



# First Christian Church of Effingham

Issue 207

December 3, 2019

*What Manner of Love*

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## **Mark Your Calendar**

**Monday, December 9th** All women  
of the church Christmas Party 6:00  
p.m.

**Tuesday, December 10th** Young @  
Heart Meets @ 9:00 a.m. for coffee/  
tea, fellowship and prayer

**Wednesday, December 11th** W.O.W.  
Meets @ 5:30 p.m. followed by Bible  
Study

**Saturday, December 14th** Children's  
Christmas lunch and program practice  
will be from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Saturday, December 14th** Men's  
Gathering Christmas Supper will be  
from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, December 15th** Children's  
Christmas Program during worship  
service. Then, the Thanksgiving/  
Christmas all church lunch

**Friday, December 20th** Youth Christ-  
mas Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 24th** Christmas  
Eve Candlelight Service @ 5:00 p.m.

## **Ponderings of the Preacher . . .**

We are now in the middle of the holiday season. I am sure that your calendar is filling up fast with events and engagements. I want to encourage you to set aside time during the holiday season to remember the reason for the season. We are celebrating the greatest gift ever given. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes on Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

In addition to all the activities you are involved in within your own family, school, job, and community, I want to remind you of the activities within our own church family. Please make time for these so that you can be reminded of God's incredible gift.

Here is a list of the services being held at First Christian Church in **December**.

Sunday morning, **December 8** – "The Wrapping Paper"

Sunday morning **December 15** – Children's Program

Followed by the all church Christmas Dinner in Beebe Hall

Sunday morning, **December 22** – "The Gift Exchange"

Tuesday evening, **December 24** – Candlelight Christmas Eve  
Service at 5 p.m.

Followed by caroling at the hospital

Lighting of the Advent candle each Sunday by the youth of our  
church

I want to remind you that the theme of the messages in December is "An Amazing Gift from God." These messages are based in the gospel of John. The message that I will be sharing this coming Sunday is entitled "The Wrapping Paper." It will focus on the incarnation of Jesus. Jesus' incarnation is truly one of the most amazing teachings in the Bible. The doctrine of the incarnation could be summarized in the following words: Jesus, who is the non-created second person of the triune God; took on a human body and everything that is human and became both man and God.

May each of you be truly blessed this Christmas season! I hope to be able to greet each of you personally this coming Lord's Day morning. Let's all try to be present when First Christian Church meets for worship this Sunday.

C U N Church,  
David



<b><i>Serving In December</i></b> <b><i>Elder:</i></b> December 8th Dennis Bushue <b><i>Deacons:</i></b> Terry Harper, Kelvin Williams, George Shouse, Chris Hutcheson <b><i>Deaconesses:</i></b> Sandy Grimsley & Linda Packer	
<b><i>11/24/19 Attendance &amp; Giving</i></b> <b><i>Total: \$ 4,010.55 includes Faith Promise Offering</i></b>	<b><i>12/1/19 Attendance &amp; Giving</i></b> <b><i>Total: \$4,957.00 includes Faith Promise Offering</i></b>
Worship: 98                      Sunday School: 29	Worship: 96                      Sunday School: 25
<b><i>Faith Promise Missions: \$488.00</i></b> <i>Operation Christmas Child: \$205.00</i>	<b><i>Faith Promise: \$1,471.00</i></b>
Building: \$40.00	Building: \$40.00
Sunday School: \$17.00	Sunday School: \$11.00
<b><i>Greeters for December 8th: June Ashley &amp; Barb Morrison</i></b>	<b><i>Home Communion for December 8th: Kelvin Williams &amp; Don Thoele</i></b>
<b><i>Greeters for December 15th: George &amp; Marcie Shouse</i></b>	<b><i>Home Communion for December 15th : David McConnell</i></b>



## *Women's Christmas Party*

### **December 9th —Save the Date**

Supper will begin @ 6:00 p.m.

Secret Sisters will be revealed with a Christmas Card

Ornament exchange—Bring an ornament if you wish to be in the exchange

Bring a **Five Dollar Gift Card to Wal-Mart** or Five dollars and give to Reenie Miller for the Oblong Children's Christian Home

**Devotional and fellowship times**

**Sign-Up sheet** on Secret Sister's table for what finger food or dessert you wish to bring to the party





## Prayer List



**Cancer:** Bobby Spracklen (Liver & Kidney Cancer)

**Special Needs:** Robert Ballinger (Stroke), Sandy Grimsley (fall), Gen Byers (Surgery for pacemaker), Debbie Little (Elsie's daughter has sciatica nerve pain)

**Missions:** Operation Christmas Child & The Salvation Army

**Grieving Families:** Brian Miller Family, Edith Knierim Family, Dorothy Walks family, Vandalia Community, Inge Keller Family, Tim Torbeck Family

**Homebound:** Morris Sowers

## Young @ Heart

### Tuesday, December 10th

All 50 and over meet @ 9:00 a.m. for coffee/tea, fellowship and prayer.



## W.O.W.

### Wednesday, December 11th

W.O.W. meets @ 5:30 p.m. for all ages. Bible Study follows from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Wednesday  
Evening Prayer &  
Bible Study

## December Book of the Month

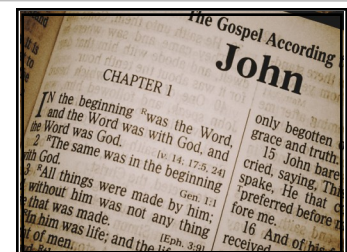
A study guide is available on the foyer table for John.

Pastor David will be preaching from the book of John during the month of December

### Goals:

Greater knowledge of the Bible

Help one develop consistency in Bible reading.





## *Salvation Army Bell Ringers*

### **Sign up Slots Available**

December 21st—2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.;  
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.



THE  
SALVATION ARMY  
INTERNATIONAL



## *Children's Event*

### **Saturday, December 14th**

Children's Christmas lunch and program practice "Top Ten Countdown" will be from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



## *Men's Gathering*

### **Saturday, December 14th**

Meet @ 6:00 p.m. for supper with all men and boys. Prayer, devotional and fellowship



## *Children's Christmas Program*

### **Sunday, December 15th**



"Top Ten Countdown" written by April Moeller will be presented during the worship service. Come and enjoy this upbeat presentation of the gospel Luke 2.



# *Faith Promise Rally 2019/2020*



## **Promises Made**

\$53,492.00 for 2019/2020

**Theme:** Take God At His Word

**Bible Verse:** "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33

**Received So Far:**

\$6,127.00



**Take God At His Word**

## *Youth Christmas Supper*

**Friday, December 20th**

All youth invited to come at 5:30 p.m. for Christmas supper and fellowship



## *Operation Christmas Child*

**103 Boxes collected From FCC**

Thank you so much to all who helped make this year's collection of Shoeboxes a success! Also, thanks to all who donated money and supplies to fill the shoeboxes and pay for the shipping!!!

A special thanks to Bonnie and April for all their help in preparations for filling shoeboxes by the children and youth. Thanks to Cleone for the office coordination for OCC.

Elaine Griffin



## *Food Pantry Items*

**Sunday, January 5th**

Please bring Soup, Crackers, Cereal or your choice for the Calvary Baptist Food Pantry.





First Christian church  
901 N. Henrietta  
Effingham, IL 62401  
SERVICE REQUESTED

## *Christmas Eve Candle Light Service*

Tuesday, December 24th

Time: 5:00 P.M.

Come for worship and scripture reading to prepare you and your family for the celebration of Christ Jesus coming to earth.

Directly after the service, you are invited to join us for caroling at the St. Anthony Hospital for patients that have to spend the holidays in the hospital.

