



December 7, 2023

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
211 South Walnut Street  
Crawfordsville IN 47933

The Advent Journey  
A PASTORAL MESSAGE



“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

PSALM 119:105

Every year, Advent occurs in December, a period in which the days continuously get shorter until the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year. Metaphorically, we can imagine the growing darkness of the day is a representation of the shadows that we see all around us in the world. These shadows can manifest in different ways, including but are not limited to: Despair, Conflict, War, Violence, Sorrow, Depression, Hatred, and Apathy.

Advent is known as the season of waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus Christ into the world. Advent is also a journey we all take together. On this journey, we remember 'Immanuel'- that God is with us every step of the journey to Christ birth. In John Pavlovitz's Advent devotional, *Low*, he states, "as we walk the road of Advent, the invitation is not to escape this place to an elevated heavenly sanctuary somewhere..." We are invited to remember God's word and love that will reveal light onto our paths. The journey of Advent teaches us how to not give in to despair, conflict, sorrow, and hatred, but to shine the lanterns of light that Christ brings forth through his birth:

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

As you enter the sanctuary each Sunday during this season, you will see lanterns representing our Advent journey together. Each Sunday, a new light will shine,

dispelling away the darkness and revealing the word of God that Christ invites us to embody. May God's light give us strength, wisdom, and comfort during this

season as we wait and prepare to celebrate Christ's marvelous birth.

*Many blessings,  
Kevin*



<b>12/10</b> 10:15 am Worship	<b><i>Prepare(d) for Love</i></b> 1 John 4:7-9, 16-21	Rev. Darla Goodrich
<b>12/12</b> Tuesday 7:30 pm	<b><i>Community Chorus Concert</i></b> 1 John 4:7-9, 16-21	Hosted at FCC; reception in Fellowship Hall
<b>12/17</b> 10:15 am Worship	<b><i>Bethlehem Rejoice!</i></b> Joy Sunday	<b>FCC Christmas Choir Cantata</b> Featuring Randal Turner
<b>12/24</b> 10:15-10:45 am	<b><i>Christmas Eve Day Communion Service</i></b>	Christmas Hymns / Scripture / Prayer / Communion
<b>12/24</b> 5:30 pm	<b><i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service</i></b>	Rev. Darla Goodrich Family Friendly Service with Children's Participation
<b>12/31</b> 10:40 am Worship	<b><i>New Year Eve Day Ecumenical Service</i></b>	Rev. Darla Goodrich Hosted at Wabash Ave. Presbyterian Church



# Christmas Cantata

Dec 17 during  
10:15 Worship



Featuring the  
FCC Choir and  
Randal Turner,  
Operatic  
Baritone



Join the choir for **O Bethlehem Rejoice**—a Christmas cantata that will be performed on Sunday, December 17th at FCC. We still have three rehearsals to go on the following Wednesday nights at 7:15: November 29, December 6, and December 13. Now is the time to get singing! The cantata is 20 minutes long and also features two trumpets and a finger cymbal solo. No experience needed—just come and enjoy making a joyful sound at Advent for our Lord!



CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING

# Communion SERVICE

**Dec 24 from 10:15-10:45 am**

Christmas Hymns / Scripture / Prayer / Communion  
All generations welcome / Come as you are  
*No Livestream*



CHRISTMAS  
EVE

# Candlelight COMMUNION SERVICE

**Dec 24 at 5:30 pm**

Featuring Operatic Baritone Randal Turner



# New Year's Eve Sunday Ecumenical Worship

**Dec 31 at 10:40 am**

At Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church  
Preacher: Rev. Darla Goodrich



# YOUTH news from Rev. Kevin Toth

Follow us on Instagram  
@fccyouthcrawfordsville



## Children Singing in Worship December 10th!

We are excited to share that during the children’s moment on December 10th, our amazing youth will be celebrating Jesus’ birthday by lifting their voices in song! Each Sunday, after collecting the FISH donations and before attending children’s church, the youth will be practicing with Bonnie Yund & Kim Mason. We give thanks to Bonnie & Kim for taking the time to teach our youth to sing for the Advent season!

### CHILDREN’S CHURCH SCHEDULE

Date	Bible Story	Teacher
Dec 3	Mary & Joseph	Gwen Carlson
Dec 10	The Shepherds	Beth Daniel Lindsay
Dec 17	Baby Jesus	Sara Nicodemus
Dec 24	No Children’s Church	None
Dec 31	No Children’s Church	None

All children ages 4 to 12 are invited to participate in our *Worship and Wonder* curriculum!

Sunday, Dec. 10th,  
4pm-6pm at  
Wabash Ave.  
Presbyterian  
Church



All youth in preschool through 12th grade are invited to come for a fun Christmas Party! We will have games, crafts, and free pizza/ice cream sundaes. Our preschool to 3rd grade youth will have activities separate from the older youth. We ask that parents/guardians of preschool-3rd graders stay to help supervise. Dinner will be provided for all youth and families.

Please let Pastor Kevin know if you like to attend and if you have any questions.



The WOW youth assembling Agape bags for our neighbors who come to the church needing assistance.





The calendar of events and activities is emailed on the first of each month—but you can also find an updated schedule online at [fccville.org/events](http://fccville.org/events) or call the church office to request a copy.



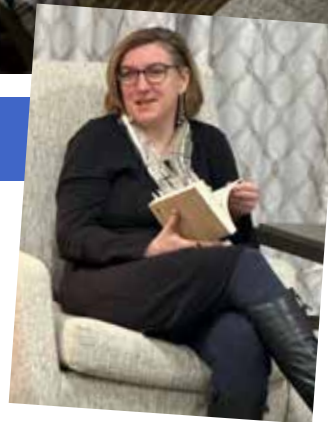
## FCC BOOK CLUB

As expected, the discussion with Agata Brewer about *The Hunger Book* was wonderful. Thank you, Agata, for sharing your time and life with us!

### Upcoming books

Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, 6-7:30 pm

***The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*** by Charley Mackesy - discussion led by Deb Vaught



Tuesday, Feb 6, 2024, 6-7:30 pm

***Mad Honey*** by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan

Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 6-7:30 pm

***Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths*** by Bruce Feiler

**NEW SELECTION** for Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 6-7:30 pm

***Unclobber*** by Colby Martin - discussion led by Kevin Toth

One copy of each upcoming book is available to borrow through our church library.

**Questions?** Reach out to Kelly Stanley, 765.366.6709 or [fcc.comm211@gmail.com](mailto:fcc.comm211@gmail.com).

## Cruisers

Just a reminder that the First Christian Church "Cruisers" December luncheon will be this Thursday at 11:30 at the Crawfordsville Pizza Hut.

## Ladies Lunch Bunch

Grab your food and come join the warm LADIES LUNCH BUNCH fellowship in the CHURCH PARLOR at 12:30PM (\*note time change) on Thurs. Dec. 21. All are welcome!!



**The Joy of Christmas**

A concert of carols  
presented by  
*Crawfordsville Community Chorus*

Director Jerry Whipkey  
Accompanist Tom Lowe

Tuesday evening December 12  
7:30 pm

First Christian Church  
Walnut & Wabash

Free concert All ages welcome



## But I Don't Feel Jolly

Wednesday December 13, noon-1:00pm

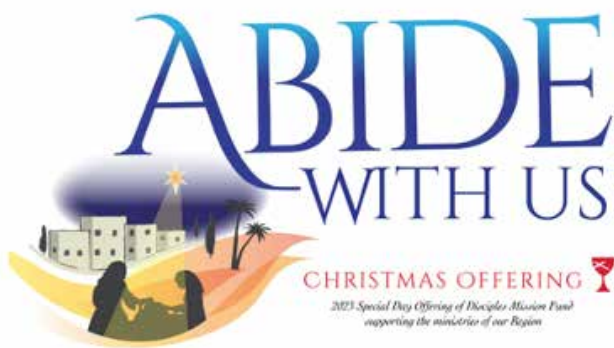
**Cheryl Fuhrmann, CT**

We will discuss holiday traditions among the participants and how loss has changed their special event. Some practical helps for navigating special days will be shared.

Register to Attend in Person: <https://d2d.as.me/schedule/aea01993/appointment/55176511/calendar/7149839?appointmentTypeId%5B%5D=55176511>

Cheryl is a grief counselor with Dusk-to-Dawn Bereavement Services, which she founded after her own tragic loss. She finds healing and meaning helping others through the pain of loss for 15 years.

This Learning Series event is made possible by a grant from the Montgomery County Community Foundation.



Our gifts support the work of regional ministries this Christmas. Our regional ministry in Indiana works to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our regions.



## Sponsored by St. John's at Backstep Brewery on December 11 at 6 pm

Join our neighbors for a rousing night of singing Christmas carols while enjoying some of the fine offerings from Backstep Brewing Co. Some sweet treats and food will also be available.

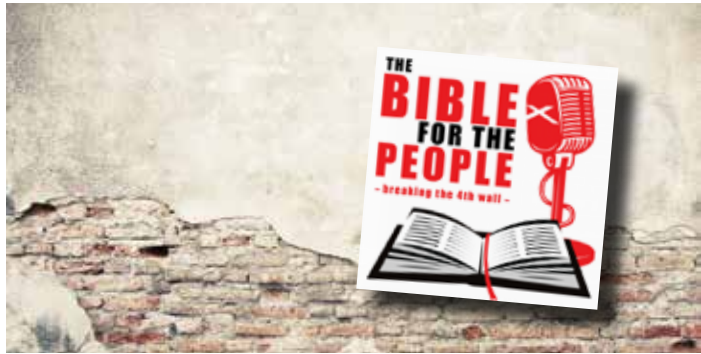
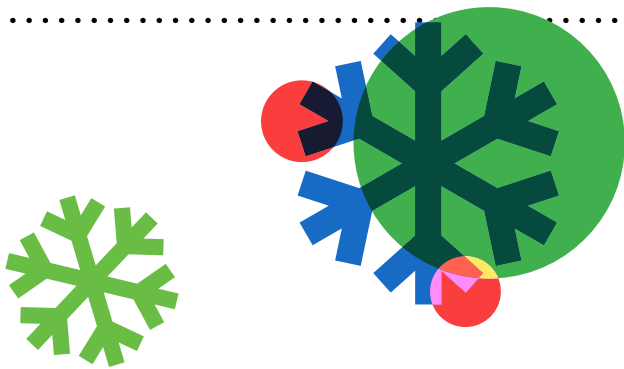


## Children's Art Show now on display!



Check out the newest display in our art gallery hallway, and don't miss the star on the top of the tree in the Narthex, created by Joshua Fossnock. Be sure to sign the guest book and encourage these young artists in our community.

Special thanks to: Mary Lou Dawald, who helped the children create artwork for this; Tammy Meyers for helping coordinate; and Kym Bushong for hanging the show with such care and creativity!



### Bible for the People Podcast

Pastors Darla & Kevin and Chuck Ranspach have completed examining the books of 1st and 2nd Kings. We hope you share any questions you may have with us and we look forward to moving forward with the next bible books, **1st & 2nd Chronicles**. All episodes will be shared on the church Facebook page and you can find the podcast on Apple, Spotify, and Google.



### Donations Needed

Your Worship Team is in need of the members of the congregation to donate cardboard to cut to put the Christmas tree lights on for storage, as well as cardboard to cut to hopefully make dividers to put the Christmas tree balls in boxes using small coffee filters. We need four boxes of those donated as well. We of course need large boxes to store the lights & the ornaments too. If any of the men in the church could help cut the cardboard, please let Leanah Brown, Cindy Grimes, or Linda Petrie know. We would certainly appreciate your help as we do not at this time have any money in our budget to spend on these items. You may bring the cardboard & coffee filters to church, but please label what they are for, so it gets to the Worship Team. Thank you so much!

# PRAYER REQUESTS

Help us keep this list up to date!

Please email [fcc.comm211@gmail.com](mailto:fcc.comm211@gmail.com) if you wish to have a name removed or provide an update.

Thank you for your help with this—and for your ongoing dedication to holding each other in prayer.



The family of **ROD GONSO**, who passed away on Nov. 24

The family of **GEORGE VENIS**, who passed away recently

**BETH LOWE**—recovering from surgery

**MARLENE ELMORE**—receiving hospice care at home

**JOE & PHYLLIS BOSWELL**, and their whole extended family, on the loss of their daughter, **CARRIE SAUNDERS**

**RANDALL GARRETT**—after two rounds of lengthy radiation treatments for cancer of the esophagus, the area has been damaged and Randall will have surgery soon in Indianapolis.

**JERRI STEWART**—recovering from hospitalization

**SHEILA CLARK**—now at home, recovering from hip surgery

**JORDAN TURNER** (Gerry Turner's grandson) and family—recovering from surgery to repair broken bones following a motorcycle accident

**AMY WOODALL**—recovering from surgery

**FRIEDA COSBY**—has recovered from her fall and will be staying at Brookville Healthcare Center

**DALLAS McDONALD**—ongoing cancer treatment

**THOMAS MAY** (Sandy Brown's son-in-law and Lisa Lofland-May's husband)—suffering from Stage 4 Cancer and is taking chemo but is seriously ill. Lisa and Thomas have a 12 year old son, Connor.

**JOHN HOOPER**—ongoing Parkinson's issues

**QUINTON NANNET** and family—Quinton continues to remain in New Zealand, is physically safe, but is facing a lot of uncertainties ahead. Please pray for Quinton's resilience, courage, hope and wisdom, amid the challenges he's facing.

**GERRY TURNER**—health issues

**JACK WYATT**—Rehabilitating at Restoracy of Whitestown

**BETTY CEDARS**—ongoing health concerns

**ALLEN GOFF** (friend of the Keedys)—cancer

**DEBBIE (REBECCA LANG'S SISTER)**—treatment for lung cancer

**SANDY & KEN BROWN**—ongoing health concerns

**MATT RYKER** (Ron Yund's friend's son)—beating victim, long recovery ahead

**CHURCH STAFF, MINISTERS, AND LEADERSHIP**

## Pray for our Shut-ins

*Our shut-ins would enjoy visits.*

BICKFORD: **TIM NANNET**

WHITLOCK:  
**CAROLYN SIMPSON** (#151)

HOME:  
**DALLAS McDONALD,**  
**NANCY ROGERS, BOB DIXON,**  
**PAUL & MARIAN CASS**

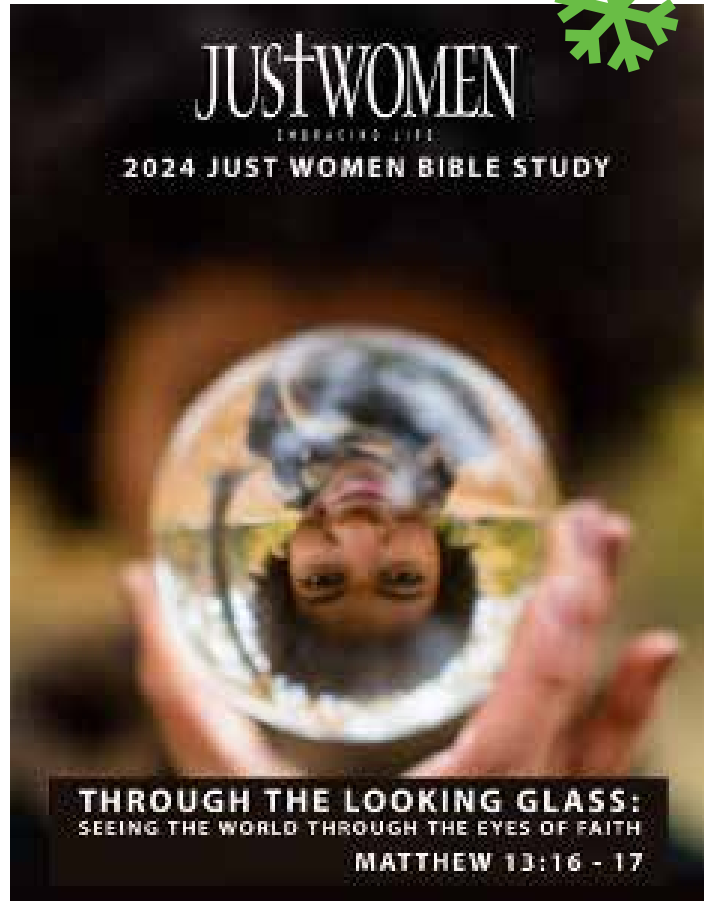
THE LANE HOUSE:  
**BETTY CEDARS**



Fish Food Pantry thanks you for your generous donations. Your help to Fish helps us serve our community. We appreciate your partnership.

Sincerely,

Wendy Pritchett, Secretary



Hand in Hand is busy learning and growing, as always! This fall our director and one of our teachers traveled to Nashville for the annual NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) conference. They had a great time and came back with lots of new

ideas to implement in the classrooms. We also are happy to announce that Hand in Hand was a recipient of a recent Community Foundation grant for \$10,659 to be used for classroom improvements. We will be replacing all the broken blinds in the classrooms with cordless shades, as well as adding some high quality play kitchens and food sets.



### We want YOUR ideas!

Is there a subject you'd like to learn about? Is there a topic that you think would make an interesting one-session discussion? Would you like to dive into a specific scripture or book?

The pastors and I are wanting to plan some new adult educational events. These could take the form of a several-session class, a single informal discussion group, a gathering in a local restaurant or coffee shop—the sky's the limit! We'd love to know what you would love to learn about so that we can match them with potential teachers and schedule some interesting new things for 2024. Please reach out to me with your ideas and I'll coordinate with the pastors. Thank you!

**Kelly Stanley, [kellyostanley@me.com](mailto:kellyostanley@me.com), 765-366-6709**

**THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS:  
SEEING THE WORLD THROUGH THE EYES OF FAITH  
MATTHEW 13:16 - 17**

### 2024 Just Women Bible Study

Just Women is a Bible Study written by women for women. The 2024 edition is currently available to order. "Through the Looking Glass" is a collection of lessons that encourage readers to contemplate how their faith shapes their presence in the world. Even though society's rules may change, our participation as a mission of service and witness, guided by Jesus Christ, should always be our focus. Join Disciples Women in exploring topics such as consumerism, leadership, and being a good neighbor. Available at \$21.00 each.

Pre-orders (w/free shipping) are available November 1 - December 20.

Link to order: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/product/2020-just-women-bible-study/>





## UPDATE ON THE RAHIMI FAMILY

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Dear Crawfordsville ARC,

As we enter the holiday season it is time (past time) for an update on our Afghan family. ARC has been working with Exodus Refugee International for two full years and with our adopted family for almost 22 months. Wow. So much has happened. So many steps forward, and a few back. So many challenges overcome, and others yet to come. But the most important thing to know is that ARC has made a huge difference in the R's lives.

Mr. R has been driving buses for IndyGo for seven months, after completing his training with them in mid-March. He is under contract with the bus company for two years. This quarter he works the second shift Saturday through Wednesday, with Thursday and Friday off. In early December Mrs. R will celebrate one year as an infant childcare provider with a faith-based daycare center in Brownsburg. She loves her work, her coworkers, and the little ones she cares for. Her spoken English is progressing well. Daughter Sana is a bright, happy, and very enthusiastic kindergartner in the Brownsburg school system. Masoud, Mr. R's brother, has worked for several months at a commercial bakery, after having worked for Goodwill for over a year. He speaks English well, seems to be a dependable, hard worker, and has friends. The entire family moved into a new apartment in downtown Brownsburg in late August.

But there have been setbacks, too. When Mr. R's mother died at age 62 at home in Kabul mid-October he missed a week's work for which he was denied bereavement pay because he could not provide an official death certificate. He missed another week in November when he contracted salmonella, and another week earlier while a bus

accident he was involved in was investigated. Mrs. R has had several health issues that resulted in emergency room visits, diagnostic testing, and several days of lost work. ARC contributed \$500 to help pay their December rent, otherwise, only once since April have they needed help paying their normal monthly expenses. (WAPC maintains a restricted fund for Afghan Refugee Relief into which contributions to ARC and to support the R family have been deposited. The money now remaining in the fund is committed to help pay for Mrs. R's root canal and crown when the work can be arranged.)

Working and spending time with the Rs as they faced such events has made us more and more aware of the challenges confronting not only newly arrived refugees to our country, but also all those living on the economic margins in America. The Rs have been blessed to have the support of ARC and they are grateful beyond words for it. But there are so many more families who live on the knife's edge of job, housing, food, and health insecurity. It takes perseverance, courage, ingenuity, sacrifice, faith, and help from others for them just to survive.

We all are inundated with opportunities to serve and give during the holiday season. If you, members of your congregation, or your church would like to contribute toward meeting some of these occasional emergency needs of our Afghan friends, including Mrs. R's impending dental work, you can write a check to Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church, indicating "for Afghan refugees" in the memo line, and send it to 307 S. Washington, C'ville, 47933.

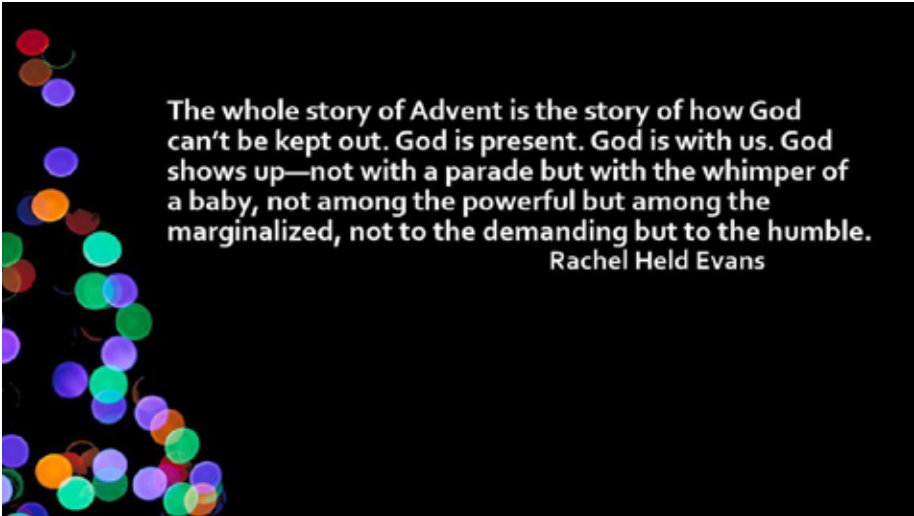


*A photo of the Rs during their Thanksgiving Day visit. They are a lovely, happy family.*

The Rs joined us for Thanksgiving dinner. We all gave thanks for the blessings we have received through this relationship these past 22 months. During this visit and frequent contacts with them this year we have seen the family continue to manifest the perseverance, courage, ingenuity, sacrifice and faith they will need as they look to a hopeful future. "If God wills it," as Mr. R says when looking at and beyond the most immediate challenge.

Thank you for your help making a hopeful future for them.

**David and Sheridan Hadley**



The whole story of Advent is the story of how God can't be kept out. God is present. God is with us. God shows up—not with a parade but with the whimper of a baby, not among the powerful but among the marginalized, not to the demanding but to the humble.  
Rachel Held Evans



**FCC OFFICE**

Office Manager: Kay Nannet  
765.362.4812  
Email: 211fccville@gmail.com  
**Church Office Hours:**  
Monday through Friday,  
10 am – 2 pm

**Directory Updates**

These people no longer have land lines, so use these numbers instead:

**Judy Michal's** cell: 765-376-8255  
**Kim Mason's** cell: 765-918-7341

Also please make note of new information for **Nancy Rogers:**  
912 S. Fenbrook Ct., Bloomington, IN 47401, (765) 367-9686

**PASTOR DARLA**

CELL: 314-805-0347  
darla.goodrich@gmail.com

**PASTOR KEVIN**

CELL: 724-825-0997  
katoth112792@gmail.com

*Monday is Rev. Darla's day off.  
Friday is Rev. Kevin's day off.  
On their days off, please contact the other  
pastor or the Church Office with  
questions, concerns or emergencies.*



**CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Dec 25 – Jan 1**

Pastor Kevin's on call from Dec 25 - 28  
Pastor Darla's on call from Dec 29 – Jan 1

**COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

**DUSK TO DAWN  
BEREAVEMENT SERVICES**  
*Cheryl Furman and Jai Miranda*  
765.267.1760 | dusk-to-dawn.org  
info@dusk-to-dawn.org

**FISH FOOD PANTRY**  
*Distributes grocery items to meet  
emergency needs.*  
Located at St Bernard's Church,  
1306 E. Main St., Crawfordsville,  
765.362.3474

**HAND IN HAND  
CREATIVE LEARNING**  
*Chantel Allen, Director*  
765.367.1727 | hhcdirector@gmail.com

**MONT. CO. FREE CLINIC**  
*Offers local, uninsured residents  
high-quality medical & dental care  
and other health services*  
816 S. Mill Street, Crawfordsville  
www.mcfreeclinic.org  
765.362.3244