



# FIRST CHRISTIAN FAIRFIELD, IL

Encounter Grow Serve

DECEMBER 2020



2020 has been an exhausting year for most of the world. It has been filled with a global pandemic, political division and racial tension. We have witnessed riots break out across the country and the world. We have seen cities burned and taken over by factions of people who are angry. People have expressed doubts over the validity of the information we receive from media, everything is questioned and viewed cynically.

This turmoil has not escaped the church, as everyone has a view on how churches should operate. In the midst of all the chaos we have an opportunity to slow down and celebrate. We get the opportunity and privilege to celebrate God paying attention to our situation and acting. He did not have to act, but He chose to act. The Father chose to send his Son to come in the form of a helpless baby. God incarnate is a reason to celebrate because God did not sit in silence. He has revealed himself to us in his Son.

We want to invite you to come to FCC and celebrate the birth of Christ. Our celebration starts at 4:30 pm on Christmas Eve in the MPR. We will have some of our children and teenagers reading and serving in this celebration. This year will also feature real candles we will light at the end of the service. We will continue to practice social distancing. Come and celebrate the birth of Christ with us!

## CRAIG'S COLUMN

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Is it possible a year can be so tedious and difficult but also go by so quickly? Can a year seem like 1000 years and only a few weeks at the same time? It is hard to imagine I am writing my article for the December newsletter. I will say "Merry Christmas!" And I hope your family will be able to gather and be healthy through this season.

I also hope you will remember the importance of this season. Jesus came into this world so we could have hope and purpose. I believe two of the most powerful forces in life are hope and purpose because they provide us with meaning for life today and a great future for which to look forward. More than ever I believe this world needs Jesus and it is at this time of year we celebrate God sending His son to us. I am also thankful He was born in a stable and placed in a manger being accessible to men from all walks of life. What a great God, what a great Savior!

I also wanted to let you know we are going to move to two services on Sunday mornings. The 8 am service will stay the same. We will be combining the 9 am service and 10:30 am service into one service that will meet at 9 am. We will be adjusting the seating in the MPR and believe we can safely combine the two services and social distance. This change will begin on December 6.

We are also at this time considering ways to begin Sunday school. We are looking for ways to have our classes meet and also be able to social distance. As you can imagine this is quite a challenge. Be aware this may mean your Sunday school class will have to meet in a different area for the time being. Sunday school will be returning; we do however want to be wise as we move forward. Be watching for more information.

Please be praying for the leadership here at the church as we strive to move forward during this difficult time. And I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a wonderful time with family.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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Christmas is finally here! I am very open about the fact I absolutely love Christmas and the Christmas season. I love the lights, the music, giving presents, and the sense of joy in the air. This joy certainly isn't limited to Christmas time, but it's most noticeable at Christmas time, and it makes perfect sense truthfully. After all, we're celebrating our Lord choosing to come and live *with* His people. Christmas is a reminder God hasn't forgotten or abandoned us, but that He loves, wants, and is with us.

I pray 2020 has reminded all of us life can change overnight, and the only unchangeable thing is Christ and His love for us. It has shown us this very earth is crying out because it has been broken by sin. We have seen wildfires, a shocking number of hurricanes, a pandemic, riots in the streets, reminded of injustice, and seen just how evil humanity can be. All of this is why I'm extra excited for Christmas this year. Difficult things will happen, but God offers a better way through Christmas, because Christmas is hope.

Matthew 1:21 says, *"She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins"* (ESV). Sin is what has caused the world to be broken. Sin is what causes all of the evil in our societies, and sin is what separates us from God. Christmas reminds us God is bigger than sin. In fact, God is so much bigger than sin He chose to come and live with us to save us from our sins. We are no longer trapped in sin, slaves to doing the things we hate, but we are freed in Christ. It's through Christ and His sacrifice we are made holy and a new creation.

We are able to combat sin here and now and eternally because of Christ. Christmas is a reminder in which we are able to participate, remembering God has provided us with a way out of sin. He has provided us with a hope and a new life. Christmas is the time to celebrate that all of this is found in Christ and in Christ alone!

# STUDENT MINISTRY

JAKE@FCCFAIRFIELD.COM

## BE PREPARED CONT'D...

Last month I wrote an article to help prepare you for the winter months ahead as it relates to your teenager's mental and emotional health. I want to provide an additional resource as a basic guide to help you as a parent to look for warning signs. The chart below has normal and abnormal teenage behavior. Again, this is just a guide. If you have serious concerns, contact a mental health professional. This should not be taboo as we have no problem taking our car to the mechanic when it is not functioning properly. Getting help is not weak; it is the height of strength. Hopefully this guide will be of use for your family.

Normal Teen Behavior	Teen Behavior That Causes Concern
Wanting to spend more time with peers and less time with family	Not wanting to spend time with friends or family
Reluctance to get up early for school	Absolute refusal to attend school-especially if this behavior happens suddenly and accompanies other signs of distress or depression
Needing more sleep developing a large appetite during growth spurts.	Sudden changes in activity level, i.e., sleeping abnormally long or not being able to sleep at all; sudden changes in appetite, i.e., consistent overeating or undereating accompanied by quick fluctuations in weight.
Sadness and anxiety following a fight with friends or breakup	Sadness and anxiety that doesn't correct itself or decrease in intensity after a few days to a couple of weeks.
Light risk taking and experimenting with alcohol, drugs, and self-harming behaviors such as cutting.	Extremely risky behavior and/or delinquent behavior, including disregard for house rules, parents' concerns, or laws of society; turning to cutting as a form of emotional and physical release.
Turning to a beloved pet for comfort instead of a parent or friends.	Deliberately harming family pets or torturing or killing any animals.
Worrying about physical appearances and trying to fit in.	Sudden and significant changes in eating behaviors, over-exercising, and other indications of eating disorders.

Your teenager needs your time and energy. Be intentional in noticing their interests, what they are passionate about, what bothers them. Take notice of their spiritual health as well. Our mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health are all tied together. Peter Scazzero said it best, "Emotional health and spiritual maturity are inseparable. It is not possible to be spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature." Pay attention to your teenagers and have those tough but beautiful conversations. Our main desire is to partner with you as train your teenagers to live and love like Christ.

## MISSION EMPHASIS



### Missions Giving:

We come to a special season of celebrating our Savior's birth. As the wise men brought gifts that sustained Mary and Joseph, we reflect on our giving and the many missions at home and throughout the world we help sustain through Faith Promise.

Our 2021 Faith Promise is at \$292,000 of our \$330,000 goal! We are joyful in the number of people being reached and how God works in us. Despite the global challenges of 2020, his faithfulness shines with a light that can't be extinguished in any circumstance. For those who have not completed a Faith Promise card, there is still time, as well as year-end special giving marked for Faith Promise.

Christmas Golden Bowl will support special needs projects that have come to us. We have some desperate requests from missions we currently support. With many natural disasters, the global pandemic, religious persecution, and discriminatory acts in some countries, our Golden Bowl is dedicated to serve as relief and assistance. May God continue to work through us and touch souls in 2021.

## NURSERY SCHEDULE

	9:00 am	10:30 am
<b>Week 1</b>	Barbara Bozarth / Elizabeth Long	Cindy Hayes / Diana Higginbotham
<b>Week 2</b>	Fran Carter / Amy Doty	Laura Simpson / Kelly Scott
<b>Week 3</b>	Matta Gray / Drew Vaupel	Jackie Greppes / Jodi Poole
<b>Week 4</b>	Connie Mitchell / Toby Hucker	Bob & Dena Hall
<b>Week 5</b>	Diana Higginbotham / Toby Hucker	Heather Neuman / Caleb Higginbotham

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<b>December 1</b> Breychan Kovacich Steve Mitchell	<b>December 6</b> Lisa Brown Max Dee Green Mateo Sierra	<b>December 10</b> Mandy Greppes Bradley Miller Van Musgrave	<b>December 17</b> Merry Cathey Jacinda Keoughan Katie Lewis Alivia Rice Kamden Vaughan	<b>December 22</b> George Draper Kerri Meritt Joe Pearce	<b>December 27</b> Cheyenne Bruce Mareck Vaupel
<b>December 3</b> Barbara Bozarth	<b>December 7</b> Karsyn Baker	<b>December 12</b> Betty Pottorff Keegan Sierra	<b>December 19</b> Ruby Green Susan Lynch	<b>December 23</b> Fern Atwood Eleazar Sierra Opal Warren	<b>December 28</b> McKenna Poole
<b>December 4</b> Peyton Lee Mike Short	<b>December 8</b> Luke Duckworth Arnetta Edwards	<b>December 13</b> Dick Curd	<b>December 21</b> Sharri Gifford	<b>December 26</b> Judy Gruner Diana Higginbotham Debbie Pope	<b>December 29</b> Mary Turner
<b>December 5</b> Edon Doty Annalynn Kovacich Patty Molt		<b>December 16</b> Tammy Vail			<b>December 30</b> Bruce Reeves Connor Scott
					<b>December 31</b> Bill Andrews

## OCTOBER 2020

Fund	Beginning Balance	Income	Expense	Ending Balance
General	252,933	48,759	70,265	231,427
Mission	110,407	23,073	22,756	110,724
Totals	363,340	71,832	93,021	342,151

THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON, WE HOPE THAT YOU EXPERIENCE

THE  
*Wonder*  
OF JESUS

THE FCC STAFF

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