



# Altoona Christian Church *THE WELCOME NEWS*

Rev. McKinna Daugherty

*"Touched by Christ to Care and Serve"*

December 2016

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On Sunday, October 30th, the Barn Owl Band played and we enjoyed a wonderful dinner and pies!



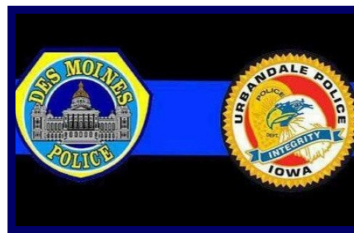


Photo Courtesy of Mark Davitt & The Des Moines Register

### Comments after Prayer Vigil, Nov. 2 Rev. McKinna Daugherty

We gathered in solidarity with local police officers and Altoona area residents to sing, pray, and mourn together for the loss of life. Our prayers centered around themes of unity, peacemaking, and faith that God is present and does not forsake us in our grief. In giving thanks for the lives and the sacrifice of Sgt. Beminio and Ofc. Martin, we affirm that all life is sacred and that when one part of the human body is hurting, we all feel that pain. By drawing together and standing side by side, we are reminded that not one of us is alone, and the burden of our mourning is better borne together. In reading Psalm 46:1-7 we were reminded that God is our very present help in times of trouble and that God is with us now and always.

We prayed for peace, comfort, and strength for the families of Sgt. Beminio and Ofc. Martin. Their lives have been irrevocably disrupted, and they will need our prayers and support in a variety of ways. My prayer is that our brief vigil will inspire prayers for weeks and months and years to come, and that our candlelight is sign that we are standing with these families as they navigate the deep waters of grief. In the face of such trouble, it is natural to ask, "Where is God now?" We proclaim that even when our hearts are broken, our God is a God of peace and justice, and God is the light shining in the darkest night.

We prayed protection over all the officers in the Des Moines metro, including many of the Altoona Police who were present at this vigil. We know these officers have difficult jobs to do and they must do them even when they are afraid, worried, and grieving. We prayed that they would be sustained by the strength of God, and guided by wisdom in tense situations. We prayed for those tasked with investigating these murders, for the perpetrator of this violence, and for city officials and police chiefs as they lead in a turbulent time.

Those present were invited to write notes of support and prayers on banners for the officers' families, and for the Urbandale and Des Moines Police Departments.

In the face of such tragedy and deep sadness I often hear people ask, "Is prayer enough? What does it even do?" As a pastor, I sometimes wonder the same thing because the injustices of this world are so overwhelming. But I do know this: prayer is an act of love and it is one of many ways to offer love to one another. When we pray, it changes us slowly from the inside out and allows us to over time let go of anger, pain, and fear. It opens our hearts to hope, joy, and forgiveness. Prayer is not passive, for it moves us to peaceful action. We all have the potential and responsibility to seek peace and offer love to each other, not just to those who are easy to love but also and especially with those who are hard to love. We must draw the circle of love wider and wider each day, until no one stands alone and we are all side by side.

(originally published in the Herald-Index on Nov. 9th, 2016)



Dear Friends,

As our church year comes to a close, we have much to celebrate: from a Disney movie sermon series, joint worship services during Lent with two neighboring churches, a Listening Campaign, church camps, an incredible youth eco-mission trip to Colorado, our town's first ever National Night Out, Vacation Bible School, packaging Meals from the Heartland, and increasing excitement over our 150th anniversary.

We've been a church hard at work for peace and love in our community!

And now we turn our hearts toward a season of waiting and observing. Advent is a time to acknowledge that the world is not as it should be, and also to have hope the Answer to our questions will be coming soon. It's a time to readjust our expectations and let go of a grand and powerful Messiah in order to welcome a tiny vulnerable child. It's a time to sit in the darkness and watch for the flickers of light. It's a time to pause, and wait, and just...be.



This is in direct conflict with the messages of our culture which tell us to "GO, GO, GO!" and "BUY MORE THINGS" and "FILL MORE TIME!" As always, Jesus leads us to go against the grain. It may not be what we want to do, or even what we think we need, but Jesus knows best. So...pause. Listen. Wait. Pray.

*And finally...welcome the Light which the darkness cannot overcome. Welcome the Light which will illuminate our steps and actions in the coming year. Welcome the Light that softens hard hearts and astounds the skeptical mind. Welcome the Light of Christ.*

With you in the waiting,

Pastor McKinna

*christmas AND advent*  
 at Altoona Christian Church  
 Welcome the Light: Wait, Watch, Prepare, Praise

Sundays, 8:15 & 10:15 am  
 Nov. 27- Hanging of the Greens  
 Dec. 4- "Wake Up"  
 Pastor McKinna, preaching

Dec. 11- "An Unexpected Christmas"  
 Children's Program (10:15 am)

Dec. 18- "God With Us"  
 Pastor McKinna, preaching

Wednesdays at Noon  
 Nov. 30 - Dec 21  
 ACC Spirit Room  
*forty-five minutes of  
 welcoming the light,  
 praying, & singing our way  
 to Christmas*

Candlelight Christmas Eve - Dec. 24  
 6:00 p.m. Family Service & 10:00 p.m. Contemplative Service

Christmas Morning - Dec. 25  
 10:15 a.m. Lessons & Carols

**save the date**

**DB Acoustics - Dec. 4th**  
 Need to hear our services better?  
 Plan to be here!

**AN UNEXPECTED CHRISTMAS**

Christmas Program

Sunday, December 11th  
 10:15 a.m. service

**Des Moines: Advent Silent Retreat**  
 Saturday, December 03, 2016  
 9:00am - 12:00pm

Cost: \$15, payable at the event

**Location:** Covenant Christian Church  
 2700 72nd Street  
 Urbandale, IA  
<http://www.covenant-christian.org/>

**Contact** Paul Witmer: 240-1653  
[paulwitmer@msn.com](mailto:paulwitmer@msn.com)

**That Night in Bethlehem:**  
*From Generation to Generation*

*Festival of the Nativity*

Hundreds of nativity scenes set in a beautiful seasonal display,  
 complete with holiday music and refreshments

Friday, December 2, 2016 - 10 am to 3 pm  
 Saturday, December 3, 2016 - 10 am to 3 pm  
 Sunday, December 4, 2016 - noon to 4 pm

Free admission . Free refreshments . All ages welcome  
 Freewill donations benefit the Caring Hands Food Pantry

Altoona Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
 2890 1st Avenue South, Altoona, Iowa 50009  
 (515) 967-4382  
[altoonadcc@msn.com](mailto:altoonadcc@msn.com)  
[www.altoonachristianchurch.org](http://www.altoonachristianchurch.org)  
[www.facebook.com/ACCThatNightInBethlehem](http://www.facebook.com/ACCThatNightInBethlehem)

**Tony & April Glass**  
 and  
**Boy Scout Troop 383 Altoona**  
 cordially invite you to  
 share in the  
**Eagle Scout Court of Honor**  
 for  
**Tyler Christian Glass**

**Sunday, December 11, 2016**  
 1:00 pm

Altoona Christian Church  
 2890 1st Avenue South  
 Altoona, Iowa

Reception to follow  
 in the fellowship hall

**OUT**  
**OF THE**  
**OFFICE**

December 22nd—Jody PTO

Office Closed (Christmas)  
 on December 26th & 27th

Pastor McKinna (vacation) -  
 December 26th-January 8th

**THANKS**  
*from the*  
**HEART**

Thank you for all the thoughts, prayers,  
 visits, cards, phone calls, emails, and  
 flowers during my time of illness. We  
 deeply appreciate our church family.  
 ~ Larry DeMoss



### Knitting (with a twist) Returns to ACC

The round loom knitters have taken their skills on the road! In November and December several members of ACC are visiting Hoyt Middle School in Des Moines to teach fifteen 6th, 7th and 8th grade girls how to knit using round looms. The Blazing Stars, a girls leadership group meets on Thursdays from 2:30 to 4:30 and for the next few weeks, several members of ACC will be joining them. The church members are teaching the girls round loom knitting to promote creativity, relaxation and self-sufficiency. During the four week period the girls will complete a baby cap to be donated to charity. If they enjoy knitting and wish to continue, they may then knit caps for themselves, family members or charity. After just one session, the girls seem to be catching on quickly and all are enjoying the multi-generational fellowship. Their teachers are: Jane Ferguson, Sue Renaud, Carol Nieters, Bob Gulling, John Champion, Pat Miller, and Laurie Kolstead.

The beginning knitter’s class will be offered in January. This class will be open to all members of the church, their friends and families and residents of Prairie Vista Village. The knitting fellowship will also resume in January and continue monthly through March. Caps completed during that time will be donated to John Stoddard Cancer Center, the Clothes Hangar at Caring Hands and an elementary school in SE Polk. Dates will be announced in December.



### Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family; Double the Fun This Year

For the past couple of years there has been an outpouring of gifts and food for our adopted family through Salvation Army. More in fact, than they had requested and not everyone that wanted to participate was able to. So, because of your generosity, the outreach committee decided to sponsor two families this year! Tags with the needs and wishes of both families will be hung on the giving tree in the narthex. It’s easy and fun to participate!

1. Select one or more tags from the tree (Tags will be color-coded by family).
2. Purchase the gift(s) listed on the tag.
3. Wrap the gift including a gift receipt if possible.
4. Attach the tag from the tree to the OUTSIDE of the gift.
5. Place the gift under the giving tree in the narthex by Dec. 14th.





HEALTHY LIVING MADE SIMPLE

With Thanksgiving Day approaching, how appropriate that I should read this and pause to meditate. A quote by Scott Pelley, TV news anchor. ***I think in order to live a happy life, you have to be part of something bigger than yourself***". On his desk sits a bright red sign with all caps: GRATITUDE. He goes on to say, "Gratitude takes away pride; it takes away competition. Small concerns disappear. Allows you to feel your very best. If feeling I've been wronged or something is going wrong in my life, I stop and say, "What do I have to be grateful for?" Good health needs to be a priority."

Now apply a "bigger than self" concept to your spiritual health. Proverbs 4:20-22. *Listen carefully to my words...let penetrate deep into heart...they bring life and healing to your whole body.* I John 3. *I wish above all things that you are as healthy in body as you are in spirit.*

We are three in one We are a spirit; have a mind; live in a body. Good spiritual, mental and physical health are intertwined. If so inclined, post a reminder sign to make gratitude a habit. Wrap it up in praise. It will soon become a very easy, natural and comfortable way to live. Healthy living made simple. Best wishes for a very happy Thanksgiving!

Ruth O'Connor—Caring Hands Food Pantry

In October of 2016, 306 families came to the food pantry for assistance - 534 adults and 408 children, for a total of 942 persons served. There were 7,604 pounds of food given, not counting the bread, cookies, cakes and fruits and vegetables donated by some of the local stores. Apples were shared with the pantry from persons who had more than they could use. Vouchers for \$8.00 were handed out to be used at the Fareway Stores at Altoona or Pleasant Hill or the Brick Street Market at Bondurant, to 304 families. These are used for perishable items like milk, butter, eggs, etc. that we cannot keep at the pantry. Personal items such as soap, diapers, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste etc. are also given. Laundry detergent can be given every other month. Rent assistance checks for \$ 450.00 and utility assistance checks for \$ 476.00 were written.

**Food needed this month: Green Beans**

A "Simple Supper" is provided for our food pantry clients the last Monday of each month from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Adventure-Life Church, and is provided by churches, organizations and families in the SEP area. Dee Bucklin will provide the meal on November 28, and on **Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>** from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. a Christmas dinner will be served to all our food pantry clients. Statistics for the Clothes Hanger for October are: 174 families assisted - (337 adults and 289 children) totaling 626 individuals. Clothing items given totaled 3,377 and household items, 87. On behalf of our clients we say a "HUGE THANK YOU" to all of the individuals, churches, businesses, schools and organizations who are so very generous in donating food and finances to the pantry. It is all so much appreciated, and we pray your lives will be richly blessed.

**THANK YOU FOR LOVING OTHERS**



December 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

# December 2016

# Christmas Joy

**Thu Dec 1, 2016** Setup for That Night In Bethlehem  
6:15pm Mixed Blessings Quartet Practice  
7pm Choir Practice

**Fri Dec 2, 2016** 10-3pm That Night In Bethlehem

**Sat Dec 3, 2016** 10-3pm That Night In Bethlehem  
9am Advent Silent Retreat-Covenant Christian Church

**Sun Dec 4, 2016** **Advent (Peace) /Love Fund Offering**  
8:15am/10:15am Worship Services  
9am & 4pm Christmas Program Practice  
10:15am Late Worship Service  
11:30am DB Acoustics (Hearing Loss Meeting)  
Noon-4pm That Night In Bethlehem  
5pm Youth Group  
6pm Boy Scout Committee Meeting



**Mon Dec 5, 2016**  
4pm Nativity Pick Up  
6:30pm Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts (Tiger Den & Wolves)

**Tue Dec 6, 2016**  
9am TOPS  
6pm Outreach Meeting-ACC Spirit Room  
6:30pm Cub Scouts (Webs 1 & Bears)  
7pm Narcotics Anonymous

**Wed Dec 7, 2016**  
12:15pm Advent Contemplative Prayer

**Thu Dec 8, 2016**  
6:15pm Mixed Blessings Quartet Practice/7pm Choir Practice

**Fri Dec 9, 2016**  
6pm Boy Scouts (overnight gathering) - Sat. 10 am

**Sat Dec 10, 2016**  
11am Family Christmas Party (Madline Cahhal-F. Hall)  
Christmas Program (set up) 5:30 pm

**Sun Dec 11, 2016** **Advent (Joy)**  
8:15am/10:15am Worship Services  
10:30am Children's Program  
(An Unexpected Christmas)  
1-3pm Eagle Scout Ceremony-Fellowship Hall  
& Sanctuary



**Mon Dec 12, 2016**  
6:30pm Boy Scouts  
6:30pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting - Fellowship Hall

**Tue Dec 13, 2016**  
9am TOPS  
6:30pm Cub Scouts (Webs 1)  
7pm Narcotics Anonymous

**Wed Dec 14, 2016**  
10am Altoona Nursing Home Service  
12:15pm Advent Contemplative Prayer

**Thu Dec 15, 2016**  
6:15pm Mixed Blessings Quartet Practice  
7pm Choir Practice

**Sat Dec 17, 2016**  
1pm Piano Recital - Sanctuary

**Sun Dec 18, 2016** **Advent (Love)**  
Food Pantry Sunday  
8:15am/10:15am Worship Services  
11:30am Annual Congregational Meeting  
5pm Christmas Party - Youth Group



**Mon Dec 19, 2016**  
6:30pm Boy Scouts  
6:30pm Cub Scouts (Tiger Den & Wolves)

**Tue Dec 20, 2016**  
9am TOPS  
6:30pm Cub Scouts (Bears & Webs 1)  
7pm Narcotics Anonymous

**Wed Dec 21, 2016**  
12:15pm Advent Contemplative Prayer  
1:30 pm Prairie Vista Village Carol Sing (Health Center)  
6pm Property Meeting

**Thu Dec 22, 2016**  
6:15pm Mixed Blessings Quartet Practice  
7pm Choir Practice

**Sat Dec 24, 2016** **Christmas Eve**  
6pm Family Service  
10 pm Contemplative Service & Candlelight



**Sun Dec 25, 2016** **Christmas Day**  
(One Service) 10:15am Worship Service  
4pm Cooper Family Christmas Dinner (F. Hall)

**Mon Dec 26, 2016** **OFFICE CLOSED**  
6:30pm Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts (Wolves)

**Tue Dec 27, 2016** **OFFICE CLOSED**  
9am TOPS  
6:30pm Cub Scouts (Bears)  
7pm Narcotics Anonymous

**Thu Dec 29, 2016**  
6:15pm Mixed Blessings Quartet Practice  
7pm Choir Practice



- 2 Dick Green
- 3 Paulette Craggs
- 7 Shayna Neff
- 8 Jay Rosenberger
- 8 Linda Lighthall
- 8 Grace Wignall
- 9 Monna Tarbell
- 9 Kari Heinrich
- 15 John Horton
- 17 Matthew Goepel
- 21 Alex Moats
- 22 Robert Woodward
- 22 Cullen Hamilton
- 23 Tom Newell
- 23 Leah Casey
- 23 Emerson (Emmy) Thomas
- 24 Jami Hamilton
- 28 Russell Wilkins
- 30 Wendy Todd



**Joys** ~ New piano! Georgia Woodward (joy of hearing music on new piano & look on Paulette and Barb's faces). That Night In Bethlehem event. Anna Hines (Graham participating in power lifting with men in Texas 12/3).

**Prayer Concerns** ~ Scott & Jami & Scott Hamilton (friend's child born with severe defects/ joy of child being born). Jeff Patchin (brother & wife; Doug & Jen).

**Those with health/healing concerns** ~ John Craggs (begins chemotherapy in IA City). Larry DeMoss. Anna Hines (sister, Sue, health). Julie Ries (healing). Sarah Champion (cousin's health). Carol Sutton (Carolyn cancer, sister eye problems). Judi DeMoss (cousin with brain cancer). Carol & Mike Nieters (Mark Nieters, cancer treatments). Jane Ferguson (Pat Miller, friend, cancer). Wanda Newell (sister's health).

**Prayers for those grieving** ~ Nick Shellenberg's grandfather passed away. Beverly Lowe (brother passed away). Joyce Hart (friend, Barb Moorehouse, passed away).

We continue to pray for those serving our country. We pray for all refugees & migrants. We pray for all elected officials to be guided with wisdom and grace.



Please send your article submissions to the office by the 15th of each month by email (text and any photos). Thanks!  
~ Newsletter Editor

**Reminder!!!**  
Please bring your donations of non-perishable food items for the **Food Pantry** on **December 18th**  
**Food needed this month: Green Beans**



- 18<sup>th</sup> Michael & Stephanie Hosier
- 19<sup>th</sup> David & Norma Stuart
- 26<sup>th</sup> Dan & Ursula Miers
- 30<sup>th</sup> Wayne & Patti Maschmeier



# YOUTH MINISTRY

**YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
DECEMBER 18TH - 5-7 PM

**AN UNEXPECTED CHRISTMAS**  
Christmas Program Practice

Sunday, November 20th: 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. & 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday, November 27th: 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. & 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Wednesday, November 30th: 6:30 p.m. (work on set)  
Location: 215 Dooley Ct. SW, Altoona

Sunday December 4th: 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. & 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Saturday, December 10th - set up time to be determined.  
Christmas Program Sunday December 11th at 10:15 a.m. service.

**YOUTH GROUP**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH**

## YOUTH LOCK-IN!

On November 11th the youth group enjoyed a lock-in.

Around 30 kids participated this year, and we had so much fun! The kids enjoyed board games, Mafia, Sardines (a lock-in tradition), and a couple of movies before finally getting 1-2 hours of sleep!!

The adults also enjoyed the fellowship, sharing Bugles, squeeze cheese and cookie dough. They also enjoyed talks in the kitchen, and scaring each other in the dark Narthex during Sardines!!

*We had little sleep, but lots of laughs!*





# ALTOONA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

2890 1st Ave S.

Altoona, IA 50009

**Church Contact Information:**

Phone: (515) 967-4382

Fax: (515) 967-5112

Email: [altoonadcc@msn.com](mailto:altoonadcc@msn.com)

Website: [altoonachristianchurch.org](http://altoonachristianchurch.org)

**Office Hours: 8-1 p.m. Monday-Thursday**

**Come see what TOPS is all about!**

For more information contact:

**Eileen Strawn ~ (515) 210-4026**



Meets each Tuesday from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

at the Altoona Christian Church (0698)

Visit the website at: [www.tops.org/TOPS/HowItWorks.aspx](http://www.tops.org/TOPS/HowItWorks.aspx)

**Cancellations** ~ Check WHO, KCCI, or call the church (515) 967-4382, in the event of inclement weather. If Southeast Polk Schools are closed, the office will also be closed.

**Scheduling** ~ Contact the church office by phone at: (515) 967-4382 or e-mail [altoonadcc@msn.com](mailto:altoonadcc@msn.com) to schedule meetings and building use.

**Hospital Stays & Communion** ~ Contact the church office at:

(515) 967-4382 or e-mail [altoonadcc@msn.com](mailto:altoonadcc@msn.com); Pastor McKinna Daugherty at: (515) 329-4050 or e-mail [revmckinna@gmail.com](mailto:revmckinna@gmail.com) for ministry care and needs.

**Rev. McKinna Daugherty's Contact Information:**

Email: [revmckinna@gmail.com](mailto:revmckinna@gmail.com)

Cell Phone: (515) 329-4050

**Church Staff and Volunteers**

- Pastor ..... McKinna Daugherty
- Office Coordinator ..... Jody Purdie
- Choir Director..... Barb Hulen
- Volunteer Bell & Chime Choir Director Paulette Craggs
- Electronic Keyboardist/Organist..... Ron Rieckmann
- Wedding Coordinator..... Stephanie Hosier
- Custodians ..... Dave and Kristy Leinen
- Newsletter Editor..... Jody Purdie
- Nursery Attendant..... Becca Kerr

**2016 Elder Contact Information**

- Greg Champion ..... (515) 979-6288
- John Champion ..... (515) 480-6952
- Denise Green ..... (515) 370-2872
- Judi Webb ..... (515) 360-5083
- Mary Heinrich ..... (515) 238-0451
- Skip Hills ..... (515) 979-7819
- Wayne Patchin ..... (563) 650-4464
- Stephanie Hosier..... (515) 967-5961
- Maddie Cahhal ..... (515) 967-3210
- Linda Lighthall ..... (515) 967-7368



on Facebook

**Altoona Christian Church**

## Altoona Christian Church

### Mission Statement:

We believe Christ has touched our hearts and spirits with God's love.

Therefore, we seek to care for and love each other, serving in Christ's name that God's Spirit may touch others through us.

### Goal for Ministry:

The goal for ministry of the Altoona Christian Church through the year is:

To seek people for Christ, especially children, youth and older adults through encouraging belief and service.

