



# FIRST CHRISTIAN disciples of christ HIGHLIGHTS

*Making disciples who make a difference!*

January 2025

## Birthing Christ

Mary, mother of Jesus, teaches the Church how to welcome and how to witness the good news whom we call Messiah. She teaches us how to become that empty, open, welcoming, holy place where God enters in and love is free to happen.

Thomas Merton described this true identity at the very center of our being as point vierge – described as a point of pure truth and nothingness at the center of human existence belonging entirely to God. A point untouched by sin and inaccessible to the fantasies of our own mind or the brutality of our own will.'

That Mary had found and lived in that point vierge as attested in Luke 1:26-38, where she is featured surrendering her will to God's will. Author Kathleen Norris in her book *Amazing Grace* compares Mary's response to her kin Elizabeth's husband, the priest Zechariah. Zechariah became troubled and fearful in the presence of the angel. Zechariah questioned seeking knowledge and information, whereas Mary contented herself with pondering Gabriel's message and holding it close to her heart.

Mary's response challenges us to ask of ourselves: when God makes a loving overture into my life, do I seek to avoid the encounter? Is there an expectation of full knowledge before acquiescence or has the point vierge been reached where there is trust without full understanding. Can there be belief without having to be fully and completely in control? Do I ask of God what cannot be answered, or can I respond from that point vierge, from my deepest self and say something new? A "yes" that will change me forever.

If only we, not unlike Mary, were to quiet ourselves and, instead of "doing" something, we dared to "be" something special. Meister Eckhart, the 14th century Dominican mystic, said, "We are all meant to be mothers of God. What good is it for me for God to give birth to his Son if I do not also give birth to him in my culture? This, then, is the fullness of time: when the Son of God is begotten in me?"

Manger scenes most frequently have all the individuals facing forward to be readily recognized. A more apt arrangement is one where all except Jesus have their blank backs facing outward. Instead, all are facing Christ.

Each of us can choose to face forward Jesus with our time, our money, our efforts. Or we can turn and embrace the world with these things. My hope for us is that our response to God's call will be found at the point vierge, from our deepest trust and faith; and, like Mary, we will say, "Here I am, let it be with me according to your word." And in saying so we become one of Mary's people who is willing to reveal the divine presence in our lives and in the world.

There are four powerful words in the Bible: "Fear not" and "Go forth." In the new year 2025, like Abraham and Mary, we are favored ones, filled with new life. The Church is formed to bear witness to Christ, to be bearers of the gospel, and to operate out of its point vierge, that deep place of trust and hope.

*Inside...January Birthdays, Events, News and Announcements, Prayer Requests and more!*

*Rev Colby Smith*

# FCC KIDS CORNER

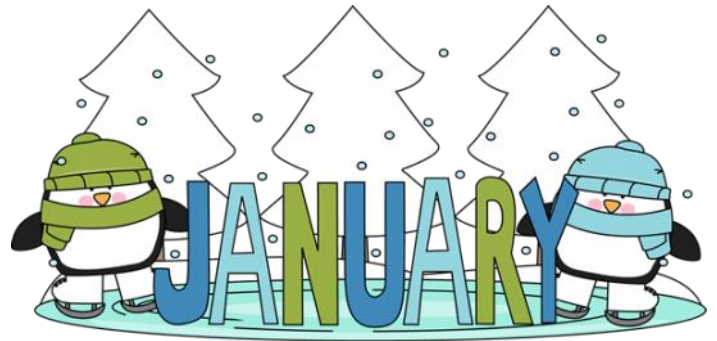
## Kid's Club January Schedule

January 5th-Under the Sea

January 12th-Under the Sea

January 19th-Under the Sea

January 26th-Destination Unknown



## Thank You!

Thanks to all who came out to support our FCC Children at "The Reluctant Wisemen".

**Our Dinner Crew was amazing.** Thanks to Brian Calvert, John Funkhouser, Julie Jones, David May, and Sueann Rice for preparing lunch and to all who brought delicious desserts!

**Thanks to Scott Walker** for working tirelessly to create a sound system so we could hear the beautiful voices of our children!

**Thanks to our FCC Youth** who helped in many ways from reading the scriptures and to helping with costumes and shepherding the children. And special thanks to Kate Hoffman and Chloe Darnell for their roles in the play.

**Thanks to Martha Bryant** for getting everyone in costume and **Harry Mercer** for leading our singing

**Thanks to the Kid's Club Parents** for their support in getting kids to rehearsals and helping their actors learn lines at home!

## Finding Jesus Under the Sea

This month at Kid's Club, we will be learning stories of Jesus while connecting the theme to sea creatures!

The sea contains many wondrous sights created by God. When we go under the sea and take a closer look, we see that the sea has much to teach us about God.



For questions about Children's programs, contact Patti Wright

Email [patti@firstchristiandanville.com](mailto:patti@firstchristiandanville.com) or text (812) 483-9004

**Please Keep the following in your Prayers**

John Caywood	Mike Swain
Gary Gibson	Mary Lou Withers
John Taylor Ross	Jenny Wilson
Jan Sheffield	Jim Routin
Bill Morgan	Donna Vanhook
Trevor & Lucy Graham	Marlena Ellis
Darell Rickmers	Rick Fisher
Lavern Stephens	
Lauren Newman	
Wanda Huffman	
Mary Sebring	
Ellie Pennington	

**Remember our Shut-ins**

Martha Akin	Lucille Lemon
Pat & Steve	Margaret Milburn
Bruce	Bonnie Wilson
Mindy Carter	
Hugh & Mary Jo	
Coomer	



**January Worship Roster**

**January 5**

Worship Leader–

Elder– Tom Huckleberry

Elder & Counter– Martha Caywood

Children’s Chat– Kendra Funkhouser

Worship & Wonder– Patti Wright;

Children’s Church– Kendra Funkhouser Maddy/Stephen

Nursery Volunteer– Mary McKitric/Jessica Maynard

Kids club Assist– Kendra Funkhouser- Lunch-Patti Wright

Elder For Morning Pointe– Debbie Baker

**January 12**

Worship Leader–

Elder– Doug McMurry

Elder & Counter– Ruth Sigler

Children’s Chat– Scott Walker

Worship & Wonder– Connie McVicker

Greeter–Brent Williams

Children’s Church–Linda Dachenhaus/Patti/Stephen

Nursery Volunteer– Edna Prall/ Jessica Maynard

Kid’s Club Assist– Martha Bryant

Lunch–Hinkles

**January 19**

Worship Leader–

Elder– Julie Jones

Elder & Counter– Margaret Clark

Children’s Chat– Darell Rickmers

Worship & Wonder– Connie McVicker, Sueann Rice

Children’s Church–Darell Rickmers/Patti Wright

Nursery Volunteer– Jessica Maynard/ Kris Hamlin

Kid’s Club Asst.– Darell Rickmers

Lunch– Kasey Wilson

Shut-in Communion– Debbie Baker

**January 26**

Worship Leader–

Elder– Larry Scott

Elder & Counter– Jan Scott

Children’s Chat– Patti Wright

Worship & Wonder–Alice & Jay Reynolds

Children’s Church– Patricia Calvert/Patti Wright

Nursery Volunteer– Trista Hinkle & Jessica Maynard

Kid’s Club Assist.– Penny Vaught

Lunch– Mary/Ramona

Elder’s Cooks– Elmer and Suzi Jackson



**Four Cans for Others**

**103** cans were donated during December bringing our total for 2024 to **1378** cans. Keep bringing in those cans so we can beat our total for 2023 of **1,421** cans!



## News & Announcements

### Outreach December News

**Angel Tree:** Big thanks to everyone who fulfilled their Angel Tree tag! FCC members completed shopping for 43 tags, and the Elders did shopping for the Salvation Army Toy Shop. Your generosity is much appreciated!



**Bell Ringing:** All time slots were filled on the FCC days, December 3 and December 20. Thanks to everyone who gave their time to help raise much needed Salvation Army funds.

**CASA donation:** Outreach donated funds for the CASA stocking project, by which each child in the program will receive a personalized Christmas stocking.

**Holiday Food Boxes:** Outreach members will assemble and distribute 22 boxes with supplies for two big meals. Thanks to Mary Ann McGlothlin, Terry Dachenhaus, David May, and others for their commitment to this annual project!

### Connection Book Group

Connection Book Group will resume to discuss the book, *Amazing Grace* By Kathleen Norris on January 5th immediately following church service in the Fellowship Hall. We would love to see you as we always have thoughtful discussions.



### Office & Walking Track Hours

Monday— Friday

8:00 a.m.— Noon & 1:00 p.m.— 4:00 p.m.

### Epiphany

Epiphany is defined as “manifestation”, usually an appearance or increased understanding of the divine/supernatural. For the Christian, we celebrate the day of Epiphany on January 6, following the traditional 12 days of Christmas, when the Magi appeared in Bethlehem bearing gifts for the Christ Child. This is extraordinarily significant for Christians, as the appearance of the Magi before Christ is representative of how Christ has opened the way for the whole world to enter relationship with God; not just the people of Israel which was the case before. Epiphany is a reflection of how Jesus, in His great love, draws all people toward the true King, Himself, and reveals, or “manifests”, His identity as Messiah of entire humanity.

The weeks following Epiphany known as Ordinary Time—before the season of Lent begins—are traditionally spent focusing on Jesus’ early life and ministry, drawing out themes of evangelism, fellowship, and reconciliation. Despite the name, Epiphany and Ordinary Time offer us the opportunity for extraordinary worship. I pray that during this season, we can experience rich, meaningful, and redemptive worship as we reflect on who Jesus has revealed Himself to be.



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