

FIRST Church Of Christ

December 2025 NEWSLETTER



"He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not but rejoices for those which he has." – Epictetus

They lived a comfortable life in the upscale part of town; the children were teen and pre-teen then and had most anything their hearts desired. They had begun to recite their Christmas expectations of late, never doubting their every wish would be fulfilled. The woman had begun to notice a jaded air they had about the things they owned and the lifestyle they lived. Her thoughts turned to earlier years, years when they had lived far from the lap of comfort.

As she watched her children go off to school that morning, her thoughts rushed ahead to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. Off they would all go to the mansion, where close relatives lived in luxury, where every comfort and convenience abounded. The woman thought back to her childhood, and she remembered barer Thanksgiving Days, there was food, but sometimes the house was cold, the clothing old and tattered, always though there were smiles and hugs, no jaded looks or boredom like she now saw in the eyes of her children...

The following week on Thanksgiving morning, the children rose and dressed for the festive occasion, then presented themselves for the ride to the mansion, already anticipating the smell of roasting turkey, pumpkin pie and other holiday treats. Every year it was a contest to outdo the previous one, with every possible treat served underneath a crystal chandelier on the finest China. Every year they would proclaim "This was our best Thanksgiving yet!" When the woman turned the car in the other direction, eyebrows raised and the children began to question why their feast was being delayed.

Across town, she pulled the car into the local mission house parking lot and took the children inside, explaining they would share this Thanksgiving dinner with those less fortunate than themselves. Making her way back to the kitchen area of the building, she removed her many diamonds and bangles, washed her hands and began deboning turkey with the other ladies, who stared, clearly shocked at her presence. Her very surprised children were directed to help serve plates to the hungry waiting in the dining area.

At first the children were subdued, not understanding why

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Office Hours:

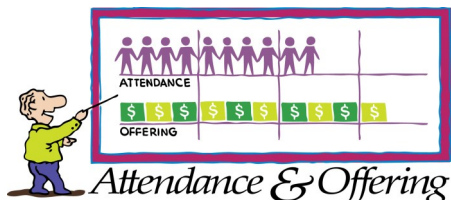
Monday—Thursday
8:00 AM-5:00 PM

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November 2

Attendance 60/105
Offering \$5,989.92

November 9

Attendance 39/63
Offering \$1,643.30

November 16

Attendance 51/88
Offering \$6,415.84

November 23

Attendance 46/105
Offering \$9,782.74

Needed for Budget:

\$5,099.21



December Servers

Deaconesses:

Diane Altman & Deb Rhodes

Elder Schedule:

7—Seth Ramey
14—Mark Rhodes
21—Larry Snavelly
28—Dave Beerbower

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Nursery:

7—1st—; SS—Shaun & Jessica Arend; 2nd—Jessica Arend
14—1st—; SS—Kim Snavelly; 2nd—Sharon Blinzler
21—1st—; SS—Kim Snavelly; 2nd—Kim Snavelly
28—1st—; SS—Kim Snavelly; 2nd—Ashley Nelson

Greeters

1st—; 2nd—

The Art of Keeping Christmas

How can we best keep Christmas?

****By sinking the shafts of our spirits deep beneath the sparkling tinsel of the surface of Christmas and renewing within us the radiance of the inner meaning of the season.**

****By following the Star on an inward journey to Bethlehem to stand again in awe and wonder before the babe in the manger.**

****By rediscovering the faith and simplicity of a little child, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.**

****By being still and listening to the angels sing within our hearts.**

****By quietly evaluating our lives according to the Master's standards as set forth in the Sermon on the mount.**

****By reaffirming the supremacy of the Spirit in man's conquest of himself.**

****By rededicating ourselves to the Master's ideals of peace, brotherhood and good will....**

****By resolving to give ourselves away to others in love, joy and devotion.**

—Wilferd Peter

The New Book of the Art of Living



- 1 Holly Sprow
- 2 Cindy Horton
- 3 Tim Bloomer
- 5 Cody Grimm
- 6 Connor McNamara
- 7 Nikki Taylor
- 8 Ron Roose
- 9 Ellen Walker
- 10 Madison Hetrick, Kale Miller
- 12 Derek Murphy
- 15 Henry Kidd, Samantha Ryan
- 18 Vickie Grimm
- 19 Garrett Nelson
- 21 Teresa Brown
- 22 LuAnne Stanley
- 24 Todd Gambler
- 31 Braxton Wonderly



- 2 Tim & Samantha Ryan (8)
- 6 Jerry & Wanda Hug (50)
- 13 Gerry & Gail Wyrick (39)
- 23 Dave & Melissa Beerbower (42)

The church family extends her sympathy to the following families:

- ♦ *Carla Ruibley and family on the passing of her father, Dick Newcomb.*
- ♦ *The family of Flo Idle.*
- ♦ *Cindy Perry & family on the sudden, unexpected loss of her daughter, April Langer.*

Love All

Our Service Personnel: Austin Brandeberry (HI), Zachary Perkins (IN), Jordan Thornburg (NE), Katie Sparks (PA). **Cancer:** Gwen Acker-Dickinson, Nathan Bailey, Marcia Baumgartner, Tim Bight, Brent, Mark & Carrie Campo, Andrew Dell, Adam Farger, Carrie H, Molly Johnston, Kent, Chuck Lees, Tim McKown, Rexann McCrary, Lora Manon, Chloe Merrilet, Crystal Miller, Ruth Ordway, Mary Pinckley, Elaine Purdue, Mike Roose, Sue Secoy, Terry Shinaberry, Stu Short, Annette Snavelly, Holly Sprow, Kortney Subasic, Amy Tobin, Kathy Walton, Drew Wayman; **Other Concerns:** Jennifer Mavis, Trevor Bailey, Neighborhood, Danielle Strouse, Brenda Ridgway, Cindy Wolf, Zach Swisher, Cheryl Towers, Gene Nash, Kim Beek, Joshua Taylor, children's ministry, Danny Hull, Cindy Webber, Kevin Ayre, Kathy Moog, Marty, John Fry, Jackson Wolph, Fran Mavis, Nathan Ray, Nehemiah Haase, Randy Fisher, Jason Gregg, Khloe Hartman, Martha Hardy, Ellen Walker, Ronnie Pinckley, Tommy Morr, Garry Oberlin, Henry Kidd, Chuck Salisbury, Pat Northcut, Nikki Taylor, Tim Gordon. Sharon Brewer, Shawn Gambler, Terry Hallett, Joanne Allison, Robert Buskirk, Terry Carter, Tristan Ray, Kerry Phillips, Tootie Bowman, Scott Hartman, Maverick Fields, Kortney Subasic; **Shut Ins:** **Hillside:** Charlene Gambler; **Fountain Park:** Chuck & Madelon Salisbury; **Home:** Charlene Dean, Linda Lewis, Norma Lorentz, Leona Puff, Vince & Nola Girardot.



Upcoming EVENTS

**20°—12/7/2025
9:15 AM**

**Craft Group
12/2, 10:00 AM**

**Momco—12/3 & 17
6:15–7:15 PM**

**Ladies Bible Study
—12/10
6:15–7:15 PM**

**Lunch Bunch
12/23/2025
11:45 AM @ O'Bryan's**

**Christmas Eve
Service
12/24/2025
7:00 PM**



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Website:

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YouTube—[bryanfcc](https://www.youtube.com/bryanfcc)

SENIORS MINISTRY

We will do Lunch Bunch on Tuesday, 12/23 at 11:45 AM at O'Bryan's (the Bowling Alley). Please meet there.

they were not being allowed to enjoy their normal feast with their own family. All throughout the meal, they worked side by side, the woman helping with food preparation and the children serving. By the time two hours had passed, the children's faces bore looks akin to awe. It was as though a light had come on in their spirits, suddenly their understanding was enlightened and.....they knew.

As they returned again and again to the kitchen area to fill more plates of food for the hungry they were serving, they began to relate stories – stories about those down on their luck, stories those they served told of having lost it all, stories of being homeless, jobless, and without hope. Stories of hope-filled words they had begun to speak to those who had so much less but appreciated it so much more.



As they left hours later to return to their home after having eaten their Thanksgiving meal on paper plates with those who had so little, the woman smiled at the change she saw. They came; they served. They saw and now they understood. They understood just how blessed their lives really were, how much they really had to be thankful for.

The best was yet to come, however, as one of them looked at the mother and said, "I think this was our best Thanksgiving yet, Mom."

"Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips and shows itself in deeds."- Theodore Roosevelt

Destined to Win, Larry

The beauty of Christmas rests in the hard, gritting truth of it: the story of God coming down to earth to meet you where you live and where obviously you need Him most—in the ordinary humdrum dust and dirt of life.

—Edmund Steimle



DECEMBER

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|-------------------------|---|--|-----|-----|
|  | 1 | 2 10:00 Craft Group | 3 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 5:45 Supper 6:15 Club 225 6:15 Momco 6:15 Adult Bible Study | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 8:00 Worship 9:15 20° 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship | 8 | 9 | 10 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 5:45 Supper 6:15 Club 225 6:15 Ladies Bible Study 6:15 Adult Bible Study | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship | 15 | 16 | 17 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 5:45 Supper 6:15 Club 225 6:15 Momco 6:15 Adult | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship | 22 | 23 11:45 Lunch Bunch | 24  7:00 Christmas Eve Service | 25  | 26 | 27 |
| 28 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship | 29 | 30 | 31 |  | | |

