

**NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)**  
**December 18 2018**

***PLEASE PRAY FOR:*** Shirley Abney, Stephen Dry, Susy Sadowski, Barbara Kring, Laura Kraft, for veterans and those who serve them, and victims of the fires and other disasters.

**CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR:**

Sally Clayton, Pastor Keith Weekley, Clara Benfield, Millie Clarke, Roger Ozmet, Selma Devich, Dr. Walter Allen, Neal Mitchell, Bill Carroll, Pam Owen, Anna Weekley, Connie Santee, Eliza Husser Cave, Jewel Jones, Chuck & Ida Bassi, Wanda Doleshall, Kenneth & Joanna Chatto, Ray Cook, Sabrina, Connie Moomjy, those in public service, military service, and those traveling.

**MESSAGE FROM PASTOR IRENE**

This year, Advent begins on Sunday, December 3 and ends on Monday, December 24th. Advent is the first season of the Christian year. The Lectionary shifts to a new yearlong cycle, and our year of worship begins with expectant waiting for the birth of Christ as we purposefully celebrate four Sundays in Advent. The candles we will light each week represent hope, peace, joy and love. Those themes will also be reflected as part of an Advent sermon series. I am excited about walking and worshipping with you for Advent this year. I hope you will be able to be a part of the weekly Sunday Advent celebrations. I also hope you will be able to join us at the candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 6pm on December 24th, where we can celebrate the angels' announcement of long ago that still is true for us today, "*behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be for ALL people, for today, in the city of David, there has been born FOR YOU a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!*". Behold, indeed!! I pray each of you will enjoy a meaningful, thoughtful Advent season as you prepare your hearts for a Merry Christmas!

Pastor Irene

**CARD MINISTRY**

Millie Clarke is the person responsible for the cards we receive from the Church, acknowledging our birthdays, anniversaries, get well and thinking of you situations. She is extremely faithful in doing this work.

Millie has requested that if you know of someone, within our Church Family, who might need a get well or thinking of you card, please call her at home. You can leave the information on her answering machine along with your phone number, in case she has any questions. Thank you.

## **A BIG “THANK YOU”**

A wonderful breakfast was enjoyed by everyone who came to Church on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, to help decorate for Christmas. Our thanks to Paul Wilson, Jim Mitchell and Buzzy Cheadle. We appreciate all you did! Thank you also to the people who helped with the decorating. It is appreciated!

## **CHRISTMAS SPECIAL DAY OFFERING**

**Sunday, December 23, 2018**

You will have the opportunity to participate in the Christmas Special Day Offering. This offering goes to support our local region (one of 32 areas in the US and Canada). Regional work provides pastoral care and enrichment programs, camp and conference programs along with development and ordination of ministry candidates. Thank you for your consideration.

## **SPECIAL DAY OFFERINGS**

**Caroline Hale**

As the Financial Secretary of our Church, I have been given the responsibility of making the Congregation aware of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) use of designated Special Day Offerings. “Special Days in the life of the church often allow us to focus our worship, celebrations and fellowship around moments that are central to our faith.”

As the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), “we accept our mission of witness and service to all people in the name of Jesus the Christ. We extend God’s welcome to all at the Lord’s Table, because we believe that our shared Christian faith bonds us to each other and to the entire world.

“The Disciples Mission Fund (DMF) brings the whole Church together, connecting us to the life-giving and life-saving work we have been called to do. It also simplifies giving for congregations and individuals, providing a way to support the entire Church at once. DMF funded regional and general ministries offer opportunities for Disciples to serve as missionaries, attend college or seminary, advocate for the least of these, and so much more. When you make a gift to DMF, you share God’s love from your doorsteps to the ends of the Earth.”

During 2019, there will be four DMF Special Day Offerings received. These four include Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Also, Special Mission Fund Offerings will be collected for Week of Compassion and Reconciliation Ministry. I will keep you informed as to what each offering will support within our denomination

## **NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY**

The proof of the directory will be emailed to the Church office on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Once it is reviewed and corrected the printing process will take 2 weeks. We are hopeful we will have our new directories by the end of January.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The Christmas Eve Service will start at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary. The service is composed of readings, hymns, a brief meditation and the lighting of candles.

There will be a pre-service fellowship time beginning at 5:30.

## Around the World in Christmas and Kwanzaa

Many Americans will decorate a small or large cedar tree, place gifts under it as symbols of giving to each other just as the Lord gave his only begotten son to be born of the virgin Mary. Jesus Christ was born, served, crucified on Calvary, and rose with all power on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day morning to pay the sin debt (in full – past, present, and future) of mankind. Christ is sacrificial Lamb of God and without blemish. Thus, celebrate believers celebrate the “free gift of salvation” through Jesus Christ by attending church services to worship, sing praises, and honor the birth of Jesus. Towns and cities often decorate the streets with lights to celebrate Christmas. Santa Claus, otherwise known as Saint Nicholas, Kris Kringle, or Father Christmas, is a very popular individual that brings the gifts to the homes of well-behaved children on Christmas Eve and the early A.M. hours of Christmas Day (December 25<sup>th</sup>).

During the period of December 26 to January 1, the time frame known as Kwanzaa (/ˈkwɑːn.zə/) is a noted celebration in all nations of the African diaspora as well as many other nations including the United States, Canada, France, Italy, Germany, Great Britain, Jamaica and Brazil. The celebration honors African heritage and culminates in a feast and gift-giving. Historically this celebration was created by Maulana Karenga and initiated in 1966–67. The African American Cultural Center claimed 60 million persons officially this Holiday period in 2016. Additionally, Maya Angelou narrated a documentary film about Kwanzaa, “The Black Candle”, written and directed by M.K. Asante. Personally, I like Kwanzaa because it has seven core principles (Nguzo Saba) that are directly applicable to all human kind. Indeed, confession of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior is paramount, and I am not suggesting replacements. My thoughts are to simply note and share these 7 principles of Kwanzaa. Each of the seven days during December 26 to January 1 of Kwanzaa is dedicated to one of the following principles, as follows:

- 1) **Umoja (Unity):** To strive for and to maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.
- 2) **Kujichagulia (Self-Determination):** To define and name ourselves, as well as to create and speak for ourselves.
- 3) **Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility):** To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together.
- 4) **Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics):** To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.
- 5) **Nia (Purpose):** To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
- 6) **Kuumba (Creativity):** To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
- 7) **Imani (Faith):** To believe with all our hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

## **CHRISTMAS BREAKS**

No crafting on Christmas Eve  
No crafting on New Year's Eve  
No Tai Chi until January 10th

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

December 23 Christmas Offering  
December 24 Christmas Eve Service 6:00 Sanctuary  
January 3 DWF 10:00 am Fellowship Hall  
January 6 Epiphany Sunday: ***BRING SOUP***  
January 8 Board Meeting 6:00 Fellowship Hall  
January 10 Tai Chi starts 3:00 Fellowship Hall  
January 12 Taking Decorations Down. 8am in Fellowship Hall  
January 13 Carry-In, following Worship Service  
January 19 Trash & Treasures Sale, Classroom 3 from 9-2

### **Every Week**

Choir Practice, Thursdays at 4 pm in the Sanctuary

ACTS donation for the month of December is Soap, Dish Soap and Laundry Detergent

ACTS donation for the month of January is Soup.

Please leave your donations in the Church Office. Thank you for your support!