



The Charleroi Christian

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

January 2025

61 Walnut Ridge Road
Charleroi, PA 15022-3322

Senior Pastor Dennis J. Stitch

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Hello God's "SPECIAL" Children!

In December we studied the four words of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Christmas gives us the opportunity to share with others what the real reason for the season is. And that is Jesus Christ. We won't get caught up in presents when we strive to be in His presence.

May God's Peace rest and rule your hearts in Christ Jesus.

You are always welcome to visit.

Everyone is someone and Jesus Christ is Lord!

Senior Pastor Dennis J. Stitch



Tithes and offerings

A STEWARDSHIP REMINDER PLEASE REMEMBER: JUST BECAUSE YOU MAY NOT BE AT CHURCH ON A GIVEN SUNDAY, THE LIGHTS ARE STILL ON, THE FURNACE AND AIR CONDITIONERS ARE STILL IN USE, THE CUSTODIAN HAS CLEANED THE CHURCH, AND THE BILLS STILL NEED TO BE PAID. SO, IF YOU HAPPEN TO MISS A SUNDAY (OR THREE OR FOUR SUNDAYS) **PLEASE MAKE UP YOUR PLEDGE/OFFERING. THANK YOU!**

"Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' **In tithes and offerings!**" – MALACHI 3:8



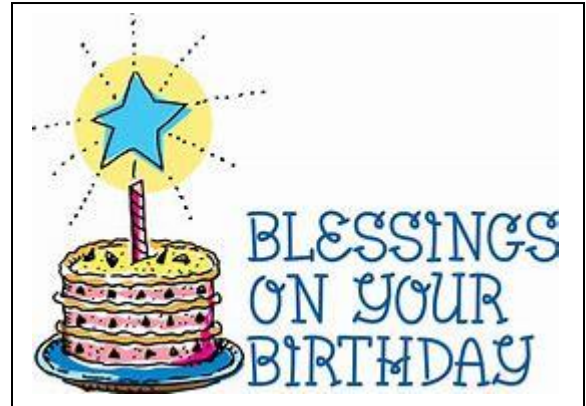
MOVIE NIGHT AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH – 7 P.M. – SOCIAL HALL, EVERY THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH.

THANKS TO MALCOLM CALLERY, A MOVIE WILL BE PRESENTED FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT. COME AND FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH'S SOCIAL HALL.

If you have a favorite DVD movie or a suggestion for Malcolm, please let him know. Our next movie will be presented on **Friday, January 17, 2025 at 7 PM (weather permitting).**

BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---------|------------------------------|
| Jan. 2 | Sarah McCurdy |
| Jan. 4 | Ted Smith |
| Jan. 5 | Hannah McCurdy, Patrick Rice |
| Jan. 7 | Marla Gould |
| Jan. 18 | Theodora Harris, Beth Hughes |
| Jan. 20 | Raenelle Franklin |
| Jan. 23 | Kassidy Brightwell |



*****No January Anniversaries*****



ELDERS FOR COMMUNION – JANUARY 2025

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| JANUARY 5 | RON BIRD SR DEB COLVIN |
| JANUARY 12 | JOE VALLA DIANE RUSAK |
| JANUARY 19 | MARY VALLA KRISTIN BLAIR |
| JANUARY 26 | TOM GRIFFITH DEB CALDWELL |



DEACONS' SCHEDULE – JANUARY 2025

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| JANUARY 5 | GEORGE HOGAN & DIANE GRAY |
| JANUARY 12 | VALERIE STITCH & BETH HUGHES |
| JANUARY 19 | MARLA GOULD & GARNET KRUTZ |
| JANUARY 26 | SUE LATOUR & NANCY LESSMAN |

UNDER LONG-TERM CARE

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Our Leaders*</i> | <i>Marlene Celaschi*</i> | <i>Ken & Sherry Ballentyne*</i> |
| <i>Our Troops*</i> | <i>Ellis & Darla White*</i> | <i>Kristin Colvin*</i> |
| <i>Our Church*</i> | <i>Garnet Krutz*</i> | <i>Miley Ava Delval*</i> |
| <i>Universities*</i> | <i>Rocky Renk*</i> | <i>Gretchen & Tom Speece*</i> |
| <i>Grace Vandernitte*</i> | <i>Father Bob Hanna*</i> | <i>Sarah Matay*</i> |
| <i>Justin Sutch*</i> | <i>David Hanna*</i> | <i>Gage Peters*</i> |
| <i>Karin Brightwell*</i> | <i>Joseph Wojcik*</i> | <i>Cindy Buckley*</i> |
| <i>Lila Risch*</i> | <i>Alicia Hruby*</i> | <i>Chrissy Zoltun*</i> |
| <i>Bertha Zollars*</i> | <i>Jack Sharp*</i> | <i>Laverne Giordanengo*</i> |
| <i>Lois Buberniak*</i> | <i>Hannah Simpson*</i> | <i>Margie D'Antonio*</i> |
| <i>Michael Erdely*</i> <i>(Mike & Sherry's Son)</i> | <i>Mason Madzey*</i> | <i>Melanie Slattery*</i> |
| <i>Tanner Riley*</i> | <i>Terri Brownfield*</i> | <i>Janet Hellner-Burriss*</i> |
| <i>Jessica Beimel*</i> | <i>Victor Angelo*</i> | <i>Josh Cramer*</i> |
| <i>Heather Simpson*</i> | <i>Christian Colleges*</i> | <i>Diane Rusak*</i> |
| <i>Small Businesses*</i> | <i>Bob Gilpin*</i> | <i>Sydney Weaver*</i> |
| <i>Brian Stillwagon*</i> | <i>Gary Gray*</i> | <i>Rev. Chuck House*</i> |
| <i>Joe & Betty Jo Rapp*</i> | <i>Tonya Kepich*</i> | <i>Missy Montgomery*</i> |
| <i>Bre Randolph*</i> | <i>Jesse & Joseph Bird*</i> | <i>Nate Stanchfield*</i> |
| <i>Andrew DeBroeck*</i> | <i>Matt Sezawich*</i> | <i>Sue Charney*</i> |
| <i>Ed Yuhas*</i> | <i>Kelly Weaver*</i> | <i>Carolyn Santavicca*</i> |
| <i>Gene Kite*</i> | <i>Joan Caldwell*</i> | <i>Dana Obusek*</i> |
| <i>Ingri Humphrey*</i> | <i>Rose Wilkinson*</i> | <i>John & Karen Mollenauer*</i> |
| <i>Jake Hurley*</i> | <i>Lori Burgess*</i> | |
| <i>Michael Cramer*</i> | <i>John Blatnik*</i> | |
| <i>Jim Caldwell*</i> | <i>Sophia Renk*</i> | |
| <i>Chris Blatnik*</i> | <i>Betty Jo Matesich*</i> | |
| <i>Autumn Raffaele*</i> | <i>Nancy Lessman*</i> | |

FCC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025 - June 23-27 from 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM. Closing program and picnic on Saturday, June 28, 11 AM – 2 PM. Jennifer Snipes (724-366-7934), FirstChristianCharleroi_VBS_Dir@outlook.com, will be directing this program. So, come, be a part of **ROAD TRIP ON THE GO WITH GOD!** If you would like to be a volunteer, please let Jenn know.

2025 SAVE THE DATES – NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY–JULY 12-15, IN MEMPHIS, TN

THANK YOU NOTE

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your calls, cards, prayers, offers of help during my four hospitalizations and loss of my sister this year. You truly live Jesus' commandments. Thank you Pastor Stitch and Valerie for your visits and calls.

May 2025 be a year of blessings for all of you.

In Christian Love,
Marjorie D'Antonio

EVANGELISM – CORA RUSSELL

Thank you to all who have taken the time to sign the prayer letters. During the month of December 15 prayer letters were mailed. Please remember a prayer request will not mean a signed prayer letter is sent unless we have an address. There is a spiral notebook on the stand with the letters to be signed that you can leave a name and address. I am also available via email at corajune@comcast.net or via text to my phone 724-344-9803. Prayer is so important to those in need and when they receive the prayer letter to hold and see the names they know that people are praying.

I am asking that on your prayer list you include "God please bless the person receiving our prayer letters that are being mailed." You don't need to have the name of the person, God does!

UPCOMING DATES FOR JANUARY 2025: (WEATHER PERMITTING)

January 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 – Meals-On-Wheels – Sr. Center – 10:30 AM

January 2 – I.O.O.F. Men's Fellowship – 7 PM

January 5 – Installation of Church Officers – during worship

January 6 – Dartball League Home vs Fayette City Alliance – 7 PM – Social Hall

January 8 – Choir practice – 6:30 PM

January 9 – FCC Board Meeting – 7 PM – Social Hall

January 11 –Saturday – 9:00 AM – Take down Advent decorations

January 12 – After worship meet with Gary Dunmeyer about the Sportsman Dinner, question & answer period

January 13 –Dartball Home vs Grace Methodist – 7 PM – Social Hall

January 14 –C.A.M.A. Meeting – 7 PM – Social Hall

January 15 – Choir Practice – 6:30 PM

January 16 – I.O.O.F. Men's Fellowship – 7 PM

January 17 – Movie Night – Social Hall – 7 PM

January 19 –Turkey Dinner – After worship – more information later

January 20 – Dartball Away vs Belle Vernon Presbyterian – 7 PM

January 22 – Choir Practice – 6:30 PM

January 27 – Dartball Home vs Rehoboth Presbyterian – 7 PM

January 29 – Choir practice – 6:30 PM

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -His good, pleasing and perfect will. -Romans 12:2

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." -Jeremiah 29:11

THANK YOU NOTE

Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank you for all the prayers, cards, calls, and love I received after my accident two Sundays ago. Still not 100% but getting there. I'm grateful that Declan wasn't with me as he is most Sundays! I'm thankful that I can be here to worship our Lord with you today.

God bless you all.

Love,

Cheryl Blair

ELDER'S CORNER – Deb Caldwell

It is hard to believe that year 2024 has ended and 2025 is here. I was so happy to celebrate Christ's birth on Christmas Eve. A beautiful worship service for our Lord and Savior. It made all the madness of the past few months just disappear. Raising our candles high to let the light of Jesus Christ shine to the world. A very touching moment in time.

In 2025, let's make our Lord and Savior a priority! Daily Bible reading and constant prayers to start each day. Be thankful to our Lord. Sometimes it's hard to be thankful for the trials and tribulations in life but God gives us those to make us stronger.

Finally, pray for our nation that peace may be restored. That the violence would stop! That the children would feel safe again.

Thanksgiving Prayer: Heavenly Father, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we want to express our deepest gratitude for the past year's blessings. Thank you for your faithfulness, your love, and your constant presence in our lives. We acknowledge your sovereignty over the days gone by and the days yet to come.

Guidance Prayer: Lord, we look toward you, our hope, our peace, and our comfort in this new year. As we enter into the unknown of the coming year, we ask for your guidance and wisdom. Illuminate our path with your light so that we may walk in your ways and make choices that align with your will. Help us to seek first your kingdom and trust that all other things will be added unto us.

Renewal Prayer: Gracious God, we come before you seeking renewal in the new year. Renew our minds, our hearts, and our spirits. May we be transformed by the power of your Holy Spirit, leaving behind the old and embracing the new that you have in store for us.

Strength Prayer: Heavenly Father, as we face both known and unknown challenges of the coming year, grant us strength and courage. Help us to rely on your mighty power and to find our refuge in you. May we be steadfast in our faith, knowing that you are our rock and our fortress.

Prayer for Others: Lord, as we embark on this new year, we lift up to you, our loved ones, our communities, and the world. May your peace reign in our hearts and in the hearts of all people. Bring healing where there is brokenness and reconciliation where there is division.

DECEMBER - PRAYER REQUESTS:

For Kristin Blair, who is ill with Covid. By: Cheryl Blair

For Janis Wallace and Jennifer Johnson

For Muriel Fitch, health concerns. By: Sue Latour

For my nephew Bernard Simpson, who had his lung removed and is doing well; however, he is having depression issues from being in the Navy.

Please keep him in prayer. Requested by: Vivian Horner

For Leonard at The Residence At Hilltop, who has severe hearing loss and only has 10% of his hearing. By: Pastor Dennis

For Lori Burgess for test results and healing of her bone cancer. Requested by: Roxanne Burgess

For Brandy Gray as she is dealing with some concerns and troubles through life. Requested by: Kristin Colvin

For Rhonda Corwin dealing with a health issue.

For Dorothy Hails (Cindy Smith's Mom) who was hospitalized with heart issues.

For Sarah (Mike & Christine Wilkinson's daughter) with kidney stone issues.

For Christine Wilkinson with a horrible case of COVID.

UPDATE:(12/19) Continued prayers for Terri Greenlee's daughter, Meg. Terri is briefly back in PA and will be flying down & driving back with Meg once she is released from Rehab. Meg is progressing well physically, but still experiencing some speech/memory issues. Traveling mercies for Terri & Meg.

For my classmate, Dennis Paluso, dealing with health issues. By: George Hogan

My Uncle Darin's dad died Thursday night (12/12). By: Sydney Weaver

UPDATE: (12/7) Luca is 5.8 lbs. and down to a CPAP 6. Oxygen levels have been great. Praying they move him down in CPAP soon, for that will bring us closer to no CPAP, which means bottle/breast feeding. Asking for prayers for his blood sugar levels. Could be a premature issue or something more.

Thank you for your love and support! By: Luca's Mom

For Cindy Smith's grandson, John, who has been admitted to the hospital. His father (Cindy's son, Charles) is currently serving in Kuwait.

For Deb Harris, who was at the hospital for several hours last night (12/10) and is now home.

For my niece, Kimberly, who was in the hospital with pneumonia & on continuous oxygen. Please pray for healing of her lungs. By: Deb Caldwell

For my sister-in-law, Nancy, who had a knee replacement several weeks ago. Pray for strength and cooperation. By: Deb Caldwell

For Ruth Rhodes, in the hospital with reoccurring MS. By: Betty Jo

For my friend, Brody, 14-years old. He is very sick and has been in Children's Hospital since after Thanksgiving. By: Beth Hughes

For my brother, Bill Kochman, who needs prayer for his mind and spirit. By: Christine & Mike Wilkinson

For my friend, Ryan, having knee surgery.

For brother-in-law, Rich Grant, who has kidney cancer. His kidney will be removed. By: Candy Callery

For my father-in-law, who is suffering from depression. By: Missy

For my mental health and depression as the enemy has really attacked me heavily. By: Missy

For my father, Dan Erikson, as he goes into surgery to remove bladder and all remaining cancer. By: Tyler

For Chuck Moreland, who is really struggling with the death of his son. By: Deb Caldwell

For Cheryl Blair who was in a car accident after church on 12/15. She was transported to the hospital and is now home and very sore, but doing well.

JOYS:

Our grandson, Madix, was in ICU at Children's Hospital, is off ventilator, oxygen and O2 stats are improving & may come home (12/8). By: Ray & Missy

We attend a game night with ladies once a month. At our Christmas Party, we raised \$4,200.00 for Children's Hospital from proceeds raised from 80 raffle baskets. Praise God! By: Mary Lou Lachman & Deb Caldwell

My thanks to all who helped with the Empty Chair service as I was nervous doing it the first time without Margie. All my wonderful helpers made it go smoothly. By: Paula Barndollar

My tests were all normal. Thanks for the prayers. Very much appreciated. By: Christine Wilkinson

My niece, Sydney Weaver, shot her first deer yesterday, a doe! Aunt KiKi is so proud of her: By: Aunt KiKi (Kristin Colvin)

Praise God that my mom and grandma's house was spared from catching on fire Friday (11/22) morning. By: Missy

A heartfelt thank you to all the choir members. The cantata was great and enjoyed by all. Thank you for the monetary gift. I love you all! May God bless each and every one of you in 2025. See you next year! By: Sherry Erdely

Miley and I want to THANK everyone for their prayers and cards. She is feeling better each day!! By: Kristin Colvin

SYMPATHY AND CONCERN

For the Smith Family in the loss of their dad. By: Bill & Sue Latour

For Ronda Jaquay, for the loss of her son, Steve. By: Perry McNeil

For the family and friends of Keith "Cap" Quinn who passed away Thursday, December 19th at his home. Please keep wife Kim (DuJordan) and daughter Kaylee in constant prayer.

For the Margaret Vlanich Family, as Margaret passed away on Tuesday, December 10th. She was Cindy Dunmeyer's Aunt.

For the Robert Whitfield Family, as he passed away. Special prayers for his daughter Wendy. Requested by: Lila Hough Mears

For the family of Henry Flannigan, who passed away. Prayers also to his daughter, Becky Hofmeister, our cantata pianist. By: Sherry Erdely

For family of Ann Liparulo, who died in her home suddenly on Wednesday (11/20). By: Sherry Erdely

For Nancy Lessman, whose sister-in-law, who lives in New Jersey, passed away. Please pray for Nancy and her family.