

# THE MESSENGER

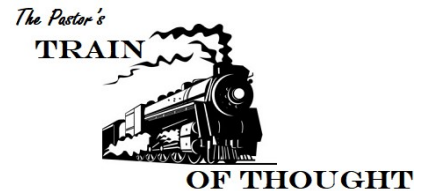
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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## The Grinch Who Stole My Christmas



In December of 1994, Mike and I flew from Portland to Tulsa to celebrate Christmas with my family. On the flight, I met a grinch, although I didn't realize it until a couple days later.

We went to Henryetta to see Papa, and went out to eat with him. While we were eating, I got to feeling bad. My throat hurt, my head and entire body began to ache, and I had a fever. By the next day it was clear that I had the flu, probably caught from someone on the plane with me.

On Christmas Day, we had dinner at Grandma and Grandpa's house, as usual. I forced myself upright for the meal and present-opening afterward, then went to bed—missing dessert, which is completely out of character for me. By the time we had to go back to Portland, I was starting to feel better, but dreading what the changes in air pressure during a flight would do to my still-congested head and ears. Soon after we went home, my parents both came down with the bug I'd unwittingly brought home with me.

Why I hadn't gotten a flu shot that year escapes me; but you can bet I have had one every year since then. If I never get a flu like that again it'll be too soon.

All this is to say that "the most wonderful time of the year" comes right in the middle of cold and flu season, and we can, without knowing it, carry germs with us to our festive gatherings. It's sort of a tradition for me, at about this time of the year, to devote my newsletter column to reminding us all of the basic precautions that can help keep us and those we come into contact with healthy.

First, unless you have a medical reason not to do so, *get your flu shot*. If your doctor has recommended you get a pneumonia shot, get that, too. The flu shot may not protect us from every possible strain of the flu, but it helps, and even if we come down with something it doesn't cover, having had the shot might help us fight it off. You can't get the flu from a flu shot, although this year's shot is pretty strong, so you may have a sore arm and maybe some body aches as your system reacts to the shot by developing protective antibodies. All of us who can need to get our shots, to protect not just ourselves but also those who can't take the shot.

Other than that, one of the best things we can do to stop germs from spreading is to wash our hands, early and often. You don't have to have special soap for this; regular soap is fine. If you cough or sneeze, cover it so you don't send germy droplets into the air.

And finally—and this is a place where I sometimes need to be reminded to take my own advice—if *you don't feel well, stay home*. "Toughing it out" doesn't really help anyone; we need rest to get better, and we're less likely to spread germs to others if we stay home.

Realistically, I know we can't always completely isolate ourselves when we have a sniffle, but we need to do as much as we can, and take precautions if we must be out. For instance, if I have a little bit of a cold, I may opt not to shake hands after worship on Sunday. If I tell you I'm not shaking hands, please don't be offended; I'm trying not to give you anything. Similarly, nobody's going to pass judgment on you if you decide you aren't well enough to get out—or that you don't want to risk exposure to the germs somebody else may spread because they're out when they shouldn't be.

With plenty of prayer and common sense, we can keep a grinch from stealing our holidays this year.

# December Serving Schedule

# Birthdays

December 1  
Elder: John Daniel  
Scripture: Lynda Perkins

9:30 a.m. Worship  
Deacons: Carol Roberts, Mike Studards,  
Derek Lile, & Kathy Wood  
Greeter: Bob Thomas

3—Diana Silvers  
3—Noah Lile  
3—Patsy Quick  
4—Gary Coffman  
6—Franklin Baldwin  
9—Karen Russell  
10—Ruth Weil  
13—Braysen Hamlett  
18—Phyllis McBrayer  
25—Christina Quick  
26—Gene Morrison  
29—Jarod McBrayer

December 8  
Elder: Shawn Quick  
Scripture: Jennifer Schmehl

9:30 a.m. Worship  
Deacons: Lucille Munday, Alan Munday,  
Denise Burch & Kathy Wood  
Greeter: Judy Taylor

December 15  
Elder: Diana Rich  
Scripture: Shawn Quick

9:30 a.m. Worship  
Deacons: Dorothy Carter, Judy Daniel,  
Judy Colburn, & Carol Lewis  
Greeter: Louise Foster

December 22  
Elder: Shawn Quick  
Scripture: Shawn Quick

9:30 a.m. Worship  
Deacons: Carol Roberts, Mike Studards,  
Derek Lile, & Jennifer Schmehl  
Greeter: Diana Rich & Don Malan

December 29  
Elder: Phyllis McBrayer  
Scripture: Check Lewis

9:30 a.m. Worship  
Deacons: Lucille Munday, Alan Munday,  
Denise Burch, & Kathy Wood  
Greeter: Chuck and Carol Lewis

Music Director: Carol Ann Winburn — Accompanist: Mary Coffman  
Sound Techs: Phyllis McBrayer, Dianna Silvers, Justin Quick,  
Communion Preparers: Carol Hedrick | Nursery Attendants: Jessika Blaser, Jakaila Rolph

# Anniversaries

18—Bob & Louise Foster  
18—Gary & Mary Coffman  
24—Gene & Jackie Morrison  
26—John & Maribeth Golladay  
27—Randy & Pam Winburn

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# Budget

October Income  
\$7,296.79

October Expenses  
\$9,519.14

Year-to-date Income  
\$92,119.13

Year-to-date Expenses  
\$97,305.36

You may view a complete financial report in the church office.

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# Attendance

| Date        | Sunday School |            | Worship  |
|-------------|---------------|------------|----------|
|             | Life Group    | Elementary | Officers |
| October 27  | 0             | 0          | 39       |
|             |               | Total      |          |
| November 3  | 7             | 0          | 43       |
|             |               | Total      |          |
| November 10 | 3             | 0          | 39       |
|             |               | Total      |          |
| November 17 | 0             | 0          | 54       |
|             |               | Total      |          |
| November 24 | 10            | 0          | 47       |
|             |               | Total      |          |

# Important Dates

03—Disciples Women  
08—Elder's Meeting  
15—Christmas Music Program  
17—Community Café  
24—Christmas Eve Service  
25—Christmas



# December 2019



| Sunday  | Monday | Tuesday                                   | Wednesday   | Thursday                       | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|---|---|--------------------------------|--------|----------|
| 1<br>9:20 Prayer<br>9:30 Worship<br>10:45<br>Sunday School<br>11 Life Group   | 2      | 3<br>6:30 pm<br>Disciples<br>Women        | 4<br>6 pm Youth<br>Group<br>7 pm Choir<br>Practice  | 5<br>9 am Parent's<br>Day Out  | 6      | 7        |
| 8<br>9:20 Prayer<br>9:30 Worship<br>10:45<br>Sunday School<br>11 Life Group<br>6 pm Elders<br>meeting   | 9      | 10  | 11<br>6 pm Youth<br>Group<br>7 pm Choir<br>Practice | 12<br>9 am Parent's<br>Day Out | 13     | 14       |
| 15<br>9:20 Prayer<br>9:30 Worship<br>Congregational<br>Meeting<br>10:45<br>Sunday School<br>11 Life Group<br>6:30 pm Christmas<br>Music Program | 16     | 17<br>5:30-6:00 p.m.<br>Community<br>Café | 18<br>6 pm Youth<br>Group<br>7 pm Choir<br>Practice | 19<br>9 am Parent's<br>Day Out | 20     | 21       |
| 22<br>9:20 Prayer<br>9:30 Worship<br>10:45<br>Sunday School<br>11 Life Group  | 23     | 24<br>6:30 pm<br>Christmas Eve<br>Service | 25<br><i>Merry<br/>Christmas!</i>                   | 26                             | 27     | 28       |
| 29<br>9:20 Prayer<br>9:30 Worship<br>10:45<br>Sunday School<br>11 Life Group  | 30     | 31  |   |                                |        |          |

# Upcoming Sermons

December 1

Message: "A Dead Tree Is Reborn"

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-9

*What I was thinking:* We begin Advent with a prophecy we interpret as being about Jesus. Why do we interpret it that way, and what does it mean?

December 8

Message: "Happy Days Are Here Again"

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11

*What I was thinking:* Today's reading is the first time we hear the voice of the Second Isaiah, who comes to announce to the exiles in Babylon that the national "time out" God has imposed on them is at an end, and that God will come to them to bring them home.

December 15

Message: "Jumping the Gun"

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6 Matthew 2:1-12

*What I was thinking:* Normally we don't hear about the Wise Men until after Christmas. But this year they're showing up early, so we can think about what their journey to Bethlehem tells us about the One they went there to see.

December 22

Message: "How much *farther??*"

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

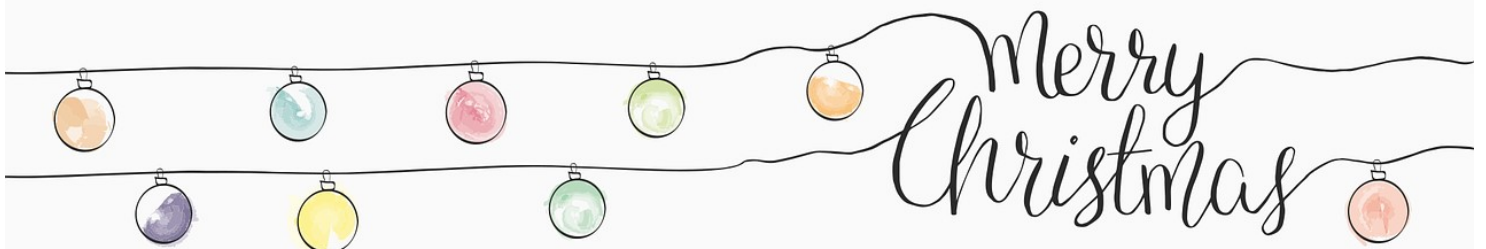
*What I was thinking:* The time of preparing for Christmas is nearly over now. A lot of people are tired and stressed as they make their way toward Bethlehem. We look forward to celebrating, but we also need some rest. Is there good news?

December 29

Message: "Immediately"

Scripture: Mark 1:1-20

*What I was thinking:* Most scholars believe Mark's Gospel was the first one written. He includes no birth stories, no angelic visits, no dreams, no stable or shepherds or wise men; Jesus just appears and gets busy.



## Weather Cancellation Policy

If the Weather Is Bad...

...the pastor and board chair will decide together whether we will have worship. We will ask Everett for input as well. A decision will be made by 7 a.m. Sunday. We'll then contact the following news sources:

- WDAF (Fox4)
- KSHB (Channel 41)
- FM-92.1 and their website ([www.921news.com](http://www.921news.com)), and Facebook (kmam kmoe)
- Bates County Live

Cancellation information will also be posted on the church's facebook page ([facebook.com/FCCButlerMO](https://facebook.com/FCCButlerMO)).

If you haven't seen or heard anything by 8 a.m. (to give the media outlets time to post the information), you can assume we'll go on as usual; but please use your common sense about whether you believe it's safe to get out. We would rather have you stay home and be safe than try to get here and have an accident or a fall.

If worship is cancelled, all other Sunday activities (including Sunday school and any meetings) will also be cancelled.

On weekdays, if Butler's school has cancelled classes, the church will be closed and all activities for that day will be cancelled.

## DISCIPLE'S WOMEN

Disciples Women will meet on December 3rd at 6:30 for our last meeting in 2019. Refreshments by Jacqueline Hough and Devotional by Phyllis McBrayer.

If you have not submitted your "Blessing Box" contents, please bring to this meeting.

Thanks, and hope to see you there.

## Thoughts & Prayers

Aimee Daniel, Bill Cumpton, Carl Shubert, Darlene Adcock, Dennis Shannon, Dolly Studards, Frank Morris, Gary Studards, Jamie Hibbs, Kay Haile, Kenny Hunt, Lona Grosshart, Louise Nichols, Madison Tippie, Rachel Bittencourt, Rhonda Yarick, Sharon Jones, Tracy Clayton, Tylor Smading,

## Christmas Music Program

We will have a Christmas Music Program on Sunday, December 15, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

## Christmas Eve Service

We will have a Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, December 24, 2019 at 6:30 pm.



# Board Minutes

November 17, 2019

## Pending Board Approval

Board members present: Deacons- Dorothy Carter, Judy Daniel, Carol Roberts, Jennifer Schmehl, Lucille Munday, Denise Burch, and Alan Munday. Elders-Phyllis McBrayer, Dolly Studards, Diana Rich and member Don Malan. Others present: Rev. Sharla Hulseley and Gary Coffman.

Alan Munday called the meeting to order at 10:45 AM. Diana Rich opened with prayer.

The agenda was adopted with additions on motion of Diana Rich and second by Dolly Studards.

The minutes of the 10-20-19 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented on motion of Lucille Munday and second by Don Malan.

**Financial Reports:** October 2019 financial reports including Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Budget Performance sheets as of 10-31-19 were reviewed. Carol Roberts noted, any questions/clarifications she has will be discussed with our account rep at DSWA. The financial reports were approved as presented on motion of Diana Rich and second by Dolly Studards. Full reports are available in the church office.

**Ministers' Report:** Rev. Hulseley gave her report noting she has been accepted, and starts, on campus attendance January 6-17 for her Doctor of Ministry program at Phillips Seminary. She noted she will be gone on Sunday 01-12-20 and possibly 01-19-20. She reported on the community Thanksgiving service on 11-24-19 at 5:00 at the Methodist Church. She noted numerous meetings, and personal visits during the last month. Her full report is available in the church office.

### Old Business:

**Security Issues:** Everett McBrayer presented:

A one-page report on the updates on the security cameras (Ring doorbells) and the full security system was presented, as prepared by Devon Copsey. A lot has been completed, and work continues on other components of this system that was approved 10-20-19. Full report available in the office.

**Repair on North Wall of Basement and interior sanctuary walls:** Everett McBrayer was unavailable to present an update on this project.

**Repair Choir Robe room ceiling:** Everett McBrayer was unavailable to present an update on this project.

### New Business.

**December Board Meeting:** On motion of Carol Roberts, second by Diana Rich, the board approved to cancel the regular December board meeting.

**Christian Church Foundation Report:** This report was included in packet, no discussion or action taken.

### Committee Reports

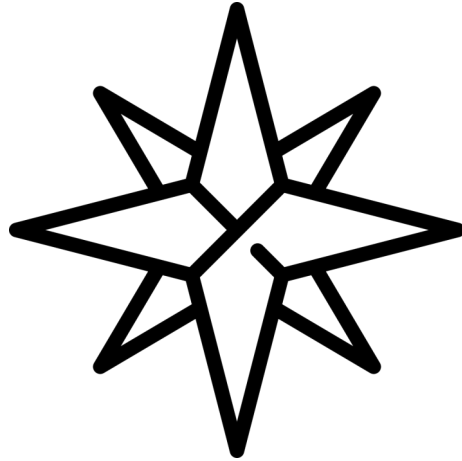
**Worship:** Phyllis McBrayer discussed Community Café events, Advent starting 12-1-19, and the FCC Christmas program to be held at 6:30 on 12-15-19.

**Closing Prayer:** Lucille Munday closed the meeting with prayer.

**Adjournment:** With no further business brought to the board, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM on motion of Don Malan and second by Dorothy Carter.

Submitted by: Carol Roberts, Secretary

Coloring Page



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Return Service Requested

# The Messenger

