

The Good News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF RUNNELLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH | NOVEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 268



ADVENT AT RCC

NOV 27, 10:30 AM - HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE

NOV 27, 3:30 PM - OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS MARKET

NOV 27, 4:30 PM - OUTDOOR TREE LIGHTING SERVICE

DEC 20, 7:00 PM - CAROLING IN RUNNELLS

DEC 24, 5:30 PM - CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

DEC 24, 10:00 PM - CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

DEC 25, 10:30 AM - COZY CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Outdoor Christmas Market & Tree Lighting

A Community-wide Event at Runnels Christian Church

NOVEMBER 27, 2022

3:30 CHRISTMAS MARKET

CRAFT SALE, HOT COCOA AND COFFEE BAR, MAKE-AND-TAKE KIDS' CRAFT, BAKE SALE, CHRISTMAS CAROLS, AND SANTA & MRS. CLAUS

4:30 TREE LIGHTING

RUNNELLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH | 309 BROWN ST | RUNNELLS | 515-966-2587

Pastor Katie's Notes

Dear RCC,

When December arrives each year, it seems like we are flooded with images and messages about creating “perfect” holiday moments. Feel-good Christmas movies, television commercials, and even our beloved Christmas songs depict harmonious families snuggled up by the fire, gleefully playing together in the snow, or crowded around a full table.

But that’s not the reality for many of us. At Christmas some of us will hang stockings by the fire and feel the pain of loved ones who have passed. Some of us will carefully plan the seating chart of the holiday dinner table to keep apart the relatives who are not speaking to teach other. Some of us will observe Christmas alone because our family members are far away, or estranged, or choosing to spend the day with someone else.

Real Christmas rarely looks like a Hallmark movie or a Thomas Kincaid painting...because real families, made of real people, celebrate Christmas. And people make mistakes. Relationships can be complicated, sometimes even broken. Families can be messy.

On Christmas we celebrate God-made-flesh and we tend to emphasize the *God* part, while ignoring the *flesh* part. But Jesus was a real person! He was born into a family that was complicated and messy, much like our own.

During Advent this year at RCC we will be studying Jesus’ genealogy as it is told in the Gospel of Matthew. This long list of names is something we often gloss over, but it is notable for two reasons. First, Matthew includes five women in his telling of Jesus’ family tree (Luke mentions none). Second, these women are surprising because they are not the virtuous, maternal figures we often celebrate. They are women with bad reputations and heartbreak stories, yet who are also cunning and faithful, loyal and bold.

As we explore Jesus’ family tree, we will be reminded that he was not born to perfect people. And he was not born *for* perfect people, either. He was born to heal those who feel broken, to free those who are used or abused by the powerful, and to love those with messy families, bad reputations, and complicated stories. Jesus was born to and for people like us.

THAT is real Christmas.

Blessings,
Pastor Katie



Prayer Concerns

All Military Personnel and Veterans

Residents of Ukraine

Aislinn, Jane Charls' daughter

Joan Allsup

Dave, friend of Sue Howard

Connie Dunn

John & Norma Grinstead

Eleanor Hainline

Marcie Huffman, friend of Jill Simonsen

Sharon Lawson

Ryan N.

Cristie Scarnatti, friend of Suzanne Morecock

Jennifer Sieck

Jaque Tate

Denny Wing

Clay York

To keep our prayer concerns current, names will remain on the list for four weeks. At that time names will be removed unless you have asked that a name remain on the list and give an update on the person's well-being. If a name is removed and you'd like it on the list again, contact the church office. Thank you!

HOME COMMUNION

Contact Elder Chair, Tammy Gaudette at 515-707-3715 or the church office at 515-966-2587, if you or someone you know would like to receive communion at home.

SOCKTOBER

RCC delivered 186 pairs of socks to Central Iowa Shelter and Services.

Thank you so much for your generosity! Your donations will provide some warmth and comfort to those struggling with homelessness.



Noisy Offering Update

Thank you for your donations to the Noisy Offerings. Your generosity is making a difference in the lives of others. Here is your loose change offering at work:

- October—\$253.83 The Child Life Department at Blank Children's Hospital

When asked how the money would be utilized at Blank Children's Hospital, this is the response we received:

The Child Life Department at Blank Children's Hospital not only provides procedure prep, distraction, and new diagnosis education, but we also bring the FUN! Our department has staff throughout all inpatient areas of Blank, as well as in the emergency department and various clinics. Here we provide toys and activities for patients to utilize during their visit; whether it is craft supplies to create artwork using their imagination, blocks or Legos to build with, puzzles to piece together, or board games to challenge a loved one to. From the crayons, to the Legos, the coloring books, dinosaurs, and everything in-between, all of the items utilized by the Child Life Department are donated thanks to the generosity of our community. Your donations help ensure that our patients can have a little more fun during their stay here at Blank. A HUGE thank you in advance for your consideration.

The December Noisy Offering will be donated to the Many Hands for Haiti Goat Program. Thank you again for your generosity.



Save The Dates
**RCC WOMEN'S
WINTER RETREAT**
February 17-19, 2022
Christian Conference Center

A photograph showing a silhouette of a person standing in a snowy, open landscape. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a bright glow over the snow-covered ground and trees in the background.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: *Jaisa Boos*

Teen Enjoys Volunteering When She's Not on the Softball Mound

Whether she's fellowshipping with her family during service at Runnels Christian Church or pitching a stellar softball game from the mound, Jaisa Boos is one of several teens at RCC whose smiling face can be seen helping out in myriad of ways.



The Boos family began attending Runnels Christian Church four years ago and Jaisa has been volunteering alongside her parents and with other teenagers for the past three years in different ways.

For starters, she's helped with the church's chili cook-off and the fall barbecue bash, packaged meals for Meals from the Heartland, shopped for those in need, assisted with Vacation Bible School, appeared in the church's live nativity and lent a helping hand at the church's outreach auction.

"I love seeing the people that I helped and seeing them happy. It makes me feel great and helps me become a better person," Jaisa said.

Jaisa's brother Jacobe is just getting started with volunteer work but her parents Jason and Tonya are active in the church, too. In her free time, Jaisa enjoys hanging out with her family and playing softball.

One Biblical verse that guides Jaisa and speaks to her is from Proverbs 3: 5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do and He will show you which path to take."



RCC has an abundance of traditions and Jaisa's favorite happens to be lighting the evergreen tree outside.

"I love seeing everyone together and singing," she said.

Whether you're a teen or an adult, Jaisa suggests giving volunteerism a shot.

"Everyone should volunteer – it has such a great impact on people and helping people will make you feel good, too," she said.



CALLING ALL

Christmas Carolers

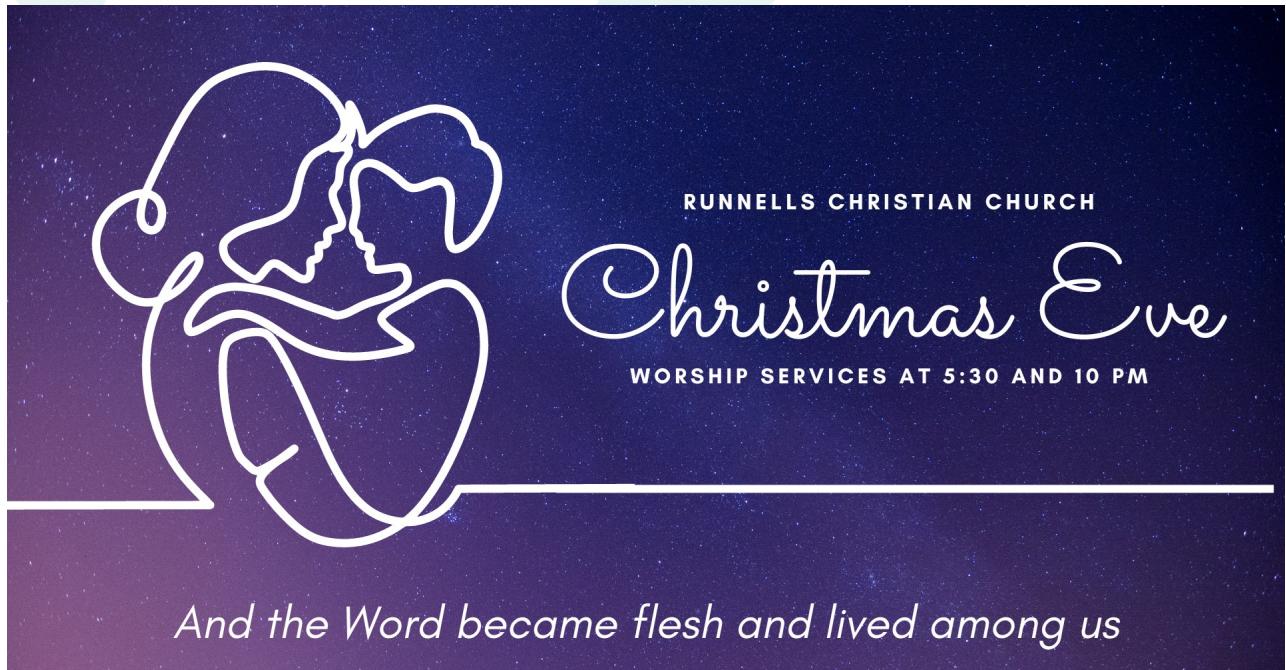
Help spread Christmas cheer around town

December 20 - 7 pm

Meet in Runnels Christian Church
Basement (south entrance)



This is a community-wide event – all are welcome!



RUNNELLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve

WORSHIP SERVICES AT 5:30 AND 10 PM

A white line drawing of a man and a woman in profile, embracing, is positioned on the left side of the poster against a dark blue background with small white stars.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us



A Cozy Christmas

WORSHIP SERVICE

Come in your Christmas pajamas or sweaters for a cozy worship service in the fellowship hall
Coffee, cocoa, & cookies will be served!

12.25.22 - 10:30 AM

The poster features five different illustrations of festive Christmas sweaters (one orange with a candy cane, one green with Santa, one yellow with a snowman, one red with a snowman, and one red with a wreath) arranged around the text, with small blue snowflakes scattered throughout.

Fifth Sunday Project—October 30, 2022
We packed backpacks with necessity items for the youth at Youth and Shelter Services in central Iowa



POTLUCK SUNDAY

Dec 4-following worship

Simply bring a dish to share. Drinks and paper products will be provided. One oven will be set to warm and the other oven will be set for cooking.

Enjoy lunch with RCC friends in the fellowship hall!



Poinsettia Order Form

In order to decorate our church for Christmas, we are offering the opportunity to order a poinsettia. Poinsettias may be dedicated **in memory** of a loved one **or in honor** of a living person. You are welcome to take your poinsettia home after worship on Christmas Eve.



Last day to Order is Sunday, December 18

6 ½" Poinsettia # @ \$9.00 Total \$

Ordered by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Orders may be left in the church office or in the collection plate. Checks payable to **RCC** with **poinsettia** written in the memo area.

TRUNK OR TREAT OCTOBER 2022



Runnels Christian Church

2022 HARVEST SUPPER REPORT

- We served approximately 290 meals (dine-in, carry-out & drive-thru)
- It takes 60 volunteers--from planning, putting up flyers to advertise, purchasing food, wrapping the silverware, setting up tables and chairs, decorating, preparing food, serving food and drinks, and cleaning up. A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL THAT HELPED!
- We made a profit of \$3,668.35, thanks to some very generous donations!



Runnels Christian Church

The Body of Christ:



Building



Growing



Serving

Place
Stamp
Here

Runnels Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

P.O. Box 30

309 Brown Street

Runnels, Iowa 50237

(Please use P.O. Box 30 when addressing all mail to Church)

Phone: 515-966-2587

E-mail: runnellscc@gmail.com

pastor.krussell@gmail.com

Website: www.runnellscc.org

Church Staff:

Ministers: The Congregation

Pastor: Rev. Katie Russell Hainline

Church Admin/Bookkeeper: Deb Bracewell

Nursery Attendant/Custodian: Ann Hammen

Board Moderator: Bill Ingle

Pianist: Tammy Feeley

Choir Director: Mike Miller

Bell Choir Director: Sheila Aukes

Children's Choir Director: Tammy Feeley

Address Service Requested



(U. S. Post Office requires P.O. Box 30 on all church mail.)

New Years
Brunch Worship
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
Potluck-style - bring a breakfast dish to share!
01.01.23 - 10:30 am



Looking ahead to January...

- ◆ Brunch Worship 10:30am (no Sunday school)—January 1
- ◆ Epiphany Sunday—January 8
- ◆ Un-decorate after worship—January 8
- ◆ Church Board Mtg—January 11
- ◆ Book Group—January 25
- ◆ Fifth Sunday Project—January 29

Merry
Christmas
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR