

Prayer Concerns

Requests are left for 3 months, **the start date, month and year, is listed at the end of request.** Please notify the office of updates.

Our country and those serving in the military, those adjusting after service
Kevin Farrar—Breathing issues due to RA, RA flare-ups
His House Ministries
Kenn Filkins—Serious health issues
Jeannine Kelly (Therese Boucha's mother) - Parkinson's Disease 3/18
Ron Atkins (Pam Postma's brother) - Cancer treatment is working, no growth! Continuing treatments 9/18
Linda Gades (Nancy Earl-Wojo's sister) - Metastasized cancer, on Hospice care now, prayers also for her daughter's family, who is caring for her 11/18
Brenda Brown—Health issues, that doctors would figure out how to help her 6/18
Therese Boucha—New treatment begun. Continued prayers for healing. 9/18
Gary Ferns (Mary Armstrong's bro) - Tumors are dying! Continued prayers please! 11/18
Trudy Ranta—Melanoma now in her brain, in LTC at WMIH 11/18
Evelyn Henry, Terry Lawson, Lee Lawson, and Patty Jones—Family issues 8/18
Jennifer Veum—Tumors shrinking with chemo, having monthly infusions & PT 11/18
Rachael Jones (the Henry's granddaughter) - Strength to stay drug and alcohol free and turn to God, trying to get her children back 8/18
Joanne Arbic (Anne Abbott's sister) - Stent placement successful, prayers for improvement in health 10/18
Tanya Moore (Phyllis Miller)—Cancerous brain tumor removed, to Detroit for chemo 9/18
Leslie Belleau (Judy Vert) - Pancreatic cancer, starting radiation 10/18
Barb Farrar—High muscle enzymes, testing for muscle diseases 10/18
Gary Matheny (Dave's brother) - Diagnosed with stage 4 kidney cancer which is preventing a needed lung transplant, may need kidney transplant first 11/18
Rob Ward (Pam Lahti) - Going through a difficult time 11/18
Odin Eitrem—On list for a kidney transplant 11/18
Carol Garlinghouse (Swick) - Breast cancer, treatment starting soon in Florida 11/18
Gail Williams—Kidney problems 11/18
Caleb, Dianne Baker's grandson—Had a biopsy last week which showed cancer, started chemo last week 11/18
AJ Rogers (Marion Rogers) - Health concerns 11/18
Kate (Mike Willett's grand niece) - Prayer for healing from brain surgery 12/18
Dale Brown (Wilma's son, Bob's brother) - In TC for 2nd, more serious, neck surgery Monday. In hospital for 4 days. Prayers for success and complete healing 12/18

If you would like a visit from an elder or one of the ministers, please call the church office at 632-6511.

Welcome to First Church of Christ! Announcements for December 9, 2018

Today:

Sunday School—9:00 am
Worship Service—10:00 am
Kid's Church—10:30 am
Mid & Hi School Youth Group—6:00 pm

Wednesday:

Worship Team Practice—5:45 pm



FCOC Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be December 24th at 6:00 p.m.



Volunteers are needed to shovel and salt the walkways before the 9:00 a.m. Sunday School hour each week! Please pick a date and sign up in the lobby. Shovels will be outside by the front door. Thank you!



Upcoming event! We are planning a time of Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 9th! We will meet at the church at 2:45 to carpool to the assisted living homes to sing and encourage the residents. Plan to join the fun and fellowship with your church family!



Ladies Prayer and Bible Study meets Thursdays at 10:00 am at FCOC All ladies invited! We are studying "Leading a Life of Balance"



His House Christian Fellowship meets on Thursdays at 8:00 pm at the Crow's Nest at LSSU! Our LSSU Staff: Matt Monroe, Jessy Stark, and Adam Steinhauer.



We need bakers! FCOC provides treats for His House meetings! If you can help, please sign up at the News Table! The students really appreciate your baking skills!

Thank You!

Thanks to Nancy McLeod for decorating the lovely bulletin boards in the lobby, the Metrish Family for donating the beautiful trees in the lobby, and Marion Rogers for the trees by the entrance!
The huge poinsettia is a gift from Elaine Mincks and Carol Wabeke, daughters of the late Russ and Dede Shobbrook, in memory of their parents.

PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN:

There are "Quiet Books" in a basket by the AV room door in the lobby.

**Nursery at 9:00 and 10:00, located off the lobby.
10:00 Service —This week: Corbiere Next week: LeBlanc
Children: Education Classes—9:00 am Jr. Church—10:30 am
Downstairs and straight through. See above schedule for Family Sundays.**

The holidays are coming quickly! We are collecting food items for our

Christmas Baskets for those in need.



Please sign up to donate food for these meals at the **News Table** in the lobby. **Items due by December 23rd by 9:00 before Sunday School so the children can pack the boxes!**



Youth Christmas Party at Zack's!

(610 Spruce Street)
December 23rd at 6:00 pm

Come over to Zack and Rachel's for great food and game time! Bring a friend and join the fun!!



Meijer Simply Give is still available until December 29, 2018!

At the "Simply Give" display by the Welcome Table in the lobby there are information cards. Grab a card and take to our local Meijer store, where you can purchase a food card for \$10, which will go directly to our food pantry. **Meijer matches all donations! Double Match Day is December 7th!**

See Bob or Marie Smith or Teresa Pietrangelo for more info.

Ardis Bruno's 100th birthday is January 7th



Please see the display by the office window, sign a card, and place it in the basket. We will surprise Ardis with her FCOC church family's birthday wishes!



We are also invited to an open house for Ardis at Freighterview Assisted Living on January 6th from 1:30 to 3:30.

Mission of the Month Christmas Food Baskets

Needed: Food items for Christmas dinner for those in need.
Please place donations in the tub in the office.
Food donations due by December 23rd.

Matthew: The World as it is

Matthew 1-2
Second in the series *Awaiting the Already:*
An Advent Journey through the Gospels

"It's the most wonderful time of the year!" So Andy Williams croons. Many Christmas songs make us feel warm and mushy. But others are laced with sadness.

"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"

"I'll be Home for Christmas"

"Blue Christmas"

"Christmas Shoes"

Even "Frosty the Snowman!"

We may sugar-coat our Christmas cookies and our Christmas celebrations, but "Joy to the World" does not fit well in a world whose problems do not go away just because December 25 is coming.

Mathew's gospel looks at the story of Jesus' birth with the gritty sense of danger and chaos that swirled around it. He prepares us for Jesus, who is already here, by portraying the world as it really is.

1. Joseph's problem

2. Herod's paranoia

3. God's presence

Matthew does not paint the beautiful pastoral scene or the silent night we think Christmas deserves. Instead, Jesus entered the world as it was. Today he enters our world as it is. Remember: He is Emmanuel; God with us!
