



**Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:15 am**



**December, 2022**



Emanuel is a term that gets used in church a lot during the month of December. We sing songs like “Oh come, oh come Emanuel.” We spend time in prayer and reflection, directing our attention to the coming birth of Jesus. We even talk about incarnation, about God coming to be with us, which is, after all, the meaning of the word Emanuel: “God is with us.” But I don’t think we always register the implications of that belief. Maybe it’s because the idea is rooted in mystery: that God would make our cause God’s cause and would come to be with us in the midst of our lives. Whatever it is about this belief, we don’t always live like it’s true.

For a lot of Christians, everything is about the afterlife: what comes after we die. We spend our lives trying to be good so that we can get to heaven after we die. This creation, is seen as something we need to escape. It is, after all, so full of sin. But that’s not really the message of the Gospels. And the idea of the incarnation, of “Emanuel,” ought to direct us to a different understanding of what we are living for. After all, the story is not that God has abandoned

creation, but rather, that God has decided to come and be a part of it. As Eugene Peterson puts it in his Message translation: “The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.” (John 1, MSG)

At this time of year, when we are all turning our attention to the coming birth of Jesus, Emanuel, “God is with us,” we ought to stop and wonder where our focus is. If God is with us, then why wouldn’t we live as though this life, this place, is where we will meet God? And indeed, in scripture we hear testimony again and again about God being present here and now.

It begins with the creation story in Genesis 1, where God hovers about the waters of the earth and breathes life into all that is. In Psalm 24 we read “The earth is the LORD’s and all that is in it.” In Isaiah 6, the heavenly beings that surround the throne of God chant “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.” Jesus even extends this to humanity itself when he directs us in Matthew 25 to see his image in the face of those who are hungry, naked, and in prison.

This time of year, as we turn our attention to the coming of Christ into our world, let us remember that escaping this life isn’t the goal. Instead, we are called to recognize the gift of this life, and to seek the presence of God here and now. Where do you see it? In the beautiful changing of the seasons? In the presence of family and neighbors during this time of holiday festivities? What about in the face of those beckoning us to serve: the hungry, the sick, those in need of housing? Christmas calls us to remember that God has come near. It reminds us of Emanuel: “God is with us.”

Blessings,  
Rev. Andrew Guthrie



[Calendar | First Christian Church \(fcclaf.org\)](http://fcclaf.org)

### **ADVENT SCHEDULE**

Sunday, December 18 --- Christmas Cantata, 10:15 am  
Wednesday, December 21 --- Longest Night Service, 7:00 pm (Chapel)  
Saturday, December 24 --- Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 pm  
Sunday, December 25 --- Worship Service, 10:15 am

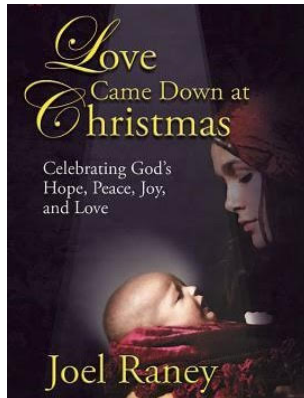
**The church office will be closed Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, in observance of the Christmas holiday.**

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### **PUB THEOLOGY**

We'll be meeting for **Pub Theology** this coming

**Thursday, December 1st at 7pm at Lafayette Brewing Company.** We'll be discussing reconciliation a bit more in depth as Andrew continues to teach about his trip to Northern Ireland.



### **CHRISTMAS CANTATA**

**Sunday, December 18, 10:15 am**

Join us and invite a friend for a unified worship service featuring choir, soloists, instruments, and dramatic narration, proclaiming the timeless story of Christ's coming!

Love is the central theme of the season, creatively illustrated in this compelling cantata highlighting the four Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and especially love. A tapestry of original and familiar melodies, diverse musical styles, and engaging accompaniments combine to ensure a rich and meaningful holiday worship experience.

### **LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE**

**Wednesday, December 21, 7:00 pm in the Chapel**

The name of the Longest Night service comes from the season – December 21st marks the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. But the name, “Longest Night”, also describes the feeling many of us have during this season. The long, dark winter nights, memories of past experiences and situations can become overwhelming. Job loss, health issues, the end of a relationship, the death of a loved one, all of these things can turn this season into a time of pain with a magnified sense of loss. In this service, we invite you to listen. We invite you to pray. We invite you to sing. We invite you to meditate upon the pain and anguish you may bring - and we invite you to offer your pain to the Christ Child. And we trust that you will find hope and comfort in knowing you are not alone.

**Invite someone who may not be feeling the joy of the holiday season due to hardship, disappointment or grief.**



### **JUBILEE CHRISTMAS**

Jubilee Christmas is on Saturday, December 10, 2022,



from Noon to 4:00 pm. First Christian will host 25 families. We will provide toys, games, and a stocking filled with goodies for children twelve and under and gift cards for teens. A basket filled with food and household necessities as well as a gift card for a ham or turkey will also be given to each family.

**Volunteers are still needed for:**

- **Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am** we will be packing the family cookie tins in the kitchen.
- **Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:00am** we will be carrying the toys and family gifts down to the basement.

I have contacted our families and volunteers to give them the final details and instructions for December 10<sup>th</sup>.

THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS OF TOYS, COOKIES FOOD, AND MONEY! YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS WILL HELP MAKE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL FOR SOME OF LAFAYETTE'S FAMILIES! Gaye Hilgediek, 586-8445

**BROWN BAGS LUNCHES FOR LUM**

**Volunteers and donations are needed to put together 40 lunch bags for LUM's Winter Warming Station & Annex Day Shelter on December 14th at 10am in Fellowship Hall.** Contact Michelle at 765-490-9297 with any questions.

**Donations of 40 of each of the following items are needed for the brown bags by December 10<sup>th</sup>:**

Tuna/chicken salad packs (with spoon included), Pudding or fruit cups, Drink packs such as Capri Sun (any brand), Chapstick, Individual packs of chips or crackers, Individual hand wipes, Individual packs of cookies



**SOCKS & UNDIES FOR WOMEN'S SHELTER**

**Ruth Circle is requesting donations of women's and children's socks and underwear** for the Women's Shelter. Please place donations in the basket in the Gathering Place by **Sunday, December 18**. Thank you for your generosity.

**MITTEN TREE**

**Mittens/gloves, scarves, socks, and underwear are being collected for children in the Lafayette School Corporation.** Please place your donations on the mitten tree in the Narthex. Items will be collected through December 18 and delivered to the school nurses to be distributed to those in need.



**DISCIPLES MISSION FUND CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

**The Christmas Special Day offering will be collected on December 11 and December 18.** This offering supports regions in their mission to extend the ministry of Christ. Regional ministries provide pastoral care and enrichment programs in 32 areas of the United States and Canada. Regions are often known

for their camp and conference programs, as well as the development and ordination of ministry candidates. All gifts made to the Christmas Special Day Offering support the region in which they're given. There are special day



offering envelopes in the Narthex, or please indicate on your check that it is for the Christmas offering.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO WORK AT  
FOOD FINDERS FRESH MARKET**  
Four volunteers are needed to work at  
Fresh Market on Friday, December 23rd  
from 11:45am-2:30pm.

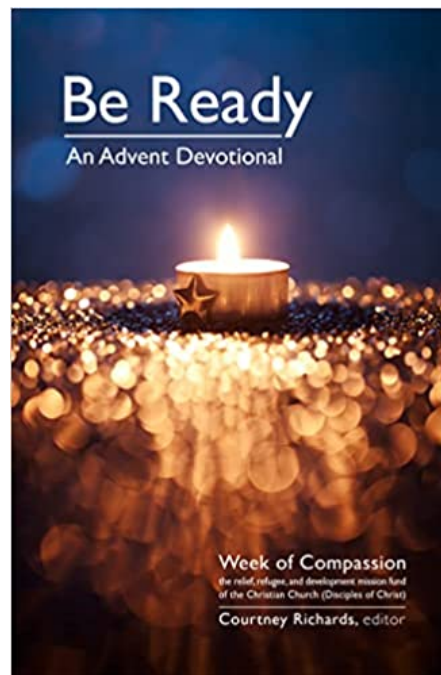


We are going to share a meal at **Arni's** at 11am prior to working at Fresh Market. **Everyone is welcome to join us even if you aren't working at Fresh Market.** Please contact the church office to sign up for lunch so I know how many are coming. Michelle



#### **ADVENT DEVOTIONAL**

November 27th marked the first Sunday in Advent. Advent is the Christian church's season of waiting, watching, preparation and readiness. Advent helps us prepare our hearts, homes, and spirits to the joyous heart of our faith: the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, at Christmas. As part of our preparation, the devotional book, **Be Ready**, is being made available to the congregation. Copies may be found in the Narthex and in the Gathering Place. Pick up one for yourself and for a friend. If you would like one mailed to you, contact June at 742-4058.



## November 10, 2022

The Executive Board of First Christian Church – Lafayette, met Thursday evening, November 10, 2022, in rooms 203/204 of the Education Building at First Christian Church. The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm and a Quorum was established by Cindy Garvey, Parliamentarian. Board Chr. Dave Kelsey offered an opening prayer.

The following persons were in attendance: Dave Kelsey, Steve Henry, Cindy Garvey, Mike and Susie Nelson, Mike Rubesch, Dan Hilgediek, Carolyn Kanehe, Pastor Andrew Guthrie and Norman Long.

The agenda was then focused on the following discussion and related topics:

- Governance & Ministry Update
  - Values & Mission – Pastor Guthrie distributed a printed handout for discussion with a focus on the Mission and Vision for First Christian Church – Lafayette. The board members then reviewed and discussed this statement: “We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord’s Table as God has welcomed us. It is our vision to be a faithful, growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice. And it is our mission to be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps “to the ends of the earth.”

- Indiana Landmarks Meeting. (Indiana’s largest Historical, not for profit organization devoted to preserving church facilities.) (Funded by Lilly Endowment)

§ The initial introductory meeting was attended by: Steve Henry, Dan Hilgediek, Don Lindstrom, Dave Kelsey, and Pastor Andrew Guthrie.

§ They have more than 30 years of experience and have worked with many many church congregations.

§ There will be four training sessions in Indianapolis during February & March and in May & June 2023.

§ Their program comes with a series of grants at \$8500 & will be doubled in 2023.

§ Competitive additional grants as seed money to begin needed conversion expenses will be available for at least \$25,000 and will be doubled.

§ Each selected church congregation will be entitled to send four leaders and the senior minister to the 2023 training.

§ The purpose will be to provide a vision as to what could be achieved, then tools to undertake the conversion.

§ Training will open ideas and suggest tools for implementing the plan developed by the respective congregation.

§ Only 10 Indiana churches will be invited to participate, to learn and to share stories/ideas.

- November 13, 2022, Congregational Lunch and Landmark meeting.

§ Introduction to the Landmark opportunities with Power Point slides and a panel of attendees.

§ Small group discussions at tables in Fellowship Hall following a noon lunch.

§ Conversations then to be focused around how these four topics work as values at First Christian Church: Generosity, Compassion, Stewardship, and Tradition. And who are we at First Christian Church and what is important as we plan and go forward?

- Regional Assembly. Pastor Guthrie reported on his experiences attending our Regional Assembly held at Geist Christian Church in Indianapolis. More than three hundred were in attendance. The minister from The Light of the World (Indiana’s largest Disciple of Christ Church) spoke before the afternoon

session with an inspiring message. There were not any resolutions before the delegates and the normal elections were conducted. Our General Assembly will be held in Louisville, KY next July 29-August 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Committee updates.
    - Stewardship & Finance will conduct a congregational meeting following the worship service on November 13, 2022 to act on the 2023 budget for First Christian Church – Lafayette.
    - Property – Dave Kelsey reported the outside wall and down spouting on the sanctuary building along with the plastering and painting have been completed to repair the moisture invasion.
    - Personnel – Dan Hilgediek reported on a meeting with Michelle Schluttenhofer to finalize the transition of work responsibilities in her final weeks of employment. June Jenkins will be assuming most of the responsibilities.
    - Trustees – Dan Hilgediek reported on a planned meeting in December with representatives from Purdue Federal Credit Union regarding the investments for our church.
    - Worship – Carolyn Kanehe reported decorating of the sanctuary for the holidays would begin on November 21, 2022 at noon and would continue until about 7:00pm.
  - Next meeting date: Thursday December 15, 2022, at 6:00pm in rooms 203/204 at First Christian Church – Education Building.  
Being no other business to transact at this time, the meeting was closed at 7:50pm with prayer led by Pastor Andrew Guthrie.  
Respectfully recorded and submitted by: Norman D. Long, Secretary
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## **First Christian Church – Lafayette**

### **Congregational Meeting**

**November 13, 2022**

The Congregational Meeting for First Christian Church – Lafayette was called to order in the church sanctuary at 11:30am, November 13, 2022, by Board Chr. Dave Kelsey. There were twenty-nine people in attendance and more on the internet.

The primary purpose of this meeting was to learn about and to vote on the proposed 2022-2023 church budget that had been reviewed and approved by the Executive Board. A copy of the proposed budget follows:

	First Christian Church Proposed 2023 Budget
	Income
	2022 Budget
	2023 Budget
Contributions	
Contribution Pledges	\$260,000.00
	\$245,495.00
Contributions Plate	
	\$500.00
	\$1,353.00
Contribution Church School	
Contribution Contingent	\$300.00
Contributions Initial Offering	
	\$30.00
Contributions Visitor	
	\$30.00
Foundation Trust Income	
	\$84,000.00
	\$74,000.00

Beachy Trust Income	\$6,400.00
Total Contributions	\$344,860.00
	\$327,248.00
Investment Income	\$1,000.00
Total Income	\$345,860.00
	\$327,248.00

First Christian Church  
Proposed 2023 Budget  
Expenses  
2022 Budget  
2023 Budget

Discipleship	\$10,000.00
	\$7,500.00
Worship	\$9,500.00
	\$7,500.00
Youth	\$1,000.00
	\$1,000.00
Young Adults	\$300.00
	\$300.00
Education	\$1,500.00
	\$1,500.00
Disciples Mission	\$18,000.00
	\$15,500.00
Missions Community	\$7,794.00
	\$7,750.00
Missions Other	\$7,794.00
	\$7,750.00
Technical Arts	\$1,000.00
	\$3,000.00
Personnel	\$203,734.00
	\$170,153.00
Administration	\$30,000.00
	\$25,000.00
Property	\$130,050.00
	\$135,050.00
Elders	\$150.00
	\$150.00
Contingency	\$5,000.00
	\$5,000.00
Future of FCC	\$20,000.00
Grant for Future of FCC	(\$10,000.00)
Total Expense	



Income Less Expense

\$425,822.00

\$397,153.00

(\$79,962.00)

(\$69,905.00)

Following a presentation of the proposed 2022-2023 Budget, Chr. Dave Kelsey asked questions and comments from the audience. He then made a motion on behalf of the Executive Committee to approve the budget as presented and called for a vote by show of hands. Parliamentarian, Cindy Garvey reported that the vote was twenty-nine in favor and no objections. Motion passed unanimously.

Being no further business to transact the meeting was adjourned at 11:40am to a church lunch in Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully submitted by:

Norman D. Long, Secretary.



**You may email prayer requests to [prayer@fcclaf.org](mailto:prayer@fcclaf.org)  
or call the church office at 765-742-4058  
Congregational requests will remain on the list for two weeks  
unless otherwise requested.**

**NURSING HOME/HOMEBOUND**

Charlene Bowman - Mulberry  
Sally Brunger - Glasswater Creek  
Joyce Bryant - Home  
Marylou Curtis - Westminster  
Sue England - Majestic Care  
Joyce Hamilton - Five Star  
Residence  
Barbara Harvey - Cumberland  
Pointe  
Vernetta Lynn - Aster Place  
Nell Merimee - Westminster  
Mary & Nelson Mosson -  
Westminster  
Pat Nelson - Wickshire  
Flo Peters  
June Petit - daughter's home  
Wanda Sharp - Indianapolis

**SERVING IN THE MILITARY**

Alexis Bradshaw - Navy  
Chad Ellsworth - Air Force  
James Sanders - Army

**CONGREGATIONAL REQUESTS**

Sue Dismore - cancer  
Mary Thomas - cancer  
Rex Russell (C. Long's brother) - cancer  
Carol Guthrie (Amanda's aunt) - cancer  
Harry Martin - cancer  
Moin (Mary Begum's son) - cancer  
Sara Armstrong (Steve K's niece) -cancer  
Larry Sturgeon - cancer  
Kathy Stirlen - back problems  
Sturgeon's son-in-law  
Dick Ellsworth - soreness from car  
accident with deer



**A Gift from Kathy.** Kathy Stirlen has created some beautiful Christmas artwork that she would like to present to the congregation as a gift. Her cards will be available on Christmas Eve on the small bookshelf in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one. Thank you to Kathy for sharing her talent with us.



**Christmas Cards.** There is a table in the hallway by the Gathering Place for members of the congregation to share Christmas cards. You may bring your cards from now until Christmas. Please remember to check each week and pick up cards left for you or deliver to a neighbor who cannot be here.

**Love Offering.** The staff at First Christian Church each do a lot for us and our congregation. Christmas is a wonderful time to recognize their efforts and to thank them for all they do. If you would like to show your appreciation by contributing to a staff love gift, now is the time. You can mail or drop off a check at the church at 329 N. 6th St., Lafayette 47901, or place it in the offering plate. Please indicate "staff love gift" in the memo section of your check. The total proceeds will be distributed among the staff. You may contact the church Monday through Friday from 9am to 3pm at 765-742-4058 with any questions. Thank you. Dave Kelsey, Board Chair.

**Thank you.** A "big shout out" to all of the very "creative", "energetic" and "willing to do whatever was needed" people, who helped decorate our church for the Advent season. Twenty-six of us enjoyed the fellowship of being together. It was a wonderful day. Thank you! Carolyn Kanehe

**Thank You from LUM:** Thanksgiving at LUM is about restoring hope — and the LUM Community Thanksgiving Feast makes it happen. The "feast" is just winding down at Central Presbyterian Church in downtown Lafayette, IN, and it was a special event. For the first time since 2019 (pre-COVID), guests were able to eat their holiday meal together — restoring hope for all of us. LUM is grateful to Central Presbyterian Church for use of their facilities.

Additional information and acknowledgements include the following:

- *Food donations:* Chick-fil-A, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, **First Christian Church**, Great Harvest Bread Company, Lafayette Brewing Co., Jane's Gourmet Deli, La Scala, Oliverio's Southland Restaurant, Phoenix Paramedics Solutions, Purdue Federal Credit Union, Smitty Bread, and St. John's Episcopal Church, St. Thomas Aquinas Center plus dozens of individuals.
- *Table decorations and placemats* were created by the students enrolled at the LUM After School Program, Creekside Growers, St. Boniface Elementary, St. Mary Cathedral Elementary School, and West Lafayette

Elementary School.

- *The Crew:* Thanks to Josh Prokopy, who directed the event; Nina Morgan, who headed up the kitchen crew; Terri Anderson for working with the volunteers, Jackie Gracer for managing the dining room; and Wes Tillett for emceeing and hosting the event.

It was a joyous community event and a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday celebration for all.

**PODCAST:** We're trying something new at church: a podcast! If you're unfamiliar with what a podcast is, just think about a radio program, only you access it on the internet.

This month Pastor Andrew sat down with Michelle Schluttenhofer. Michelle, who has served as the director of



Congregational Ministries at First Christian Church for some time is wrapping up her ministry with us at the end of the year. We spoke about her time at the church, how she got involved, what her plans are going forward, and what she hopes for First Christian Church in the future. We hope you'll enjoy this episode, and **we hope you'll come and be a part of a celebration on January 8th in honor of Michelle.**

If you'd like to hear more, visit [fcclaf.org/fccpodcast](https://fcclaf.org/fccpodcast), or you can point your cell phone camera at the QR code, and it will take you there.



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**The staff of First Christian Church wishes you and your family a blessed Christmas!**



