

# Blue River Church of Christ

## Contact Information

221 NE Woods Chapel Rd  
Lee's Summit, MO 64064  
816-373-7448  
office@bluerivercofc.org  
www.bluerivercofc.org

## Worship Times

**Sunday**  
Bible Study 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 8:30 &  
10:45 a.m.  
**Wednesday**  
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

**Elders** Earl Fultz Russ Simmons  
John Owen Jan Sullivan

**Deacons** Jim Bassford Jack Hudkins  
David Blankenship Aaron Palmer  
David Foster Sean Turner  
Darren Herrmann Paul Walker

**Pulpit Minister** Darin Kennedy  
dkennedy@bluerivercofc.org

**Family Life Minister** Shane Hall  
shall@bluerivercofc.org

Statistics for December 4, 2016 Attendance	104 + 141 = 245
Contribution	\$7,076.63
Weekly Average Contribution Needed to Meet Budget	\$5,554
Average Actual Year to Date Weekly Giving	\$5,904

### Downtown Church of Christ Food for Life

They have need for: Ramen noodles, pasta and rice meals, peanut butter, jelly, Kool-Aid, canned or packaged tuna, canned chicken, Vienna sausages, Jell-O, cornbread mix, snack bars, diet drink packets, pork & beans, oatmeal, taco seasoning, gravy mix, spaghetti mix, tomato sauce, canned fruit, small packs of instant potatoes. Please leave all donations in the office.

**Prayer Warriors** are waiting to hear from you. This group of caring people will pray for you and your request. Go to the BRCC website and leave a message. You may remain anonymous. Don't carry that burden alone. Let the power of prayer work in your life.

December 11, 2016

# BLUE RIVER

## Church of Christ

### Order of Worship

#### 8:30

#517 "Heaven Came Down"  
#778 "Be with Me, Lord"

*Prayer* Matt Hoggatt

*Scripture* Tony Pollard  
Psalm 90:12-17

#514 "Redeemed"

*Lord's Supper* Joe Harber

*The Bread*  
*The Cup*

*Giving*

#705 "A Common Love"

*Power Kids Dismissed*

*Lesson* Shane Hall  
"From Everlasting to Everlasting"

#662 "All to Jesus I Surrender"

*Shepherd's Prayer* John Owen

*Final Praise* Psalm 118:24

*Songs Led By* Gary Hasty

#### 10:45

#23 "Our God, He Is Alive"

*Prayer* Nick Williams

*Scripture* Jerry John  
Psalm 90:12-17

#76 "How Great Thou Art"  
#490 "It Is Well with My Soul"

*Lord's Supper* Randy Smith

*The Bread*  
*The Cup*

*Giving*

#957 "This World Is Not My Home"  
#129 "Amazing Grace"

*Power Kids Dismissed*

*Lesson* Shane Hall  
"From Everlasting to Everlasting"

#997 O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*Shepherd's Prayer* Earl Fultz

*Final Praise* Psalm 118:24

*Songs Led By* Ryan Smith

### **Prayer List**

Evelyn Campbell is in assisted living at Villages of Jackson Creek, Holly Hadley had another surgery on Tuesday, and Doris Buys is at the Rehab Center of Independence. Continued prayers for the Roberts' family with the passing of Phil, Marie Nash, Grover Renick, Gary & Beverly Campbell, Keith & Jurhee Bench, Donna Kerns, & Liz Church.

### **New Winter Classes Start Today**

**Auditorium** – Brian Whalen is teaching on “The Lord’s Prayer: History, Theology and Practice.”

**Adult Classroom** – Larry Sullivan will be teaching on “King and Kingdom.”

### **SOFT Group Christmas Party**

**TODAY (3-5:00pm)** – Here at the building. Please bring a finger food, appetizer or cookies to share. Bring a gift under \$10 for an exchange.

### **Ladies Event**

**Monday, December 12 (6:00pm)** – Hannah Guntert’s annual ornament exchange and holiday party will be held at her home. Bring an ornament and dish to share. Please RSVP to Hannah so she knows how many are coming.

### **Senior Saints Holiday Basket Assembly**

**Wednesday, December 14 (10:00am)** – Kimberly Sterne has requested assistance in putting together the baskets and delivering them. Her sign-up sheet is on Facebook. If unable to sign up online, please see her.

### **Parents Night Out**

**Friday, December 16 (6:00-9:00pm)** – Kids up through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited. Paul & Tammy Walker have requested 4 more volunteers. You can RSVP on Facebook or the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the main lobby.

### **Youth Event**

**Saturday, December 17 – (5-9pm)** soup potluck, hayride and white elephant gift exchange, the cost of the gift should be between \$5.00 - \$10.00.

### **Rachel House Christmas Effort**

**Sunday, December 18** – We are accepting donations for Rachel House Pregnancy Resource Center for new moms and their babies. There is a Christmas tree in the café area with envelopes on it for donations, or you may purchase the items from the list in the insert and place them under the tree by the 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Christmas Sunday Schedule**

Service times will be normal on the 25<sup>th</sup>, but we will not have classes between.

## **The Preacher’s Post – Darin Kennedy**

Never judge a present by its wrapping. As a child, I always looked forward to the biggest present under the Christmas tree. It always held the most promise, and, sadly, it was always the biggest deception. The biggest was never the best. As a teenager, it went the other way. I looked at the smaller gifts as if they were CD’s or car keys or small electronic devices. But they always disappointed as well. The smallest was never the best. I had been anticipating according to appearances, and it never lived up to my expectations. That is not to say that I did not get some great gifts. It is simply that the best gifts were not the ones I expected.

I have expressed the disappointment, but obviously there is another side to it. The unexpected ones that were middle-sized were the best surprises. I did not have any idea what they were, and I did not anticipate them to be rewarding. Often they carried the greatest value. Some were hand-made. All of them were thoughtful. They were pleasing because they were so valuable inside, not just pleasing to the eye on the outside.

I think of the church the same way. How many are judged, by others and by themselves, according to their outward appearance? The outward form, whether looks or dress or talent or position, is our primary criteria for judging importance. God, however, looks on the heart.

I have learned in my life in the church to unwrap all of God’s gifts with great anticipation. Each person, no matter the appearance or position or ability, has something very special inside. I love to un-wrap the gift by sharing stories and dreams and discover the treasure hidden within. I also love to be surprised by people. Many look common on the outside, but reveal heroism and passion on the inside, far exceeding the common.

When I read about the gifts God gives to the church, I am reminded that God’s gifts are not abilities or positions or personality characteristics. These are gracious blessings, but they are not God’s gifts. God’s gifts are people: “It was he who gave some to be...” (Ephesians 4:11). God does not just give something to you and something to me. God gives you, and God gives me. We are the gifts given to the church, to the body of Christ, members working together to make the whole.

Imagine the child running to the tree to dive into the pile. Each present opened causes an “All right!” or a “Wow!” or a “Cooooo!” A smile from ear to ear shows that this has been the best Christmas so far. Yes, imagine the Son opening each one with great anticipation, never disappointed with what He finds. Now, He reaches for you, and finds exactly what He always wanted.

### **Sunday Morning Nursery Attendants**

December 11	1 <sup>st</sup> Service	Arline Bradshaw and Allie Mace
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Service	Darlene Pollard