



December 15, 2024 9:30 a.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)



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SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Joys and Concerns

Rev. Sharla Hulseley

In order to respect privacy, joys and concerns will be discussed before the public livestream. If you need to add someone, please fill out a prayer request form and place in the offering tray as it is passed.

Welcome and Announcements

John Daniel, Elder

If you are joining Sunday worship via Facebook Live, let us know you are tuning in by leaving a comment on the live stream video or visit fccbutler.org and click the Register Attendance button.

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude

Mary Coffman

Bringing the Light of Christ into the Sanctuary

*Call to worship (please rise as able)

John Daniel & Congregation

L: Rejoice in our God always!

P: Again, I say, rejoice!

L: For God has gathered us together
from all the corners of the earth,

**P: to know the joyful unity
of being one with Christ.**

L: Rejoice in our God always!

P: Again, I say, rejoice!

*Opening Hymn

CH #155 (vv. 1, 3, 4)

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

*Invocation

John Daniel & Congregation

God of our weakness and our strength, move our hearts to praise you, to trust and rejoice in your saving grace. God of our hungers and our contentment, lead us toward the generosity and joy you intend and away from anxiety about self and possessions. God of peace, be with us to calm the wars within and resolve the differences among us. May our lives embody good news in all we say and do. Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting

Shawn Quick and Sally Bremer

Reading from *Shadow into Light—A Journey into Advent* by Tsh Oxenreider (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2020).

Prayer Hymn

CH #125 (vv. 1, 2)

"Come, O Long-expected Jesus"

Silent Meditation

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Sharla Hulseley

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Musical Interlude

Mary Coffman

Responsive Reading

John Daniel & Congregation

Luke 1:46-55 (NRSV)

L: My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

P: for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

L: Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

**P: for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.**

L: His mercy is for those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

**P: He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

L: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly.

**P: He has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.**

L: He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

**P: according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.**

Special Music

Adult Choir

"A Peaceful Silent Night"

Scripture

Jennifer Schmehl

Philippians 4:4-9

Message

Sharla Hulseley

"What on earth is there to be happy about?"

Invitation to Discipleship

Sharla Hulseley

*Invitation Hymn

CH #170 (vv. 1, 2, 4)

"How Great Our Joy"

Musical Interlude

Mary Coffman

Offering Meditation

Diana Rich

Tithes & Offerings

Offering trays will be passed in the pews.

Diaconate

*Doxology

CH #47

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

John Daniel

Call to Communion

Sharla Hulsey

Communion Hymn

CH #159 (All)

“There’s a Song in the Air”

Words of Institution

Sharla Hulsey

Communion Prayer

John Daniel

Distribution of the Elements

Diaconate

Everyone is welcome at Christ’s Table. Those who are comfortable doing so, please come forward down the center aisle to partake at the table. Deacons will serve those who remain seated.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*Benediction

Sharla Hulsey

Taking the Light of Christ into the World

*Closing Hymn

CH #143 (vv. 1, 3)

“Joy to the World”

SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Sharla Hulsey

Greeter: Peggy Thomas

Elder: John Daniel

Scripture Reader: Jennifer Schmehl

Deacons: Judy Daniel,
Sally Bremer

Choir Director: Carol Ann Winburn
Accompanist: Mary Coffman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **OUTREACH MISSION** - In December we will be collecting children's hats & gloves for the Grade school & Pre-school. Thank You!
- **KETCH-UP CAMPAIGN** - The Stewardship Committee started a “Ketch-up” campaign to help replenish the FCC reserve fund. Please note on your donation that it is for the “Ketch-up” campaign.
- **SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS** - Sunday, December 22 - Sharla
- **BOARD MEETING** - Today after worship
- **ELDERS & DEACONS MEETING** - Today after the board meeting
- **COMMUNITY CAFÉ** - Tuesday, December 17 at 5:30 p.m.
- **CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** - On Tuesday, December 24 at 6:30 pm, join us for a candlelight service of carols and readings. Come and experience the true spirit of Christmas with your loved ones.
- **DECEMBER 25 & 26** - Office Closed
- **DECEMBER 31 & JANUARY 1** - Office Closed
- No choir practice on Christmas Day and New Year’s Day

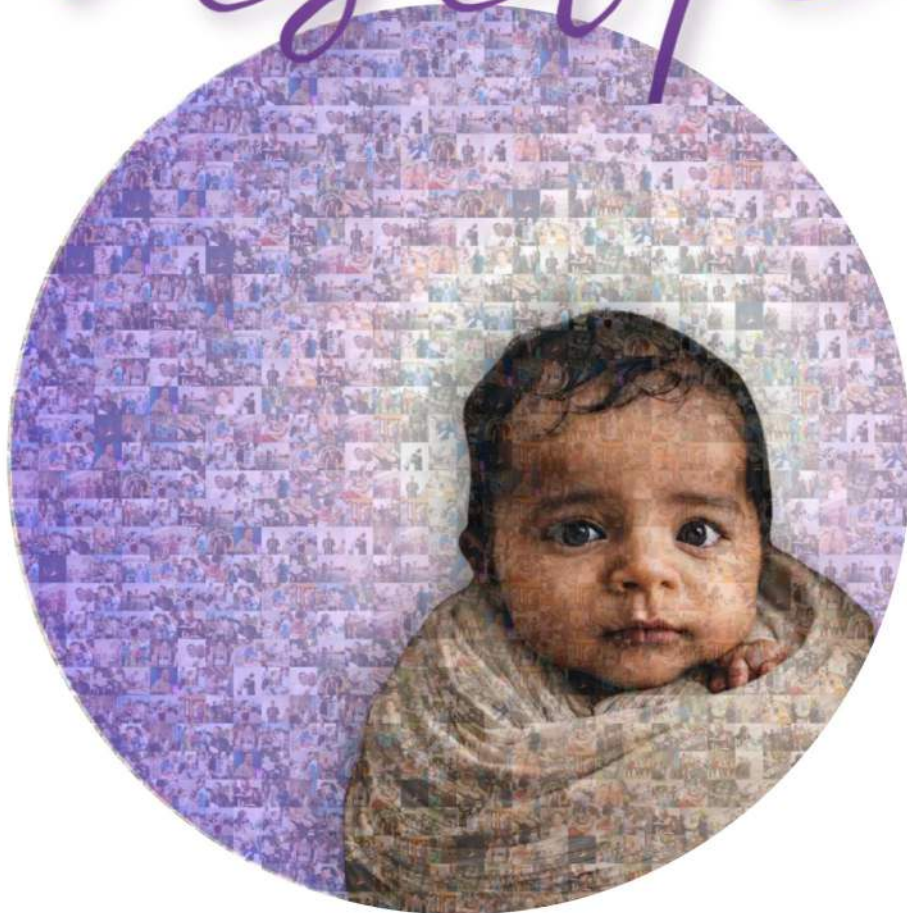
THIS WEEK’S EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 15:	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Board Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 17:	5:30 p.m.	Community Café
Wednesday, Dec. 18:	6 p.m.	Youth Group
	7 p.m.	Choir Practice
Friday, Dec 20:	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Son Shine Ladies

NEXT WEEK’S EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 22:	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Life Group
Tuesday, Dec. 24:	6:30 p.m.	Candlelight Service
Wednesday, Dec. 25:	Office Closed	
Thursday, Dec. 26:	Office Closed	
Friday, Dec 27:	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Son Shine Ladies

God's love *visible*



By giving, YOU make

God's love *visible*

Ephesians 5:13, Hebrews 11:3

Chalice Hymnal #171 *God's Love Made Visible* #134 *Emmanuel*

Poet Christina Rossetti wrote *Love Came Down at Christmas*; Jazz master Dave Brubeck wrote *God's Love Made Visible* 90 years later, and in his trademark 5/4 time. We still recite how God made what was invisible to be visible in Jesus Christ. Caring Disciples in our Region create evidence that he is our Movement for Wholeness in a Fragmented World. *Emmanuel: God With Us*. Brubeck gives us additional adjectives to ponder what God and we accomplish together.

Incomprehensible!

How can we gauge the energy from the sparks of Love when regional Disciples care for, support, guide, and be present for us all? *God Grows Through Us!*

Invincible!

Christ is present when regional Disciples stand together to speak prophetic truth amid barrages of hateful voices, policies, and injustices. *God Waits for Us!*

Bountiful!

When a last-minute sign-up for our regional church camp ignites all campers' and volunteers' faiths because all experience presence together. *Emmanuel: God in Us!*

Uncountable!

Consider the reach of a new pastor found through Search & Call - regular worshippers, extended family, friends consoled, people fed! *God works when we work!*

Surmountable!

When the regional minister helps a church work through a difficulty, blockages become veins for life to flow to the Heart again. *Emmanuel: God Cares for Us!*

Praying. Yearning. Fulfilling. Loving. Praising. Opening...describes a typical Regional Commission on Ministry meeting with persons feeling called to ministry.

God among us!

We Dwell. We Bless. We Honor. We Love. We Bring. We Open. We Guide.
We give gratitude for our Regional Ministries this Christmas.

*Thank you for your generous support! 100% stays in our Region!
Disciples Mission Fund and the other special day offerings multiply our Region's giving from our Doorsteps to the Ends of the Earth - in common time, march time, waltz time, 6/8, and sometimes & especially, in 5/4 time.*

 2024 CHRISTMAS OFFERING