



DECEMBER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday November 28 Advent Begins

Thursday December 16 at 6 pm Las Posadas

Monday December 20 at 7pm "Blue Christmas" Service (at First Presbyterian Church)

Friday December 24th at 5pm Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday December 26th at 10am Carols and Cocoa

Please read the rest of this page for MORE details about each of these worship opportunities!



Join us on Sunday mornings through the Advent season as we journey through the world of Narnia.

We are using C.S. Lewis' book "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe".

Each week we will meet a new character and see how Lewis' writing mirrors the story of God through Christ at work in the world!

Worship begins at 10am

Las Posadas is a celebration and reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. HUP sponsors this service each year, and FCC is honored to be the hosting site for the worship service part of the evening!



This celebration is on **Thursday December 16th at 6pm** it begins here at **First Christian** and then there is a procession through town to the Methodist church for dinner and more celebrations- music, dancing, storytelling and more!

"Blue Christmas" is a service of remembrance that not everything about this season is "merry and bright"

The Perry Ministerial Association is offering this time of worship to the community on Monday December 20th at 7pm. The service will be held at First Presbyterian Church. Please contact Pastor Andrea if you would like to go to this service but need a ride or do not want to go alone.



Christmas Sunday December 26th

We will have worship the day after Christmas at 10am!

We will sing carols, have cocoa, and tell stories of how God's love has been made visible to us this Christmas season(or Christmases past)!

Maybe if the weather isn't TOO cold we can go caroling outside around the neighborhood!

Christmas Eve December 24th at 5pm
Join us on Friday December 24th for Christmas Eve worship. We will sing familiar carols, hear the Christmas story, and rejoice in the coming of the Christ Child! God's love made visible in the world!



VOLUNTEER AND GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



Check out the many different ways to connect at FCC

**ARE "U" WHAT IS MISSING
IN OUR
VOLUNTEER TEAM?**



The Mitten Tree is set up in the Narthex. We will be collecting hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and underwear until the end of December! Bring your items with you to worship on Sunday!

Christmas Special Offering

THE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING IS RECEIVED EVERY DECEMBER AND STAYS WITHIN THE UPPER MIDWEST REGION TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF THE REGION

**IMAGINE
God's Love
REVEALED**

**2021
Christmas
Offering**

A special day offering of Disciples Mission Fund supporting the ministries of our Region

Support your regional ministries with the 2021 Christmas Offering!

Join together to:
 Ordain, Commission, and Install Pastors
 Support congregations in search, conflict, or disaster recovery
 Nurture children and youth through the camping program
 Provide grants for new churches and ministries
 Reveal God's Love throughout our region!



Clothes Closet Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers like you to help make the Clothes Closet run smoothly!

The Clothes Closet is open on Saturdays from 8am-Noon

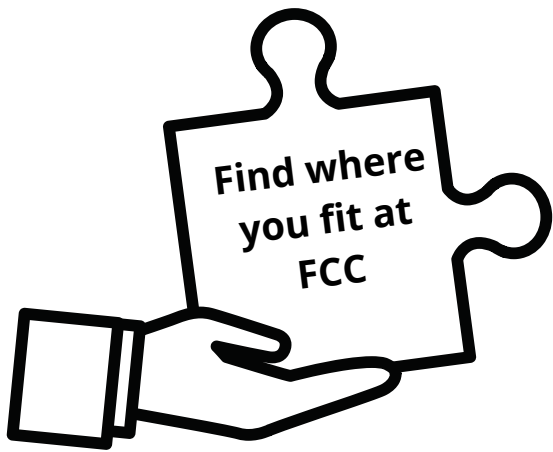
Contact the church office if you have questions or would like to let us know when/how you can help!

Help the Food Pantry!

The Food Pantry is always taking donations of nonperishable food items, as well as cash donations to purchase eggs, meat, and other perishable items. You can drop your donations off in the grocery cart in the Narthex on Sunday morning or when the church office is open Monday-Thursday 1-3:30pm

The Food Pantry is in need of the following items:

- SOUPS OTHER THAN TOMATO, MUSHROOM & CHICKEN NOODLE
 - KETCHUP, MUSTARD, MAYO, RELISH, SALAD DRESSING
 - BAGS of RICE or BLACK BEANS
 - BOXES OF CEREAL
- Please make sure that all products are within the "Best Used By" date. The Pantry cannot distribute expired products.



Would you like to help in worship on Sunday mornings?

Pastor Andrea is looking for help with Sunday morning worship.

Ways to help in worship:

1. Reading Scripture and leading the Call to Worship
2. Sharing a children's moment
3. Helping with the soundboard and video
4. Preparing Communion
5. Sharing Special Music



WE ARE SINGING IN WORSHIP
AGAIN, OCACSIONALLY!
FOR NOW WE WILL BE SINGING ON
THE SUNDAYS THAT DONNA IS ABLE
TO BE WORSHIP WITH US! WE HOPE
YOU WILL JOIN US IN MAKING A
JOYFUL NOISE AGAIN!

There will **NOT** be 2nd
Thursday in December
we will meet again
January 13, 2022 at 7pm



**The Christian Education Team is
working on developing some new
programing ideas. Keep checking
back for updates, more details will
be coming soon!**



SATURDAY SMALL GROUP

Coffee and
Conversation

Coffee and Conversation will
not meet in December or
January. We will begin
meeting again February 12,
2022 at 9am

Perry Fine Arts December Concert

The Perry Fine Arts Series will be presenting New Horizons Band on December 12 at 2:30 pm in Perry High School's Performing Arts Center located at 1200 18 th St, Perry, Iowa.

The New Horizons Band in Des Moines is part of an international organization with most of the bands located in the US and Canada. The members of the band are mostly senior citizens who are amateur musicians. They play a variety of musical styles--all instrumental.

Please join us for an afternoon of instrumental music.

Perry Fine Arts concerts are free, donations accepted, and open to all.

The Performing Arts Center is handicapped accessible.

Minister

Rev. Andrea Brownlee
 abrownlaj@gmail.com
 515-259-1982

Minister's Office Hours

Mon-Thurs 10am- 1pm Or By Appointment
 Day off- Friday



First Christian Church
 (Disciples of Christ)

Where you can be yourself.
 No matter where you are on life's journey.
 We invite you to join us as we strive to follow
 Jesus in real and different ways.

1224 Lucinda St. - Perry, Iowa
 (515) 465-2215

www.perryfcc.org 

Office Manager

Betty Thomas
 1stchristianperry@live.com
 515-465-2215

Business Office Hours

Monday- Thursday 1-3:30pm
 Office Closed on Friday

The Chimes

NEWSLETTER OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR
 FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, PERRY, IOWA

FROM THE PASTOR

"GOD'S LOVE MADE VISIBLE"

Grace and Peace to you as we enter the seasons of Advent and Christmas,

This has been another difficult year, there definitely more bright spots than 2020 but it was still a little less "normal" than most of us would have preferred. As we get closer to the end of the 2021 calendar, I have been thinking and reflecting on all the ministry that has taken place this year! Even for all the "different" we did a lot of great things this year! Here are the many ways FCC, Perry made God's love visible in 2021!

Free Clothing Closet, Food and Financial support to the Perry Food Pantry, Helped community members in need Sent youth to camp , Support Perry Chamber Events, Continue to share worship on the radio and online for those who aren't able to join us (for whatever the reason) in person, Week of Compassion disaster relief, Purchased bees and rabbits from Heifer International, participated in Volunteer Day during Homecoming week, help with community Christmas dinner, and many other things I am sure that I am missing. I hope you see even when things "aren't normal" we continue to serve God by serving others. I look forward to the ways we will make God's love visible in 2022!!

Blessings as Christmas approaches,

Pastor Andrea

On a different note I want to share with you in writing as some of you have heard rumblings of conversations happening with the Elders and Council. In the next few months you might be hearing a word that is familiar but also not. That word is "sabbatical".

What Is Sabbatical? In the context of ministry, Sabbatical/Renewal time is for spiritual renewal and growth. It is therefore, personal and individual in nature. Most Sabbatical/Renewal Leaves include study, spiritual retreat and rest.

More details will come in the January newsletter about my upcoming sabbatical. I invite your prayers for me and the Elders as we work together to figure out the details of my time away this Spring/Summer. We will have many conversations between now and then. I hope everyone will see this time as a benefit to all of us. When I am able to care for myself, I am better able to care for you. I invite your questions, concerns and conversations around this sabbatical and my time away. This will be another "new and different" thing we will experience together and I know we will be all the better for it, as we take this journey together!