



Gainesville Christian

December 2017

Prayer Concerns

John DeVito

Jean DeVito

Sue Goodwin-Dyer

Lucy Wright

Betty Monroe-Martinez

Barbara Baar

Juanita Hampton

JOY
LOVE
PEACE
BELIEVE
CHRISTMAS

December Happenings

The Sunday of Hope	3
First Wednesday Worship	6
Men's Breakfast	9
The Sunday of Peace Musical Christmas Celebration Annual Congregational Meeting Christmas Caroling	10
The Sunday of Joy Tasting Bee	17
The Sunday of Love Christmas Eve, A Service of Carols, Communion and Candlelight	24
Christmas Day Church Office Closed	25

First Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, December 6 @ 6:00pm

We like our routines, don't we? But then an angel appears and says, "Fear not; for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord..."

Whoa! Talk about interrupting the routine. But you see, that's what Christmas does. But what if that interruption is really an invitation?

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 10

After worship on Sunday, December 10, we will have our Annual Congregational Meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to elect Elders, Deacons and Members at Large to the General Board and to serve our Congregation. Our Chair of the Board, Steve Kitchen, will also share where we are in our journey of building up God's Kingdom.



Music Sunday

On Sunday, December 10, during worship, our sanctuary will be filled with the great music of Christmas featuring the Chancel choir, the organ, the piano, solos and Christmas carols. Through this special service we will discover the beauty and majesty of Christmas through music.

A Great Big Thanks...

...to the Stewardship and Property Ministry Teams for the amazing "Celebration" feast they provided us with. The food was delicious. The smiles were contagious. The love was palpable. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Growing our church, staying connected to our family, evangelizing others. These are all things we strive to do as Christians, and as members of FCC. If you are on social media (Facebook and Instagram), please like and share any of the posts to the FCC or the Bridge pages. By doing this you help evangelize others in the most simple of ways through your connections. Some of you may remember the old shampoo commercial with the slogan, "She told two friends." As each person told two friends, the number of people grew. Using social media is much the same way. You share (with your group of friends), and just one friend shares (with their group of friends), and the number of people who now have seen something about our church has grown exponentially. Like us on Instagram and Facebook.



Mark's Remarks



"But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."
(Isaiah 40:31)

In church, the elements of liturgical preparations are as practical as they are spiritual. We talk about the Season of Advent as a soul-searching wilderness; while at the same time, our lives are crowded with the details of the upcoming red-letter day. We want to spend more time in prayer and reflection. Meanwhile, we know that the visitors will arrive in droves during the Sundays of Advent and, of course, on Christmas Eve. Just as we prepare our homes for the holiday celebrations, the church must be made ready as well. Worship planning, music rehearsals, decorating, food and communion prep, extra cleaning, advertising... Somehow, some way, it all has to get done.

As we struggle to balance the practical with the spiritual, remember that, while prayer disciplines are important, preparing a place is a sacred act as well. Hospitality is a spiritual gift. The church work that we engage in this high holy season is not just busy work or something of less importance to do. We prepare a place for the stranger, the visitor, the out-of-town relatives, the seeker who's been wondering, the prodigal who's been waiting for just the right moment to return. As we make ready to greet these folks, we prepare to meet Jesus in the flesh, and welcome Him into our midst. He comes embodied as a guest to our tables. As we knead the bread, pour the wine, place the poinsettias, and practice the anthem, we make ready to see His face. This is the work of waiting.

Prayer: God, make our hearts ready to greet you, whether you arrive as friend or stranger. Be in our midst as we set the table and prepare the feast. Amen.

Disciples Benevolence Fund

Here at FCC, we have a "Disciples Benevolence Fund" that is administered by the Elders to help members of our congregation in times of need. The recipients of this assistance remain confidential. While the Elders administer the fund, the money comes from us so we can share in the compassion of helping out those we dearly love and care about. All offerings collected at our Christmas Eve service, unless otherwise designated, will go to the Disciples Benevolence Fund. Your generosity will touch others with God's love and grace in many ways.

Saturday, December 9

What do you want for Christmas?
Hopefully it has something to do with
bacon, eggs, biscuits and gravy, because
that's what you'll be getting.



All Church Tasting Bee

WHEN: December 17

TIME: Immediately after church

PLACE: Fellowship Hall

HOSTED by: The Education Committee

We ask you to bring your favorite holiday treat to share with your church family (cookies, candy, or whatever is traditional for your family at this of the year) to the fellowship hall as early as 9:00.

We will provide drinks and sandwiches.



Poinsettias

If you would like to order a poinsettia for our sanctuary during the Advent season in honor or memory of a beloved one, please call the church office (940-665-2053) or email the church office at gainesvillefcc@gmail.com.



The cost is \$10.00 per poinsettia .

My Wishlist



To: Santa's Helpers
From: VISTO

Our current needs are still for the backpack program. We have lots of fruit cups, granola bars & raisins. We could still use the following:

- 1) Cheese crackers
- 2) Vienna sausages
- 3) Chef Boyardee microwavable meals
- 4) Pop tarts
- 5) Microwavable popcorn

Congratulations

*Julie Ikpah will receive her
Master of Science Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies
in
the Field of Anthropology, Sociology, C.J.,
from the University of North Texas,
on Friday, December 15.*

December Birthdays

- 3 - Roy Bouldin
- 4 - Derrick Campbell
- 6 - Robert Wright
- 8 - Dale Terry, Dee Insinna
- 12 - Helen Coachman
- 17 - Aislinn Wilson
- 18 - Gayla Wilkinson Robles
- 21 - Vicky Meintser
- 22 - Judy Wheeler Cifarelli
- 27 - Guy Bosley, Shelby Terry
- 28 - Sara Boles



December Anniversaries



December 18th
Roger and Teresa Martin

December 21st
Jimmy and Polly Brooks

The Raymond Barnhart Bible Study

Mark your calendars for January 20-21 for The Raymond Barnhart Bible Study. Rev. Dr. Andy Mangum will be our speaker. Andy is the recently installed Regional Minister of the Southwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). More information will be shared as it gets closer.





Top 10 Christmas Movies

Grab some popcorn and hot chocolate and enjoy a good Christmas movie this month.

10

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

9

ELF

8

A Charlie Brown Christmas

7

Home Alone

6

A Christmas Story

5

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

4

The Bishop's Wife

3

Holiday Inn

2

Miracle on 34th Street

1

It's a Wonderful Life



December Elder Serving Schedule

Date	Communion Meditation	Words of Institution	Prayer of Thanksgiving
Dec. 3	Rev. Loewen	Lucy Sutton	Shirley Weems
Dec. 10	Joanne Bouldin	Ralph Lewis	Dorothy Lewis
Dec. 17	Crystal Wright	Roger Staats	Joanne Bouldin
Dec. 24	Dorothy Lewis	Lucy Sutton	Ralph Lewis
Dec. 31	Shirley Weems	Greg Ellyett	Joanne Bouldin

December Deacon Serving Schedule

Communion Preparation	
	Derrick Campbell, Sherri Holley
Dec. 3	Bill & Janice Richey, Dale Terry, Sharma Smith
Dec. 10	Gary & Sharon James, Sherri Holley
Dec. 17	Steve & Brenda Kitchen, Rick Schofield, Derrick Lumpkin
Dec. 24	Derrick Campbell, Paula Sage, Marcia Seeber, Steven Sutton
Dec. 31	Bill & Janice Richey, Ron & Beverly Ellis



*Wishing you a Joyful
Christmas Season*

*Many blessings to you and your family
as we remember and rejoice
in our Savior's birth*



Sunday Morning

8:30 am -Elder's Prayer Time

9:00 am -Sunday School

10:00 am -Worship Service

11:15 am -After Church Fellowship

**Wednesday**

5:30 pm - First Kids

5:45 pm - Dinner for kids

6:00 pm - Youth

7:00 pm - Chancel Choir

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <i>The Sunday of Hope</i>	4	5	6 <i>See Schedule Above</i> <i>Plus</i> <i>6:00 pm First Wednesday Worship</i>	7	8	9 <i>9:00 am Men's Breakfast</i>
10 <i>The Sunday of Peace</i> <i>Annual Congregational Mtg.</i> <i>6:00 pm Caroling</i>	11	12	13 <i>See Schedule Above</i>	14	15 	16
17 <i>The Sunday of Joy</i> <i>Tasting Bee</i>	18	19 	20 <i>See Schedule Above</i>	21	22	23
24 <i>The Sunday of Love</i> <i>Christmas Eve service of Carols, Communion & Candlelight</i>	25 	26	27 <i>See Schedule Above</i>	28	29 	30
31 						

The perfect church for imperfect people

First Christian Church

401 N. Dixon St.
Gainesville, TX 76240

Phone:
940-665-2053

Email:
gainesvillefcc@gmail.com



We're on the web!
Fccgainesville.com

Advent/Christmas Opportunities

Sunday, December 3 ~ 10:00 am The Sunday of Hope

Wednesday, December 6

**6:00 pm First Wednesday Worship
"Interrupting Our Routine"**

Sunday, December 10 ~ 10:00 am The Sunday of Peace

10:00 am A Musical Christmas Celebration

11:00 am Annual Congregational Meeting

6:00 pm Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 17 ~ 10:00 am The Sunday of Joy

11:15 am Tasting Bee

Sunday, December 24 ~ 10:00 am The Sunday of Love

**6:00 pm Christmas Eve, a service of Carols,
Communion and Candlelight**

