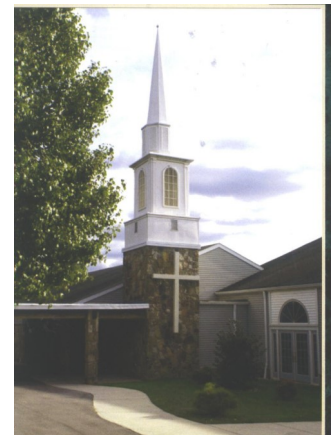


December 2019
Volume 37 No. 12

The Messenger

Fairfield Glade Community Church



Dear Friends in Christ,

Who and where is God?

As far as I can understand, God is not restricted to being a he or a she, a male or a female. God is the creator and sustainer of everything that exists, transcending all of creation.

When Moses first encountered God and was told to go and lead God's people out of slavery, he asked God what he should say if the people asked who sent him. God replied, "This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:14).

God is I AM, meaning philosophically the Being that undergirds all being. Thus, God is referred to as being omnipotent, omnipresent, sovereign, infinite. The understanding of God that resonates with me most, however, is found in the First Letter of John, chapter 4, verse 8: "God is love."

Amazingly, we are also told that we human beings are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). But that is often hard to believe and see when we witness the extreme cruelty and horrific behavior that we humans have done throughout history and continue to do---Nazi concentration camps, rape, torture, animal cruelty, domestic violence, mass shootings of innocent people, including children in schools, not to mention racism, xenophobia, homophobia, sexism and greed.

Notwithstanding, deep within our bones we know that love is what is most important in life. Love is what we want more than anything else.

As a human being trying to understand God who is love, this leads me to our church's worship services in the month of December, when we celebrate Advent culminated by Christmas.

With the birth of Jesus, God who is love is revealed to us in the most intimate, personal way we can understand: in human flesh and blood. And Jesus not only reveals God who is love, but also where: "they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us'" (Matthew 1:23).

God is not simply with us, but part of us, being that we are made in the image of God. The Holy Spirit unites us with God who is love, which we understand through Jesus; meaning we should not just look for Jesus lying in a manger, but look for Jesus in each other.

Every day I see Jesus reborn in us, the members of Community Church. Jesus has come into the world, and now we are the presence of Jesus, we are the presence of God who is love.

Of course, we have the temptation to bury that presence, resulting in those moments when we are unable to recognize God who is love in ourselves and in others. Faith and hope, however, assure us that God who is love has not abandoned us, even when we can't see the presence of Jesus.

God who is love is always with us, creating and sustaining all that exists, including you and me.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1 - Pastor)

As Christians, our mission in life is to be the presence of God who is love that is revealed to us in Jesus.

Obviously, we are not doing that 24/7, all of the time, but every hour and every day counts for something.

My prayer for all of us during this Advent and Christmas season is that we might add a few more hours and days in our lives in which God who is love is revealed in us and in others. That is my Christmas wish, and the best gift we could ever give.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
James

Holiday Office Closings

The Church Office will be closed from **December 24th through December 26th** (Tuesday through Thursday). The office will also be closed on Wednesday, **January 1st.**

Thank you.



Morgan Scott needs for DECEMBER:

Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Fruit,
Canned Meat, Instant Potatoes

Thank you for your donations!

To All Church Committees

Please be sure to submit your meeting schedules for 2020 to the office as soon as you have them so we can update the church calendar.

Thank you!



Burt McMinn

3/20/1936 - 11/4/2019

Rosemary Gildemeister

11/13/1938 - 11/5/2019



DECEMBER 2019

Birthdays

Mary Jane Buxton	12/02
Nancy Shepler	12/03
Jim Janssen	12/05
Tina Ward	12/08
Ed Gallagher	12/09
Linda Eppelheimer	12/10
Ed Freels	12/10
Judy Moore	12/11
John Krueger	12/12
Mary Bell	12/13
Harry Chambon	12/13
Tom Heil	12/13
Frank Wade	12/15
Pam Schwer	12/19
Rosemary Stuckmann	12/20
Dale Gildemeister	12/24
Helen Chambon	12/27
Adam Kosmalski	12/30

Anniversaries

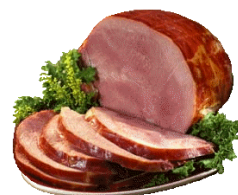
Chuck & Dottie Wierer	12/22
Gladys & Norm Zaenger	12/23
Jim & JoAnn Kukowski	12/30
Hank & Susan Milledge	12/30
John & Polly McArthur	12/31

Fellowship Christmas Luncheon

Fellowship Christmas Luncheon will be on **December 8th after the church service**. The menu will be Baked Spiral Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw and roll. Red Velvet Cupcakes for dessert. The donation is \$10.00 per person.

You can sign up beginning November 17th thru December 1st. Everyone is welcome to attend and celebrate the blessings of Christmas with other members and guests.

Submitted by Mary Zanichelli



Military Care Boxes (Update)

Thanks for the outstanding support and generosity of our Fairfield Glade Community Church congregation and several “local” organizations and individuals, our goal of sending ninety plus Christmas Care boxes was met. Thirty boxes, plus one box of Christmas decorations are being sent to service members who are deployed at three locations in Africa (Garoua, Cameroon; Djibouti; and Bizerte, Tunisia). These units are with the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) deployed from Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Forty ladies and one gentleman assembled and packed the Christmas Care Boxes on November 13th during the Women’s Fellowship monthly meeting.

Included with the many food and non-food items was a wrapped Christmas gift and a stocking filled with a candy cane and an I-Tunes gift card. Our special thanks to Dorothy McKenzie for donating the I-Tunes cards, honoring her brother who served in the Navy.

As of this writing, the boxes will be mailed out in late November. A follow-up note on the Care Boxes will be in the January Messenger.

Again, thank you to our congregation and the outside supporters in making this Christmas special for our service members away from home.

We also want to thank our spouses for their help and support.

God’s Blessings to all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you!

Women’s Fellowship Military Christmas Care Team
Julie Oswald, Janiece Pino, Patty Smith, Vicky Wong



We would like to thank these volunteers for preparing November’s Monthly Messenger mailing:
Laura Lavender, Wanda Buck, Kathy Norton, and Nancy Shepler.

Thank you very much!



the Christian Response Committee



invites you to visit our **CARD MINISTRY** tables in Fellowship Hall. One has a selection of donated greeting cards; the other supports our Active Duty Military and Veterans. Please drop off a card and show your support!

FAIRFIELD GLADE COMMUNITY CHURCH HONOR ALBUM

Please feel free to add YOUR photo in uniform to our HONOR ALBUM. Fill out the information form and place it with your photo. If you need your photo sized to fit the page, or want your original back, please let Frank Wade know. You may call Janiece Pino with any questions.

THANK YOU for your SERVICE!!



Submitted by Janiece Pino



**Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!**

from Pat and Laurie

How Do You Do! Meet Another Church Family

Meet the Buxtons, Jim and Mary Jane (MJ). They were born in Anderson, IN., started kindergarten together and went to the same high school. They began dating in their sophomore year and married in their college senior year. Both graduated from Purdue University, Jim with an engineering degree and MJ with a nutrition and education degree.



After graduation, Jim entered the Air Force as an officer and was sent to St. Louis University Graduate School for an advanced Meteorology program. Upon Jim's graduation they moved to Kirkland AFB in Albuquerque, NM. During that period MJ taught schools in St. Louis and Albuquerque and when time allowed, they toured the ancient ruins of the Southwest United States.

After Air Force active duty, Jim worked for International Harvester Co. (now Navistar) in Ft. Wayne, IN., designing and testing motor vehicles and their components. His specialties were gasoline, diesel and gas turbine engines. While in Fort Wayne he became a licensed professional engineer.

The family lived in Ft. Wayne for 15 years. They helped start a Methodist Church where Jim served on several committees and became board chair. MJ served as financial secretary and Sunday school teacher. Their children, Cynthia and Keith, kept them busy and involved in many activities: school, 4H, scouts, sports, etc. Jim became skillful racing sailboats on the many nearby Indiana, Michigan and Ohio lakes and only came close to drowning once.

They moved to Washington D.C. where Jim was a manager representing his company to government and military agencies. The family lived in Rockville, MD and while there they visited many surrounding historical sites and famous gardens. They attended formal dinner dances at Washington hotel ball rooms as a result of Jim being a member of the Society of American Military Engineers.

Returning to Fort Wayne, they help start another Methodist Church. Later Jim was transferred to Chicago where he was responsible for certificating company products to countries around the world. This involved at different times exhaust emissions, noise, vehicle safety and radio frequency interference regulations.

They lived in Wheaton, Illinois and joined a very early established Presbyterian Church where Jim became an Elder and MJ a Deacon. MJ was active in the garden club and the St. Charles, IL quilt guild. Jim was elected Chairman of the Chicago Society of Automotive Engineers, a professional organization for Northern Illinois and adjacent Indiana-Michigan areas.

How did they find Fairfield Glade? A Wheaton friend had suggested they look at a retirement community in Crossville. They came on a beautiful April day and fell in love with the area. So, after working 35 years at Navistar, the Buxtons retired and moved to Fairfield Glade in 1997. They joined Community Church where Jim has served as chair of various committees and twice as Board President. MJ has served on the Worship, Pastor Search, and Outreach Committees. In Crossville, Jim continues as an officer in the computer users group and has helped start two Crossville/FFG investment clubs. The Buxtons moved to a Good Samaritan cottage 2017 and continue their volunteer work there. They have been happily married for an adventurous 62 years.

The Buxtons agree that having served many years on the Fellowship Dinner Committee with former members, the Drakes, was tops on their happy memory list. That and serving as Sunday ushers are very good ways to know a congregation.

2019 Church Finances

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Total Income (Year-to-Date) = \$250,811.65

Total Expenses (Year-to-Date) = \$271,407.95

The summary of income and expense activity for October 2019 is as follows:

	General Fund ¹	Mission's Fund ²	Property Improvement Fund (PIF) ³	Pass-Thru Fund ⁴	Strategic Planning Projects ⁵
Income	\$19,230.13	\$316.31	\$0.00	\$2,219.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$18,237.26	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15.46
Transfer to ⁶	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfer from ⁷	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Difference ⁸	\$992.87	-\$183.69	\$0.00	\$2,219.00	-\$15.46

PLEASE READ THE NOTES TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE NUMBERS IN THE TABLE ABOVE!

1. **General Fund** is the operating funds to run the Church and consists of General Contributions from Church members. Expenses include Pastoral and Support Staff salaries; administrative costs for supplies; utilities, building and grounds maintenance; and church committees expenditures. The Difference shown in the General Fund is the result of contributions received from the congregation compared to expenses for the month of September.
2. **Mission's Fund** income comes from Church member donations, the sale of Food City Cash Cards, the Kroger Charity Program, and Dimes for Missions. The funds are used to support local charities. Mission's Fund income for the month of October was \$316.31 (\$80.00 from members of the congregation, \$63.81 from Kroger Charity Income and \$172.50 from Food City Cash Cards). Expenses were \$500.00 from the Pastor's discretionary funding line. The Difference shown is the result of income received compared to expenses for the month of October.
3. **Property Improvement Fund (PIF)** income is from designated donations from church members. PIF expenses are any property and facility expenses not covered by day-to-day maintenance activity. There was no income or expenses for Property Improvement during the month of October.
4. **Pass-Thru Fund** is to account for money that comes through the Church but is not used to cover any Church expenses. Pass-Thru Fund income for the month of October was \$2,219.00 for the Neighbors in Need (NIN) and Peace and Global Witness programs. There were no expenses. The difference shown is the result of Pass-Thru income received compared to expenses for the month of October.
5. **Strategic Planning Projects.** There was no Strategic Planning Projects income for the month of October. Expenses were \$15.46 for supplies in support of the 2019 Strategic Planning Retreat Project. The difference shown is the result of income received compared to expenses for the month of October.
6. **Transfer to** is the term used to move money from one fund to another.
7. **Transfer from** is the term used to move money from one fund to another.
8. **Difference** = Income – Expense + Transfers

A complete picture of Church assets - 2019 Balance Sheet, Income and Expense Statement, and Budget Report are posted on the Church Events Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall.

Fairfield Glade Community Church Board Minutes

Pending Approval
November 14, 2019

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Members Present: Dennis Flynn, Jim Hansen, John Schaefer, Marty Smith, Nancy Nowacki, Al Joseph, Ed Freels, Fred Wong, Roy Koskinen, John Zanichelli, Pastor James Janecek

Members Absent: Judy Moore, Susan Milledge

Guest: Gene Pino, Steve Thomas

1. **Call to order and Opening prayer:** Having declared a quorum, Jim Hansen called the meeting to order. Fred Wong offered an opening prayer.
2. Agenda, review for removals, additions or clarifications: None
3. **Approval of October 10th Board Minutes:** Correct Old Business adding Bonnie Hansen to attending UCC meeting on Oct 20th. Also New Business correct item d. to read Details of the budgets as approved will be distributed to the congregation in a separate mailing in December. Submitted by Nancy Nowacki. Alan Joseph moved to accept the October minutes as written with corrections. Fred Wong seconded the motion and the motion passed.
4. **Treasurer's report:** Michael Nowacki provided an October Financial Summary that addressed changes to the church finances, balance sheet, income and expense statement and budget. He also addressed the average monthly congregations' contributions received from 2017 to date.
5. **Membership report:** Jim Hansen: November 14th, we have 257 members. Two new members will be joining the church on November 17th and there were three deaths of members of the church. Two members have withdrawn their membership. As of this date, 111 pledges have been received with a total of \$211,020.00 pledged.
6. **Pastor's report:** Pastor James briefed Judy Moore will be returning Saturday, November 16th.
7. **Old Business:**
 - a. The Quarterly Presbytery meeting was held November 5th at Maryville College and Carole Danielson attended with Pastor James. No reports from Nancy Nowacki on UCC.
8. **New Business:**
 - a. Gene Pino briefed the board on the ERT plan. He requested that the team conduct annual training on the three major supporting elements of the plan. These are medical, natural disasters, and active shooter. The training will consist of three elements. An orientation briefing, a planned walk through, and an immediate response drill. Training will start with outside clubs that use the church facilities on December 2nd and 6th. Training for the congregation will be scheduled for 1st quarter of 2020. Marty made motion to precede with the training and Al seconded. Motion carried.
 - b. The recommendation from the facilities committee to replace two AC/Heating units for the fellowship Hall as soon as possible. The anticipated replacement cost expected to be as high as \$24,000. Steve Thomas was present to answer any questions. John Schaefer recommended a second quote which Steve Thomas will do before beginning work. Jim Hansen made a motion to approve this purchase contingent that second bid is obtained, and facilities committee will have approval to select the vendor for replacement. John Zanichelli seconded. Motion carried. Steve Thomas in a separate email to board on November 15th obtained the second quote and the facilities committee will go with the original bid. Marty made the motion that \$24,000 for the new units will be transferred from the reserve fund to general fund immediately. Al seconded the motion. Motion carried. Marty made a motion for the Finance Committee to prepare a campaign to replace funds for AC/Heating units and improvement of parking lot for the finance meeting approval in December and come to the board. John Zanichelli seconded. Motion carried.

(Continued on page 10)

- c. Mission committee requested to send out their letter during the first week of December supporting both UCC and PCUSA for their Christmas Joy offering support of their respective pastoral pension funds. Nancy Nowacki made a motion to send out letter as written. Al Joseph seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- d. Finance committee requested that Nancy Nowacki as new Worship and Music committee chairperson, clarify 2020 budget line items. She requested that the funding for guest instrumentalist be realigned from sub organist/choir director funding line item to worship music. For 2020 budgeting purposes, the worship music line item will be used for guest instrumentalists, special music for worship services as determined by music team and the Worship/Music Chairman and other music enhancements
- e. Nancy Nowacki made a motion that Worship and Music Committee be allowed to conduct three additional choir rehearsals for preparation of the Christmas Cantata. This includes one dress rehearsal on December 7th. The cost is \$50.00 per rehearsal for choir director and \$50.00 per rehearsal for pianist. This would be a total of \$300.00. Roy Koskinen made a motion to approve and Dennis Flynn seconded. Motion carried.
- f. The board reviewed and approved 2020 Committee Chairperson list and the extension of those committee members servicing beyond 3 years. Al Joseph made motion to approve and John Zanichelli seconded. Motion carried.
- g. Up-coming important dates were briefed.

Committee Reports:

- a. Christian Response.....Judy Moore: No report.
- b. Columbarium Trust.....John Schaefer: All renovations complete except for railings.
- c. Community Enrichment.....John Zanichelli: Memorial concert and rose ceremony was conducted on November 10th. New programs for 2020 were discussed.
- d. Finance.....Jim Hansen: Items were discussed in New Business.
- e. Memorial.....Dennis Flynn: No meeting.
- f. Missions.....Ed Freels: 4th quarter distribution completed.
- g. Nominating.....Al Joseph: Nominating committee is completed for the year. January 5th will be installation of new board members.
- h. Parish Life.....Marty Smith: New chairman for prayer shawl is needed.
- i. Pastor Parish Relations.....Roy Koskinen: No meeting.
- j. Personnel.....Ed Freels: Board approved salaries for 2020 and final reviews of job description or all non-pastoral employees were reviewed.
- k. Property & Facilities.....John Schaefer: Items were discussed in New Business.
- l. Strategic Planning.....Fred Wong: No meeting.
- m. Technology & Communications..... Nancy Nowacki: There was a meeting November 14th to discuss way ahead of the committee.
- n. Visitor Member Outreach.....Sue Milledge: No meeting.
- o. Worship & Music.....Roy Koskinen: No report.

10. Closing prayer by Fred Wong.

- 11. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by Marty Smith, seconded by Al Joseph. Meeting adjourned.



*** Next meeting: **December 12th, 2019 @ 2:00 pm.** ***

(John Zanichelli will have the Opening & Closing Prayers for the December 12th Board Mtg.)

Submitted by:
Nancy Nowacki

December 2019

Fairfield Glade Community Church

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 10:00 AM Worship-Holy Communion 11:05 AM Fellowship Hour	2 8:00 AM Bridge [1] 6:30 PM ERT-Safety Orientation Meeting for Outside Groups [1]	3 10:00 AM Personnel Committee [6] 2:00 PM Worship and Music [2] 5:00 PM Bridge [1]	4 12:00 PM Bridge Club #355 [1] 6:30 PM Faith Development [1]	5 8:00 AM Men's Fellowship 9:30 AM CIM [6] 9:30 AM SPC [3] 9:30 AM Yoga [1] 1:00 PM Kinseekers [1] 2:00 PM Finance [6] 4:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Bridge [1]	6 9:30 AM Christms Brunch Committee [2] 2:00 PM ERT-Safety Orientation Meeting for Outside Groups [1]	7 9:00 AM Choir Dress Rehearsal for Cantata 9:30 AM Chancel Prep [5&7] 9:30 AM Set up for Brunch 1:00 PM Community Chorus Rehearsal 3:00 PM Community Chorus Concert
8 10:00 AM Worship with the Choir Christmas Cantata 11:00 AM Christmas Brunch	9 8:00 AM Bridge [1] 9:00 AM Diversity Team [6] 1:00 PM Bunco Card Group [1] 2:00 PM Stephen Ministers [6]	10 2:00 PM Visitor Outreach [3] 5:00 PM Bridge [1]	11 8:00 AM Morgan Scott Collection 9:30 AM Women's Fellowship Christmas Luncheon 12:00 PM Bridge Club #355 [1] 6:30 PM Faith Development [1]	12 8:00 AM Men's Fellowship 9:30 AM CIM [6] 9:30 AM Yoga [1] 2:00 PM Board Meeting [6] 4:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Bridge [1]	13 9:00 AM Garden Club Board [6]	14 4:00 PM Choir Caroling-Chili Supper
15 10:42 AM Worship 11:05 AM Fellowship Hour Deadline for Messenger articles to be in the office.	16 8:00 AM Bridge [1] 1:30 PM C5 Board Meeting [6]	17 11:00 AM ERT [6] 5:00 PM Bridge [1]	18 9:00 AM Garden Club [1] 12:00 PM Bridge Club #355 [1] 3:00 PM Great Books [6] 6:30 PM Faith Development [1]	19 8:00 AM Men's Fellowship 9:30 AM CIM [6] 9:30 AM Yoga [1] 4:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Bridge [1]	20	21
22 10:42 AM Worship 11:05 AM Fellowship Hour	23 8:00 AM Bridge [1] 9:30 AM Chancel Prep. [5&7]	24 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service 	25 Christmas Day 	26 8:00 AM Men's Fellowship 9:30 AM CIM [6] 4:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Bridge [1] Church Office Closed	27	28
29 10:42 AM Worship 11:05 AM Fellowship Hour	30 8:00 AM Bridge [1]	31 5:00 PM Bridge [1]	Room assignments 1 Fellowship Hall 2 Fireside Room 3 Stained Glass Room 4 Choir Room 5 Sanctuary 6 Library 7 Kitchen			