



The Good News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF RUNNELLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
DECEMBER 2020 | VOLUME 246

WORSHIP ONLINE AT 10:30 AM

**Worship at RCC will continue online until further notice.
Please email the church for the Zoom link.**



December Church Events

- **December 6th, 5:30pm — Online Bingo**
- **December 6th — Online Silent Outreach Auction Begins at 8AM**
- **December 13th — Online Silent Outreach Auction ENDS at 9PM**
- **December 13, 2-4pm — Drive through Live Nativity at RCC**
- **December 20, 2-4pm — Santa's Caroling Caravan through Runnells**
- **December 24 — Christmas Eve Services**

Pastor Katie's Notes

Dear RCC,

If you're a fan of holiday movies, I am sure you have seen Dr. Seuss's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Tired of seeing the joy of the Whos down in Whoville's Christmas cheer, the Grinch is determined to keep Christmas from coming this year. In the middle of the night he loots their gifts, stuffs their trees up their chimneys, takes down their wreaths and stockings, and steals their holiday feasts (even the roast beast!). Yet on Christmas morning the Grinch is surprised to hear the Whos in Whoville singing their carols and celebrating Christmas. Dr. Seuss' rhyme says, "He hadn't stopped Christmas from coming. It came! Somehow or other, it came just the same." Despite all of the obstacles the Grinch put in Christmas's way, it happened anyway.



When we worship together this Advent, we will discover that the Bible stories of Jesus' birth are full of obstacles, too. An angel told Elizabeth she would have a child who would prepare the way of the Lord, but Elizabeth was too old to have a baby. John was born anyway. An angel told Mary she would have a baby who would be the Messiah, but she was a virgin. She conceived anyway. Joseph was engaged to Mary, but when he learned of her pregnancy he planned to call off their wedding. He married her anyway. The couple traveled to Bethlehem, but when they arrived they found there was no room in the inn. They stayed there anyway. The wise men searched for the baby and followed his star, but King Herod tried to mislead them. They found him anyway. When King Herod learned he has been tricked he went after every single child born in Bethlehem, but Mary and Joseph and their baby escaped to Egypt. The child survived anyway.

No human obstacle—not age, not social customs, not fear or envy or violence—could prevent God from being born in human flesh. Nothing could stop Christmas from coming. It happened anyway.

We know that this year Christmas will look different than in years past. We have not decorated RCC's sanctuary. We may not worship inside on Christmas Eve. Many of our families will choose not to gather this year or will significantly change how we gather. It might feel a little like a Grinch Christmas—no boxes or bows, no carolers, no roast beast feasts. But Christmas will come anyway.

Because Christmas doesn't need gifts of wreaths or trees. It doesn't even need candlelight services, pageants, or "Silent Night." Nothing we do or don't do can keep Christmas from coming. God overcomes every obstacle to be born in our hearts and in our world.

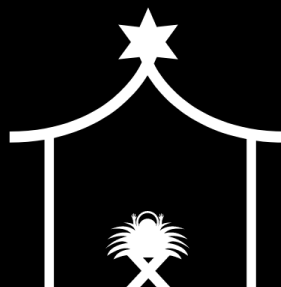
This year—like that first year, like every year--Christmas happens anyway.

Love,

Pastor Katie

IT HAPPENED ANYWAY

Advent 2020 Online - Runnells Christian Church



RCC Youth Group News

On November 1 the Youth Group raked a lot of leaves in two church members' yards and on November 15 served pie at the "Pie in the Parking Lot" event. Thanks to our youth for being such great workers!



We just want to say
THANK YOU!

Pie in the Parking Lot raised \$1,399 and collected
280 food items for Caring Hands Food Pantry





RCC VIRTUAL BINGO

Join us for some fun virtual BINGO on Sunday, December 6, at 5:30 pm! We will enjoy some time together and you may win a fabulous prize! Sign up by emailing or calling the church office.

Online Silent Outreach Auction Sunday, Dec 6th Bidding begins at 8 AM

To help replenish the RCC Christmas Outreach Fund, this year's auction is going virtual! Starting Sunday, Dec 6, you can view items on the [Runnells Christian Church Online Silent Outreach Auction Facebook Page](#) and submit a bid by commenting on the item you want. If you don't use Facebook, you can also view items on the [church's website](#) and email bids to the church office. Happy bidding!

International Mission News

Dear Church Friends,

On November 3, Hurricane Eta hit Nicaragua, thirteen days later Hurricane Iota came ashore at almost the same site. Reverend Patrick Nixon reports there were about 80 houses in Santa Emilia with roof damage. This is the town that Seth and I worked with the mission team in March. Patrick's church is fundraising to help repair the roofs. If you feel inclined to donate please send a check to First Christian Church, 705 E Centennial Dr, Pittsburgh, KS 66762 or to Rev. Patrick Nixon at the same address. Please note on the memo line "Santa Emilia Hurricane relief."

Muchas gracias!

Katie Temple

What is the Outreach Auction?

The Outreach Auction is a special RCC tradition that raises money each year for the RCC Christmas Outreach Fund. Since last year's auction this fund has been used to purchase Christmas gifts for three families, to be one of the top contributing congregations to Caring Hands' Emergency Assistance Fund, and to help several families with rent, utilities, transportation, or groceries. In years past, this fund has also purchased supplies for the Fifth Sunday Service projects and--in one particularly memorable year--to help a young woman who was the first person in her family to attend college purchase school supplies and items for her dorm room. Members and friends of RCC have always been so generous at the Christmas Outreach Auction and we thank you. It allows us to be a church that says "Yes, we can help" when one of our neighbors needs us.

Youth Group Can/Bottle Drive Thank You!

Your donations totaled \$756.85.

Thank you to everyone who donated cans & bottles, who helped sort them and to Bob Miller for getting the cans to the Redemption Center.

Thanks for helping our Youth!

RCC BOOK GROUP ON ZOOM

Our December book selection is *Christmas Bells* by Jennifer Chiaverini. We will meet for discussion on Zoom on Wednesday, December 2 at 7 pm. All are welcome to join us! Please come to the December book group with a book suggestion for 2021.

So far we have:

January 2021—*All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

February 2021—*Us Against You* by Fredrik Backman



Outdoor Hanging of the Greens and Tree Lighting

Sunday, November 29 RCC held it's first Outdoor Hanging of the Greens and Tree Lighting. During the service, Pastor Katie shared the meaning behind 12 Crismon symbols and those ornaments were added to the outdoor tree. It was windy and it was cold, but thankfully everyone was able to listen to the service through their car radio while watching the tree come to life.



Prayer Concerns

All Military Personnel and Veterans

Gary Beck

Lisa Bistline

Diane, Tammy Feeley's sister

Belva Freel

John & Norma Grinstead

Myrna Hunt

Katie Temple's cousin, Stephanie

Wilma Hershey King

Mary Kohlhof

Marilyn Mills

Wanda Mitchell

Leonard Northway

Jennifer Sieck

Betsy Simonsen

Beulah Temple

The family of Evon Kelly

The family of Tom Clark

Home Communion—Due to Covid-19, our elders are currently unable to take communion to our remote members. Once it is safe again, please contact elder chair, Deb Bracewell at 515-669-8739, if you or someone you know would like to receive communion at home.



In an effort 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 called the office to ask that a name remain on the list and give an update on the person's well-being. Thanks for your help!



TRUNK OR TREAT 2020



Runnells Christian Church

The Body of Christ:



Building



Growing



Serving

Place
Stamp
Here

Runnells Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

P.O. Box 30
309 Brown Street
Runnells, 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—515-669-6036

Council Chair: Tammy Gaudette

Church Admin/Bookkeeper: Deb Bracewell

Church Admin: Sue Howard

Choir Director: Mike Miller

Children's Choir Director: Tammy Feeley

Bell Choir Director: Sheila Aukes

Pianist: Tammy Feeley

Custodian: Leonard Northway

Nursery Attendant: Ann Hammen

Address Service Requested



Has your address
changed?



Keep us
posted!

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

2020-2021 COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Tammy Gaudette—Chairperson

Bill Ingle—Vice Chairperson

Pam Jordan—Secretary

Deb Bracewell-Elder Chair

Kristin Danley-Greiner/Denise Pfister

—Education Co-Coordinators

Jon Gaudette

—Finance Coordinator

Sheila Aukes

—Missions/Evangelism Coordinator

Jeff Robbins/Blair Phipps

—Property Co-Coordinators

Jill Simonsen/Katie Temple

—Worship Co-Coordinators

NOVEMBER 2020—COUNCIL SUMMARY

The council met on November 11th, 2020 at 7 pm on Zoom.

There will be no Sunday School bags for December, we are using the Advent in a Bag for families.

There won't be caroling due to Covid-19, instead we will be driving through town, playing hymns from a pickup on December 20th.

Tonya Boos and Sheila are making plans for an online outreach auction and Bingo for December.

Pastor Katie and the worship committee will get an Advent planning team together.

Advent begins Nov. 29th

Pastor Katie mentioned she loved the creativity coming and encouraged people to continue to come up with new ideas they can implement, for the sake of the congregation and for her.

Dec. ideas include: Live Nativity, Tree Lighting Outside, Outdoor decorations, Hanging of the Greens.

Next meeting is Dec. 9th, all are welcome to attend.

—Submitted by Pam Jordan