



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
211 South Walnut Street
Crawfordsville IN 47933
December 9, 2021

**The Gifts of our
Children and Christ**
PASTORAL MESSAGE

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211fccville@gmail.com



This past Sunday, I watched with joy as many of our young, amazing kids sat beneath the large Sanctuary Christmas tree with the children's moment leader that morning, Beth Daniel Lindsey. Beth asked the kids about angels while sharing an angel she brought from one of her Christmas trees at home. I laughed and smiled as some of the kids shared what was on their mind while some of the kids sat in silence yet paying full attention to what Beth and the kids had to say. In my heart, I knew this was a holy moment, though at the time I could not figure out why. After I took some time for reflection, I believe I know the reason why this moment was so holy to me.



There are many reasons why Advent is a special time each year. The purpose of Advent is to wait for the coming of Jesus' Christ birth, which happens after four Sundays, concluding on Christmas Eve. When Jesus was born, he brought God's Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love into the world, which is why each Sunday in Advent we celebrate each of these gifts Christ gave to us.

However, these four gifts did not magically appear in the world overnight. As Jesus grew up as a child and later as an adult, he brought these gifts to every person he met. Jesus gave Hope to those despairing; Peace to the conflicted; Joy to the depressed; and Love to the forgotten. And

the best gift of all...is that Jesus gives us these gifts so that we may share them with the world as well. This is why our children are such a gift to the church and to the world. Because they embody God's Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love all the time and they are a wonderful example for the rest of us in how we can share Christ's gifts to the rest of the world, during this wonderful season and the rest of the year.

I give so much thanks for the amazing children of First Christian and for this wonderful congregation that welcomes our young ones with open arms!

Blessings,

Pastor Kevin



From a Distance

An Advent Sermon Series

DATE	SERMON TOPIC	
Nov 28	From a Distance, God is Near	Advent 1 / Hope
Dec 5	From a Distance, God is Among Us	Advent 2 / Peace
Dec 12	From a Distance, God Shows Grace	Advent 3 / Joy
Dec 19	From a Distance, God is Glorified	Advent 4 / Love
Dec 24	From a Distance, God With Us	Christmas Eve
Dec 26	Quiet Sunday	Quiet Christmas
Jan 2	New Year	Epiphany

You can still order shirts and mugs at kellystanley.com/fcc or pick up an order form in the church office!



MISSIONS & OUTREACH

IMAGINE
God's Love
REVEALED

A special day offering of Disciples Mission Fund supporting the ministries of our Region



Christmas Special Offering
Received in many Disciples congregations on Dec. 12 and 19, our gifts support the work of regional ministries as they work to connect congregations, foster faith development, gather Disciples together, nurture a new generation of pastors, interpret the global mission of the Church, and so much more. You can learn more at disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/christmas/ or watch a video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yABmez7UoBA>

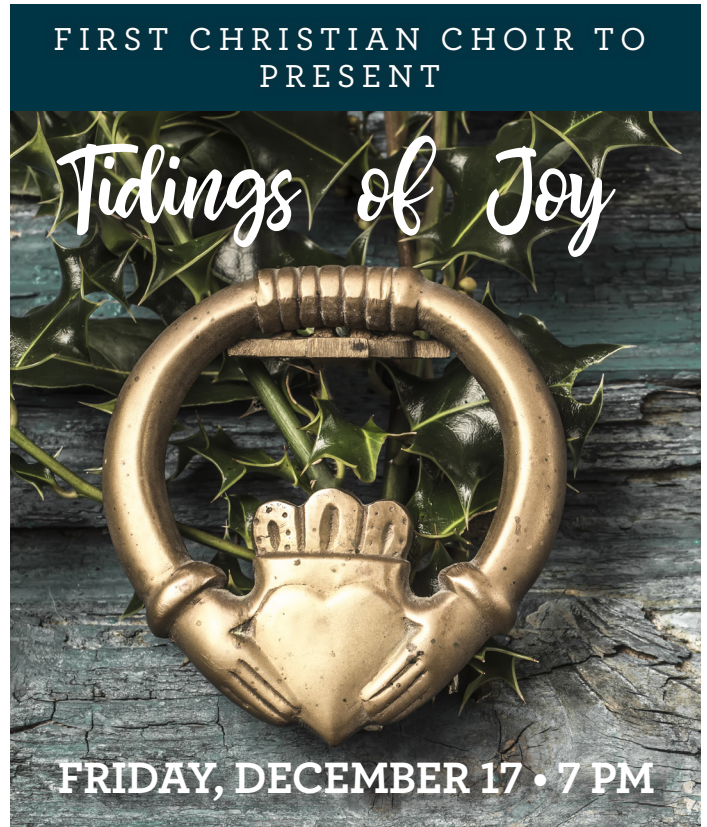
Update on Afghan Refugee project: Kay Nannet, Linda Spencer are representing our church on the Welcome Team for the Afghan family. Carolyn Snyder is participating in finding resources First Christian, along with 5 other local churches are preparing to welcome an Afghan family in the Indianapolis area in the near future. David Hadley, Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church, has submitted the signed agreement for these churches with the Exodus Immigration Agency, an arm of Church World Service. First Christian has volunteered to

provide any materials needed for a bathroom in the dwelling. If you would like to contribute to this project, please send the contribution to the church office and designate Afghan Family project. A separate account has been set up by Andrew, the Financial Administrator. Our church has already made an initial contribution of \$1000 from our Outreach fund, along with the other churches involved, to provide housing and expenses for a 90 day period. It is all very exciting.

~Carolyn Snyder
Local and Global Outreach



What a joy it will be to be able to host FCC's **Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service** in person and online this year! We hope you will join us at **7:00 pm** in the sanctuary as we share in singing Christmas hymns together, as we hear God's word shared, as we experience Christ's gift at the Lord's Table and listen for Good News radiating from the voices of our choir! Invite your friends, family and neighbors to hear the eternal story of faith that shapes and reshapes our own stories over and over again!



Scouts Update

Dear FCC,

Activities: Our Scouts set up a Christmas Display in Waynetown in the Park. You should make the drive to Waynetown and check it out.

Upcoming Activities:

January 14th - Winter Camporee at Camp Krietenstein. Feb 4th - Annual Planning Meeting

Service Project:

- * We served Hot Cocoa/Coffee and cookies at the Lighting ceremony on Dec 4th to approx. 300 people.
- * Also we helped Kym Bushong move toiletries from the upper floor to the basement on Dec 6th. If we can be of any help, please let us know.
- * The Troops are collecting gloves/hats/mittens for men, women and children. We will be delivering the donations to the Youth Service Bureau, Pam's Promise and Trinity



Mission house for Men the week of Christmas.

Needs for the units:

- * We are needing new or gently used scout equipment for the Scouts to purchase with their 'Scout Bucks' at our annual planning lock-in that is planned for February.
- * Scout Trailer - Ours is fine for one troop, but with the size of our troops, we are outgrowing what we have. If you know of someone that has an enclosed trailer for sale, please let us know.



Next Meetings: Monday Dec 13th @ FCC 6:30pm (Not meeting during Winter Break). First meeting of the new year will be Jan 3rd @ 6:30pm.

Contact Information:

Scouts BSA Troops 247 and 365 meet on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm. If you are 11-17 years old (or an adult) and are interested in being a part of our boys' or girls' organization, we would love to have you. You can come to our meeting or contact:

Scouting247.365@gmail.com
Michele Enlow, 765.401.6228,
Scoutmaster, Troop 365
Rolf Samuelsen, 317.966.7609,
Scoutmaster, Troop 247



Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Fri. 12/10 **New Bible for the People Podcast**
- Sun. 12/12 **Wired Word class** (Parlor)—9:00-9:45
Youth Service Bureau's **Reindeer gifts** due to the church. *If you have questions, contact Carolyn Snyder at 765-362-7493 or carolynsnyder42@gmail.com.*
- Mon. 12/13 **God Talk Discussions** with Pastor Kevin (Parlor)—4-5pm. *RSVP requested but not required.*
Scouts meeting (Upper Room)—6:30-8 pm
- Tues. 12/14 **Ladies Lunch Bunch** gather at Cracker Barrel for fun, food, and fellowship at 1 pm!
HHCL Christmas Program & Reception (Sanctuary and Narthex)—6:15-7:30
Coordinating Council meeting (Fellowship Hall)—7-8 pm. *All church members welcome!*
Congregational Board meeting (Sanctuary)—8 pm
Instrumental ensemble rehearsal for Cantata—7 pm
- Wed. 12/15 **WOW**—4:30-6:30
Final rehearsal with Choir and instrumental ensemble—7 pm
- Fri. 12/17 **New Bible for the People Podcast**
TIDINGS OF JOY Christmas Cantata (Sanctuary)—7 pm
- Sun. 12/19 **Wired Word class** (Parlor)—9:00-9:45
- Mon. 12/20 **God Talk Discussions** with Pastor Kevin (Parlor)—4-5 pm. *RSVP requested but not required.*
All are welcome.
Scouts meeting (Upper Room)—6:30-8 pm
- Tues. 12/21 **Euchre group** is not meeting today but, weather permitting, will meet on Jan. 18.
The Longest Night service (Sanctuary)—7 pm
While others are experiencing the light of hope, peace, joy, and love, we may feel as though our hope has gone, our peace extinguished, our joy snuffed out, and love vanished. We don't have to be alone in our darkness. Join others as we gather to share our burdens and losses in an ecumenical healing service of prayer, song, and reflection.
- Thurs. 12/23 **Next Pathfinder Newsletter**
- Fri. 12/24 **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** (Sanctuary)—7 pm
- Sat. 12/25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
- Sun. 12/26 **Quiet Christmas Communion Service**—10:15 am
Join us in the Sanctuary or online to celebrate Epiphany and its invitation to follow God's leading to wherever new life is calling us. Join us for this abbreviated family service with singing, prayer, a brief meditation and communion so that we may honor the precious eternal gift of new birth in Christ!
- Week of 12/27 **Church office closed for holidays but Pastors Darla and Kevin are available**

The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord. HENRI NOUWEN

God Talk Discussions With Pastor Kevin

Monday, December 13 & 20 @ 4pm.

Located at First Christian Church's Parlor

NEW TIME: 4pm on December 13th and 20th

Have any questions regarding God, faith, the church, the world, or anything else? Feel free to bring them as we gather as a group to share our questions, views, and perspectives with one another. We meet each Monday in the church Parlor. All are welcome to join!



Just a few episodes left covering the book of Leviticus! Be sure to check out our latest episodes to learn more. We love to have you involved by sending your questions to us at bibleforthepeople@gmail.com.

<https://directory.libsyn.com/shows/view/id/bibleforthepeople>

Stole Stories Corner

Stoles are worn by clergy as a symbol of their ordination and their office of ministry, as well as a visual representation of when Jesus wiped the Disciples' feet during the last supper (representing that we, too, are servants of the church). Each of Rev. Darla and Kevin's stoles has a story, which we will be sharing over the next few weeks.

Kevin's "Jesus" Stole

When I came here at First Christian Church last year, Darla shared with me several stoles as gifts. One of these stoles is what I like to call the Jesus stole. It's a unique stole because it's irreversible with different colors. The colors often represent the different liturgical seasons in the church year. For example, green often represents the "Ordinary Time" that occurs right after Pentecost and lasts all the way until Advent. Purple is commonly seen during the Advent season as purple is often associated with the royalty of Christ. While the symbols are each side look different, they are both called a Christogram, which is a monogram or combination of letters that forms an abbreviation for the name of Jesus Christ. The letters are all in the Greek language and are the first three letters of Jesus in Greek: Iota-Eta-Sigma. The purple side also places a Cross to remind individuals of Christ's sacrifice. These Christograms are often seen in Catholic churches, but many protestant traditions also adopt these symbols in our liturgy and practice as well. Whenever I wear this stole, I remember all that Jesus gave to us and the world.





YOUTH news

from Rev. Kevin Toth

Follow us on Instagram
@fccyouthcrawfordsville



WOW Would Love Your Support!

Emily, Sharon, and I give so much thanks for all the wonderful ways everyone has supported our wonderful WOW kids each Wednesday, either through teaching, food donations, or transportation. As we prepare for the upcoming Spring, the WOW kids and leadership team would love for your additional support in the following ways:

- **Welcome Team** - Help supervise children as they arrive to WOW from 4:30-5:15pm.
- **Meal Prep** - Help get food ready for the kids before 6pm.
- **Table Parent** - Enjoy some fellowship with the kids as they eat dinner from 6-6:20pm.

WOW is dependent on your support so we hope you will help if you are able and free. You do not have to commit to every Wednesday. The sign-up link below allows you to sign up for any Wednesday in the spring that works best for your schedule. Our WOW kids are so thankful for your support and I thank you for taking the time to help the WOW program become such a successful gathering for each of our amazing youth!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45a9ab2cabfec34-wowvolunteers>

-Pastor Kevin



Last WOW for 2021 is December 21! WOW will start up again on January 12, 2022.

Enjoy the Holiday Break!



Pray for Our Church Family, Friends, and Other Concerns

Continue to pray for the protection, health, and well-being of those people who are serving in various ways that put them at higher risk of exposure to COVID-19. We give thanks for their service.

LISA WOLLENBERG (Jaci and Mark Wollenberg's daughter) and her fiancé **DOUG READ** and Jaci's cousin **BRUCE VAN HAL**—all have breakthrough Covid.

ALAN & JANENE PLUNKETT—recovering from illnesses

CAROLYN TUNIN—recovering from a third surgery on her right hip

BEN MCCORMICK—at Lafayette Regional Rehabilitation Hospital in Lafayette for further healing.

BETTY CEDARS—recovering from pneumonia and Covid 19

LIAM VENIS and family—Liam is recovering from surgery

RANDAL TURNER—recovering from hip surgery

RUSSELL RUBY—health issues

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

SANDY & KEN BROWN—he had pacemaker replacement procedure and she's recovering from broken arm

JERRI STEWART—breast cancer; recovering from mastectomy

BOB MASON—energy is low from tests and treatments for cancer

CATHY MOFFETT (Marilyn Moffett's daughter-in-law)—chemo for breast cancer

ALEX (and his parents, Beth and Chris, friends of Sarah Jay)—Alex has a tumor on his spine

CARSON COLLINS and family (friends of Kym Bushong's)—leukemia

JENNIFER (FRY) KREKELER (daughter of Daryl & Mary Helen Fry)—chronic fatigue syndrome

JOE CARTER—friend of Keedys, cancer

GARY MEEK—ongoing health concerns

SHEILA CLARK—Chronic Lymphatic Leukemia

CHURCH STAFF, MINISTERS, AND LEADERSHIP

Pray for our Shut-ins

Long-term care facilities are open again to visitors, even without vaccination. Our shut-ins would enjoy visits.

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

FOUNTAIN SPRINGS ADULT COMMUNITY IN COVINGTON: **EILEEN MORRETT**

WELLBROOKE: **MARGE KOPERSKI** (Marge Michael's mother)

HOME: **BILL & FRANCES COLLINGS, DORIS BRANSTETTER**

ST. ANTHONY'S, LAFAYETTE: **MARILYN MOFFETT**

THE LANE PLACE: **BETTY CEDARS**

The season of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before. So stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder. There will be time enough for running.

JAN RICHARDSON

The church office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Years but Pastor Darla is available.

Pastor Kevin will be gone Dec. 27-30 but is otherwise available.

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- Dec. 10 Bob Snyder (83)
Dec. 12 Dave Maharry
Dale Petrie
Diane McLaughlin
Dec. 13 Marilyn Patton (81)
Dec. 14 Donna Coats
Dec. 15 Keith Strain
Dec. 16 Pat Hooper
Nicholas Reese
Daniel Petrie
Dec. 18 Beth Lindsay
Gerry Coats (84)
Edward Dowd
Dec. 24 Nancy Beach
Dec. 25 John Horner (85)
Don Lindsay
Dec. 29 Judy Michal

ANNIVERSARIES

- Dec. 10
Brad and Linda Weaver
Dec. 27
Howard and Darlene Goodrich
Dec. 30
Tom and Sharon Keedy

If you would like your birthday and a anniversary included in the bi-monthly Pathfinder newsletter, please let Kelly know.

Directory update

Beth Lindsay's email address should be bethdlindsay@gmail.com



HOW CAN WE HELP?

PASTOR DARLA

Monday is Rev. Darla's day off.
Please contact Rev. Kevin with questions, concerns or emergencies when Darla is unavailable.

CELL: 314-805-0347

EMAIL:

darla.goodrich@gmail.com

PASTOR KEVIN

Friday is Rev. Kevin's day off.
Please contact Rev. Darla with questions, concerns or emergencies when Kevin is unavailable.

CELL: 724-825-0997

EMAIL:

katoth112792@gmail.com

YOUR SAFETY IS IMPORTANT TO US

We continue to wear masks and practice social distancing for all church activities in order to create a welcoming, safe environment for all. All church staff and childcare givers are fully vaccinated.



Sharing our Facebook posts helps us grow! On our **Facebook (First Christian Church Crawfordsville) page**, we share updates, news, and pictures of all of our happenings along with LIVE worship on Sundays.

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon. & Wed. 12 – 5:30 p.m.

Tues., Thurs., Fri. 12-3 p.m.

The FCC doors will remain locked during office hours in order to maintain safe space for our Hand in Hand children and staff, and our FCC staff who may be in the office by themselves. Please simply ring the bell during office hours (at either the Walnut Street or Parking Lot doors) and FCC staff will be delighted to "buzz" you in!

OFFICE STAFF

Nick Hedrick, Secretary

Arleen Wilhite, Volunteer

765.362.4812 (Leave a message. Voicemail is checked on weekdays.)

EMAIL: 211fccville@gmail.com

GRIEF AND LOSS

j Miranda

Minister for Bereavement Care

CELL: 765-720-2829 (call or text)

EMAIL: jmiranda@coachj.com

FINANCIAL CONCERNS

Andrew Nicodemus

FCC Financial Administrator

765.362.4812 (leave a message)

EMAIL: fccvillefinance@gmail.com

HAND IN HAND CREATIVE LEARNING

Sara Nicodemus, HHCL Board

Lori McKinney, HHCL Director

765.362.4812 (leave a message)

EMAIL: hhclboard@gmail.com

HAVE INFO FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS?

Kelly Stanley

Communications Administrator

EMAIL: fcc.comm211@gmail.com

CELL: 765.366.6709

For a full list of our leaders, go to www.fccville.org/our-lay-leaders