

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE "For the Beauty of the Earth" English

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Make Me A Servant" Chancel Choir

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 100 Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

People: **Worship the Lord with gladness; come into His presence with singing.**

Pastor: Know that the Lord is God. It is He that made us, and we are His;

People: **We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**

Pastor: Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise.

People: **Give thanks to Him, bless His name.**

Pastor: For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

People: **And His faithfulness to all generations.**

All: **We now come to thank Almighty God for all His blessings to us.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE** "Come, Ye Thankful People Come" Chalice Hymnal No. 718

***INVOCATION and LORD'S PRAYER and GLORIA PATRI**

(Words to the Lord's Prayer, Gloria Patri and Doxology are in the pews)

Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

CHILDREN'S BLESSING Rev. Mary Pat Spencer
(Children age 3 through fourth grade will be dismissed to Children's Worship & Wonder).

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND THANKSGIVING OFFERING

Call to Stewardship Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

Special Music Offering "From This Very Place" Youngblood & Carlson

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication** Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

ANTHEM "Come and Thank Him!" Shafferman

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Edd Spencer

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Communion Hymn "Open the Eyes of My Heart" Praise Hymnal No. 37

Invitation to Communion Jill Pasky

Prayer of Communion Steve Pasky

(This is the Lord's Table. All believers in Christ are invited. As the emblems are passed, partake of the bread and hold the cup, offering your own prayer/meditation until after the congregational response.)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

(Taken from the New Testament: First Corinthians 11:23-26)

ELDER: The Lord Jesus, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is My Body which is given for you."

COMMUNION MUSIC "Manoah" Greatorex

ELDER: In the same way also the cup, after supper saying, "This cup is the new covenant of My Blood. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me."

CONGREGATION: As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 25: 14-30 Dr. Todd Adams
(Pages 1541-1542)

SERMON "Faith Promises" Dr. Todd Adams

*** HYMN OF INVITATION** "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee" Chalice Hymnal No. 602

***BENEDICTION** Dr. Todd Adams

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Barry Storer

***POSTLUDE** "Cwm Rhondda" Hughes

***Those who are able, please stand.**

LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, November 22

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Worship Service with Dr. Todd Adams
10:15 am Children's Worship and Wonder
11:00 am Congregational Meeting
4:00 pm Bell Choir
5:30 pm Youth Groups
6:00 pm Community Thanksgiving Service
at The Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
6:45 pm Snack Supper

MONDAY – FRIDAY

9:45 am – 1:30 pm The Adventure Nook
(Our Preschool Ministry)

MONDAY, November 23

7:00 am Men's Bible Study
10:00 am Staff Meeting

TUESDAY, November 24

9:45 am Chapel
6:30 pm Caring & Sharing
7:00 pm Elders Calls

WEDNESDAY, November 25

9:45 am Chapel

THURSDAY, November 26

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Office closed 26th & 27th

SATURDAY, November 28

10:00 am Decorating the Church for Christmas



IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

WELCOME TODD ADAMS

We welcome Dr. Todd Adams to our church this morning. Todd is the Associate General Minister and Vice President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Todd was raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He is a graduate of Chapman University with a major in Political Science. He has his Master of Divinity from Phillips Theological Seminary and his Doctorate from Wesley Theological Seminary. He and his wife Kimberly have two children Claire and Jackson. Welcome Todd to First Christian.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE TONIGHT

Our church is joining in worship and fellowship with several other churches for a Community Thanksgiving Service tonight at 6:00 pm, at the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. The Church is located about half a mile to the west of our Church on Valleydale Road. Edd will bring the Thanksgiving message. Please join us in thanking God for our blessings through the Word, a community choir and Christian fellowship.

NATIVITY SET RAFFLE

The youth of First Christian Church will raffle a large, hand carved, olive wood, **Musical Nativity Set** from Bethlehem valued at \$975.00. The set includes: 14 individually carved figures plus the stable. All pieces store in a 20" x 17" box. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00. The drawing will be on Sunday, November 29, 2009. You do not need to be present to win. All proceeds go towards the 2010 Youth Mission Trip.

A STEWARDSHIP DINNER

The Finance Council is sharing a Stewardship Dinner with the church on Wednesday, December 2 at 6:00 pm. The dinner will be Chili/Soup, a potato bar, salad, desert and drink. The dinner is free. After the dinner there will be a thirty minute program of Answer and Questions about the 2010 Budget, a humorous skit, and devotion by Worship and Wonder. The nursery will be open. Please sign on the chart in the narthex.

DECORATING THE CHURCH

Kay Keith invites you to join her on Saturday, November 28 at 10:00 am to decorate the sanctuary, narthex and fireside room for Christmas. Come and help make the church beautiful for the celebration of the birthday of our Lord.

WORSHIP LEADERS

WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev. Edd Spencer & Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

MUSIC MINISTER: Rev. Jan Watts
ORGANIST/PIANIST: David Brasher
ELDERS ON CALL: Jill Pasky, Steve Pasky
SERVING DIACONATE: Mack Carpenter, Julie Henderson, Megan Alderson, Buzz & Nancy DeVore, Kathy Mann, Mike Mee, Bruce & Marian Moon, Sharon & Elizabeth Orazine, Donna Penn, John & Lisa Townsend, Garry Tyree

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP & WONDER:

LESSON: Baptism

STORYTELLER: Joye Taylor

GREETERS: Pepper Edwards & Emma Harms

SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETER: Jim Thigpen

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER

The All-Church Christmas Dinner is after morning worship on Sunday, December 13. The Fellowship Mission is providing us with a great Christmas Dinner of Roast Prime Rib of Beef, rosemary whipped potatoes, fresh vegetable medley, southern style green beans, fresh tossed greens with a sherry vinaigrette dressing, hard rolls, cobbler a la mode, coffee, tea, and water. The cost is \$9.00 for adults, children 5-10 years old \$4.00 and children under 5 are free. Please make your reservations on the envelope in your pews. Come and invite a friend for a wonderful dinner and Christian fellowship

THANKSGIVING OFFERING

Please share today in the Thanksgiving Offering. Let us support our Disciples students and our Disciples college ministries and Seminaries. Envelopes for the offering are in your bulletin.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It is that time of the year again to sign up for Christmas Poinsettias. The sign-up chart is in the narthex. The cost is \$17.00 per plant. Please buy one in honor or memory of a loved one or friend.

What We Believe

- *Open Communion.* The Lord's Supper or Communion is celebrated in weekly worship. It is open to all believers.
- *Baptism by immersion.* In baptism the old self-centered life is set aside and a new life of trust in God is made possible. Although we generally practice baptism by immersion, we honor other baptism traditions as well.
- *Importance of church unity.* All Christians should cooperate in ministry wherever possible, affirming each other as sisters and brothers in Christ.
- *The Ministry of all believers.* Both ministers and lay persons lead worship, direct service opportunities and nurture spiritual growth.
- *Freedom of belief.* We are called together around one essential of faith: belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

CHRISTMAS FOR THE STAFF

Christmas time is the time for gifts of appreciation and love. During the season of Advent we will have a decorated Christmas box in the narthex for you to place your special gift for the staff of First Christian. Please note on your check that it is a gift for the church staff. You may also mail your gift to the church office in care of Conlee Alderson. Please remember our staff and all the many extras that they have done for us this year. We are fortunate to have them and appreciate their ministry to us.

Thank you, Conlee Alderson, Chair of the Personnel Committee

CHURCH BUS

The youth are serious about their service project for First Christian to purchase a new church bus. They have committed 10% of every dollar they earn this year to go towards a new bus. However they need your help. They are asking for YOU to make a **one time gift** towards a 15 passenger Activity Bus. Ken Horne, our Administrative Mission Chair, has offered to help in this project. If you would like to make a donation please see Ken.

COMPASSION CORNER

Great News! We have adopted a family for Christmas. There is a single mother with 3 children who needs our help. She lost her job right after the major charities closed their lists for Christmas help. Luckily, we got a call from DHR in Shelby County to help out with a power bill and now we have been given the opportunity to do even more! The children are

10, 7 and 4. If you are part of a group in the church and would like to volunteer to sponsor a child, the mother, Christmas dinner, a tree and decorations or perhaps help with utilities, please contact me! I would love to have this project completed by Dec. 1. I will be available for questions and a sign-up list each Sunday, starting Nov. 15th in the narthex after service. Also, on November 29th, Outreach will be asking for another \$5 bill. This goes towards a Global Mission Project. I remind you, if you eat lunch out during the week, have Starbuck's coffee, see a movie or purchase fast food, you could skip just one thing and work together to bring about change in our world! We can reach beyond.....to the ends of the earth!

Blessings, Sharon and Liz...991-7168.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

First Christian is offering many opportunities for learning more about the Word of God and the spiritual life. The following classes are offered to help us all focus on a new insight into God's Word.



Sunday school Adult Classes
On Sunday morning at 9:00 am
Comrades Class
Insighters Class
Seekers Class



Men's Bible Study on the Minor Prophets. 7:00 am Monday Morning



A Study on the book the "Shack"
5:30 pm on Wednesday



A Study on the Parables of Luke
5:30pm on Sunday

Please make a commitment to attend one of these classes.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA – Come and join us as we prepare for the Christmas Cantata on Wednesday nights at 7:30 pm. Our cantata service will be Sunday, December 13. The choir would welcome anyone who loves to sing to join us as we make a joyful noise every Wednesday.