



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

2025 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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As the song says I believe "it's the most wonderful time of the year". I know I harp on starting the Christmas season too early and skipping Thanksgiving, but I truly do love Christmas time. I love the music, the decorations, the food, family and fellowship that makes this time of the year unique. There is so much to experience and it seems as though there's not enough time because, sadly, as soon as we turn around the Christmas season is over.

I am thankful for the people who put so much into celebrating at this time of the year. It takes a lot to make Christmas special. Many of you work tirelessly to make sure your families and friends have beautiful sights, sounds and tastes with which to celebrate. One of my favorite things during this time the year are Christmas lights. As the days get shorter and nights get longer it is nice to have something to look forward to as the sun goes down early. It is always fun to see the creativity people express as they put up their lights and Christmas displays.

I can't help but think of the creative display God put on for the first Christmas. It's strange for it to all begin in a stable. It was quite a humble start with very little fanfare. However, soon there would be excitement out on the mountain side as the shepherds have a visit from an angel who told them of the wonderful happenings in the stable. Then suddenly there was a host of Angels, it actually says, "a great company of the heavenly host appeared to the shepherds." Their message, to praise God for what he was doing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." So on the first night in humble circumstances in a stable visitors arrived to see the baby because the angels were sent to share the good news.

At some point the skies begin to declare his presence. It tells us in Matthew a star appeared in the sky. It was unique enough Magi from the East followed it because they believed it would lead them to the new King and they were coming to worship him. I'm not really sure what kind of star it was because in the Scripture it says:

"After they had heard the King, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the East went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was."

(Matthew 2:9)

Apparently the star was unique enough it led them straight to the house where Jesus was in Bethlehem. There are many theories about the star, what I can tell you is, there was a light in the night sky God used to declare the arrival of his son.

I don't know why you put your Christmas lights up but maybe they can be a reminder of the light in the night sky welcoming our Savior to the planet. I hope you will find among all your decorations a nativity that reminds you of the stable where our Savior was born. I hope in all the hustle and bustle of the season the quiet stable and the child in the manger doesn't get lost in the shuffle. Hopefully, it will actually be a place of peace in all of the craziness.

Isaiah reminds us of a light piercing the darkness and in the land of shadow there is dawn.

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

(Isaiah 9:2)

We know that light was our Savior. John in his gospel writes about this light and our Savior.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it."

(John 1:1 - 5)

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas season and all the lights will remind you of the one true light and you will let your light shine brightly during this season. It is a great time to speak with someone about Christ and invite them to celebrate His birth with us at First Christian. Enjoy the season and Merry Christmas!



The Christmas party you and your family do NOT want to miss! Join us December 19, for our Gingerbread Bash where your family (and your PAL) will build a gingerbread nativity while celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus. This is a fun and interactive event where you'll hear the Christmas story from the Bible while sing songs, play games, and discover the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!



Where: MPR

When: December 19, at 6:00 pm

Who: ALL families AND prayer PALS

Cost: TOTALLY FREE



FCC Kids are heading to Super Start! Super Start is an overnight, high-energy kids conference hosted by Christ In Youth (CIY) for 4th-6th graders. It will be high energy with incredible worship, amazing speakers, and tons of fun where every aspect of the weekend is intentionally designed for your child's age group.



God moves in very real ways in the lives of the kids who attend. They build relationships with one another that can become life-lasting! Last year when we went, we heard that everyone had TOO MUCH FUN (if such a thing exists) and many still talk about what they learned with me to this day.

FCC Kids and their friends (4th-6th graders) are welcome to join us JANUARY 30-31, 2026. To register, scan the black QR Code.

NURSERY SCHEDULE

	SUNDAY SCHOOL	10:15 SERVICE
DEC 7	Elizabeth Long	Jordan Atwood/Diana Higginbotham
DEC 14	Volunteer Needed	Morgan Griffith / Macie Edwards
DEC 21	9:00 Jacque O'Daniel // 10:15 Jackie Gre pares <small>*Combined Service 45 minute volunteer split</small>	
DEC 28	Mason & Marissa Spitzner	Bob & Dena Hall

STUDENT MINISTRY

KYLE@FCCFAIRFIELD.COM



This one is for you, middle schoolers! 6th-8th graders and their friends are invited to the Attic's movie night on December 21, 5:30pm-8:00pm. Dinner and snacks will be provided. This will be at the church. Invite a friend, wear your pj's and be ready to watch a movie.



Our Christmas Party will be on December 14. We will be doing a white elephant gift exchange. This can be ANYTHING. Grab something from your house you haven't touched in years if needed. If you buy something, please don't exceed \$10. Dinner will be provided this night. We will also be extending our time 30 minutes to start at 5:00 PM and go until 7:00 PM



Attic is taking a mission trip Summer 2026. This is for students 8-12th grade. Scan the QR code or go to this link for more information:

bit.ly/youthmission26. The Deadline to sign up is January 31, 2026.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 1
Breychan Kovacich
Steve Mitchell

December 2
Doug Skaggs

December 3
Barbara Bozarth
Martin Vaughan

December 4
Peyton Lee
Mike Short

December 5
BJ Courtright
Eldon doty
Annalyn Kovacich
Patty Molt

December 6
Lisa Brown
Max Dee Green
Mateo Sierra

December 7
Karsyn Baker

December 8
Luke Duckworth
Arnetta Edwards

December 10
Mandy Greppares
Van Musgrave

December 12
Keagan Sierra

December 13
Dick Curd

December 16
Tammy Vail

December 17
Jacinda Keoughan
Katie Lewis
Alivia Rice
Kamden Vaughan

December 19
Ruby Green
Kim Skaggs

December 22
George Draper
Kerri Meritt
Joe Pearce

December 23
Fern Atwood
Isla Hayes
Jerilee Hopkins
Eleazar Sierra
June Weedon

December 24
Jan Bagwell
Grayson Legg

December 25
Mike Schuh

December 26
Judy Gruner
Diana Higginbotham
Debbie Pope

December 27
Linda Barnard
Cheyenne Bruce
Mareck Vaupel

December 29
Christopher Fleener

December 31
Bill Andrews

OCTOBER 2025 FINANCIALS

Fund	Beginning Balance	Income	Expense	Ending Balance
General	\$526,627	\$51,324	\$55,221	\$522,730
Mission	\$158,723	\$26,127	\$28,651	\$156,199
Totals	\$685,350	\$77,451	\$83,872	\$678,929

PRAYER MINISTRY



As you look forward to and set goals and expectations for 2026, spend time praying over where God needs you at First Christian. There are many opportunities to be involved in all ministries at our church.

**Listed below are a few opportunities in the prayer ministry.
Contact Cindy Hayes to get plugged in!**

- Prayer intercession (see schedule below to see open times)
- Prayer quilt (coming in January)
- College prayer partners
- PALS
- Private Facebook prayer group
- Special event prayer team
- Prayer Corner/Prayer Room oversight

**During 2025 the Prayer Ministry wants
to challenge you to pray for your FCC Family**

Select a family in the church	Commit to pray for that family regularly	Through the month pray the family will:
A single person, a couple, or as multiple individuals/couples A family not on your prayer list Use the same family all year or change monthly, quarterly, or however you feel led	Seek God in guiding your prayers Assign times to pray Pray as a group daily Post the name in your home and pray every time you see the name	Pray the family finishes strong in the final days of 2025 Strength and perseverance Gratitude, unity and faith Focus on your will and purpose

Intercessory Prayer for Our Services

This ministry was formed to invite the Holy Spirit to move greatly in our services. Volunteers pray for the service while it is happening. We provide everything you need for this time. You can pray at the church, your home or anywhere!

**Please contact Cindy Hayes (618-599-1251) or the
church office (618-842-4311) to fill one of the open spaces.**

	8:00am	10:15am
Dec 7	SALT Class	SALT Class
Dec 14	volunteer needed	Debbie McKibben
Dec 21 *Combined Service	9:00am Judy Griswold	
Dec 28	volunteer needed	ACTS Class
Jan 4	volunteer needed	Terri Shreve
Jan 11	volunteer needed	Jacob Butcher
Jan 18	Archie & Jean Duckworth	volunteer needed
Jan 25	Kelly Scott	Connie Mitchell

BRADY VANHYNING

BRADY@FCCFAIRFIELD.COM

Christmas has approached quickly, and I can say I am very excited! Christmas season is busy season. We have a lot going on this month! I am excited to be bringing in some classic Christmas hymns, like Silent Night, and The First Noel. I am also excited to be doing some fun contemporary Christmas songs as well! "Jesus is the reason for the season," and I am so excited to get to worship and celebrate His birth with you all this month!

We will have our combined Christmas service on December 21 at 9:00am. I would love to have a little extra help with music! If you, or someone you know, would be interested in singing in the Christmas choir for service, I would love to talk to you. Contact me through my church email: brady@fccfairfield.com

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

-Matthew 1:23

MISSION SPOTLIGHT

Christmas Golden Bowl is dedicated to our local Compassion Pregnancy Center here in Fairfield, IL. One of the many missions supported by Faith Promise. The compassion pregnancy center serves Wayne and surrounding counties.

Many free services are offered in support of expectant mothers. Services include: pregnancy tests, limited ultrasound, pregnancy option counseling, adoption education, baby supplies and resources, parenting and life skills classes, abortion recovery peer counseling, and community/medical resources.



To participate in blessing Compassion Pregnancy Center, designate the dollars you wish for the Christmas Golden Bowl on your offering envelope, online giving, or place it in the offering basket for our combined service on December 21 at 9:00am.

Through Faith Promise, FCC has supported special needs of several missions. Missions recently helped include the following: **FAME** (Medical Diagnostic Center needs in Aparri, Philippines); **Jirah's Closet** (Fairfield Memorial, supplemental food assistance); **Oil Belt Christian Service Camp** (facility equipment).

Christmas is a time of giving and reflecting on the greatest gift we received – Jesus, our Savior. In making his fame known throughout the world, we reflect on our missions support at home and abroad. We are joyful in the number of people being reached, new churches planted, and those who have accepted Christ as their Savior and can make more disciples. The fields are ripe for harvest. Join with us in prayer, thanksgiving, and support of missions.

May God continue His work in and through us so more will come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.



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