



December 22, 2024 9:30 a.m.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**



11 W. Pine St.  
Butler, MO 64730  
660.679.3066

**Email:** [admin@fccbutler.org](mailto:admin@fccbutler.org)  
**Website:** [fccbutler.org](http://fccbutler.org)  
**Facebook:** [@FCCButlerMO](https://www.facebook.com/FCCButlerMO)

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, December 22, 2024

### Joys and Concerns

Rev. Sharla Hulsey

*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

Diana Rich, 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](http://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)

Diana Rich & Congregation

L: Not in the mighty places of power,  
but in little Bethlehem, in a room out back:

**P: The Messiah is coming.**

L: Not born in nobility and wealth,  
but of Mary and Joseph, ordinary working people  
living ordinary lives:

**P: The Messiah is coming.**

L: Nothing will be impossible for God,  
but when and where we least expect it,  
look among the straw and the stars:

**P: The Messiah is coming!**

### \*Opening Hymn

CH #149 (all)

*"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"*

### \*Invocation

Diana Rich & Congregation

**Lord Jesus, oil the hinges of our hearts' doors  
that they may swing gently and easily to welcome your coming.  
Amen.**

### Advent Candle Lighting

Chuck Lewis & Carol Hedrick

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

### Prayer Hymn

CH #163 (vv. 1, 2)

*"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"*

### Silent Meditation

### Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Sharla Hulsey

**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

Diana Rich & Congregation

Exodus 34:4-6 (NRSV)

L: Moses cut two tablets of stone...and he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tablets of stone.  
The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the Name,

**P: "The LORD."**

L: The LORD passed before him, and proclaimed,

**P: "The LORD, the LORD,  
a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger,  
and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."**

### Special Music

Adult Choir

*"Joy to the World"*

### Scripture

Lyssa Lile

Colossians 1:15-20

### Message

Sharla Hulsey

*"In the Flesh"*

### Invitation to Discipleship

Sharla Hulsey

### \*Invitation Hymn

CH #162 (all)

*"What Child Is This"*

### Musical Interlude

Mary Coffman

### Offering Meditation

Diana Rich

### Tithes & Offerings

Diaconate

*Offering trays will be passed in the pews.*

### \*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 Diana Rich

Call to Communion Sharla Hulsey

Communion Hymn CH #151 (vv. 1, 2, 4, 5)  
*"The First Noel"*

Words of Institution Sharla Hulsey

Communion Prayer Diana Rich

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 #155 (v. 4)  
*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

**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.
- **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, 31 & JANUARY 1** - Office Closed
- **NEWSLETTERS** - Hard copies of the December newsletter can be picked up in the foyer.
- **No choir practice on Christmas Day and New Year's Day**

---

**THIS WEEK'S EVENTS**

Sunday, Dec. 22:	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Life Group
Tuesday, Dec. 24:	6:30 p.m.	<b>Candlelight Service</b>
Wednesday, Dec. 25:	<b>Office Closed</b>	
Thursday, Dec. 26:	<b>Office Closed</b>	

**NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS**

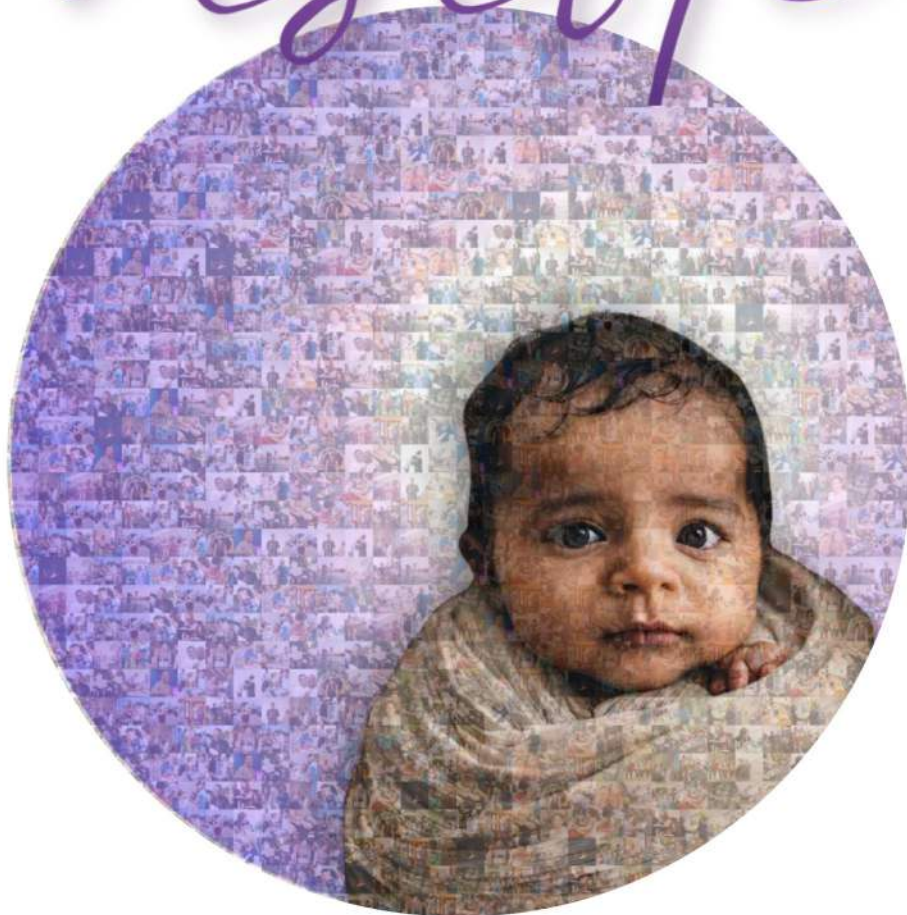
Sunday, Dec. 29:	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Life Group
Tuesday, Dec. 31:	<b>Office Closed</b>	
Wednesday, Jan. 1:	<b>Office Closed</b>	
Friday, Jan. 3:	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Son Shine Ladies

**SERVING TODAY**

<b>Pastor:</b> Rev. Sharla Hulsey	<b>Greeter:</b> The Lile family
<b>Elder:</b> Diana Rich	<b>Scripture Reader:</b> Lyssa Lile
<b>Deacons:</b> Derek Lile, Jennifer Schmehl	<b>Choir Director:</b> Carol Ann Winburn
	<b>Accompanist:</b> Mary Coffman



# 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