The First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Perry is a family that finds ways of supporting growth through the connection of worship and the compassionate care of our church members and community.

Serving Schedule

Servers for December 22, 2019
Elders: Helen Fuller, Arlie Goforth
Worship Leader: Larry Voise
8:15 Deacons: Emile Kennedy, Freddy Nichols
10:30 Deacons: Pam Cunningham, Robbie Frazier, Ashleigh & Tucker Wheatley,
Communion Preparer: Joniece LeValley
8:15 Greeter: Sherry Schweer
10:30 Greeter: Kim Ward

Servers for December 29, 2019
Elders: Robert Cunningham, Sally Frazier
Worship Leader: Jay Debord
8:15 Deacons: Diana Noteware, Randy Parrish
10:30 Deacons: Barry & Kristi Cook, Jeff & Kaelyn Roberts
Communion Preparer: Joniece LeValley
8:15 Greeter: Velma Shelton
10:30 Greeter: Nila Nuttle

Attendance & Giving

December 8, 2019
8:15 am (61) 10:30 am (81)
Total Needed $5,232.00
Total Received $3,195.00
Under Budget $2,037.00

December 15, 2019
8:15 am (49) 10:30 am (110)
Total Needed $5,232.00
Total Received $2,910.00
Under Budget $2,322.00
Josh’s Jottings

Angels!

The line was long heading into the food pantry. “I just have to get in and get out” she thought to herself. It seemed as though the length of the line continued to grow lately. She saw a lot of familiar faces standing in line with her. The part that was frustrating is she saw a lot of new people in need of assistance. The local factory had closed down and that left a lot of people without food right before Christmas. It broke her heart how many people were having to stand in line. Her main concern was if there was going to be enough food to help the amount of people that were standing in the line waiting on food.

It was so cold and the wind didn’t seem like it was going to die down. It was so strong that if she hadn’t worn that new trash bag liner on the inside of her now exposed coat she might have froze to death. It was her “Holy” coat. The moths had made so many holes that it started to look like swiss cheese. I mean if you would want to wear swiss cheese. It was such a special coat. This coat was the last thing her mother had purchased for her before she left this earth. It was long and puffy and most of the time warm. There was once pockets along the side that have long since fallen off. This coat also had multiple purposes and could be magical. One purpose it had was holding all the cats and kittens close to her on those especially cold evenings. She really loved the cats. They took care of her and she took care of them. The coat was also magical because if the wind blew just right she could smell her mother still on the shoulder. It is then she notices she is just a little bit closer.

The same evening another person was standing in line. His outward appearance was rough and haggard. His once nice boots were being held together by duct tape. His blue jeans were stained and well worn. The black cowboy hat he had on was so conformed to his head you might be afraid to move it for fear of taking off his scalp. He had his hands deep in his really old brown Carhart coat. The hair on his face had grown so long that it was hard to make out where his mouth was. His eyes though were very visible. They were the shade of blue that looked as blue as the sky in Oklahoma on day without clouds. His eyes were kind and piercing. It was as if he was surveying everything around him to see any danger ahead. He couldn’t believe he had to be in line to get food. This was the first time he could remember ever needing anyone to give him assistance. He always had a job and most of the time they fed him as he took care of the rancher’s animals. He didn’t necessarily need a roof over his head because most of his adult life he had slept outside with the cattle or inside the barn anyway. It had been a whole month since his last employer had passed away and it just seemed that there weren’t that many jobs for an old cowpoke anymore. It really had been a long time since there was food in his stomach and there is only so long you can lay out under the stars in the Oklahoma winters. There were just so many people in line here. “Maybe I ought to come back later” he thought. “Surely there are people in this line who need it more than me…” he mused.

“There are soooo many people out there!” the young girl thought to herself. “Should I make hot chocolate? Maybe, I should just go out and sing Christmas Carols…” This was her first time to help with the Pantry. They had talked about it at church and her mom thought it would be a good idea for her to help. She always loved helping others. The food pantry tries to do what it can and the churches help and she remembers a time when her family needed just a little help when they were living in the car. Her favorite part about this is what she learned in Sunday School about the “True” Christmas Story. “Bubba and Jet-ro” the shepherds and how they saw angels in the sky telling them to go find a baby that was somehow born in a barn! “A barn! How Crazy!” she thought as she smiled and brought another person to come into “shop!” Then there was this story about “Wise people…” and how they brought Gold, Frankenstein and More! “Gold I get but why did the big guy with bolts in his neck come to see baby Jesus? “I am also glad they brought more...whatever they brought!” she realized when they were telling that part of the story she might have been talking again. It was then she realized what they were doing was kind of like that story...They were bringing people out of the cold. “Well, not to see a baby but definitely because of that baby! We might not have angels above us but definitely have them standing in a line she thought as that song from Sunday School came into her head...Silent night...Holy Night…

Rev. Joshua Bell
**CHOIR NOTES**

Our Choir will be singing the cantata “Breath of Heaven” this coming Sunday, Dec. 22. I hope you will be able to join us. Madeline Bell will sing the title song as a solo. She has such a beautiful, sweet voice. Also, Sue Klingaman will sing a solo part in “Welcome to Our World.” Jim Simm and Pam Cunningham will be the narrators, Joseph and Mary. A big THANK YOU to everyone who has worked on this cantata and who will be helping on Sunday!

The choirs will be taking a short break over the holidays. On Sun., Dec. 29, I will be singing a solo “If I Had Been There.” A trio - Sally Frazier, Sue Klingaman, and Ron Frazier - will sing “One King” on Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020.

May you have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

See you Sunday!

Paula
December - (Making time for the Holy)
22 - Christmas Cantata Service
23 - Distribute Christmas Food Baskets
21st-24th - Live Nativity
24 - Christmas Eve Services 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.
24-26 Office Closed
29 - One Service 10:30 am

January - (Human Trafficking Awareness Month)
3-4 Leadership Retreat for Deacons, Elders and Board officers
6-17 - Joshua in Israel
19 - Human Trafficking Awareness Forum
26 - Chili Cook-Off at 12 pm

Dates in the future to be thinking about:
February 16th - Community Fellowship Dinner
February 23rd - Youth Fundraiser Dinner after Church
April 25 - Regional Assembly at Central Christian Church in Enid, Oklahoma

The kids nativity was purchased by the worship committee for the kids prayer area. God Bless the children in their learning of the Savior child.

The worship committee would also like to thank Carman Lowe-Bell & Maddy Bell for helping to decorate the Sanctuary.

Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.
(Psalm 46:10)