



DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1609 E. Ash St.
Goldsboro, NC 27530
919-735-3092

Minister Rev. Dr. Tom Millay
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919-273-7030

Youth and Website Andrew Clarke
goacanes87@yahoo.com
919-920-7915

Organist/Pianist/Choir Director
Tom Casey
tmcasey53@earthlink.net
Church Secretary Wanda McCullen

Visit us online at
www.firstchristiangoldsboro.org
this week for videos on sermon,
communion, music, and scripture.



Weekly Conference Call Times
Wednesdays at 6:45 PM.

Here is all you do:
Dial 712-770-5505 and then wait
for instructions to enter access
code, which is 300904#

A Word from Pastor Tom

In all likelihood, December is going to be a difficult month in 2020. There are many ways to respond to this difficulty and many temptations, many spiritual forces contending over our souls during this time. Given all that, it is understandable to think a grand gesture of resistance is necessary. But I think we should encourage ourselves in a different way. I think we should embrace all the small gestures, especially the small physical gestures, of this season. Make sure to take the time to set up an Advent calendar, and return to it each morning. Make sure to light a candle and say a prayer for the arrival of the Christ child. Make sure to decorate your house with every last thing that could bring you joy. For each of these activities, make sure you are completely present: as best you can, free your mind of all distractions. I am convinced that these small gestures will get us through. God can do a lot through a little. May it be so: Amen.



OUTSIDE GATHERING AT CHURCH CONTINUES THROUGH DECEMBER

We were blessed to have wonderful outdoor services throughout the month of November. We continue to have beautiful piano music from Tom Casey (and also chimes!). Brantley Watkins, Linda McCoy, Bunkie Parker, Laura Ziemer, Penny Ziemer, and George Thigpen have all lent us the enjoyment of their wonderful voices during our times of special music. We plan to continue having these outdoor gatherings for the month of December, beginning at **10:30 AM**. **HOWEVER:** We know the cold is coming. For those who would prefer their cars, we are also doing a **radio broad cast at 100.1 FM**. The pastor will still be set up in the entry way of the church, as before, but audio will be broadcast into your cars. We will be wearing masks and practicing physical distancing. The Sunday morning conference call has been suspended for the time being. Online services and other conference calls will continue, with the Wednesday conference call at 6:45 PM.



Online Services

During the month of November, First Christian Goldsboro reached **2,118 people** through our online ministries.

The most watched video was **Tom Casey's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring,"** with **563** views. Thanks be to God!

NOVEMBER GIVING

November 1	\$3,991.00
November 8	\$3,240.00
November 15	\$1,101.00
November 22	\$1,535.00
November 29	\$1,901.00
Thanksgiving Offering	\$ 345.00
BBQ	\$ 774.00



Special Offerings

‘Thank you, thank you!’ We are grateful to everyone who donated to our November special offering for the **Disciples Higher Education Fund**. We rejoice that so many of you decided to follow Jesus’ command to love your neighbor through this practical and essential ministry. **Results** of the special offering are located on the middle of the following page.



Christmas Special Offering

The Christmas Special Offering supports regional ministries. Our regional offices nurture ministers and provide work and worship opportunities for church congregations. Often recognized for camps and conferences, regions also play a critical role in the preparation and authorization of ministerial ordination, both key to church leadership and development. Our finest gifts also support regions as they work to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of new pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism

- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

Our Christmas Special Offering supports all these regional ministries and many others. Please give generously to this year’s Christmas Special Offering.

Special Mission Offerings through November 29

Protestant Preschool \$272.00
Souper Bowl of Caring \$216.58
Week of Compassion \$664.00
United Church Ministries \$470.00
Easter Special Day \$480.00
Pentecost \$120.00
CWS Hygiene Kits \$295.00
United Church Ministries \$1,215.00
Reconciliation \$85.00
Blanket Sunday \$480.00
Total through November 30 \$4,297.58



Thanks to all who made our Operation Christmas Child giving a success this year! In November Andrew Clarke delivered 15 boxes to Adamsville Baptist Church. We pray a blessing for each little one who receives a gift.



Grace Price, Cheryl Griffin, Eloise Kleinert and family, Mary Ethel Lewis, Joe Ben Sauls, G. A. and Kathy Spain, June Anderson, Willie and Faye Rogers, Rick Rogers (Faye & Willie Rogers' son), the family of Billie Ursano (Faye Rogers’ sister), John and Becky Selzer and family, Rebecca Daniels, Lorraine Loch, Bradley King, Val Watkins (Brantley's sister-in-law), the Spain's great granddaughter Katie, Molly McEldowney (Sharon Jones' daughter) and her brother, David Reynolds, Robert Strader (June Anderson's son-in-law), Linda Hilburn, Chuck Saeger (husband of Patricia Nickens Saeger), Bill Smith, Gary Bartlett, Herbert Hill, Mary Anne Cowley, Ruby Santee, Anne Pittman, Jay & Kelley Pittman, Linda McCoy, Ken McCoy and family, Jana Blackman, Johnnie Kleinert, Judy Williford, Lou & Jeff Rose, Ben Satterfield, Joyce Sauls, those suffering with and working with COVID19.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Herbert Hill – 2
 Michael Moorefield – 10
 Alexandra Baker – 13
 Faye Rogers – 14
 Jackson & William Rose – 16
 Lou Rose – 17
 Andrew Clarke – 17
 Carla Franzen – 18
 Emily West – 21
 Betty Ussary – 25
 Linda Cannon – 26
 Lauren Youngs - 31

Elders Presenting Scriptures in November

In December, we will continue videotaping our elders reading Scripture at our live service.

December 6 Sharon Jones
 Isaiah 40:1–11; Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13;
 2 Peter 3:8–15a

December 13 Andrew Clarke
 Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11; Psalm 126; 1
 Thessalonians 5:16–24

December 20 Melissa Hall
 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16; Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26;
 Romans 16:25–27

December 24 Mary Bartlett
 Isaiah 9:2–7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11–14

December 27 Sandra Bell
 Isaiah 61:10–62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians
 4:4–7



December Elders

Since we are not meeting in our sanctuary or serving homebound communion in December, our December elders are available for pastoral care:

December 6 Tim Creech
 December 13 Dennis Horne
 December 20 Linda Cannon
 December 27 Mary Bartlett



December Lectionary 2020

December 6

Isaiah 40:1–11
 Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13
 2 Peter 3:8–15a
 Mark 1:1–8

December 13

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11
 Psalm 126
 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24
 John 1:6–8, 19–28

December 20

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16
 Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26
 Romans 16:25–27
 Luke 1:26–38

December 24

Isaiah 9:2–7
 Psalm 96
 Titus 2:11–14
 Luke 2:1–14

December 27

Isaiah 61:10–62:3
 Psalm 148
 Galatians 4:4–7
 Luke 2:22–40



MEMORIALS

A gift was given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Teenie Wilson by Mr. & Mrs. John D. Savage.

A gift was given to the Building Fund in memory of Teenie Wilson by Mr. Marcellus J. Best, Jr.



CHRISTMAS CARD TIME

It's always nice to save that stamp! Bring your Christmas cards for church members and place them in the red box located in the hallway. Be sure you check for your cards later in the month. Who knows, you might even get a card from Santa this year!

ATTN: If you would like to write a card to Joe Ben Sauls, Eloise Kleinert, or Willie and Faye Rogers, you can also leave these in the red box, up until Sunday December 20. Pastor Tom Millay will be delivering these cards during the week of Christmas.



Where do you find the Christ Child? Rev. Dr. Penny Ziemer is currently collecting brief videos from our congregation, answering the question: *Where do you find the Christ child?* These videos will be edited together into a longer Christmas production. If you would like to contribute a video, you can record yourself and send the contribution to Penny, Tom, or Andrew. Alternatively, after the service on December 6th, Tom will have his phone set up to record you.



Advent Devotionals

As we prepare ourselves for the arrival of the Christ child, be sure to enjoy Rev. Dr. Penny Ziemer's Advent devotionals,

titled **Our Bornng Cries**. Penny says: "My prayer is each of us will hear an invitation to be born once more by the child who was born to us, and who died for us, to make it so." Amen: Come, Lord Jesus! Thank you, Penny, for these devotions, and for the way they gather our congregation together in a shared spirit of contemplation during this time.

There are also Our Daily Bread Advent Devotionals made available by Linda Thigpen and the CWF. Thank you!

Both devotionals are available to pick up at the church during the week and at the Sunday service.



SCHEDULE: UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Administration Task Force** on Monday, December 7th at 6:45 PM (conference call)
- **Board** on Tuesday, December 8th at 6:45 PM (conference call)



You may need this address:

Jo Ben Sauls
2150 Hull Rd., Rm. 206-A
Kinston, NC 28504

Eloise Kleinert
3616 Waxwing Court
Wake Forest, NC 27587

John E. Kleinert Jr.
38 Pebbles Court
Sanford, NC 27332



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