

first christian Highlights

Making disciples who make a difference!

December 6, 2017

Koinōnia (Koinonia)

koinḗ' nēā, noun: Christian fellowship

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

(Galatians 5:22-26, NIV)

I can't remember who gave it to me, but one year for Christmas I got an iced tea maker. I loved iced tea then just as I do today. The gift was very thoughtful and appropriate. But for whatever reason, I never used it. In fact, I don't think that I ever took it out of the box. A year or two later, I couldn't figure out what to give a friend of mine for that particular Christmas. So you know what I thought? *I bet he'd love an iced tea maker!*

Re-gifting. Maybe you got two of the same thing. Maybe the color wasn't your style or it didn't fit, or you just never found yourself using it. Maybe there were too many people to buy for and not enough money in the bank account. For whatever reason, many of us have taken the liberty of re-gifting an item (or two). We just hope that we don't accidentally re-gift the present back to the person who gave it to us.

This year, as we enter the Advent season, our focus should be on the expectation of God's gift to us: Jesus Christ, the promised messiah. But we all know that the shopping list, the holiday parties, the Christmas music, and the gift-wrapping will keep us plenty occupied during the next few weeks. So I want each of you to take this idea of re-gifting with you into this season. Although, I am not talking about the iced tea maker or the sweater with a Rudolph cut-out sewn on the front. Let us re-gift the gifts that have been given to us in Christ.

Through the life, death and raising of Jesus, God has done something amazing for us. We have been given admission into the eternal presence of our Creator. We have been given the keys to the

Kingdom of God. The gifts that come to us through the Messiah are Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Light. And the remarkable thing about these gifts is that the way that you keep them is by giving them away.

The gifts of faith in Christ are gifts that were *made* for re-gifting. In fact, the Lord commands us to pass these gifts on to others in our commission to share the Gospel. This Christmas, have fun wrapping and unwrapping the thoughtful things that we give to one another as an expression of our affection. But be bold in giving the most important gifts you will give as a human being: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Light.

Finally, please remember that among our neighbors are people who are in need of even the most basic material things this holiday season: food, clothing, shelter. The Salvation Army, which we partner with each year to raise money by ringing the bell and participating in the Angel Tree program, offers meaningful ways to experience the greatest gift discipleship offers: faith in action. And we aren't limited to December to help. God asks us to serve the poor every month of the year. In the New Testament, we find:

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead (James 2:14-17).

May this season of Advent be a blessing to you.

Shalom,

-Pastor Joey Pusateri

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News & Events

Congregational Meeting This Sunday, December 10

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 10 at the conclusion of the worship service. Two items are on the agenda: the church operating budget for 2018 and the slate of officers, elders and deacons to serve for 2018. These items will be available on Sunday.

Community Christmas Breakfast with Santa December 9th 10 am–12 pm

Kids get ready for an exciting morning! Volunteers are still needed for hospitality, crafts, Santa room, food servers and clean-up. Contact Mary Ann McGlothlin (502-338-1835) if you can help.

Advent Lunches on Mondays

Join us each Monday during the Advent season for soup and scripture. Lunch is served at 12 Noon and program is over by 12:50 pm. Remaining schedule:

December 11— Speaker: Rev. John Short III
Cook: Nancy McMurry

December 18—Speaker: Rev. Quentin Scholtz
Cook: Lyle McGlothlin

Christmas Dinner and Children's Program Dec 17

Make your reservation for our annual Christmas meal together followed by the children's program. The meat, rolls, dessert and drinks will be furnished. Please bring a large side dish to share. Donations will be accepted.

Christmas Poinsettias

Orders are being taken until December 20 for poinsettias in honor or in memory of a loved one. Cost is \$8. Please submit your order with payment in the box on the welcome table or contact the church office.

Soups on Us December 16 (8:00am –12:00pm)

Make sure you mark your busy calendar for this outreach ministry. Over 400 cookies are desperately needed. Please package 2/bag and do not use nuts or peanut butter.

Christmas Food Boxes

Thanks to the combined efforts of the Love Fund and Maxine Maxey Fund, FCC supplied food boxes to several needy families in Danville and Boyle County. The boxes are to be given out to the families on Friday, December 8th.

Christmas Schedule of Events:

December 9 Community Breakfast with Santa 10-12 pm
December 11 Advent Lunch 12:00-12:50 pm
December 17 Christmas Cantata 10:45 am
Christmas Dinner & Children's Program 5pm
December 18 Advent Lunch 12:00-12:50 pm
December 24 Christmas Eve Morning Worship 10:45 am
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 8:00 pm

4 Cans 4 Others

The holiday season is here and food is much needed by The Salvation Army. Your contribution of 85 cans the last two weeks is great and much appreciated. Please continue to bring those cans or purchase from Soups on Us. Hope your Advent season is meaningful and filled with hope and love.

Blessings,

Evelyn and Jim Page

Elders Spotlight

When I was asked to be Elder Vice Chair in 2016, I told the elders I did not feel qualified for the role. Elder Susan Hensley responded, "God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies whom he calls". In faith and in prayer, I accepted the call and I am so glad I did. This year as 2017 Elder Chair has been so immensely rewarding and I am so pleased with what the Elders have accomplished in service to the Lord and in spiritual growth. As an example, in the fall of 2016, the Elders were approached about leading a worship service at Morning Pointe. The Elders said, "YES!" From the first few services with 6-8 people present, to our recent services with 30-35 present, the service has grown in number and in spirit. The service is blessed by the presence of Larry Davidson and Elder Emeritus Margaret Milburn, who faithfully, every month, lead the service with the old hymns the residents love. The elders share a devotional and lead in serving communion. Christmas is a special musical service focused on bringing the Christmas spirit to the residents. The residents regularly share how much our monthly worship service means to them. Much appreciation goes to Larry Davidson, Elder Emeritus Margaret Milburn, Debbie Baker, Elder Emeritus Gigi Biles, Jane Boyd, Brian and Patricia Calvert, John and Martha Caywood, Elmer and Suzi Jackson, Julie Jones, Mary Ann McGlothlin, Evelyn Page, and Dr. Larry Scott and Jan Scott for their leadership and service at Morning Pointe. I am grateful for every Elder, who serves at the communion table each Sunday, serves communion to shut-ins, engages in pastoral care, and are the spiritual leaders of the church. I thank and value our long time elders who provide so much wisdom and guidance. I so appreciate the administrative staff who assist in preparation for the Elder meetings and provide updates on congregational needs. I can never thank Jane Boyd, 2017 Vice Chair, enough for her leadership at Morning Pointe and her invaluable assistance and wise counsel in 2017. Jane assumes the Elder Chair role in 2018 and I know she will find it as rewarding as I have.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas!

Kathryn Ensor

Prayer Concerns

Jane Brown	Marianne Kirby
Joseph Brown	Doug McMurry
Steve Bruce	Peggy Mitchell
Henrietta Cannon	Jo Ann Powell
Louis Ewbank	Jim & Betty Ramey
Billie Herron	Jennie Sue Sivils
Conley Horn Jr.	Jackie Spivey
Jack Kaiser	

Thank You

Dear FCC Family,

It is good to have surgery and treatments behind me. It is even better to have felt the presence of my FCC church family behind me these past three months.

Through your prayers, words of encouragement, advice and so many kind deeds, I felt God's hands!

With thanksgiving,
Jan Bradshaw

Dear Church Members,

Thank you so much for the fruit basket and goodies. I really enjoyed everything. Thank you for thinking of me.

Odell Hines

Attendance & Giving

November 26

Attendance 207

Last Year 134

December 3

Attendance 191

Last Year 122

2018 Offering Envelopes

The 2018 contribution envelopes will be available in the arcade beginning Sunday, December 10. If you don't see a box with your name and you would like to have a box for 2018, please let Sherrie know and she can prepare a box for you.

Weeks Ahead

Week of December 10

Sunday	9:45 am	Sunday School
	10:45 pm	Worship Service
	3:00 pm	AGAPE Kids (k-5th grade)
	4:30 pm	Children's Choir
	5:00 pm	Grace Notes Handbells
	5:15 pm	Chi-Rho & CYF (Middle & High School @ Danville Presbyterian)
Monday	12:00 am	Advent Lunches
	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
Tuesday	12:00 pm	CWF Christmas Lunch @ Danville Country Club
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Women's AA
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	9:00 am	Magnet Bible Study Group
	12:00 pm	Noon Connection Group
	4:30 pm	Centering Prayer Group
	6:30 pm	Living Word Bible Study
Saturday	8:00 am	Soups on Us
	8:00 am	Orchestra Cantata Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Choir and Orchestra Cantata Rehearsal

Week of December 17

Sunday	9:45 am	Sunday School
	10:45 am	Worship Service (Christmas Cantata)
	5:00 pm	Grace Notes Handbells
Monday	12:00 pm	Advent Lunches
	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
Tuesday	5:00 pm	Grace Notes Handbells
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon
Wednesday	11:30 am	Third Wednesday @ Grace Cafe
	6:30 pm	Women's AA
Thursday	9:00 am	Magnet Bible Study Group
	12:00 pm	Noon Connection Group
	4:30 pm	Centering Prayer Group
	5:30 pm	NAMI
	6:30 pm	Living Word Bible Study

Online Church Directory Update

One of the most useful tools I have used since becoming pastor of FCC is the Online Directory. It has helped me get to know the names and faces of those in our church family, and it has been a life-saver when I am out on the road and need to swing by someone's house or make a phone call. I am very grateful that we have one of these systems that can be accessed by any member of the church to help us know and connect with one another. If you haven't used it, you are missing out! This tool has been invaluable to me.—Pastor Joey Pusateri

Photos Taken on December 10 & 17

Check and update your information or have your photo taken before and after church in the arcade.

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Service Roster December 10

Deacons Denise Wagner (Team Coordinator), Janice Bohannon, Lynne Dean, Laura Hoffman, Connie McVicker, Alice Reynolds, Jay Reynolds, Claude Wagner **Elders at the Table** Brian Calvert, Patricia Calvert **Elders Serving Shut-in Communion** Kathryn Ensor, Susan & Tom Hensley **Sound Tech** Brian Calvert **Steward** Elmer Jackson **Worship Leader** Jane Boyd **Children's Chat** Susan Taylor **Acolytes** Ella Grace Gover, Sadie Pusateri **Communion Preparer** Ann Barker **Greeters** Debbie Baker, Lucille Lemon **Ushers** Gigi Biles, Mary Ann Burke, Jim Page **Welcome Table** Edna Prall **Children Worship & Wonder** Kandi Williams (storyteller), Mallory Spears (greeter)

Service Roster December 17

Deacons Denise Wagner (Team Coordinator), Janice Bohannon, Lynne Dean, Laura Hoffman, Connie McVicker, Alice Reynolds, Jay Reynolds, Claude Wagner **Elders at the Table** Debbie Baker, Butch Pass **Elders Serving Shut-in Communion** Mary Ann McGlothlin, Evelyn & Jim Page **Sound Tech** Doug McMurphy **Steward** John Caywood **Worship Leader** Sarah Hempel **Acolytes** Ella Grace Gover, Sadie Pusateri **Communion Preparer** Jeanette Barbour **Greeters** Edie & David Cottrell **Ushers** Nyla Graham, Mary Ann Wilson, Butch Pass **Welcome Table** Julie Hastings

First Christian Church

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*Making disciples who
make a difference!*

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