



The Christian Messenger

December 2019



Grant's Good News

Rev. Grant Wade

I "celebrated" birthday number thirty-five recently. I've never been big on birthday celebrations. Part of that is because I don't like all of the attention.

The other part is that birthdays remind me of my mortality. This year's birthday was no exception.

We moved to Sullivan 9+ years ago. Since that time, I've learned two things very deeply... things that no one taught me would come with being a Pastor.

First, I never knew I would come to love so many people so deeply. Being a Pastor is not a job, it's so much more than I can put into words.

Second, I had no idea I could learn to love the town I live in the way that I do. Sullivan is such a wonderful place to live, filled with so many amazing people.

You see, birthdays remind me of the loss I have seen and experienced in my lifetime, especially these last nine years. I never would have dreamed that by my mid-thirties both of my parents would be gone. This is a reality that I struggle with all too often.

This year's birthday started out so much like many others. A reminder that life is all too short as we all mourn the death of four lives ending too soon, too suddenly. My heart hurts for these families.

Things began to look up on the day of my birthday. So many people called, texted, or sent a card. People whom I've come to love these past nine years. Some of which who have become so much like family! It truly was one of the better birthdays I've had because of these people.

But then comes another death... our community faces another significant loss. Another life ended too soon.

I didn't have the chance to get to know Megan (Buxton) Thompson. She was starting college at Lincoln as I was finishing. When we moved to Sullivan, I realized this was her hometown and her family was a beloved part of this community.

So today I grieve the loss of another wonderful human being whose life impacted so many of the people I love.

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Grant's Good News (continued)

As I struggle to make sense of so much loss, I am realizing what a beautiful thing it is to live in a small community and serve a small church. I've seen so clearly the love and support that is shown and given in times like these.

The truth is this: We're all in this together.

I don't know when the next loss will come.

I don't know when my last day will be.

But as my life goes on, I'll continue to do my best to love each person I meet extravagantly because that is how God loves me.

See you Sunday,



Pastor Grant

1st Tuesday Lunch

Everyone is invited to join Pastor Grant for 1st Tuesday Lunch on Tuesday, December 3, at 11:30 am, at Yoder's Kitchen in Arthur. Meet here at the church at 11:10 am if you would like to carpool. Whether you're a regular attender or first-time guest, we'd love to have you join in on good food, good friends, good conversation — what more could you ask for! Please RSVP to the church office or fill out the communication slip on Sunday, December 1. Everyone is welcome!



Congregational Meeting

The annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 8, immediately following worship. All members are encouraged to attend and vote as we discuss the 2020 church budget. A budget summary will be distributed by mail/email to the congregation prior to the meeting. Also, copies will be available in the church office if you would like one. Following the meeting, everyone is invited to stay for the All-Church Holiday Meal in the Fellowship Hall.



All-Church Holiday Dinner

Mark your calendars to take time out from the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season to share a meal with your church family! The annual Holiday Dinner will be Sunday, December 8, at 11:30 am, in the Fellowship Hall, following the Congregational Meeting. Please bring a vegetable, salad, or dessert to share, and the rest will be furnished. It will be delicious! If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Elder at 728-7072.




2019 Holiday Market Wrap-Up



Thank you to everyone for your help and support during this year's Holiday Market, and a huge 'Thank You' to Judy Sumner for heading up this event. Due to everyone's tremendous generosity and hard work, and the support of our community, the Holiday Market was a grand success! Our net profit after expenses was almost \$7,000! We have made a contribution of \$700 to the Sullivan Area Ministerial Association. Some of the proceeds will be used for projects around the church, and approximately \$5,000 will be put towards the Parking Lot loan.

Dick Burcham was the winner of the Sullivan Redskins Quilt. Here are the Pick-A-Prize winners, and as you can see, we had great prizes and several repeat winners!

Arthur General Store Gift Basket—Barb Titus / Buxton's \$50 Gift Cert.—Nancy Crury
Casey's \$50 Gift Card (Compliments of Dick & Nancy Burcham); Jim Warren Auto Sales Gift Cert.;
& Sullivan Auto Center Gift Cert.—Harry & Helen McCorkle
Cathrine's Gallery Christmas Pictures—Stella Schum & Sharon Byrd
Painting by Bev Copass—Elaine Wampler / El Paso Mexican Restaurant \$50 Gift Card—Mike Smith
Jewelry by Cheri Rich—Linda Featherling, Sharon Byrd, Justine Brewer, Lisa Sheehan, & Jan Dotson
Shawl by Lilly Haverstock—Mary Hutchings / Wooden Piece by Paul Pierce—Shirley Easton
Harley Chiropractic, LLC Gift Cert. for New Patient Work-Up—Karen Reed
Jerry's IGA \$25 Gift Card—Jill Inman / Jim Warren Auto Sales Gift Cert.—Tom Featherling
Monical's Pizza Restaurant \$10 Gift Card; Second Chance Fitness Gift Cert.; Sullivan Chamber of
Commerce \$25 Chamber Bucks; & The Flower Pot \$25 Gift Card—Debbie Seelhofer
Moweaqua Golf Course His & Her Golf Package Gift Basket (Compliments of Brad & Cheri Burcham)
— Frances Dulin / My Garden Greenhouses \$10 Gift Cert.—Mary Hutchings
Neal Tire & Auto Service Gift Cert.; Sullivan Country Club Gift Cert.; Sullivan Service
Center Gift Cert.; & Sullivan Bakery Gift Cert. (Dozen Donuts)—Elizabeth Houser
Red Apple \$15 Gift Cert.—Jaime Russell / Sullivan Bakery \$40 Gift Cert.—Bob Elder
Suncatchers/Paperweights by Bob Haverstock—Barb Titus & Melissa Dolan
The Little Theater On The Square Tickets to "Elf, The Musical"—Keith & Brenda Wood
U of I Basketball Tickets (Compliments of Dan Flannell)—Janis Typer & Jan Dotson



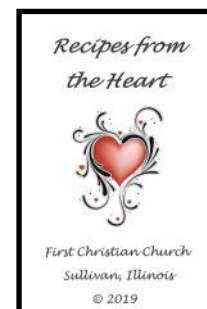
Just a Note

Thank you to all the shepherders and volunteers who made the 2019 Holiday Market a great success!

Thank you to the FCC ladies for their hard work in preparation for our delicious meal.

Because of all your wonderful help and coming together as a church family, we were able to raise approximately \$8000. - We couldn't have had a better Holiday Market without each and everyone of you. It was a 'team effort' and it came together nicely.

Judy Sumner



There are still a few cookbooks available. Get yours today before they're all gone! They'll make a great gift!

Christmas Cantata

The choir has spent the last several months practicing and preparing for their Christmas Cantata, *"We Sing for Joy: Christmases Past, Our Present to You."* This year's Cantata will be presented on Sunday, December 15, during the 10:00 am worship gathering. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to join you for worship this Advent season, and to celebrate the birth of Jesus!



CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets

Thank you to all for your generous donations to the CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets! We received \$1,135 for this special offering from October 13 to November 3, plus all the items for buckets that were brought to the church. These donations will provide 20+ emergency cleanup buckets to equip people after a flood, tornado, or other disaster. FCC is making a difference in the world!



Coles County Barbershop Chorus

On Sunday, December 1, the Coles County Barbershop Chorus will present their Annual Christmas Benefit Concerts. The 30-man chorus, with four local quartets, will perform secular and sacred songs. In addition, Terry Stevenson, outstanding guitarist from Effingham will participate, as well as pianists Philip Martin of Sullivan and Marge Woodall of Charleston. The free concerts are at 3 pm at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Charleston, and 7 pm at the Mattoon First Presbyterian Church.

Downtown Celebration

The Sullivan Chamber & Economic Development's Annual Old Fashioned Christmas will be held Friday, December 13, from 4 to 7 pm in downtown Sullivan. Businesses will be open late to help you finish up your Christmas shopping. Hardy's Reindeer Ranch will be there with a real live reindeer, Santa will be in his house, there will be horse drawn carriage rides, and festive holiday music will all be happening on the square! The Hometown Holiday Parade begins at 6 pm, and it's opening night for "Elf, the Musical" at The Little Theatre on the Square, with the show starting at 7:30 pm. It will also be your last chance to find the Elf during SCED's annual Elf Hunt.



2019 DMF Christmas Special Offering

The Christmas Offering supports regional ministries, and as partners in the ministry, the Regional Church and local congregations work together. The Regional Office, through the leading of the New Church/Ministries Team, has had the joy of witnessing the development of eight congregations. These congregations are reaching out into communities in creative ways and welcoming all to the Lord's Table. Your offerings make a difference, and 100% of your gifts to the Christmas Offering support The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW). We will be receiving the Christmas Offering on two Sundays, December 15 and December 22, during our 10:00 am worship service.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

This year's Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service will be held here at FCC at 7:00 pm. The service will be a very traditional and meaningful candlelight communion service. We encourage you to make this worship opportunity a part of your Christmas tradition every year! It's a great way for the whole family to be reminded of the true reason for the season.



December Sermons & Scriptures

The sermon series for the month of December is "Christmas at the Movies." If you would like to prepare ahead for each week's sermon, here's what Pastor Grant has planned for each week.

Dec. 1: "Home Alone" — Matthew 1:18-23 (Hope)

Dec. 8: "Christmas Vacation" — Luke 1:26-35 (Peace)

Dec. 15: Choir Cantata — *"We Sing for Joy: Christmases Past, Our Present to You."* (Joy)

Dec. 22: "Elf" — Luke 2:1-7 (Love)

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service — "A Christmas Story" — Luke 2:6-15 (The Thrill of Christmas)

Dec. 29: New Year's Sermon



Staff Recognition

Our staff members will be recognized during worship on Sunday, December 8, for all their hard work and dedication to FCC during this past year. Join us as we let them know they are appreciated.



Monthly Groups

"Coffee & Chat at Courtyard Estates" — 10:00 am, second Wednesday of each month.

Pastor Grant and a group of volunteers provide a fun activity to share with the residents, sing a few familiar songs, and share a delicious treat, coffee, and tea with them. This is a great way to serve and be a blessing to some of our own church members who live there, as well as many folks who don't get many visitors. If you'd like to join us, just let Pastor Grant know.

"AMEN Men's Group" — 8:00 am in the Parlor, third Saturday of each month.

Men of all ages are invited to join this group for an uplifting time of sharing and praying together as they discuss matters of faith.

"Mending Hearts Grief Group" — 10:00 am in the Parlor, last Saturday of each month.

If you've suffered the loss of a loved one and are in need of support, our grief group, Mending Hearts, is here for you. They share ideas and activities with one another that help with the process of learning to live with loss and grief.

Scripture Readings for December

1 Matthew 24:1-28	11 Psalm 96	21 Luke 1:1-25
2 Matthew 24:29-51	12 Psalm 97	22 Luke 1:26-56
3 Matthew 25:1-30	13 Psalm 98	23 Luke 1:57-80
4 Matthew 25:31-46	14 Psalm 99	24 Luke 2:1-21
5 Psalm 24	15 Isaiah 8:1-20	25 John 1:1-18
6 Psalm 91	16 Isaiah 8:21—9:7	26 Luke 2:22-52
7 Psalm 92	17 Isaiah 60:1-22	27 Titus 1:1-16
8 Psalm 93	18 Isaiah 61:1-11	28 Titus 2:1-15
9 Psalm 94	19 Isaiah 62:1-12	29 Titus 3:1-15
10 Psalm 95	20 Isaiah 63:1-14	30 Revelation 21:1-27
		31 Revelation 22:1-21



December Serving Schedule

Elders

Kathy Thomas
Bob Elder

Worship Leaders

Dec. 1: Dave Walker
Dec. 8: Lilly Haverstock
Dec. 15: Dan Flannell
Dec. 22: Bob Elder
Dec. 29: Kathy Thomas

Deacons

Check & Serve: Steve Poland
Serve: Theresa Poland
Serve: Debbie Lawson
Prep & Serve: Haily Robinson

Tech Booth

Media: Madeline V. – 1, 8, 24;
Mike Smith – 15, 22, 29
Sound: Scott Neal



Greeters

Dec. 1: Don & Janis Typer
Dec. 8: Roger & Barb Daily
Dec. 15: Ron & Sharon White
Dec. 22: Marvin & Mary Ann Wiley
Dec. 24: Barry & Judy Featheringill
Dec. 29: Kurt & Brenda Pierce and Beverly Pierce

CCIW / Local Church Prayer Calendar

Dec. 1–7: FCC Centralia, UniPlace Champaign, Chandlerville CC / First United Methodist Church
Dec. 8–14: FCC Galesburg, Gerlaw CC, FCC Gibson City / Highway Church of Christ
Dec. 15–21: Christmas, Regional Church Ministry / Mason Point Chapel
Dec. 22–28: CC of Illiopolis, Niantic CC, Lynnville CC / Jonathan Creek Christian Church
Dec. 29–Jan. 4: FCC Girard, Sherburnville CC Grant Park / New Life Church

Prayer Requests

Joys: Derek Elder home, Anna Jane Sager in church, Andrew Sparrow home, Matt Sparrow home, Successful Holiday Market

Concerns: Family of Megan (Buxton) Thompson, Protz Family, Ray Seale (Betty Wilson's uncle), Bernadine Casteel, Greg Crawford, Matt Harbaugh, Family of Mike Calvin, Charlotte Emel, John Paul Smith, Ruth Stephens, Jack Crane, Mike Lane, Helen Cole



Calendar

Sundays — 9:00 am Small Groups, 9:30 am Coffee & Cookies, 10:00 am Worship, 10:15 am Kids' Church
Wednesdays — 5:30–6:30 pm Yoga Class in Fellowship Hall; 7:00 pm Choir Practice
Thursdays — 8:30 am Weight Watchers in Fellowship Hall; 10:00 am Ladies of Faith @ 5 West

Monday, Dec. 2	6:00–8:00 pm Prairie Winds Christmas Party in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, Dec. 3	11:30 am 1st Tuesday Lunch at Yoder's Kitchen in Arthur. Meet here at the church at 11:10 am to carpool.
Sunday, Dec. 8	11:00 am Annual Congregational Meeting following Worship 11:30 am All-Church Holiday Dinner in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, Dec. 10	4:00–8:00 pm Fellowship Hall Reserved
Wednesday, Dec. 11	10:00 am Coffee & Chat at Courtyard Estates 5:45 pm Elders' Meeting in Parlor
Thursday, Dec. 12	12:00 pm Board Reports Due
Friday, Dec. 13	4:00–7:00 pm SCED Old Fashioned Christmas Downtown Celebration
Sunday, Dec. 15	10:00 am Worship with Christmas Choir Cantata ~ No Kids' Church
Monday, Dec. 16	12:00 pm Newsletter Articles Due; 12:00–3:30 pm Fellowship Hall Reserved
Wednesday, Dec. 18	6:00 pm Board Meeting in Parlor; 7:00 pm Choir Practice
Thursday, Dec. 19	6:00–8:00 pm Head Start Meeting & Meal in Fellowship Hall
Saturday, Dec. 21	8:00 am AMEN Men's Group in Parlor
Tuesday, Dec. 24	7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service
Wednesday, Dec. 25	Christmas Day ~ Church Office Closed; No Choir Practice
Saturday, Dec. 28	10:00 am Mending Hearts Group in Parlor
Sunday, Dec. 29	10:00 am Worship ~ No Choir
Tuesday, Dec. 31	New Year's Eve



December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1 Peggy Hargis	16 Susie Webb
Dave Walker	17 Marcia Epperson
3 Heather Johnston	18 Ben Kuhns
5 Matt Burns	Kathleen Wood
Beth Thompson	19 Geraldine Elder
8 Eva Hall	Robert Elder
Venessa Marshall	20 Dan Bowers
9 Stephanie Cole	Nancy (Bob) Elder
Ava Day	21 Jennie Harchous
13 Virginia Brandenburger	22 Jason Berner
Matt Jones	23 Scott Standerfer
Marsha Thompson	Jim Warren
15 Mike Shasteen	27 Sydnee Ray-Allen
16 Kim Smith	28 Justin Lindley
Genevieve Sutton	

Anniversaries

9 Mark & Stepheny McMahon
27 Ervin & Nancy Kuhns
29 Steve & Kelly Cole





First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
1357 CR 1200 E
Sullivan, IL 61951

Return Service Requested

«AddressBlock»

Worship with us!

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Kids' Church: 10:15 am

Contact us!

Rev. Grant Wade, Pastor • grant@fccsullivan.org • 217.454.9090

Julie Ramsey, Administrative Assistant • office@fccsullivan.org • 217.728.7351

Office Hours: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, 12:30 – 3:00 pm, Monday – Thursday; Closed Friday

Connect with us!

Website: www.sullivan.church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fccsullivan