



Dec. 21, 2011 Vol. 14 No. 155

The  
CHURCH MOUSE

*First Christian*

*Church*

*(Disciples of Christ)*

Pastor: Rev. John Simpson

Pastor: 470-2275

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Web Site: [www.fccfmdisciples.org](http://www.fccfmdisciples.org)

**December 24<sup>th</sup> – Early Service 4:30p.m.**



**Candlelight  
Service**

**December 24<sup>th</sup> – 11:00p.m.**

**December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day  
10:15a.m. service only**



## Minister's Moment

Many times we think of Christmas as being the month of December and ending with Christmas day. The twelve days of Christmas are *not* the twelve days before Christmas, but are instead the twelve days from Christmas until the beginning of Epiphany (January 6<sup>th</sup>). In some families it was and still is the tradition to give Christmas gifts for each of those twelve days, much as gifts are given to children on each of the days of Hanukkah. Several years ago, I sent out a list of what some have suggested was originally the meaning of the song "Twelve Days of Christmas." Some believe that it is actually a song of instruction with hidden meanings to the basic teachings of the Faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song is not an earthly suitor, but refers to God. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every person. Here are the suggested meanings of the gifts:

*A Partridge in a Pear Tree:* Jesus Christ

*Two Turtle Doves:* The Old and New Testaments

*Three French Hens:* The three virtues 1) Faith, 2) Hope, 3) Love

*Four Calling Birds:* The Four Gospels

*Five Golden Rings:* The first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or Pentateuch

*Six Geese A-laying:* The six days of creation

*Seven Swans A-swimming:* The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit - wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, working of miracles, prophecy, and discernment.

*Eight Maids A-milking:* The eight Beatitudes: Blessed be the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

*Nine Ladies Dancing:* The nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

*Ten Lords A-leaping:* The Ten Commandments

*Eleven Pipers Piping:* The eleven faithful Apostles

*Twelve Drummers Drumming:* The twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed - Whether this is true or not is anybody's guess, but maybe it can somehow help us focus beyond our secular celebration of the holiday. God has given us these gifts and more through Jesus Christ.

May your holidays be special and may your lives be filled with joy!

### Current Prayer List

Helen Adkins  
Cindy Bachman  
Frank Bauer  
Steve Bishop  
Joe Bowen  
Amy Cassimatif  
Maxine Cavanaugh  
Chod Coppage  
Opal Courtney  
Bob Dougherty  
Dennis Dowell  
Ralph Evans  
Miranda Fisher  
Janet Gregg  
Al Groth  
Hayley Hunter

Carrie Jackson  
Jackie Lowery  
Heather Lyon  
Jim Menke  
Esther Moline  
Donna Phillips  
Gertie Ruffcorn  
Cheryl Simpson  
Odetta Steeples  
Bill Seyb  
Garnet Thele  
Kathleen Thoman  
Ann Thompson  
F&F Harold Wagner  
Jim Wixom

If you have information or updates about individuals on our prayer lists please call the Church office (372-4193.) Or by e-mail officeadmin@fccfmdisciples.org

### Long Term Prayer Concerns

Jim Arnold  
Tyler Ayer  
Joan Baldwin  
ZillMary Benton  
Gwyn Blum  
Betty Butts  
Mamie Chamlee  
Jennifer & Jackson Chapman  
Bonnie Cokel  
Melba Crago  
Virginia Cram  
Richard Dowell  
Laurie Farmer  
Ruth Farmer  
Don Farrington  
Merlin Gesing  
Rachel Gibb  
Jeff Goad  
Brenda Goodall  
Bob & Betty Grinder  
Ruth Hatala  
Connie Herman

Merle Hutson  
Doti Jerome  
Brandon Koehler  
Roxanne Kruse  
Tony Lyon  
John & Sally Manheim  
Helen & Bob Mapes  
Jay Matthews  
Donna "McCracken" St. Ament  
Randy Mendez  
Annie Meyer  
Betty Morrow  
Marilyn Northway  
Wayne Osborne  
Stanley Pepple  
Dick Pohlpetter  
Gerald Powelson  
Jeanne Power  
Don & Reba Pratt  
Nadine Reed  
Blanche Roberts  
Diana Rouse

Karen Sanders  
Wynona Steffensmeier  
Marvin & Pat Swyter  
Charles Underwood  
Virginia Underwood  
Ron Waytes  
Karen West  
Denise Williams

### Military Prayer List

Adam Baker  
Shane Bowman  
Allen Graydon  
Justin Hendrix  
Dustin Hennigar  
Jody Ross  
Kati Hogan Schuster  
Andy Spears  
Linda Swyter  
Jared Watson



## Minister's Moment

I am always amazed at just how powerful words can be! So many times we speak without thinking and perhaps without even realizing how damaging our words can be. We have all had times when, in our conversations, one person says “this” about someone and then someone else says “that” about that someone. The judgmental comments then somehow reach the person being talked about and the words become hurtful and condemning.

All too often this sort of thing can happen with our words. We say something we think is completely harmless and end up hurting someone’s feelings in the process. And whoever said, “sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me” didn’t know what they were talking about. Words can be *extremely* painful, at times!

I guess the reason I thought of this now was because, at this time of the year, with so many stressful situations around the holidays, we say things in haste that we might not really mean. Take the time, *especially* now, to *think* before you speak. Take into consideration the feelings of the person to whom or about whom you are speaking. Try to put yourself in the other person’s shoes, hearing from their perspective, before you say something you shouldn’t.

“A [person] of knowledge uses words with restraint . . .”

— Proverbs 17:27

John

### Current Prayer List

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Helen Adkins     | Donna St. Ament  |
| Cindy Bachman    | “McCracken”      |
| Frank Bauer      | Marion McCracken |
| Steve Bishop     | Jim Menke        |
| Maxine Cavanaugh | Esther Moline    |
| Chod Coppage     | Cheryl Simpson   |
| Opal Courtney    | Odetta Steeples  |
| Bob Dougherty    | Bill Seyb        |
| Dennis Dowell    | Garnet Thele     |
| Janet Gregg      | Kathleen Thoman  |
| Carrie Jackson   | Ann Thompson     |
| Jackie Lowery    | Jim Wixom        |
| Heather Lyon     |                  |

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### Long Term Prayer Concerns

- |                     |                      |                             |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jim Arnold          | Connie Herman        | Marvin & Pat Swyter         |
| Tyler Ayer          | Merle Hutson         | Charles Underwood           |
| Joan Baldwin        | Dodi Jerome          | Virginia Underwood          |
| ZillMary Benton     | Brandon Koehler      | Ron Waytes                  |
| Gwyn Blum           | Roxanne Kruse        | Karen West                  |
| Betty Butts         | John & Sally Manheim | Denise Williams             |
| Mamie Chamlee       | Helen & Bob Mapes    |                             |
| Jennifer & Jackson  | Jay Matthews         |                             |
| Chapman             | Randy Mendez         |                             |
| Bonnie Cokel        | Annie Meyer          |                             |
| Melba Crago         | Betty Morrow         | <b>Military Prayer List</b> |
| Virginia Cram       | Marilyn Northway     | Adam Baker                  |
| Richard Dowell      | Wayne Osborne        | Shane Bowman                |
| Laurie Farmer       | Stanley Pepple       | Allen Graydon               |
| Ruth Farmer         | Dick Pohlpete        | Justin Hendrix              |
| Don Farrington      | Gerald Powelson      | Dustin Hennigar             |
| Merlin Gesing       | Jeanne Power         | Jody Ross                   |
| Rachel Gibb         | Don & Reba Pratt     | Kati Hogan Schuster         |
| Jeff Goad           | Nadine Reed          | Andy Spears                 |
| Brenda Goodall      | Blanche Roberts      | Linda Swyter                |
| Bob & Betty Grinder | Diana Rouse          | Jared Watson                |
| Ruth Hatala         | Karen Sanders        |                             |
|                     | Wynona Steffensmeier |                             |

### *Important change...*

Due to the single 10:15a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be NO Sunday school classes for the kids.

### *Poinsettias.....*

We are getting a lot of beautiful poinsettias for the sanctuary and narthex. I have several names that I'll list in the next newsletter. If you have donated a poinsettia wish to memorialize a loved one. Please leave the information in the office. I don't want to miss anyone. Thanks Diane

### *Thank you...*

I would like to say "Thank you" to all who helped in any way with the Children's Christmas program. To Rex and Virginia for playing the music, Pat for displaying the Christmas carols on the screen. Lacey, Jeanne, and Gerry for working the kitchen, to those who ran the camera during the play. Thank You to the parents for providing all the yummy desserts. Thank You to Roger and the Disciple Men for providing goodie bags for the kids. And A Big Thank You to the kids for all their hard work and a job well done! I would like to say Thank You to Sherry, Juanita and Karen for their time and dedication to our children and their willingness to give of their time and talents throughout the year.

Merry Christmas  
Dee Dee

### **Daughters of Dorcas Update!!!**

The daughters of Dorcas purchased 75 Christmas dinners through Share Iowa for the needy.

### *Thank you...*

Thanks to Dee and Rex who delivered food that was in the food pantry cart.

### *Men's Study Coming!!!*

Starting January 11<sup>th</sup> through March 28<sup>th</sup> the men will have a study group at the church. The time will be 5:30p.m.- 7:00p.m. Come join us. For much more information please contact Roger Poage.

### *New Info....*

If you have moved, changed your phone number or any other information please let the church office know.

### *Shut-ins visit...*

The church will be doing the visiting on Christmas Day. This hasn't been done in the past and just wanted to let all know.

### **In Christian Sympathy:**

Family and Friends of Jim Burk, Jim was Sue Bowman's father.

Family and Friends of Janet Cox, Janet was Dick Poulter sister.

**On The Calendar.**

**Dec 24:**

2:00p.m. Metcalf family in the Fellowship Hall  
4:30p.m. Early Service  
11:00p.m. Candlelight Service

**Dec 25:**

10:15p.m. Service Only  
Merry Christmas

**Dec 26:**

NO school

**Dec 27:**

**No CBS**

6:30p.m. Band Practice

**Dec 28:**

NO CPY

7:15p.m. Choir Practice

**Dec 29:**

No Scouts

**Dec 30:**

No school

**Dec 31:**

1:00p.m. BJ & Sarah Pohlpetter Fellowship Hall

**Our Giving and Attendance:**

<i>December 11th</i>		<i>December 18th</i>	
8:00a.m. Service	21	8:00a.m. Service	15
9:00a.m. Service	70	9:00a.m. Service	65
10:15a.m Service	28	10:15a.m.Service	40
Sunday School	40	Sunday School	16
General Fund:	\$3535.00	General Fund	\$2660.00
Total Giving:	\$4153.00	Total Giving:	\$2948.50

**Scripture Readings:**

**Dec 25:**

*Isaiah 9:2-7*  
*Psalms 96*  
*Titus 2:11-14*  
*Luke 2:1-14, 15-20*

**Jan 1:**

*Isaiah 61:10-62:3*  
*Psalms 148*  
*Galatians 4:4-7*  
*Luke 2:22-40*

**Servers for Sunday December 25, 2011**

**Early Shut-ins:** Diane and Joe Mattix

**Late (10:15a.m.) Service:**

**Elder:** Jeanne Hogan

**Deacons:** Rocky Aschbrenner

**Liturgist:** Joe Bowen

**Usher:** Ross Simpson

**Late Shut-Ins:** Diane and Joe Mattix

**Financial Team:** 4

**Greeters:** (9:00 & 10:15a.m. Services)

Jan Richers

**Office Angels:** No Newsletter Dec. 28th

**Servers for Sunday, January 1, 2012**

**Early Shut-ins:** Linda Beebe

**Early (8:00a.m.) Service:**

**Elder:** Gene Beebe

**Deacon:** Dallas Harness

**Contemporary: (9:00a.m.) Service:**

**Elder:** Gene Beebe

**Deacon:** Ardelle Skillern

**Late (10:15a.m.) Service:**

**Elder:** Gene Beebe

**Deacons:** Julie Simpson

**Liturgist:** Dawn Willson

**Usher:** Mel Ammer

**Late Shut-Ins:** Linda Beebe

**Financial Team:** 1

**Greeters:** (9:00a.m. & 10:15a.m. Services)

**Office Angels:** Jan4th

Elsie Poulter and Lucille Sweeney

**8:00a.m. Pianist:** Karen Bonta

**Communion Prep for January**

Linda and Gene Beebe