

First Christian Church
3000 Dresden Road, Zanesville, OH 43701-6477 (740) 453-3437

Rev. Dawn Remster, Sr. Minister
Church Email: zvillefcc@sbcglobal.net

Kim Paul, Director of Christian Education
Website: www.zvillefcc.com

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

In the life of our congregation, Advent and Christmas are the most anticipated seasons of the church year. The Christmas story, the music, traditions, children's pageant, candlelight are all part of what makes us look forward to the season as we recall the ancient story of Jesus' birth. Months ago, as we began to learn about COVID 19, we certainly were not thinking about how it would change our Christmas celebrations 10 months later. But on the other side of our 2020 Christmas celebrations, we know that we did not gather to worship in our sanctuary, we couldn't carol to our shut-ins or even gather with family and friends. And yet, Christmas came.

We lit the candles each week and prepared our hearts for the coming of the Christ child. Yes, we worshiped from our homes watching the services online, but the Scripture and songs were familiar and provided opportunities to praise God. Our homebound were remembered with many cards, notes, phone calls and a gift bag. Our Advent workshop lasted all season and was definitely one of the most appreciated.

And although snow prevented most of the congregation from attending our Christmas Eve Drive-in service, the night was peacefully beautiful and worship in the snow-covered parking lot was just right. And Christmas came.

Christmas came this year without the parties and gatherings and crowded sanctuaries, but nothing stops Christmas from coming. God breaks into our world with love and we are never the same.

And God is with us as we enter a new year filled with uncertainties and questions; Will the pandemic come to an end? Will our economy recover in a way that includes all people? Will we find a way to heal the divisions that are so destructive to our community and nation?

God is with us as we begin the work of Christmas-- to find the lost, heal the broken, feed the hungry, rebuild the nations, and bring peace to all people. Christmas came and now it's up to us to continue the work that began with the child in the manger. God promises us a love that is more powerful than anything that divides or blinds us. Trusting in the power of that love we head into 2021. Happy New Year!

Blessings,

The Z-Disciple

JANUARY 2021



With Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the families to have recently lost loved ones.

The Micheli family on the passing of Frank on December 15th.

Vicki Wheeler's sister passed on December 16th.

Pastor's Class for youth interested in exploring church membership and baptism will begin next month. If you are interested in being a part of Pastor's Class, please call the church office or let Rev Remster know. Once we know who is interested, we will figure out how best to hold the class.

150th Anniversary Events Will Continue in 2021

Most of the speakers and events we had planned for our anniversary celebration in 2020 had to be postponed because of COVID 19 restrictions. We have invited the speakers to join us in 2021 and we hope to reschedule some of our planned events. Watch for details as they become available.

Worship Opportunities

During Advent and Christmas seasons, we worked to pre-record our worship service to be able to include many different people in our worship services. While it was wonderful to have many people participate, it has taken hours and hours each week on the part of our pastor, music director and tech crew to make it happen. After Christmas we will return to a live-stream format. Thanks for understanding. We are hopeful that county virus levels will allow us to return to worship in our sanctuary before long. In the meantime, join us for worship each week in our online service that can be accessed at zvillefcc.com. If you have questions, please give us a call.



Have you accessed the electronic version of the Instant Church Directory? Go to: <https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/tools>.

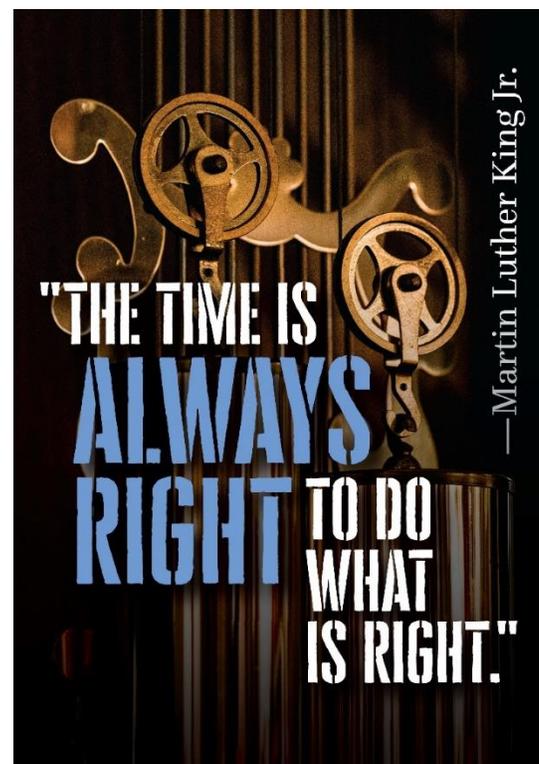
There you can set up a directory to your computer (Password Dresden3000) using the email that is on file with the church office. You will also find links to apps for iPhone, Android, and Kindle.

The electronic directory is constantly revised with updated information as we receive it.

If you have any questions, please contact Janice in the church office.

Board Meeting Reminder

The Board will meet Thursday, January 14th, via Zoom at 7 p.m. Chairpersons are asked to submit their report to the church office by Monday, January 11th so they can be emailed and reviewed prior to the meeting.





Thanks from the Remsters

We would like to thank you for kind words, notes, cards and gifts so many of you have shared with us during this season. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and the blessing of sharing ministry together. May you all enjoy a New Year filled with God's surprises. Blessings, Dawn & Tim

Thank You!

Thank you to the Worship Committee, Greg Rhodes, Sam Grubbs and all of the Elders, lectors, musicians and volunteers who have shared videos, readings, song, etc. to make our Advent and Christmas worship services extra special. Your time and efforts were a blessing to us all during the Advent and Christmas Season.

Thank You to everyone that sent me birthday cards for my 80th. Blessings, Margo Cooper

Thanks to everyone for the lovely gift bag, Jo Kronenbitter.

The gift left on my porch was lovely and very much appreciated. Thank you, Barb Agin

I want to thank everyone for all the cards, letters, notes, phone calls, and prayers. I really appreciated all the concern and prayers. I miss seeing everyone and pray that soon we can get back together. Take care and stay healthy. In Christian, love, Carolyn Scott

Thank you for the gift bag with goodies in it. We especially loved the 150th anniversary ornament. Love, Paul & Sharon Krause



The staff of First Christian Church appreciates the cards, gifts, and prayers we have received, not only at Christmas, but throughout this year. Thank you!

A Year-End Update from Week of Compassion

Dear Friends,

In our own communities and around the world, this year has been filled with loss and heartache. But as we respond to the needs of a global pandemic, historic natural disasters, and ongoing development projects, this year has also brought countless opportunities to love our neighbors and to show compassion.

Your continued faithful support for Week of Compassion has been a light of hope for many and continues to embody the love of Christ made known in the world. Here are the ways and places in which your compassion has shared light and life, responding to the needs of 2020.

Peace,

Rev. Vy Nguyen, Executive Director



At Home Advent Workshop

Thank you to the Christian Education Committee for the crafts, activities, games, and devotions that families enjoyed through the At Home Advent Workshop. Our Advent season was different, but full of many blessings!





Calling ALL JC and Kingdom Kids (K-5th graders)

Let's hang out and have a Virtual Game Night! Join Kim on Friday, January 15th from 6-7pm and we will share some jokes and riddles as well as play a variety of games including Mad Libs, a Scavenger Hunt and more! Please RSVP to Kim (kimpaul@gmail.com) by Wednesday, January 13th and she will send you the Zoom Link.

Chi Rho and CYF

During the season of Advent the youth studied scripture from Isaiah to better understand Jesus and his mission more deeply. As the new year begins, we will turn to the book of Galatians and allow Paul to challenge us with questions about what grace is, what it means for our lives and what our call is as Christians. The youth are currently meeting over Zoom every Sunday from 4-5:30. These meetings are a great way to keep the youth feeling cared for, connected, and supported. If you have questions about how to participate in a youth group meeting, please contact Kim Paul (kimpaul@gmail.com).

Sunday School

Preschool children are meeting on Wednesday mornings at 10 am on Zoom and Elementary children are meeting on Sunday mornings at 9 am on Zoom. Even if your children are not able to participate in Zoom meetings, we still have you covered! There are new videos posted each week for your child to watch, as well as parent resources for follow up. Just check out these links, and let Kim know if you have any questions.

zvillefcc.com/k5 and <http://www.zvillefcc.com/preschool>.

Children Worship and Wonder

A new Worship and Wonder story is posted each week at, <http://www.zvillefcc.com/worship/services-and-info/>. Be sure to have your child join us for their own unique worship experience!



Advent Outreach Projects Summary

Thank you for blessing others during the season of Advent by being part of our many special Advent projects. Through your donations, efforts and support we were able to: deliver 35 gift bags to our homebound members, sponsor 55 children in Muskingum Co. through Prison Fellowship Angel Tree, collected 121 pairs of mittens and gloves, 31 hats, and 12 pairs of socks to be shared with the Salvation Army and Eastside Community Ministry and filled the grocery cart for Eastside. Our Christmas outreach offering of \$1,357 to the Deacon's fund will continue to help families in need in our church and community. Thank you all for your generous hearts and hands.

Angel Tree Project: Together we served 55 children through our Prison Ministries Angel Tree Project. Outreach delivered those gifts, along with a personal message of love to the children on behalf of their parent in prison. Thank you for your generous support of this annual tradition.

Eastside: If you have nonperishable food donations for Eastside, you can place them in the shopping cart beside the elevator.

Serving at Christ's Table: We will serve next at Christ's Table on Saturday, January 23. If you can help, please contact Kris Hawk at (740) 624-0810.

Christ's Table Coordinators Needed: We still need more coordinators for our service at Christ's Table. We serve every other month (January, March, May, July, September, November). If you would like to be a coordinator, you will receive training. If you have any questions or are interested, please contact the church office.

Ways to keep in touch with the church

Where do I find worship services?

Our worship services are accessed through our website at www.zvillefcc.com. You will see a black box at the top left of the screen with instructions to click for the service information.

How do I access First Christian's Facebook Page?

<https://www.facebook.com/FCCZanesville/> is our public information page that shares our general church information.

Our members group is located at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/530602930924824/>. This page is where we can share information of a personal nature and where Dawn's daily message is shared.

Three options to continue your gifts to the church

*Mailing your offering to the church

*Setting up an auto deduction service which will electronically transfer funds from your bank account directly to your offering here at church. If you would like more information about this service, or to sign-up, please contact Janice at zvillefcc@gmail.com.

*Scan the QR code at the right of this page.

Thank you for your continued gifts!



JANUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

Shane Centers	January 2
Dolores Davison	January 2
*Lora Lanning	January 2
Andrew Body	January 3
Greg Gaumer	January 7
Lori Hittle	January 8
Russell Devoll	January 9
Alexia Desender	January 10
Milo Huizenga	January 10
Heather Untied	January 10
Logan Appleby	January 12
Beth Iden	January 14
Shirley Hicks	January 19
Bryan Near	January 22
Sam Grubbs	January 24
Rod Richardson	January 25
Earl Smith	January 25
Jacob Devoll	January 28
Georgia Robison	January 28
Duke Jones	January 30

* Shut In

Happy Anniversary to:

Gene & Dolores Davison	January 14
Phil & Barbara Phillips	January 24
Keith & Carol Sarbaugh	January 31

Special dates this month:

Dolores and Gene Davison celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary. Their address is 1278 Pfeifer Dr., Zanesville, OH 43701

Shirley Hicks celebrates her 80th birthday. Her address is P. O. Box 8258, Zanesville, OH 43702-8258.

Your Special Day

We typically list special birthdays as 80, 85, 90, and each year thereafter. We list anniversaries at 50, 60, 70, etc. However, we are happy to share your special day whenever it is; just let us know.

Live in the light

Often we want to be able to see into the future. We say, "How will next year be for me? Where will I be five or 10 years from now?" There are no answers to these questions. Mostly we have just enough light to see the next step — what we have to do in the coming hour or the following day.

The art of living is to enjoy what we can see and not complain about what remains in the dark. When we are able to take the next step with the trust that we will have enough light for the step that follows, we can walk through life with joy and be surprised at how far we go. Let's rejoice in the little light we carry and not ask for the great beam that would take all our shadows away.

—Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*

