

**First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
200 W Third Street
Mansfield, OH 44902-1287
419-524-4813**

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

The Quest

December, 2024

Leadership Team

Rev. David Zerby
Interim Minister
Sandy Stout
Church Secretary
Kathy DeLozier
Music Director
Sandy Stout
Chairperson of the Board
Beth Armstrong
Vice-Chairperson of the Board
Stana Shogren
Church Treasurer
Sue Dyson
Finance Secretary
Dominic Morris
Diaconate Chair
Joe Rice ~ Stacia Scott
Co-Chairs of the Elders
Bill "Scotty" Scott
Chair of the Trustees
Fred Kohler
& Stacia Scott
Co-Chair of the Finance Committee



Worship Time: 10:30 am
Adult Sunday School: 9:30 am
Youth & Young Adults 10:30 am

www.firstchristianchurchmansfield.com

Check the website any day to look at the Newsletter, the Mid-Week-Updates, the Church Calendar and so much more

A new church year is upon us. With the beginning of this month we also begin the liturgical season of Advent on December 1. Hope, peace, joy, and love...the four primary themes of our worship in December. Candles on the Advent wreath will be

lit, songs will be sung, and hopefully in the midst of this we are reminded of how we are to both live and love as followers of Jesus. The Jesus whose birth into this world we will come together and celebrate on Christmas Eve. I truly love this season and time of the year within the church.

However,.....hope, peace, joy, and love are not intended to be lifted up exclusively during only four weeks of fifty-two. Our communities, our neighbors, our families and ourselves desire these core values and experiences throughout the full year and throughout our entire lives.

Just down the road from my home in Columbus there is a church with the name Advent. I have passed by this church multiple times a day for several months. Just recently I noticed something I had not previously observed. The steeple of the church is constructed so that there are four ornate candles forming a circle.

I wonder how many people pass by churches and miss out on the opportunities to experience connections they could greatly benefit from as they journey through life. Connections with God, connections with others, reconnecting with their own selves. I also wonder how churches may unintentionally miss out on creating those connectional opportunities. As people pass by First Christian Church here in Mansfield (either physically or online) what might they initially think? Do we appear to be a faith community that offers hope for those in need of such? Within this place have we created space that is safe for all to experience a sense of peace when lives are chaotic? Would they, and do we, find joy in being part of and belonging here? And would anyone and everyone know they are deeply loved by God simply for who and whose they are? Would they be richly and deeply loved by us?

I look forward to celebrating my first Advent season with you here at First Christian Church. I also pray we take to heart that hope, peace, joy and love are more than just four words that provide a theme each week for a single season.

The Pastor's Peace



In all things with love,

Pastor David

First Sunday conversations

On the first Sunday of each month Pastor David invites you to join him and other members of our faith community for some engaging conversations. We will meet in the Chapel at both 9:30am and again after worship. We will be basing our conversation time on a format from Disciples Mission Fund,

"Imagine a World With More"

December 1 - Imagine a World with More Hope
January 5 - Imagine a World with More Community
February 2 - Imagine a World with More Justice
March 2 - Imagine a World with More Beauty
April 6 - Imagine a World with More Resurrection

Lighting the Advent Candles



December 1st, The Candle of Hope: Sharman Hartson & Nina Holmes

December 8th: The Candle of Peace: The Parish Family

December 15th: The Candle of Joy: Sandy Stout & Peggy Boddy

December 22nd: The Candle of Love: The Lupton Children

December 24th: The Christ Candle: Jane Stout & Sandy Stout

OUTREACH PROJECT

For the months of November and December we will, once again, be collecting hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and warm socks for the People attending People Helping People and our Community Breakfast in January.



**Thank You
Congregation,
This year you
put together
18 Christmas
Shoeboxes for
children
around the
world which
Samaritan's
Purse will de-
liver.**



Dearest First Christian Church,

**Thank you for all you thoughts and
prayers !!!**

Patricia "Pat" Gulley



Preparing Communion

Please see the sign up sheet posted to sign up to Prepare Communion each Sunday ~ Grapes and crackers are provided ~

Please see **Dominic Morris** for any questions.

EUCHRE PLAYERS:

NO EUCHRE in December, January or February.

Euchre will resume March 21, 2025 at 5:00 pm Enjoy your winter break!



Pantry Pedals Bike Ministry

So Far this year, the bike ministry has given away 55 bikes to adults and 15 to children. Most of our bikes come in through the Mansfield Police Department in addition to a large number donated. Eight bikes were sold through the Rummage Sale, and we also sold an adult bike and two kids' tricycles for \$75 to augment our repair fund. We currently have \$83.85 in a savings account to purchase parts like brake cables, tires and inner tubes. All told, this year 81 bikes have gone from our mechanics' workshop to new owners. Bikes that were not salvageable were sold as scrap metal to Milliron for \$31, which was given to the General Fund to cover First Christian Church-provided electricity, heat and water used by this ministry. *Nelson*

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Our Community Breakfast the 3rd Saturday of each month will be **Saturday, December 21st**

Set up & preparation begins at 7 am
Serving will be from **8:30 to 10:00 am** ~
Clean up to follow by 10:30 am.

Menu for December will be:
Scrambled Eggs & Toast along with Sausage Pattie, Biscuits and Sausage Gravy, bowl of Grits and choice of a bowl of cereal plus a glass of orange juice and coffee or hot chocolate

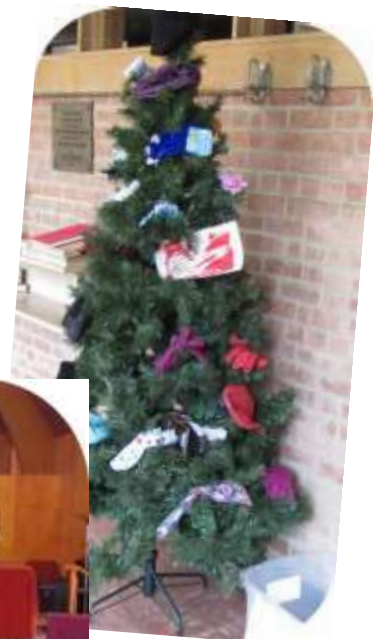


Please sign up and come help at this rewarding ministry.

Thank you to the 16 households who shopped at Kroger during August 1st through October 21, 2024 earning us a \$69.68 donation.



On Sunday following Christmas (December 29th) we will celebrate with a service of Lessons and Laughter. The Christmas season is hallmarked by joy. The angels sing. The shepherds run. The star shines. Mary cherishes. Christ is born! In response to the good news, we sing "Joy to the World" with great celebration. The service will include three scripture readings, a hymn/song, and a creative response. We hope you will join us in this opportunity to connect, clap, dance, laugh and relish in the angel's promise that Christ brings joy to the world. This service will be co-led by Rev. David and Rev. Jane Stout.



All Sunday Worship Services Zoom Call In Invite Numbers:

312-626-6799 or 929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 281 630 1855 Passcode: 334189

For those wishing to call in Please know that you can dial either of the phone numbers listed above and when prompted, key in the **Meeting ID** and then again when prompted, key in the **Passcode** and then you will be connected.

You may talk and we will hear you; we just won't be able to see your smiling face(s)!!! We are set that the Phone numbers along with the Meeting ID and Passcode remain the same for each invite.

Those who have email, receive email invites each Thursday via Email ~ If you would like to join via email, send your email address to: Mansfield1stcc1833@gmail.com and you will be added!!!!

OUTREACH: In December we will have an opportunity to share in our seasonal Christmas offering. This offering helps support the work of our regional ministries. This offering helps our region provide opportunities to serve as well as guidance in the search and call process. Watch for more information on this important (over and above) special offering.

Jane Stout, Outreach Chairperson

Poinsettia Order Form



It's that time of year again. Below is the information you will need to order Poinsettias for the Holiday season. Please fill out and return with your check to the church office by **December 15th**. The Poinsettia's will be on the cancel on the 22nd, 24th and the 25th. They are all going to be **Red** this year

The cost is \$12.00 per plant. _____ @ \$12.00

Given in Honor of _____

Given in Memory of _____

By _____

Calendar Reminders

All Church Activities/Meetings & Worship happening will continue via Zoom or Church Worship in Person in the Sanctuary

Each Worship Service Zoom invite will be mailed in the mid-week or the next month Quest Newsletter for those calling in on the phone lines & emailed on Thursday for those connecting via Computer

Church is open for worshipping on Sunday mornings, using the Front Door Zoom meeting/worship invites will be emailed prior to the meeting

The Elder's will be having a Worship Service at **Wedgewood on Wednesday, December 4th, 2 pm** with music, worship and prayer. And **The Waterford on Sunday, December 15th, 3 pm**

Men's Disciple Fellowship!

The Men's Fellowship next meeting will be **Tuesday, December 17th, 12 Noon** at the Amvets on Fourth Street ~ All Men are Welcome to attend!!!

Chat & Chew Quilt Club

Will meet this month:

Our last meeting this year will be a Potluck Lunch on Monday, December 16th at 11:00 am. We have invited our husbands and Nelson to share in the meal. They have been a supportive group with the Juneteenth display and our meetings. Our members enjoyed making the Christmas projects for the shut-ins which we gave to Sarah Group. Next meeting will be on **March 18, 2025.** Bring fabric scraps for our next project.

Please See Dominic Morris or give him a call if you have questions at 419-989-5142 to sign up to be a Deacon &/or Deaconess to Prepare Communion (supplies are provided) and to Pass the Offering Trays each Month

Sarah Group: Tuesday morning, **December 3rd, 10:30 am in Fellowship Hall.** Peggy Boddy will have the lesson. Everyone to bring something for a potluck lunch. ~ This will be our last meeting until March 4, 2025!

Worship & Music Committee

Poinsettia order form, \$12 each Red poinsettia due by December 8th ~ Christmas Eve Service, 9 pm ~ All are invited to come Dec. 1st as we begin Advent with the Hanging of the Greens during our Worship Service

Elder's Meeting

The Elder's will meet **Tuesday, December 3rd, 7 pm via Zoom.**

Church Board meeting will be held Wednesday, December 11th, via Zoom, 7 pm



December

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH



6th Kathy Jones

Elizabeth Tuel

7th Casey Gillen*

10th Dominic Morris

12th Brittany Cundiff

22nd Timothy Hoover

23rd Linda Marsh Miller

30th Frank Daniell

Stephanie Rice

The Outreach Committee is happy to Wish each of You a very Happy Birthday and to say "Thank You" for your contribution to the Birthday Fund which helps with the cost of our monthly Community Breakfast. We truly appreciate your support.

Early January Birthdays:
1st Stacia Scott ~ Ron Minard
5th Rachelle Cundiff

12/04/1982

Bill & Stacia Scott will celebrate their 42nd Wedding Anniversary

12/15/2023

Ethan & Noelle Dudgeon will celebrate their 1st Wedding Anniversary

12/20/2003

Darren & Mary Tuel will celebrate their 21st Wedding Anniversary

12/27/1997

Scott & Jill Danison will celebrate their 27th Wedding Anniversary

December Elders:

12/01	Jill Danison (1st Sunday of Advent)
12/08	Beth Armstrong
12/15	Scott Danison (Waterford 3 pm)
12/22	Stacia Scott
12/29	Missy Parish

Lay Leaders

Karyl Eckenwiler
Missy Parish
Stana Shogren

Greeters:

December Front Door: Need a Volunteer
January, 2025 Front Door: Need a Volunteer
(If unable to Greet ~ Contact Peggy Boddy 419-512-0696)

Preparing Communion December: Ray Mellick
Preparing Communion January: Need a Volunteer

From Your Church Secretary, Sandy

Hello December, 2024!!!



- ◇ *In just a short few weeks we will be celebrating Happy New Year, 2025 !! After the first of the new year, we will be selecting a committee to complete our Congregational Profile and then begin the time to do Search for a new settled minister.*
- ◇ *Please check the sign up sheet to order God's Creation Calendar for 2025 ~ We need to be able to order 1 full box of 25 ~ Cost remains at just \$7.00 each ~ These make great gifts that can be used all year!!!!*
- ◇ *Have you taken a few minutes to stroll the halls and check out the Bulletin Boards being lovingly cared for by Rick McVicar !!!!*
- ◇ *Soon the January Sign Up Sheets will be posted for your opportunity to sign up to be a Lay Leader, Help at the January Community Breakfast and Help Dom prepare Communion and Serve as Deacon and Deaconess.*
- ◇ *Attn: Community Breakfast workers ~ Let's make things easier for the Community Breakfast Shoppers by writing on the white board what supplies that are needed for the next month breakfast. The white board is on the door of the supply room!!!*
- ◇ The **January, 2025 Quest deadline** will be: **Monday, December 23rd** for Committee meetings, Notices, Photos, Articles, etc ~ Quest will be emailed & mailed **Thursday, December 26th!!!!**

What you achieve through the journey of life is not as important as who you become.



Anonymous

October Numbers

			YTD
6th	74	Income: \$ 6,890	\$109,190
13th	97	Expenses: \$ <u>10,827</u>	<u>\$109,805</u>
20th	100	Difference: \$ - 3,937	\$ -615
27th	<u>127</u>		

544 (includes visitors & Children)
Via Zoom, Sanctuary attendees
& Facebook Viewers

Sermons & Scriptures– December, 2024

Dec. 1st	“You Are A Blessing” First Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 43:1-7 Luke 1:26-38
Dec. 8th	“We Can’t Go Alone” Second Sunday of Advent	Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Ruth 1
Dec. 15th	“Do The Good That Is Yours To Do” Third Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 58:9b-12 Luke 3:7-16
Dec. 22nd	“Hope Is Worth The Risk” Fourth Sunday of Advent	Luke 1:46-55 Matthew 1:18-25
Dec. 24th	“Love Knows Your Name” Christmas Eve Service	Lessons & Carols
Dec. 29th	“Don’t Forget to Laugh	Lessons & Laughter



Please remember our Prayer Concerns

Kennedy Evelyn Scott (great-granddaughter of Bill & Stacia Scott) was born weighing only 1 lb. 7 ozs. 13 inches long ~ in one week, she gained 1 oz. She continues to have health concerns. Please keep Kennedy’s Mom and Dad, Michael & Heather in your prayers also.

Terry Hall (cousin to Laurie Parish) had recent brain cancer surgery in Utah & is having some serious health issues;

Christa Storch (daughter-in-law to Sandy Stout) is finishing radiation treatments and beginning chemo treatments for her recent brain cancer surgery; please her husband (Sandy’s son) Steve in your prayers also;

“Thank You” to people in the neighborhood in helping to keep the church grounds clean ~ Rick McVicar

Remember those who have ongoing health concerns: Frank Daniell, Darrell Glenn, Theresa Hilbert, Jean McVicar, Carl Weber, Lisa Stout, London & Carley Hamilton, Pat Gulley, Bea Nedrow (Jackie Steels Mother), JoAnn Barlow, Carolyn Hootman, Joe Schultz, Baby Garrett Egler (friend of Laurie Parish), Roxanne, Dale, Sharon Ryan, Jared Luna, Michelle Adams (Sandy Woosley’s sister-in-law), Robert and Delores Au & Troy and Krista Cramer family;



Those serving in the Armed Services: Nick Bowman, Army; All current military serving here and/or abroad