

Announcements

DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRIES CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON: Thursday, December 13, 11:30 AM. All ladies are invited to attend our Christmas luncheon. The Reverend Kelley Becker will be our guest speaker. We have invited the ladies from First Christian Church Bartlesville to join us. Please make reservations with Jenith Mashek, 918-333-4378, by December 4.

The ladies of **Martha's Task** will visit DCC on Sunday, December 16. They will bring their handmade items for us to look at and purchase. It is a great opportunity to meet and visit with the ladies who are part of this great mission.

Family Christmas Tree: Traditionally, we put up two Christmas trees, one in the sanctuary and one by the main entry in the Fellowship Hall. Both are beautiful! This year, we would like the one in the Fellowship Hall to be a "Family Christmas Tree." Please bring one or two ornaments from your Christmas tree at home and hang them on the Fellowship Hall tree. We hope this tree will encourage us to share Christmas memories and stories with one another. The tree will be ready to receive your ornaments on Tuesday, November 20th-Christmas Eve!

Advent Devotional: Phillips Theological Seminary has published an Advent Devotional again this year. It is available FREE online through their website. Here is the link: <http://ptstulsa.edu/userPDFs/Communications/Phillips%20Advent%202018%20Devotional.pdf>

The authors are faculty, staff, and a few alumni from the seminary. You will recognize at least one of the authors. 😊 If you would like a printed copy, and need some help with that, please let Dianne know and she will help.

Christmas Poinsettias: The Worship Team would like your help in enhancing the sanctuary with live Poinsettias during the Advent Season. You can purchase a flower for \$25.00 through the church as a memorial or in honor of someone you love. Place your check or cash in the offering marked Poinsettias. It will be enjoyed by the congregation during the Advent services and then it is yours to take home after the Christmas Eve service to enjoy for the Christmas season. Thank you for helping to make the sanctuary beautiful!

Board Members: Save-the-Date: Saturday, January 5th, 9am-3pm, will be our Board Retreat. All **Board members** are asked to block out this time for instruction, planning, and team-building.





Disciples Christian Church

Core Values

- Hospitality
- Spiritual Growth
- Justice through Service

November 25, 2018

*Please rise as you are able

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Drawing Nearer
Christopher Grundy

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Gordon Welch

One: A long journey, unexpected events, things we cannot control...

Many: How far are we prepared to go to make room for something new?

One: So much to do, not enough time, let's just get through it...

Many: Will we be burdened by responsibilities and tasks?

One: There has to be more to the holidays than what has been...

Many: Will we follow a deep longing, the hint of an alternative pathway, the words and music of the gathered community?

One: Advent awaits us. Let us begin the journey together.

Many: May we find in familiar words and traditions something new ahead of us.

*OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Chalice Hymnal 119 v 1,2

MEANING OF THE SERVICE

Rhonda Hudson

The hanging of the greens service draws our attention to the symbols of Advent and Christmas, reminds us of their meaning, and causes us to pause, if only for a few minutes, to reflect on the journey ahead and how we might make room for something new, something unexpected.

There is a lot to do on this journey...presents to buy and wrap, cookies to bake, homes to adorn, parties to host, and carols to sing. But, this morning, we pause to notice the decorations that make this season beautiful and we notice the people who make our lives beautiful. Happy Advent. You are welcome here.

SONG

Deck the Halls

on screen

Those Who Serve

Senior Minister: Rev. Kelley L. Becker

Director of Youth Ministries: Josh Linton

Music Director: Marilou Bork

Administrative Assistant: Dianne Crow

Pianist: Brenda Lewis

Guest Musicians: Tim Hudson and Scott Taylor

Elders: Mike Bouvier, Gary Downey, Adele Moore

Deacons: Jim and Lynne Shaw

Lay Leader: Gordon Welch

Nursery: Erica Hurd

Sound: Kevin Bennett, Patrick Johnson

Our Ministry Together

Sunday, November 25

Hanging of the Greens

- 9:00 AM Sunday School
- 10:15 AM Worship

Monday, November 26

- 1:00 PM Prayer Group

Wednesday, November 28

- 6:00 PM Choir Practice
(childcare provided)

Sunday, December 2

First Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 AM Sunday School
- 10:15 AM Worship
- 11:30 AM Board Meeting
- 4:30 PM Jr High Youth
- 5:30 PM Youth Dinner
- 6:15 PM Sr High Youth

A Note to Parents:

PRAY-ground: In the northeast corner of the sanctuary, we have an area rug and some quiet toys for young children. The PRAY-ground is designed for families who may not be ready to use the nursery or who prefer to keep their children in the sanctuary with them. Please use this area as you desire.

There is also symbolism in the colors of the candles in the Advent wreath. The three purple candles symbolize Jesus' family of origin, the royal line of David. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent and symbolizes joy. It is sometimes called "Mary's candle."

HYMN

One Candle is Lit

on screen

Come surely Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
our hearts long to greet you, as roses the light.
Christ Jesus draw near us, our vision engage.
Each candle is lit as we wait, as we pray.

LEGEND OF THE POINSETTIAS

Jamie Bennett

In the past two hundred years, a new element has found its place in our Christmas celebration. This tradition comes to us from our neighbors in Mexico. In the very early part of the 19th century, an American who served the United States as an ambassador, spent a tour of duty in Mexico. He admired the dramatic beauty of the bright red poinsettia that grew rooftop high and bloomed profusely at Christmas. He was awed when Mexican Christians told him why the bright red poinsettias were a part of their celebrations of the birth and life of Jesus Christ.

There is an old Mexican legend about how poinsettias and Christmas come together; it goes like this: There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve service. As Pepita walked sadly to the chapel, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up. 'Pepita', he said "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him, will make Jesus happy."

Pepita didn't know what she could give, so she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them was sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena', or 'Flowers of the Holy Night'.

HYMN

Santo, Santo, Santo

Chalice Hymnal #111

EVERGREENS

Allyson Crow

The most striking and most universal Christmas decorating tradition is the use of evergreens in churches and homes. Among ancient Romans, evergreens were an emblem of peace, joy, and victory. The early Christians placed them in their

windows to indicate Christ had entered the home. Holly and ivy, along with pine and fir are called evergreens because they never change color. They are ever – green, ever – alive, even in the midst of winter. They symbolize the unchanging nature of God and the promise that we are never out of reach of God's love. Our forefathers called the procuring of these evergreens, "Bringing home Christmas!"

CHRISTIAN CHRISTMAS TREE AND CHRISMON ORNAMENTS

Rev. Dr. Rob Crawford

The Christmas tree, like other evergreens, is a symbol of peace and eternal life. The lights of the tree represent God's presence in the world. The ornaments on the tree are called Chrismons. The word Chrismon is a conflation of the words Christ and monogram. The ornaments are Christian symbols and vary from one Christian community to the next.

Chrismons are always white and gold, symbolizing the innocence and magnificence of Christ. Although Chrismons have been used in the United States since 1957, many symbols of Christianity have been handed down through the ages. Early Christians often worshipped in secret to avoid persecution. They developed certain symbols that were used to communicate with other believers and direct Christians to secret places of worship. Symbols that signified the believers' faith often adorned doors and buildings and were included on items such as jewelry and household utensils.

We have quite a variety of Chrismons on our tree. There are bells symbolizing the sounding forth of God's word. There are Chrismons with a chalice and wheat on them. These ornaments remind us of the wine and bread used for communion. And there are Chrismons with shepherds' hooks reminding us that Jesus is sometimes called the "Good Shepherd" because he taught about God's love and care for all people. God cares for us as a shepherd cares for the sheep. There are also Chrismons with an image of a Bible on them. The Bible contains stories, songs, and poems which reflect the ways in which our faith ancestors have understood God and God's interaction with human beings. There are many more symbols on the tree. You are invited to look closely at all of them. They tell quite a story!

CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Roslin Johnson

Long before the celebration of Christmas, candles were used to signify the light of Christ in the world. In medieval times there was a legend which said, on Christmas Eve, the Christ child wandered throughout the world looking for places where he would be welcomed. Those who loved him, hoping that he might find their homes, placed lighted candles in the window to invite him in.