

First Christian *Caller*

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge

Vol. 85

December 2023

No. 12



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Lectionary Readings: December 1-31, 2023

Friday, December 1, 2023: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Zechariah 14:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18
Saturday, December 2, 2023: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Micah 2:1-13; Matthew 24:15-31
Sunday, December 3, 2023: First Sunday of Advent
Monday, December 4, 2023: Psalm 79; Micah 4:1-5; Revelation 15:1-8
Tuesday, December 5, 2023: Psalm 79; Micah 4:6-13; Revelation 18:1-10
Wednesday, December 6, 2023: Psalm 79; Micah 5:1-5a; Luke 21:34-38
Thursday, December 7, 2023: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Hosea 6:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10
Friday, December 8, 2023: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 11:19-26
Saturday, December 9, 2023: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Ezekiel 36:24-28; Mark 11:27-33
Sunday, December 10, 2023: Second Sunday of Advent
Monday, December 11, 2023: Psalm 27; Isaiah 26:7-15; Acts 2:37-42
Tuesday, December 12, 2023: Psalm 27; Isaiah 4:2-6; Acts 11:1-18
Wednesday, December 13, 2023: Psalm 27; Malachi 2:10-3:1; Luke 1:5-17
Thursday, December 14, 2023: Psalm 126; Habakkuk 2:1-5; Philippians 3:7-11
Friday, December 15, 2023: Psalm 126; Habakkuk 3:2-6; Philippians 3:12-16
Saturday, December 16, 2023: Psalm 126; Habakkuk 3:13-19; Matthew 21:28-32
Sunday, December 17, 2023: Third Sunday of Advent
Monday, December 18, 2023: Psalm 125; 1 Kings 18:1-18; Ephesians 6:10-17
Tuesday, December 19, 2023: Psalm 125; 2 Kings 2:9-22; Acts 3:17-4:4
Wednesday, December 20, 2023: Psalm 125; Malachi 3:16-4:6; Mark 9:9-13
Thursday, December 21, 2023: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Samuel 6:1-11; Hebrews 1:1-4
Friday, December 22, 2023: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Samuel 6:12-19; Hebrews 1:5-14
Saturday, December 23, 2023: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Judges 13:2-24; John 7:40-52
Sunday, December 24, 2023: Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 24 & 25, 2023: Nativity of the Lord - Proper I
Sunday, December 24 & 25, 2023: Nativity of the Lord - Proper II
Sunday, December 24 & 25, 2023: Nativity of the Lord - Proper III
Tuesday, December 26, 2023: Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Samuel 1:19-28; Hebrews 8:1-13
Wednesday, December 27, 2023: Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Mark 11:1-11
Thursday, December 28, 2023: Psalm 148; Jeremiah 31:15-17; Matthew 2:13-18
Friday, December 29, 2023: Psalm 148; Isaiah 49:5-15; Matthew 12:46-50
Saturday, December 30, 2023: Psalm 148; Proverbs 9:1-12; 2 Peter 3:8-13
Sunday, December 31, 2023: First Sunday after Christmas Day

Christmas Eve Services

Ten and Ten



Christmas Eve Services will be at **10:00 AM and 10:00 PM Sunday, December 24**. The morning 10:00 AM service will be our family-oriented service featuring a special focus on the children in our congregation. A candle lighting ceremony will be a part of the celebration. The evening 10:00 PM service will be our traditional scripture and carols service culminating in a candlelight ceremony in the courtyard. Please join us for one or both of our services this Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of our savior, the true meaning of Christmas.

December Meetings

- **Children Worship and Wonder** will meet on **Sunday, December 3rd**, during the worship service. All kids, ages 3-11, are invited to participate in this worship experience for youth.
- **Disciples Women** will meet on **Thursday, December 28th**.
- **Elders** are scheduled to meet in the sanctuary immediately following worship service on **Sunday, December 31st**.
- **Chancel Choir** rehearsals occur in the Sanctuary every **Wednesday at 6:30pm**.
- **Congratational Meeting** will occur **Sunday, December 3rd at 11:00am** in the Sanctuary.

The Study on Sunday Mornings

"The Study" meets **each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.** This class will meet in the Youth Building while the Fellowship Hall is under construction and is led by Dak McInnis. Join in anytime! Currently, the class has begun reading and meditating on Paul's first letter to the Church in Corinth. These early Christians faced many of the same basic questions and issues that confront us today. Join with us as we study and grow in faith through God's Word each week. All are welcome!

Next Book Club Meeting

The FCC Book Club will meet again on **Sunday, Dec. 10th at 5:30 p.m.** to discuss the book "Daughter of Cana" by Angela Hunt. The group meets in the Youth Building.

Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on **Dec. 3** immediately following church. The board will present its budget and slate of officers for 2024 and ask for approval. Copies of those documents are available in the narthex for you to look over. We will also discuss recent bylaws changes approved by the board. Please attend if possible.

Decorate the Sanctuary



Saturday, December 2nd 9:00am – 12:00pm. Come and help make the Sanctuary festive for the Christmas season. We will be hanging wreaths and garland, hanging banners and paraments, and trimming the tree. Many hands make light work, so let's all get together and make some magic!

PARENTS DAY OUT



December 10th 11:00am – 2:00pm. We will be hosting a Parents Day Out on Sunday, December 10th immediately following the worship service. This will be a good time for parents to shop, have lunch, or run errands without the little ones. We will provide lunch. There will also be crafts and games for the children to enjoy. Sign up (in the narthex) to participate and enjoy your 3-hour escape!

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

An anonymous donor has given \$30,000 toward our Fellowship Hall upgrade.

Without this generous donation, we would not have been able to move forward with these badly needed improvements.



Fellowship Hall Improvements

The generous donation, mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, has enabled us to undertake the following improvements to the Fellowship Hall.

At the east end (the Foyer and Kitchen) areas:

- The 40 year old + ceilings will be removed.
- The 40 year old + HVAC ductwork will be replaced (the interior insulation has been failing).
- New A/C diffusers will be installed.
- A new lay-in acoustical tile ceiling will be installed.
- New energy-efficient LED light fixtures will be installed.
- The deteriorated folding partition that separates the Foyer from the main area will be removed.

At the west end (the classrooms):

- The 40 year old + ceilings will be removed (some of which has fallen down).
- A new lay-in acoustical tile ceiling will be installed.
- New energy-efficient LED light fixtures will be installed.
- This work is slated to begin November 27, 2023, and be concluded by January 26, 2024.

Christmas Cantata



Our Christmas Cantata will take place on **Sunday, December 17th 10:00am**. Join us to experience our choir singing "Love."



SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS

Please check your worship assignments in advance and arrange for a sub in the case of a scheduling conflict. We appreciate that very much! You can check assignments [online, here](#), or contact Brenda in the church office at 225-926-4175.

December 3, 2023

Church Opening Charles Riddle
Sacraments Shelly Cody
Liturgist Dr. Carol Madere
Children's Moment Chris Culp
Youth Reader Anderson Krupala
Elder Tony Fatta
Greeter Ashley Bourgeois
Deacons Ed Atkins, Ashley Bourgeois, David Fennell, Lisa Fennell
Livestream Charles Riddle
Video Tech Jeff Cody
Sound Tech Joshua Dotts
Church Closing Tony Fatta
Program Builder Brenda Hilgendorf

December 17, 2023

Church Opening David Fennell
Sacraments Brenda Hilgendorf
Liturgist Lucy Cody
Children's Moment Jerry Moses
Youth Reader Callie Cody
Elder Judy Lester
Greeter Anderson Krupala
Deacons Anderson Krupala, Zachary Trotter, Lorry Trotter, Steve Gibson
Livestream Frank Dickinson
Video Tech TBA
Sound Tech Brenda Hilgendorf
Church Closing Jerry Hilgendorf
Program Builder Dr. Carol Madere

December 10, 2023

Church Opening Jerry Hilgendorf
Sacraments Brenda Hilgendorf
Liturgist Kristin Morgan
Children's Moment Judy Lester
Youth Reader Cora Cody
Elder Sherry McInnis
Greeter Jeff Cody
Deacons Callie Cody, Jeffy Cody, Shelly Cody, Bill Egger
Livestream Brenda Hilgendorf
Video Tech Greg Taliaferro
Sound Tech Tony Fatta
Church Closing Judy Lester
Program Builder Jeff Cody

December 24, 2023

Church Opening James Morgan
Sacraments Brenda Hilgendorf
Liturgist Tracy Shaffer
Children's Moment Pam Comeaux
Youth Reader Leonardo Morgan
Elder Dak McInnis
Greeter Doug Shaffer
Deacons Nicolas Morgan, Doug Shaffer, Tracy Shaffer, Joann Taliaferro
Livestream Brenda Hilgendorf
Video Tech Carmen Jones
Sound Tech Jeff Cody
Church Closing Jeff Cody
Program Builder Jill Brian

Prayer List

The following people represent some of the current concerns at First Christian Church. If you would like to have a name added, update a current prayer request, or remove someone from the prayer list, please fill out the prayer request section of our [online check-in page](#), or contact us at churchoffice@fccbrla.org, or 225-926-4175. Names generally rotate off after 30, 60, or 90 days without an update, depending on the nature of the original request.

Members in our prayers:

The Family of Tom Moore, Dan Calvert, Robert Calvert, Norma Carr, Jody Chrisope, Marjorie Clark, Rev. Tom Cody, Pam Culp, Frank Dickinson, Martha Denova, Jason Dotts, Lorri and Don Fontenot, Paul Foster, Sue Grigg, Lee Gullett, Ruth Horn, Presley Hutchinson, Clayton Johnson, Rev. Frank & Jane Johnson, Jeff Judice, Lindsay Kelly, Marie Ladner, Charlene Landry, BJ McRae, Helen Mitchener, James Morgan Family, Jerry Moses, Bob & Jennifer Netterville, Helen Rankin, Ruth Riddle, Kelly & Gladys Runnels, Scott Sanders, Bill & Lorry Trotter, Claudia Wagner, Bruce Weselak

Friends & Family of Members in our prayers:

The Family of Jeremy Lee, Adam Alsobrook, Jason Barnett, Stanley Bihm, Colette Blanchard, Don & Donna Bohlcke, Viola Bradshaw, Jennifer Cangelosi, Mary Ann Giacone, Trudy Graves, Bill Hebert, Patty Hubeny, Jake Huisingh, Drew Iacona, Ruth Jernigan, Cindy L, Sophie Leblanc, Linda Medine, Paula Mack, Betty Marche, Dawn Minton, Cindy Moon, Aubrey Moran, Missy Perilloux, Christy Rodrigue, Christopher Sanders, Savannah Smith, Ramilla Soni, Willa Sowler, John Townsend, Joshua Dale Watson

Active Military Service:

SPC Gage Goodspeed

December Calendar Notes

Saturday, December 2nd	09 :00am	Decorating Sanctuary
Sunday, December 3rd	10:00 a.m.	First Sunday in Advent – Hope
Sunday, December 3rd	11:00am	Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
Sunday, December 10th	10:00 a.m.	Second Sunday in Advent – Peace
Sunday, December 10th	11:00 a.m.	Parent's Day Out (Nursery)
Sunday, December 10th	3:30 p.m.	Harp Concert (Sanctuary)
Sunday, December 17th	10:00 a.m.	Third Sunday in Advent – Joy
Sunday, December 17th	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Cantata (Sanctuary)
Sunday, December 24th	10:00 a.m.	Fourth Sunday in Advent – Love
Sunday, December 24th	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)
Sunday, December 24th	10:00 p.m.	Christmas Candlelight Service(Sanctuary)

Ongoing Meetings:

Sundays	9:00a.m.	The Study - Adult Bible Study
Wednesdays	6:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
Thursdays	9:30 a.m.	Silver Angels - YB



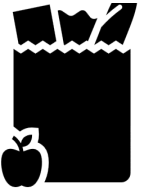
December 2023 Outreach



Southeast Ministries

Holiday meal food donation requests:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Canned ham or turkey | • Macaroni & cheese | • Canned or boxed potatoes |
| • Stuffing mix | • Boxed pie crust | • Powdered milk |
| • Cranberry sauce | • Canned pie filling | • Chicken broth |
| • Fresh potatoes | • Gravy (no glass jars) | • Canned vegetables |
| • Corn bread mix | • Cereal (cold or hot) | • Peanut butter & jelly |
| • Powdered milk | • Powdered eggs | • Canned fruit |



Place donated grocery items & plastic shopping bags in the shopping carts in the Narthex. Thank you!!



ADVENT - UKRAINE PROJECT

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me’...”
Matthew 25:40



Funds are being collected to provide winter coats and boots for displaced teens in war-torn Ukraine. We're also collecting colorful crew socks (women's and men's sizes - no packaged socks, please) to be rolled (not wrapped) and tied up with Christmas ribbon, each affixed to a Christmas card with a personal note from your family and mailed directly from us to these youth in hopes of sending a personalized message of holiday cheer and encouragement. The deadline for donations is Sunday, December 3rd.

Checks should be earmarked "Ukraine project" and placed in the offering plates; cards and socks should be put in the collection box in the Narthex.



ADVENT - FCCBR LA SHUT-IN COOKIE DELIVERY



We plan to deliver cookies again to some of our homebound congregants on **Sunday December 17th**. This ministry has become very important to those we love that are unable to join us in worship and feel isolated. There are two ways you can become involved in this project: one is to bake homemade cookies, and the second is to help deliver them. Detailed instructions and sign-up sheets for bakers and drivers will be placed in the Narthex. There will also be Christmas cards there on the first two Sundays in December. We'd like EVERYONE to sign all these cards, as each cookie recipient will receive one.



Our lead-time for this project is very short this year. So please sign the volunteer sheets as soon as possible so we can better orchestrate the multiple tasks that make up this outreach effort.

Thank you for all you do!!!

Thanks to My Board Officers

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your board chair this past year. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated people who have served alongside me: Tony Fatta, Chair Elect, Ashley Bourgeois, Secretary, Mike Wilson, Treasurer/Finance Chair, Judy Lester, Outreach/Fellowship Chair, Nancy Fatta, Worship Chair, Lucy Cody, Elder Chair, Chris Culp, Property, and At Large Members Donna Embree, Trey Earle, Carmen Jones, Ed Atkins, and Cathi Porciau.

I'd also like to thank Pastor Dedrick Minor, Church Bookkeeper who knows where everything is Brenda Hilgendorf and Administrative Assistant Alyson Coyle for their guidance and help.

Please join me in showing appreciation for the commitment of these members to FCC Baton Rouge and join them in 2024 in building the ministry of First Christian Church.

-Dr. Carol Madere, Board Chair.

Christmas Poinsettias



FCC Members will be given the opportunity to purchase Christmas Poinsettias in honor of their loved ones. Order forms will be included in the bulletins starting November 12th. Deadline to order poinsettias will be December 3rd. Poinsettias will start being displayed in the Sanctuary on December 10th. Poinsettias are \$25 each.

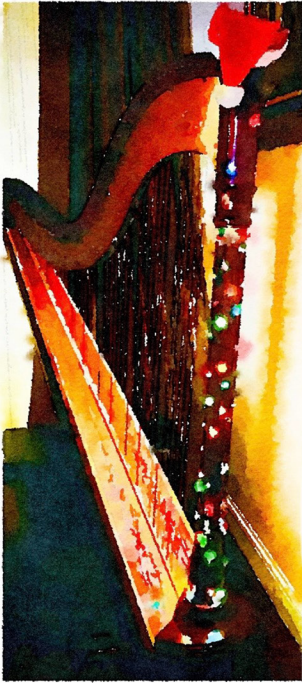
CONTINUATION OF SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS

December 31, 2023

<i>Church Opening</i>	James Morgan
<i>Sacraments</i>	Brenda Hilgendorf
<i>Liturgist</i>	Pam Comeaux
<i>Children's Moment</i>	Ashley Bourgeois
<i>Youth Reader</i>	Brynleigh Comeaux
<i>Elder</i>	Carmen Jones
<i>Greeter</i>	Tracy Shaffer
<i>Deacons</i>	Nicolas Morgan, Doug Shaffer, Tracy Shaffer, Joann Taliaferro
<i>Livestream</i>	Pam Jones
<i>Video Tech</i>	Callie Cody
<i>Sound Tech</i>	Greg Taliaferro
<i>Church Closing</i>	Cathi Pourciau
<i>Program Builder</i>	Jill Brian



Harp Concert at FCC



*Dr. Gabriela Werries'
Harp Students*

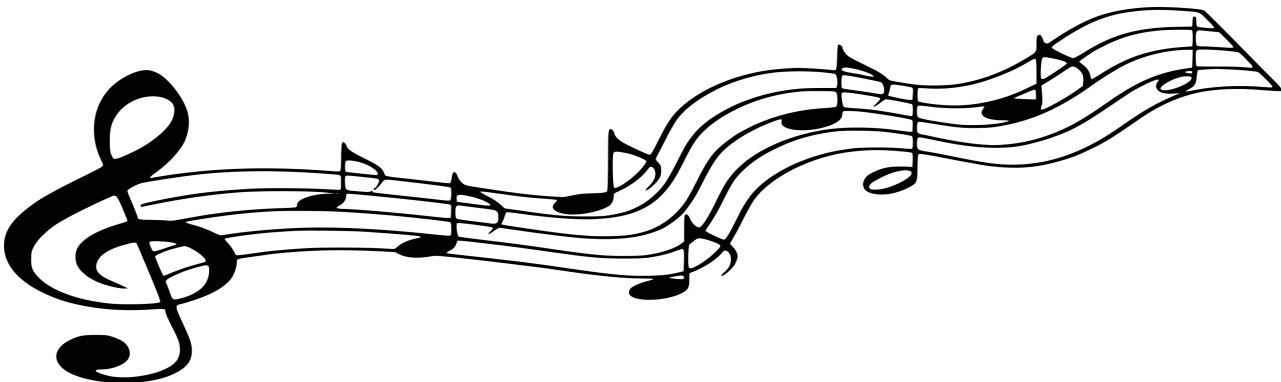
present

*an assortment of
Christmas Music*

*The performance will be held on
Sunday, December 10th
at 3:30 pm*

*First Christian Church
8484 Old Hammond Highway
Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

Join us for a Christmas Harp concert occurring in our Sanctuary on Sunday, December 10th at 3:30pm. All are invited to enjoy the local musical talent of Dr. Gabriela Werrie's Harp's Students. This program will include Cameron Stevenson --daughter of Will and Blake (Rankin) Stevenson; Granddaughter of Helen Rankin. --





First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

8484 Old Hammond Hwy.
Baton Rouge, LA 70809-1317
225-926-4175 | fccbrla.org

SERVICE AT 10:00 AM EACH SUNDAY - IN PERSON and ONLINE

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION AND ONLINE LINKS:

Church Office Phone: 225-926-4175

Email: churchoffice@fccbrla.org

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 am - 3 pm

The Rev. Dr. Dedrick Minor, *Senior Minister*

Email: dedrick@fccbrla.org

Minister's Hours: Wed. 4-7 pm; Sat. 10:30 am-1:00 pm, and by appointment

Aaron Turnipseed, M.M.P., *Director of Music*

Earl Poole, *Music Worship Leader*

Brenda Hilgendorf, *Bookkeeper*

Alyson Coyle, *Admin. Ass't.*

Charles Riddle, *Facilities*

Website: fccbrla.org YouTube Video Channel: youtube.com/fccbrla

Facebook: facebook.com/fccbrla Twitter: twitter.com/fccbrla

Instagram: instagram.com/fccbrla

DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS: [Vanderbilt Divinity Library - Year A](#)