to become an elder, it is a good opportunity to learn leadership

skills and to learn more about the biblical role of elders in the church.

PLEASE SAVE THIS PAGE FOR REFERENCE DURING THE MONTH



HELPING HANDS - January 2018



If you cannot serve on the date assigned, please trade with someone on the list. Thanks!

COMMUNION Melissa Blystone
PREPARATION: Helper - Susie Platt



When you see a visitor say "Howdy" and make sure to give them a FCC Coffee Mug filled with goodies!

VAN DRIVERS

Adults and Children

- Jan. 07 - Wade Hanes
- Jan. 14 - Erik Andersen
- Jan. 21 - Tracy Serna
- Jan. 28 - Daniel Turowski



Join Us For Adult Bible Studies

Wednesday - Bible Study @ 6:30pm, Church Parlor
1st and 3rd Thursday of each month - CORD Brothers (Men's Bible study) @ 6:30pm, Youth Center.
1st and 3rd Thursday of each month - Soul Sisters (Women's Bible study) @ 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall.

To help support our local Community Outreach Food Pantry, we collect non-perishable food and dry goods. A box is located in our parlor for collection.



Suggested January products are: Mac & cheese, canned veggies, raman noodles, oatmeal, mayonnaise, rice, jello.

Ministers rotate serving at Moore-Few Care Center on Second Sundays at 2:30pm.



Leaders: The Bowens



Leaders: ??????

The next issue of **THE BEACON** will be available on Sunday, January 21, 2018. The deadline for articles for that issue will be the prior Tuesday. Articles and schedule updates need to be brought to the church office or sent to lyndaj@fcnevada.org no later than Tuesday, January 16, 2018. *Please note that there will be no Beacon published on January 7, 2018.*



CHURCH Stats

Attendance: Year-to-date Average per Week

SS	8:00	10:30	10:32	Total 3 Services
86	45	62	95	193

Offering needed during the month of Novmeber in order to meet budget was \$24,105.04.
Offering collected in November was \$21,338.64.

	Offering received:	Total
Nov. 05, 17	\$ 8,545.78	\$ 8,545.78
Nov. 12, 17	\$ 3,311.45	\$ 11,857.23
Nov. 19, 17	\$ 4,889.65	\$ 16,746.88
Nov. 26, 17	\$ 4,591.76	\$ 21,338.64

Offering needed each week to meet budget in 2017 is \$6,026.26

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1/01 Phyllis Arnold | 1/21 Kaile Blystone |
| 1/03 Paula Pruitt | Sara Carlin |
| 1/04 Fritz Koopman | Bill Schulz |
| Ruthann Sirkle | 1/22 Kalen Post |
| 1/07 Norma Bivin | Mason Smith |
| Hilda Page | 1/24 Sherri Baggett |
| 1/08 Helen Shorten | Brenda Burch |
| 1/09 Whitley DelRosario | Pauline Jeans |
| William Pitts | Ovida Vincent |
| 1/11 Betty Eador | 1/25 Mary Watts |
| 1/12 Ellen Brooks | 1/26 Sarah Byers |
| David Swearingen | 1/28 Israel Carlin |
| 1/13 Chris Byers | Gail Cochran |
| 1/14 Aidan Seay | 1/29 Gabriel Radford |
| Martha Waltrip | 1/30 Pattie Collins |
| 1/16 Lawrence Scott | Alexandra Vincent |
| Richard Smith Jr. | 1/31 Debbie Allen |
| Alice Stevenson | Zoie Keith |
| 1/17 Sara Turley | Mike McCarter |
| 1/19 Jennifer Brooks | Alex Richards |