



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, Greg Barneburg, Scott Buerge, Don Cabbage, Doug Gammon, Wayne Jeans and Rick Jones

Volume 39

December 13, 2018

Issue 23

From the Pulpit

In First Christian history, you will read about the gathering before the Civil War that would become our roots. Significant things will show themselves as you follow our history. Among several photos that have been saved is a photo from 1927 of 1194 people outside the building on Washington Street. Another tidbit is the fire of 1948 that destroyed the building, but within the year it had been rebuilt. Still another is the doctrinal differences that led this church family to leave a denomination. Some of our history is victorious and other parts of our history are painful. What is present throughout and continues to be the force in FCC, is our mission, a mission found in Bible.

Several decades ago there was a store called Montgomery Ward. It grew into a catalog giant. It then developed several retail stores throughout the nation. Then it transitioned to a retail presence in many large cities. Eventually retail sales went another direction and the Wards mission didn't really change. Montgomery Wards disappeared. I remember buying a beautiful rocking chair for Linda from Wards and my daughter Jae still has it. The rocker has outlasted the store.

The FCC setting has changed many times throughout history. The mission is still our force. It is a mission built right out of the Bible. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28: 18-20)

Imagine our setting. What does it look like for the decade to come? The mission hasn't changed, but the setting may need a vision built with imagination. God has given us some fantastic tools and an outreach that is only limited by our vision. So, what do you see? We are building relationships with God: beginning with your relationship with God, followed by reaching out to help each other in our relationship with God, and finally, to help those outside our building to have a relationship with God. The mission calls to us. It is a mission bound within the will of God, so I urge you to pray and support the mission. Imagine how we can build upon God's call.

C U Sunday, Bill

CHOIR CANTATA: December 23rd at the 10:30 am Worship service. "Heaven On Earth" will be presented by the Chancel Choir as we reflect on the greatest gift ever given. The choir will lead in praise to God for His great love for us. One of our old favorite songs will spur our thoughts with the question, "Do You Hear What I Hear?" Imagine the thrill of Joseph, Mary and the shepherds gazing upon the newborn babe, to know that He is "Emmanuel, God With Us." And then remember that the Lord Jesus promised to be with US ALWAYS! We will celebrate our Lord through communion, remembering that His love took Him to the cross, the grave and His victory over death with His resurrection.



ALSO ON DECEMBER 23rd: The 8:00 am service will be a regular service with a sermon. Join us for Sunday School at 9:30 am. There will be **NO 10:32 SERVICE.** **CHRISTMAS CAROLERS ARE WELCOME AT 5:00 PM IN THE PARLOR ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23.** We will form our plan of spreading God's blessings, then head out, with plans to finish by 8:00 pm. Please join us.

CHOIR: we have one more practice before our performance, then a break until January 13th. Be sure to warm up before the performance.

COMMUNION & CANDLELIGHT SERVICE: December 24th, 5:30 pm in the sanctuary. Please make plans to join us for this special service of worship, remembrance, reflection and commitment. Candles are provided and we have some special candles for small children. The service will be about 45 minutes long. No child care. We encourage families to worship together as we remember the incarnation of our Redeemer. Invite your friends.

Singers and instrumentalists are welcome. Please let me know which music talents God has blessed you with and if you would like to assist with any of the services. And I would encourage all of you to express your thanks to all of the musicians who give of their time and talent to help us all in our times of worship.

Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’ Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.” (Mat. 7:21-24) - So the question for us today is: “Is my life built on the Rock?” Please join us at 9:30 AM Sunday mornings to learn more about the Bible, how to apply the commands of Jesus to your daily challenges, and to share your experiences, helping others grow in their faith and obedience. We have a choice of adult classes to try out, plus classes for all of your children. And/or join one of the mid-week studies.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASS FOR ADULTS, at 6:30 pm in a verse by verse walk through the Old Testament Minor Prophets (Habakkuk and the final books of the OT). We finish at 7:30 pm. There will probably be no study on the 26th, but watch your Sunday bulletin.

Soul Sisters and **Cord Brothers** meet at 6:30 pm on the first and third Thursdays of the month. The ladies gather in the Fellowship Hall and the men meet in the Youth center. Please call the office if you need child care.

Young Adult Small Group: Check with Gage for more info.

Merry Christmas to each of you. I hope to see you at one or more of our services.

Celebrating Emmanuel, David Rorabaugh

The Miracle of Christmas

Every Christmas story/movie is filled with miracles. This ranges from *A Miracle on 34th Street* to *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, and the miracles vary about as much as the movies and stories do, but at the end of the day Christmas is a time when everyone is a little more receptive to miracles. Maybe this is because, deep down, we really want a miracle to happen in our own life. Maybe this is because Christmas just has this contagious feeling that miracles can happen. Maybe this is because the first Christmas is so ripe with miracles that we can't help but express that in some way.

If I wanted to break down each miracle in the Christmas story, I would need a few books and a few lifetimes to do them justice. We have the virgin birth. We have multiple occasions where angels appear to those involved. We have the star that appeared and was still in the sky a couple years after Jesus' birth (probably). Lastly, and most surprisingly (importantly, miraculously, etc), we have the incarnation of the God of the universe.

In Philippians 2:5-11, Paul describes the incarnation in this way:

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

So this Christmas, as we celebrate the gift of Jesus, let's not forget the miraculous circumstances surrounding the Christmas story. May we always remember that Christmas, with all of the business, stress, and sometimes ill feelings that we fill it with, is about the greatest gift of all time. It is about a God who so loved His creation, that He would become part of it in the most human way possible. This Christmas, let's celebrate the God who works in the miraculous.

Until He Returns, Gage Addington



First Christian Church Cancellation Procedures:

In case of inclement weather, cancellation information will be broadcast on the following media: KOAM, KODE, KSNF and FOX 14 TV; the

First Christian Church website, www.fcnevada.org; and the First Christian Church Facebook page.



2019 Radio Broadcast Sponsorship - Sign up now to sponsor a weekly worship service broadcast.

A sign-up sheet is in the parlor for you to choose a date that is important to you. You may also call the office at 667-3540. **The cost for 2019 has increased to \$55.00 per broadcast.**

Anyone needing a ride to Sunday School/ Church in our vans, please let us know by calling the church office at 667-3540 **BEFORE 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: Canned Tuna and Chicken, canned veggies, soup, peanut butter, jelly, oatmeal, and jello.

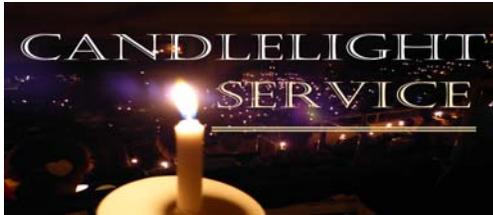




CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 23, 10:30 AM

Schedule for the day:
8:00 Early Service
9:00 Coffee Fellowship
9:30 Sunday School
Only one 10:30 Service - in Sanctuary



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



Dear Church Family,
 Thank you to my wonderful church family for the many prayers, calls, rides and food during my recovery from hip surgery! The Lord has blessed me in so many ways through this detour in my journey! You are all a part of His blessings!

In Jesus, Kathy Butler

Thank you so much for the wonderful Thanksgiving Food Basket that I received! It is very reassuring to know that there are still good people in this world. This will help bring some light into my Thanksgiving dinner. Much appreciation.

Sincerely,
 Jennifer Ogle

Thank you so much!!

Kellie, Kolby, Kaden McClure
 and Brian Greenfield



Caroling Party

Brighten the lives of others with Christmas music. Join the CAROLING PARTY Sunday, December 23 at 5:00 pm in the Parlor. Save the date to glorify the Christ born in Bethlehem. Remember to dress warmly. It may be cold!! Brrrr!!



2019 Proposed Budget approved. At the December 2 congregational meetings held right after each service, members of the

congregation voted to approve the 2019 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, 2018, First Christian Church has received \$26,911 less in offerings and tithes than what was projected for the 2018 budget.



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. Then purchase the needed item, tape the tag to what you have purchased, and place it under

the tree. These items are what fills up a gift basket for each expectant mother who comes into Life Choices. The deadline for placing your item(s) under the tree is January 1. If you have any questions, please contact Pauline Jeans.



You are invited to FCC's New Year's Eve Watch Party on Monday, December 31!!!

Come join the fun from 7:00 pm to midnight.

Bring snack food and games. Then, enjoy lots of fun & games!!!

A Note From Finance - FYI

All year-end monetary gifts to the church that you want to claim on your taxes for 2018 **must** be received by Monday, 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!**

PLEASE SAVE THIS PAGE FOR REFERENCE DURING THE MONTH



HELPING HANDS - January 2019



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

COMMUNION Sharon Webb
PREPARATION:

Hospitality Ministry



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

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: Mac & cheese, canned veggies, raman noodles, pork & beans, salt, cereal, and applesauce.

Children's CHURCH



Leaders: **Leaders Needed!!**

Junior CHURCH

Leaders: Dave Serna and Melissa Austin

CHURCH Stats

Attendance: Year-to-date Average per Week

SG	8:00	10:30	10:32	Total 3 Services
121	47	61	81	189

Offering needed during the month of November in order to meet budget was \$24,811.52.
Offering collected in November was \$23,357.71.

	Offering received:	Total
Nov 04, 18	\$ 9,352.72	\$ 9,352.72
Nov 11, 18	\$ 5,880.89	\$ 15,233.61
Nov 18, 18	\$ 4,040.00	\$ 19,273.61
Nov 25, 18	\$ 4,084.10	\$ 23,357.71

Offering needed each week to meet budget in 2018 is \$6,202.88

VAN DRIVERS

Adults and Children

- Jan 06 - Randy & Tracy Ellifrits
- Jan 13 - Erik Andersen
- Jan 20 - Tracy Serna
- Jan 27 - Daniel Turowski



Van Ministry

Join Us For Adult Bible Studies

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

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

The next issue of **THE BEACON** will be available on Sunday, January 20, 2019. 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 15, 2019.



January BIRTHDAYS

1/01 Phyllis Arnold	1/21 Kaile Blystone
1/04 Fritz Koopman	Sara Carlin
Ruthann Sirkle	Bill Schulz
1/07 Norma Bivin	1/22 Kalen Post
1/08 Helen Shorten	1/24 Pauline Jeans
1/09 Whitley delRosario	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	Truman Smith
Martha Waltrip	1/30 Pattie Collins
1/16 Lawrence Scott	Alexandra Vincent
Alice Stevenson	1/31 Bonnie Boyle
1/17 Sara Turley	Zoie Keith
	Mike McCarter
	Alex Richards