



# N A R T H E X

FLOSSMOOR COMMUNITY CHURCH

Where Christ is Central and Diversity is Cherished

December 2011

## *Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule*

*In December, the sounds of Advent and the joy and wonder of Christmas call us to come and be in faith together. The theme for this year's Advent Wreath is: People will come from East and West, and from North and South. Come experience the joy and wonder at these events:*

### *Sunday, December 4 – Second Sunday in Advent*

**9 & 10:30 a.m. Worship - We will light the Candle of the West**  
*Holy Communion by Intinction*

*Special Advent Service , Deck the Halls and FaLaLa*

**Beginning at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

*Begin celebrating forty-five minutes of worship with singing, harp music and a special Advent message from the Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston. Help decorate the Sanctuary or go carol singing afterward, and conclude with special Fellowship in the Community House. See page 3 for more details.*

### *Sunday, December 11 – Third Sunday in Advent*

**9 & 10:30 a.m. Worship - We will light the Candle of the North**

### *Sunday, December 18 - Fourth Sunday in Advent*

**9 & 10:30 a.m. Worship - We will light Candle of the South**  
*Children's Ministries Sunday*

### *Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve*

**5 p.m.** Family Candlelight Service featuring the "Instant Nativity". Come be part of the nativity story!  
**9 and 11 p.m.** Candlelight Services of Lessons & Carols

### *Sunday, December 25– Christmas Day*

**We will not hold worship services on Christmas Day, but a Devotional will be prepared for people to use at home during the day.**

### *Sunday, January 1 - New Years Day*

**Single 10 a.m. All-Church Worship Service** *In the style of an old-fashioned hymn sing we will sing our favorite Christmas carols one last time before tucking them away for another year. Please bring your remaining Christmas cookies to share at our Fellowship Time in the Gathering Space after worship.*





## An Advent Message from Pastor Kim

"Don't panic." I spend a lot of time saying these words to folks. When I meet with couples who are getting married and are all in a tizzy about the many perceived details of their wedding, I say, "Don't panic. The reality is, as long as the two of you are at the ceremony, together, it will work out. Dresses arriving and tuxes fitting, printed napkins and who sits where are all pretty extras." When parents-to-be are awaiting their child's birth and are frantically worrying about the uncompleted list of things to do and get, I tell them, "Don't panic. As long as the child has you to love, feed, and care for her or him, even a dresser drawer will suffice as a temporary bed and a set of keys will capture their interest."

Imagine if Mary had panicked when God's angel appeared to her, grabbing whatever was within reach and flinging it in the general direction of God's messenger or hiding her head under the cover. She might have missed the very important message shared, which she later held in her heart. Imagine if Joseph, having already gone to pieces once upon hearing Mary's news that they were expecting, panicked when Mary told him, as they were nearing Bethlehem, that she was experiencing the beginning pains of child birth. He might have been so busy running wildly around that he missed Jesus' birth. Or imagine if these new parents, with much to shoulder, had panicked and refused to let the shepherds and visitors see the infant Jesus lying in the manger. The world might never have heard the stories of God's love brought to us not in a palace with richness all around, but in a stable, accessible to all.

So frequently during Advent, as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth, we jump into a panic. But, as you can see, panicking can cause us to miss some very important things. So, as you start making your arm-length list of all the things to get done in order to be ready for Christmas this year, focus on the things that are most special, the things that draw family closer together or remind you most of the generosity of God's love and make them your priority. Then, take a deep breath or two, and don't panic. Remember, as long as Jesus is there, in the midst of your plans and in your heart, Christmas will happen, regardless of what does or doesn't get checked off your list. And, if you intentionally choose to not let the chaos that so many people want to designate as Christmas overwhelm you, the wonder of God's amazing love will once again shine through, bright as the star over Bethlehem. So please, don't panic. May you experience peace this Advent season, and may the blessings of Christmas bring you joy.

God's Peace,



## Welcome Our Newest Members!

Please join us in welcoming 6 new members to our church family:

**Jay and Cheryl Barbaro,**  
with children  
**Jacob, Juliana and Rachael**  
Thornton, IL

**Ray and Sharyl Inlow**  
South Holland, IL

**Elizabeth Tello and Lillie Fenner**  
Lansing, IL

Be sure to get to know these new additions to our faith family!

This fall, our membership process has "expanded." The first Sunday of each month, those people who have discerned the call to join the congregation and who have been baptized are invited to come forward during worship to affirm their willingness to share with us in the ministry of Jesus Christ. Every quarter, a New Member Workshop will be held. Those people who have recently joined, as well as visitors looking for more information, will come together with a membership team to gather information, share faith stories, and explore ways to become engaged in ministry at FCC.

**Our next New Member Sunday is December 4, and our first New Member Workshop will take place from noon-3 p.m. on Sunday, January 22.**



# Special Advent Service & Deck the Halls and Fa-la-la-ing for All Ages!

Come join in a festive Advent evening on Sunday, **December 4**. We will start in the Sanctuary at 6 p.m. by celebrating forty-five minutes of worship with singing, harp music and a special Advent message from the Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston. After worship, you will have the opportunity either to decorate the Sanctuary and church for Christmas or to go caroling in the neighborhood surrounding the church. Both of these activities will conclude around 7:45 p.m., when everyone is welcome to head over to the Community House to enjoy hot cocoa and cookies. This event is for all ages. Childcare for Infants and Toddlers will be available during worship, decorating, and caroling.



## GET CRAZY WITH CRAZY LIGHTS!

Come join the Properties Committee at 9 a.m. on Saturday, **December 3** and get crazy hanging our traditional crazy Christmas lights around the church. We will have coffee and treats. Dress warmly and get your pitching arm ready! We supply the rest! Please call Di King at church, 708-798-2800, ext. 23.

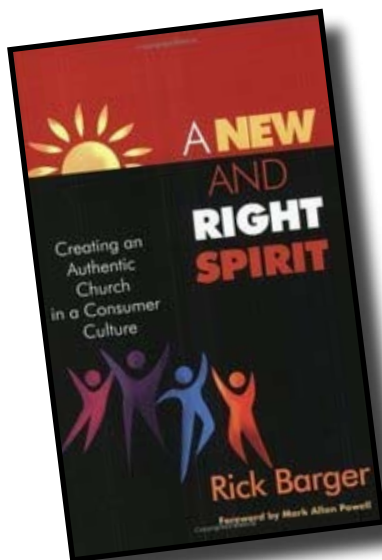


# Christmas Boutique

Come and see our wonderful Christmas merchandise at the Bargain Box Christmas Boutique during Fellowship time in Fellowship Hall on December 4 and 11.

Be sure, also, to stop by the shop (Wednesday through Saturday, 10-4), for thrifty and unique Christmas shopping!

Thank you for your donations. We appreciate your loyalty. At this time, however, due to our lack of storage space, we are asking only for merchandise that is in season.



## The Return of One Book, One Church!

This past spring, the Governing Board read *A New and Right Spirit* by Rick Barger. Barger's insights about church life generated such fruitful and meaningful discussion among the Elders that the Governing Board decided it would be a valuable experience to share the book with the congregation using the "One Book, One Church" format. Look for this program to start in February 2012. More details about participating in OBOC will be publicized in the weeks ahead.



## ADULT EDUCATION

### DISCOVERY FORUM

Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the Family Room

Led by Trina Hayes

Discussion of *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor continues with Chapter 3: Incarnation on December 4 and Chapter 4: Groundedness on December 11. Reading the chapters prior to the meeting will enhance the participant's experience but is not required.

On December 18 we'll have a Book Club discussion of *The Madonnas of Leningrad* by Debra Dean, a gripping novel that tells of Marina, an elderly Russian woman, whose memories of Leningrad and her job at the Hermitage in 1941 are more vivid than the details of the present. Books are available on line or in libraries and bookstores. Contact Trina Hayes, trina@bookhungry.com for more information.

### A NEW KIND OF CHRISTIANITY

Sundays through December 18 in the Parlor at 10:30 a.m.

Hosted by George Francis

This class will be the study of Brian McLaren's book which examines 10 questions in our world today that are transforming our faith. These topics include, "What is the overarching story line of the Bible?", "How should the Bible be understood?", "What is the Gospel?", "Can we find a way to address human sexuality without fighting about it?", among others.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

Beat that pesky winter boredom!

The Board of Congregational Life will be hosting a

'2-Step Dinner'

Saturday, January 21

Step 1:

At 6 p.m., participants will gather for potluck dinners hosted in homes

Step 2:

At 8 p.m. all will join at the community house for dessert and fellowship!



Look for more information and sign-ups in mid-December!



# FCC Children's Ministries



**PASS  
ON THE GIFT<sup>SM</sup>**

**Sixth graders** served dinner to FCC's PADS guests, Nov. 6. Many hands helped make and serve the meal to an appreciative group of men.

## What does Heifer International and FCC's Trunk or Treat have in common?



Animals! Lots of animals. October 30, the children wearing animal masks headed out to waiting autos to recite a Bible verse and receive a treat. In addition to studying Noah & the Flood, this year's offering will be going to Heifer International. To date, we've collected \$199 from our Sunday morning offering. The children have received ark banks and are encouraged to add an animal to their Christmas wish list. We encourage our FCC family to visit [www.heifer.org/faith](http://www.heifer.org/faith) to find out how you might give a gift this holiday season that helps a change the world, one family at a time.



**Sunday, December 18, Children's Ministries will lead worship for both services.** The kids will greet, usher, lead, sing, act, and dance with Don Jones preaching the sermon. Both children's choirs will also sing. All children are invited to participate. Join us for a morning of praise and worship to Christ, the King.

### Many thanks to all the people who provided leadership in Children's Ministries the 1st semester of Sunday school:

Nona Riedel, Suzzi Fonner, Dana & Chris Dolan, Ish Kolehmainen  
Jordan Watson, Debbie Cothran, Patti Taylor, Peter Robertson  
Betty Baker, Anne Thiros, Paul Erickson, Barb Johnson, Julie Norville  
Janice Gislason, Sally Gregory, Jane Redman, Lisa & Mark Watson  
Rebecca Pugh, Judi Hoffman, Dawn Zaugh and Eric Haberichter.

**There will not be Sunday school December 25 or January 1. We'll see everyone on January 8!**



## Annual Youth Alum & Leadership Christmas Open House

Wednesday, December 21  
from 7 - 10 p.m.

At the Hanzelin's House  
2039 Evans, Flossmoor

Spread the word to all college students and other youth alums! All Youth Alums and Leadership are welcomed in from the cold for an evening of warm reconnecting and celebrating. Please join us when you can stop and enjoy some Christmas fellowship and tasty treats.



## Youth Ministries Christmas Giving Project

For many years, Youth Ministries has provided opportunities for the congregation and friends to participate in intentional giving during the Christmas Season. Instead of spending money on trinkets, we encourage you to consider purchasing "gift cards" to benefit others during this season of giving.

This year, we have chosen the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) as the recipient of our Christmas Giving. GCFD provides food to needy residents of Cook County and serves those in our own communities. The Food Depository distributes 69 million pounds of food, including more than 18 million pounds of produce, to 650



pantries, soup kitchens and shelters in Cook County. Nearly 142,000 men, women and children turn to the Food Depository's network each week, and nearly 678,000 people turn to the network annually. ([www.chicagofoodbank.org](http://www.chicagofoodbank.org))

Gift cards will be available to give to others which provide notice of your gift as well as information regarding hunger and GCFD. Each dollar spent provides three meals, so cards are available in \$1 (3 meals), \$5 (15 meals) or \$10 (30 meals) increments. Cards will be available Sunday in the Gathering Space beginning December 4 or during the week in the Youth Ministries Office.



## Ways to Give Back During this Season of Giving!



### The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is back. Visit its branches and bring the joy of receiving a Christmas gift to a special girl or boy. It's as simple as picking an ornament, purchasing a gift, and returning it to the sitting room outside the Associate Pastor's office, with the ornament card attached. Your gift supports Aunt Martha's Youth Center. Aunt Martha's aids children and youth in all of the southland communities. There will also be cards with requests for gift cards for our PADS guests, an easy way to brighten someone's Christmas. **Gifts should be delivered to FCC by Tuesday, December 6.**

### Warm Fuzzies

Our Giving Tree will look mighty bare once the ornaments for gifts are taken. Let's warm it up with hats, gloves, mittens and socks for folks needing help to brave the winter frost. Place your items on the tree **December 4 – December 18.**



### Winter Food Drive

This year, in order to assist our local food pantry during the often-forgotten post-holiday months, we will be doing a food drive in January. Bags for the Winter Food Drive will be available after worship January 8 and 15. Bags can be returned Sundays, January 15 and 22 and will then be delivered to Respond Now. Items must be non-perishable. Baby food and formula (canned or powdered), are welcome additions. No expired items will be accepted. So pick up a few extra things in your shopping cart during the great holiday sales and fill a bag to feed a family!



### Christmas Angels

You can help a local needy family experience the true spirit of Christmas giving by becoming a Christmas Angel. We are hoping to match families with Christmas Angels who can fulfill their Christmas wishes. We would also appreciate any monetary donations (by December 1, if possible) for gift certificates for groceries, shoes, and other essentials. *(Make checks payable to Flossmoor Community Church, noting Christmas Angels on the memo line.)* You may also provide items such as towels, blankets, sheets, toiletries, pots & pans, dishes, laundry detergent and canned goods. To participate, simply fill out the blue Christmas Angels 2010 Sponsor Information Sheet, available at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space, and return it as soon as possible. Questions? Please call Sis Flor at 798-8311, Joan Hardy at 957-1893 or Julie Howard at 815-469-4024.

**A reminder to our Christmas Angels:** Please bring your boxed and labeled packages to the Community House (798-9857) on Friday, December 16, between 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Volunteers will be there to receive your gifts and sort them for delivery. If you would like to see the joy on our receiving families' faces, we would love to have you help deliver the gifts to the families on Saturday, December 17, from 9:30 a.m. until noon!

NeighborScapes ([neighborscapes.org](http://neighborscapes.org)) is a youth development organization supported by FCC's Outreach Ministries. Among its activities is snow shoveling during the winter months, and NeighborScapes is currently seeking both customers and adult volunteers to help coordinate the young people's work. Please contact Jay Readey at (312)404-2585 or [jreadey@neighborscapes.org](mailto:jreadey@neighborscapes.org) if you would like driveway service or a volunteer opportunity.



## Because We Care.

Diaconate is here for those experiencing a crisis in their lives. We provide meals, give rides, serve at memorials, and visit the sick and homebound.

When facing challenges, please know that you are not alone, and that Christ is always with you. It is in His name we serve.

The Diaconate



## Women's & Men's Association

*presents*

*The Legend of St. Nicholas*

**Luncheon & Program  
December 14 at Noon in Fellowship Hall**



Are you tired of the secularization of Christmas? Celebrate the traditions of the Christmas season with actor Terry Lynch (of HFK Presents) in "The Legend of St. Nicholas." Learn about St. Nicholas characters in various countries, popular Christmas symbols, and worldwide Christmas traditions. This one-man show on the beloved Bishop of Myra, St. Nicholas, helps us find new understanding of the Christmas season, and to realize that to celebrate the birth of Christ is to truly live His life.

Once again, the Women of Note returns with a delightful holiday treat for the WMA. Don't miss it! They will perform prior to the luncheon at noon. Sign up at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space. Tickets are \$10; pay at the door. Reservations may also be placed by calling Kim (754-2683) or Lois (798-8295).



*Our Sympathy  
and Prayers to:*

*We Celebrate the Births of:*

**Brooklyn Marie Bostrom-Blythe**, born November 11. Brooklyn is the daughter of Cole Blythe and Brittany Bostrom, sister of Zackary Blythe, the granddaughter of Ross and Lora Blythe, and the niece of Taylor and Riley Blythe.

**Seeger Motlong Goetscheus**, born November 11. Seeger is the son of Elisabeth Motlong and husband Mark Goetscheus, and the grandson of Bill and Barbara Motlong.

**Owen Michael Laabs**, born November 12. Owen is the son of Eric and Melissa Laabs, the brother of Ian and Evan, and the grandson of Sandy and Ray Laabs.

**Pastor Kim Wood and family** in the passing of her mother-in-law, Eldonna Wood, on October 29.

**Kim O’Lone and family** in the death of her brother, David W. Anderson (IN), on November 2.

**Peggy Butler and family** in the death of her mother, Marian Lemaster (CO), on November 7.

**Ben Hardy and family** in the recent death of his brother-in-law, Lewis “Smitty” Smith.

**Nancy Panzica and family** in the death of her father, Frank H. Finck, Jr., who died November 8.

**Former member Ralph Hellman and family** in the death of his wife, Doris Hellman (CO) on October 24.

**Ann Gardner and family** in the death of her uncle, James Ripple, who died November 18.

**Barbara Burleson, Brenda Sparenberg, and family** in the death of Barbara’s husband and Brenda’s father, Hewitt Burleson, on November 20.



**Greetings and Many Thanks!**

Greetings from Aleece Fulton, who wants everyone to know how grateful she is for the wonderful love and support she has received from FCC this past year.

Many thanks for all the cards and phone calls she has received. Aleece looks forward to being in church for worship soon.

**Weekday Preschool Volunteers hard at work at the second playground clean up of the school year.**



FCC Weekday Preschool

Many thanks for the sweeping, raking, sorting, cleaning and painting so the children continue to enjoy this fabulous outdoor space. The continued efforts of parents maintain our playground throughout the school year. We couldn’t do it without you!



If you would like to decorate our Sanctuary with a poinsettia this Christmas, please use the order form below. The poinsettias will beautify our Sacred Space on Sundays, December 19 and on Christmas Eve. The poinsettia list will be in the Christmas Eve worship bulletins. The **deadline** to order is **Sunday, December 11.**



Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia plant(s) @ \$11 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Choose one:

- \_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my plant(s) following the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will give my plant(s) to someone who is ill or homebound.  
(Delivered by a member of the Diaconate)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

My poinsettia is to be dedicated:

\_\_\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In appreciation of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In loving memory of \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Order forms and checks (payable to Flossmoor Community Church) must be returned to the church office (Attn. Brooke) **no later than Sunday, December 11.** Flossmoor Community Church • 2218 Hutchison Rd. • Flossmoor, IL 60422

Questions may be directed to Brooke King at 708-798-2800 x 13 or bking@fccfaithful.org



# DECEMBER

**Worship** from 9-10 a.m. & 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
**Adult Education:** 10:30 a.m.  
**Fellowship Time:** 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

**Youth Groups:** 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
**Promised Land Church School:** 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
**Preschool Groups:** 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
**Nursery Care:** 9 - 11:30 a.m.

Sun	12/04	Second Sunday of Advent Communion Bargain Box Christmas Boutique (During Fellowship Times) (FH) Advent Worship Service (SA)	5 pm
Tues	12/06	Diaconate (PA) Children's Ministries (A2C) Adult Education (Rm. 23) Outreach (Rm. 22) Personnel (FR)	6:30 pm 7 7:30
Sun	12/11	Third Sunday of Advent Bargain Box Christmas Boutique (During Fellowship Times) (FH)	
Tues	12/13	Congregational Life (Rm.22) Finance (LB) Lay Ministries (A2C) Properties (Rm.23) Worship & the Arts (GS)	6 pm 6:30 7:30
Wed	12/14	Women's & Men's Association Luncheon & Program (FH)	12 pm
Fri	12/16	Christmas Angels Gifts Drop-Off (CH)	9 am-9pm
Sun	12/18	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
Tues	12/20	Stephen Ministry Peer Support (FR) Stewardship (SPO)	7:30 pm
Fri	12/23	FCC Office closes at noon	
Sat	12/24	Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service Candlelight Service Candlelight Service	5 pm 9 pm 11 pm
Sun	12/25	Christmas Day No worship services	
Mon	12/26	FCC Office closed	

Tues	12/27	Governing Board (FH)	7 pm
Wed	12/28	Foundation (FR)	7:30 pm
Fri	12/30	FCC Office closes at noon	
Sat	12/31	New Years Eve	
Sun	01/01	New Years Day Single Worship Service (SA)	10 am
Mon	01/02	FCC Office Closed	



## SPECIAL WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS

Mon	Associate Pastor Search Committee (FR)	7 pm
Tues	Bazaar Workshop (MP) Yoga with a Spiritual Vein (SC) Staff Meeting (FR) Bazaar Workshop (MP)	9 am 9:30 am 11 am 7 pm
Wed	Chair Yoga (SC) Yoga with a Spiritual Vein (SC) Cherub Choir (FR) Jubilate Choir (CP) Youth Leadership (CP)	11 am 12:30 pm 4 7:30
Thurs	Chancel Ringers (RRB) Chancel Choir (CP) Yoga with a Spiritual Vein (SC)	6:30 pm 7:30 pm 7:30 pm
Fri	Yoga with a Spiritual Vein (SC)	9:30 am
Sat	Men's Church at the Train Station (CATS) - Flossmoor Station Restaurant	8 am
Sun	PADS (FH)	6 pm

## CALENDAR CODES

A2C	Acts2Crew (Rm. 10)	GS	Gathering Space	OAS	Oasis (Rm 11)	SPO	Sr. Pastor's Office
CP	Chapel	GE	Genesis Room	PA	Parlor	TR	Tower Room
CH	Community House	LB	Library	PEGs	Parent Education Groups	TP	Temple (Room 12)
CS	Creation Station (Rm. 15)	MPT	MasterPeace Theater (Rm. 14)	RRB	Rehearsal Room B	WMA	Women's & Men's Association
FR	Family Room	MPR	Multipurpose Room	SA	Sanctuary	WPS	Weekday Preschool
FH	Fellowship Hall	NU	Nursery	SC	Spirituality Center	YC	Youth Crossings

# AN ADVENT MESSAGE FROM FRED

December 2011

## *Once More to Bethlehem*

God has a soft spot for the least likely people pulling off the least probable successes amid the least auspicious circumstances. Maybe this is why God chooses to take on flesh under such stark conditions.

Where will we find the Christ Child this year? How much of our holiday season are we willing to spend searching in unfamiliar places?

I am not a poet, nor do I play one on television. But the following words help me share my hope that everyone at Flossmoor Community Church will be blessed with the holy wonder to recognize the sacred unfolding from some of the most unexpected sources throughout the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons:

### Stable Expectations

"HoHoHo" or "Hallelujah"  
merchandise or manger  
advertisers or angels---  
where is Bethlehem?

Bethlehem is where  
the newborn son of peasants  
beckons us to worship  
a savior in a feeding trough.

No other expectations  
prepare us for the stable.

May tidings of comfort and joy embolden us not only to ring in the new, but to explore the new, namely, the new things God is forever up to in the birth of Jesus of Nazareth who is Jesus the Christ.

Peace,

*Fred*



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2011

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