

The Heartbeat

December 2024

Vermont Christian Church

PO BOX 178
100 West 3rd Street
Vermont, IL 61484

www.vccfaith.com

Minister

Stacy Popejoy

Secretary

Diane Martinez
vccoffice1@frontier.com
309-784-5621



Serve, Love, Live

Office Hours

Mon—Fri 8-12

Elders

Mike Ulmer
309.758.5413
Randy Parks
309.758.5465
309.221.8003 cell
Luis Martinez
309.313.5831

Every Sunday :
Sunday School - 9 a.m.
Worship - 10:00 a.m.

For unto you is
born this day
in the city of David a
Saviour
which is
Christ the Lord.
- Luke 2:11

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Sidenotes From Stacy

I have a friend who once told me that I was a person that people either liked or couldn't stand, there was no in between. I think at the time he told me that I took it as an insult. Apparently, my personality is such that no one can know me and be indifferent in their feelings toward me. However, over time, I grew to see it more as a compliment, which is what I believe he intended. I thought at first I should try to "fix" myself so that everyone would see me as someone to like, but that would mean changing who I was and becoming a mere shell of my true self. I suspect that even if I wanted to change, it would not be possible. So, I learned to accept his definition of me, because that's the real me and that's okay. Am I perfect? No. Do I sometimes get on people's nerves? Absolutely. And if people choose not to like me, it's only because their idea of who I should be differs from who I am. I am drawn to the words of John Candy in the movie *Planes, Trains, and Automobiles* when he said "Well, you think what you want about me; I'm not changing. I like... I like me. My wife likes me. My customers like me. 'Cause I'm the real article. What you see is what you get."

I have been thinking a lot lately about people respond to Jesus in much the same way. Now, forgive me. I am not trying to compare myself to Jesus at all. But I do know of people who love Him and some who can't stand Him. For some He is the truth and the answer to everything. To others He is too demanding, too exclusionary, too far out of touch. Well, as much as Jesus would prefer that everyone love Him, even if they don't, He's not going to change. At all. For anyone! And wrapped into that statement are to very important truths: Not loving Him is the prerogative of any person, and He will NEVER stop loving them. What you see in the Bible is what you get. Obviously, what one gets by loving Him is preferential to what they get when they don't love Him, But neither choice affects how He feels about all of us. For some, unfortunately, His love means giving them the choice to accept or reject, and with rejection comes the consequence of their choice.

As we focus on sharing the message of the Gospels with others who haven't yet accepted Him as Lord, we must always present Him as one who loves and deserves to be loved. And when we are sharing Jesus with others, it does not matter how they feel about us, as long we are sharing the truth about Jesus!

Love to you all,
Stacy

PS. Having them like us would be the preferred way to start the conversation about Jesus with someone, however!

December 2024

Schedule of Events – December

- 1 – Hanging of the Greens & Guest Musicians
- 12 – Midwest 11am
- 13 – Community Cupboard 4-6pm
- 14 – Traveling Dinner 4:30pm
- 15 – Youth Group Christmas Party
- 24 – Candlelight Service 5:30p.m.

November Averages

Worship - 55
 General Funds- \$1,7100.00
 Faith Promise- \$201.25

Monthly Needs

General Funds - \$2,125.27
 Faith Promise - \$310.00

Building Fund – \$0.00
 Monthly Needs - \$750.00

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Hanging of the Greens Youth Group	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Youth Group	9	10	11	12 Midwest	13 Community Cupboard	14 Traveling Dinner
15 Youth Group Christmas Party	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Candle Light Service	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29	30 New Years Eve					

Monthly Servants

Elder
Luis Martinez

Deacon
Mark Behymer

Deaconess
Lyndall Snowden

Sunday Servants

Greeters

- 01 Donna Snowden & Nancy Porter
- 08 Kathy Cox & Carmen Martinez
- 15 Beverly Rayburn & Connie Morrow
- 22 Mark & Amanda Behymer
- 29 Randy & Sharon Parks

Welcome/Meditation

- Randy Parks
- Marla Butcher
- Donna Horwedel
- Lyndall S/Rodney P
- Rick R/Becky K

Nursery

- Luis & Diane Martinez
- Brian & Christen Parks
- Sharon P & Carmen M
- Connie M & Emery B
- Charlene A & Addie M



- 01 Stacy Popejoy
- 11 Danielle Schoonover
- 14 Donna Bradford
- 14 Don Butcher
- 16 Lyndall Snowden
- 20 Bea LeMaster
- 22 Carmen Martinez
- 22 Mike Ulmer
- 24 Addyson Behymer
- 28 Christen Parks



- 06 Rodney & Brecken Reimolds
- 19 Scott & Georgia Jones
- 31 Keith & Sara Boeckelman

Junior Worship

- 1 – Cindy Popejoy
- 8 – Amanda Behymer
- 15 – Cindy Popejoy
- 22 – Diane Martinez
- 29 – Rick Riggins



Sunday, December 1st, 2024
Vermont Christian Church

Schedule of Events

- 9:00am – Sunday School
- 10:00am – Worship, including a music special and message
- 11:15 am – Light Lunch, Served by VCC Deaconesses followed by Hanging of the Greens. We will work together to bring the beauty of the Christmas season here to our Church House!



Angel Tree

Our Angel Tree is up!



The Angels are on the tree! Please stop in the foyer and choose yours. All gifts will be due back (wrapped) by Sunday, December 15th

Poinsettias

The Poinsettias that decorate our Sanctuary during this Christmas Season were purchased by the following people in memory of....

Connie Morrow
Brian, Christen, Delaney, & Everly

Lyndall Snowden

Martinez Family

Jere & Paula Greuel
Nancy Porter
Randy & Sharon Parks
Don & Marla Butcher
Mike & Cathy Ulmer
Paul Parks
Carl & Robin Beebe

Donna Horwedel
Scott & Georgia Jones



Sadie
Grandma B
Grandpa Pee Wee
Mike Snowden
Patrick Martin
Eileen Martin
Joseph & Jonathan
Grandma Gloria
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Marjory Parks
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Marjory Parks
Betty Little
Fern Dennis
Loved Ones
Gabriel Jones



Candle Light Service

Tuesday, December 24th
At 5:30pm

Everyone is invited you will leave with a joyous song in your heart and a reminder of the reason for the season! The Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.



And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy the Son of God.

LUKE 1:35

Community Cupboard News!

Thanksgiving Baskets were given to families in November!

May God continue to bless our community!



Donations and volunteers are always welcome.

The Next Pantry giveaway will be Friday
December 13th, 4-6pm

Call the office with any questions or contact Dawn
Dohner.

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CHURCH**
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