

# Community Life

A Publication of: First Community Church  
P.O. Box 327  
Joplin, MO 64802  
(417) 781-1800  
Email: [fccjoplin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fccjoplin@sbcglobal.net)

# Community Life



A Publication of:  
First Community Church  
2007 E. 15th Street  
Joplin, Missouri 64804  
(417) 781-1800

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 327  
Joplin, MO 64802

Volume 66

Issue 10

Website: [fccjoplin.com](http://fccjoplin.com) December 2024

Email: [fccjoplin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fccjoplin@sbcglobal.net)

## MINISTER'S MOMENT

Preaching scholar, Al Fasol, relates how commotion erupted backstage when a five-year-old girl, who was slated to play Mary, refused to wear anything but her new red dress. The adults backstage pleaded with her, the director spoke to her, and finally her parents talked to her about the need to wear the costume for Mary instead of her new red dress. The little girl would not be moved and insisted on wearing the dress or she would not go on-stage. The play was already late in starting so the director stepped on-stage and announced, "Due to circumstances beyond our control, Mary, the mother of Jesus, will appear tonight in a new red dress." The congregation erupted in laughter when a voice from behind the curtain could be heard shouting, "If Mary had had a new red dress, she would have worn it."

In Fasol's story, I am glad that the congregation graciously allowed the little girl to wear her red dress in the Christmas play. It reminded me of the grace of God and how we are called to be "gracious" as well. As we move toward the Christmas holiday, it is fitting that we reflect on the power of God's grace as evidenced in Jesus of Nazareth. And it is even more fitting that we embody that same grace in our own behavior as best we can. Just think how much better our lives with one another would be if we regularly injected healthy doses of grace, forgiveness, and acceptance into all of the things we do. Amen. ~Russell



Cecie Fritz	12/2	Sheri Fuller	12/18
Norma Venable	12/8	Hank Hull	12/27
Judy Koller	12/11		



Brad & Jenny Hocker	12/21	2002
Jonathan & Charlotte Scales	12/28	1991

*Please contact the church office and give us your birthday and anniversary dates. We don't want to miss anyone!*

*We want to wish you and your family a very*



Serving in  
Dec.

Elders  
Dave Mason  
Dick Kice

Deacons  
\*Janet Kice  
Beverly Heath  
Denise Dugan  
Jack Piper

Communion  
Stewards  
Dick Kice  
Janet Kice

Serving in  
Jan.

Elders  
Laurie Delano  
Joy O'Toole

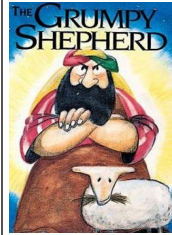
Deacons  
\*Andrea Cullers  
Seth Merriman  
Tom Jones  
Linda Unser

Communion  
Stewards  
Linda Unser  
Dawn Trujillo

## BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, November 12th  
at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

\*\*\*\*\*



## Children's Musical The Grumpy Shepherd Performance

Sunday, December 15th,  
after Family Dinner

\*Practice is on Sundays during  
Children's Church and from 11:00 a.m.  
to noon (after service).

\*\*\*\*\*

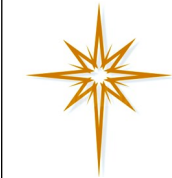
## Christmas Family Dinner \*Potluck\*



Sunday, December 15th  
at 11:00 a.m.  
in Fellowship Hall



\*\*\*\*\*



## YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24th at 6:00 p.m.





\*\*\*\*\*

## Year-end Donations

Please make sure your donations/  
offering is in by Monday, Dec. 30th (in  
person) to be credited for the 2024 tax  
year. Any donations received after that  
date will have to go towards the year  
2025.

\*If mailing to our P.O. Box 327, please  
send before Dec. 23rd.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Advent Begins</i> Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m.	2	3	4 Bell Choir 5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m.	5	6	7 
8 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Bake Sale 9:30-11:30 am	9 MSSU Choral Society Concert Sunday at 3:00 p.m. ←	10 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.	11 Section V Brunch 11 a.m. Bell Choir 5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m.	12	13	14 Fiber Folks 2 -4 p.m.
15 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Christmas Family Dinner 11 a.m.	16 Children's Musical Sunday at 11:30 a.m. ←	17	18 Bell Choir 5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m.	19	20	21 
22 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m.	23	24  Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6 p.m. Office Closed	25  Office Closed	26	27	28
29 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m.	30	31				

## Holiday Bake Sale

On Sunday, December 8th (before  
& after service), Section V will be  
having their Annual Bake Sale in  
the Narthex.

If you would like to donate, please  
bring pre-bagged holiday desserts:  
before church on Sunday, Dec. 8th.  
Monetary donations will also be  
accepted.

\*Proceeds go towards small  
appliances for MSSU students and  
FCC's in-reach and outreach  
programs.

## MSSU Choral Society Winter Concert



Sunday, December 8th at 3:00 p.m.  
in FCC's Sanctuary. This event is  
free and open to the public.