

FCU WEEKLY E-NEWS

Join Worship through Zoom **Sunday at 10:00am**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89246438945?pwd=ZEsrduTODY2VTBjWVJWSndyZ3gvQT09>

Meeting ID: 892 4643 8945

DECEMBER 15 WORSHIP

WOW Kids Program and following the service, the Congregational Life Committee invites you to stay and enjoy a slice of cake in celebration of Jesus' birthday!

Usher	Bill Koellner
Candlelighters	
PowerPoint	Shaun Kruger
Organist	Lori Brooke
Greet/Coffee Hour	

DECEMBER NUMBERS



December 1 attendance – 54

December 8 attendance – 81

Current monthly total – \$3,556.45

December 1 giving – \$2,670.00 (incl auto-deposit)

December 8 giving - \$886.45

Needed each month - \$12,840.58

FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

A giving tab is included on the church website: <https://fcuwl.org/give/>

For those people that have given to the church in the last year by automatic payments (via automatic withdrawal from your bank) please be aware that for recordkeeping purposes you need to fill out a new 2025 Commitment form or you can send Dinette Myers (1244 Country Heights Lane) a letter stating you would like to continue for the year 2025 and be sure to include the pledge amount.

NO CHOIR REHEARSALS TONIGHT

Choir rehearsals for tonight (December 11th) have been cancelled to allow room for Children's Program set-up. Rehearsals will resume on December 18th with the following schedule:

7:00-7:30pm	Chime Choir Rehearsal
7:30-8:00pm	Choir Party
8:00-8:30pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

FROM THE VAC FOOD PANTRY

If you happen to be weeding out Christmas ornaments you no longer want, please consider donating to the food pantry. It's an extra treat for our patrons. Please leave in zip lock bags at the pantry or in the drop off outside box by the Food Pantry door. Someone will check daily. Thank you.

The food pantry will be closed December 12 & 14. Christmas boxes will be distributed December 13 & 14. The Pantry will also be closed December 19 & 21 but will be open as normal December 26 & 28. Happy Holidays to all!

A-CAROLING WE GO!

Sunday, December 15 @ 5:00PM

Congregational Life Committee invites everyone for an evening of Christmas Caroling! Meet at the church at 5:00pm. Carolers will travel by car to the Heath Manor, Simpson Home, and Assisted Living at 5:30pm. Then return to the church at 6:30pm for hot chocolate and snacks.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

The Season of Advent has begun. This is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ and the return of Christ's Second Coming. Devotional reading materials will be available on the entry table to help guide us through the Advent season. Please help yourself.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

For 5 weeks (Nov 17, Dec 1, 8, 15 & 22) Pastor Deb will guide an Advent bible study group using The Journey by Adam Hamilton. The group will meet after worship on Sunday mornings, for an hour, in the lounge.

A synopsis of the series: 'It's a story you know by heart, but The Journey combines historical information and archaeology with Adam Hamilton's thoughtful, conversational teaching style to give you a new perspective on the story of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. He shares new insights into a world-changing event and shares 10–15 minute video vignettes retracing the actual path of this journey during each study session.'

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE @ FCU

December 15 Children's Christmas Program during worship
December 15 6:15-7:15pm CYG Live Nativity
December 15 5:30pm Family caroling
December 24 8:30PM FCU Christmas Eve Service

NEED A CHRISTMAS GIFT?

How about a Nichols Christian Church 150th Anniversary Cookbook? Cost is \$20 and they are available to purchase through Kay Cline or Charles has some in stock at Three B's Floral. If you'd like to take a look before deciding, there is a copy for viewing in the Church Office.

TAKE AWAY HUNGER PROGRAM

We have had a number of church family members passionate about the Take Away Hunger Program over the years. It's a great group activity to engage people in packing food, systematically, for shipment to others who are in need of a nutritious and balanced food source. We store all of the operational process items at the church. Syd Harned had become the contact person in the community, if a group wished to have a 'packing night' activity. Due to other commitments, Syd would like to step down and turn this project over to another person. It does not require much time.

If interested, please contact Pastor Deb or Syd.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Habitat for Humanity is currently building homes in Iowa City and are looking for volunteers. Construction volunteer opportunities are each Thursday, Friday, and Saturday with a morning (8am-12pm) and afternoon (1pm-5pm) shift each day. They provide all the tools, training, and equipment that will be needed for the day. Their construction staff does an excellent job of ensuring volunteers are comfortable with their assigned tasks. Depending on the project's construction stage, shifts can take groups of up to 10. There is no minimum group size to volunteer with us.

If interested in learning more/volunteering you can contact:

Sammi deNeui

Volunteer Engagement Coordinator, Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity

Phone: 319.337.8949

Email: sammi@iowavalleyhabitat.org

[Sign up to volunteer!](#)

CCC UPDATES: NEW DIRECTOR AND YEAR END LETTER

The Christian Church in the Upper Midwest and the Christian Conference Center are delighted to announce that Eric Lahart has been hired as the new Executive Director of the Christian Conference Center. See attachment for formal announcement.

Also attached is a copy of the Christian Conference Center's Year End Letter – Annual Giving Campaign. The campaign is vital to their continued operation and supports their mission to connect Disciples and rental guests to God, creation, and each other. If you wish to give a gift to this funding campaign, you can do so online here:

<https://docgeneralassembly.givingfuel.com/umw-christian-conference-center-gifts>

