



**THE FIRST EDITION – BLANDINSVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER**

**DECEMBER 2025**



**CHURCH, COMMUNITY, AND AREA NEWS AND EVENTS**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29 – “An Old Fashioned Christmas” -- Blandinsville**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3 – HANGING OF THE GREENS AT THE CHURCH – 6:30 P.M.**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4 – CARTHAGE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE – 4:00 p.m.**

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 & 6 – DICKENS ON THE SQUARE – MACOMB**

Dec. 5 – 6:00-9:00 p.m. – Dec. 6 – All Day – Live Reindeer, Living Windows, Train Ride, Etc.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 & 6 – CHRISTMAS AT THE BARN – McDonough County 4-H Center –**

Dec. 5 – 5:30-8:00 p.m. – Dec. 6 – 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 – PEARL HARBOR DAY**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 – BUSHNELL VFW CRAFT SHOW – 12:00 Noon-4:00 p.m.**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 – MTC HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE – 10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.** Bring non-perishable items for food collection drive.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 – GOOD HOPE HOLIDAY EVENTS –** Soup Dinner, Secret Santa, Cookie Walk, Santa Visit – 4:00-7:00 p.m. – Good Hope Firehouse

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 (7:00 P.M.) – SUNDAY, DEC. 14 (2:00 P.M.) –** Legacy Theater, Carthage – “A Christmas Wish”

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 – CHRISTMAS TREE SUNDAY –** Brunch follows services at 11:00 a.m. – bring breakfast and lunch items to share but not required – all are welcome.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17 – CAROLING PARTY – 6:00 P.M. CAROL – 6:30 P.M. –** Meal of Soup, Sandwiches, Desserts -- **OPEN TO COMMUNITY FREE OF CHARGE**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES – 5:30 P.M. –** Join us for a short service.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY – Remember Jesus is the Reason for the Season.**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31 – NEW YEAR’S EVE –** Time to welcome in 2026!

**COME CAROL WITH THE BLANDINSVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND ENJOY A FREE MEAL AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS –** Caroling will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the free meal of soup, sandwiches,

sserts, coffee and tea will be served at 6:30 p.m. in the church basement. You can come and carol or just come for the meal. This is open to all in the community.

**BLANDINSVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH FOOD BANK AND BLESSING BOX:** The Food Bank will be available once a month (dates will be posted) from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. The Food Bank will have canned goods and other non-perishable items as well as eggs, milk, and meats. The Blessing Box is available at the west entrance to the church. It contains non-perishable food items as well as personal care items such as laundry detergent, toothpaste, toilet paper, etc. Please take some and leave some for others in need.

**BLANDINSVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH AFTER-SCHOOL, YOUTH GROUP, LIFE SKILLS NEWS -- LAURA WILHITE, YOUTH PASTOR:** Kids enjoy games, crafts, snacks, and a short spiritual lesson. The After-School Group (K-12) meets on Tuesdays (when school is in session) from 4:00-5:00 p.m. The Youth Group (5<sup>th</sup>-high school) meets on Sundays from 4:00-5:30 p.m. The Life Skills group (5<sup>th</sup>-high school) meets the third Saturday of every month at the church from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Kids receive lessons on cooking, carpentry, finance, etc.

**BLANDINSVILLE-HIRE LIBRARY:** THE MAID'S SECRET by Nita Prose is a book I would recommend. What would happen if suddenly you became a multimillionaire? That is about to happen to Molly who is a maid in a high-end hotel. Find out what occurs when her treasure disappears. Learn what means the most in life – love, hard work, friends, family, or money. Mary Killip

**BLANDINSVILLE-HIRE PARK** – Park Board members met with the engineer working on the grant awarded to the park and discussed construction plans. Board members chose a playground unit that they felt was the best option to replace the old structure. The plan will be presented for bid from other companies. Construction companies will be asked for bids to complete the \$600,000 park project. The company who receives the bid will then subcontract other aspects of the grant which will also be based on bids submitted. Some existing playground equipment is currently being removed from the park to make room for new projects and relocated to the Blandinsville Baseball Field. Unfortunately, most or all of the park will be closed when construction begins sometime in April or May of 2026 due to liability issues. A large poster of the park plans is posted in the Blandinsville-Hire Library for individuals to view.

**REMEMBER WHEN** – Do you have a past memory you would like to share regarding a blast from the past, such as family traditions/happenings, historical events, church memories, etc. Send items to Mary Killip at P.O. Box 235, Blandinsville, IL 61420. Let's have fun with this!!

“Through the Eyes of a Child” submitted by Lorri Pursell. “Jackie Pursell’s first Bible exposure was in 1962. Brad Pursell also went to Bible School when he was six years old for one summer in 1962. He still remembers this and stated, ‘It is the only church I ever wanted to go to.’ When he returned to Blandinsville, he joined the Christian Church and became a member. These two stories are evidence that prove children are influenced at young ages to believe. Keep up the good work with the After-School Program!”

riwether and family, Val Shipman, Tiffany McHale, Steven Fogel, Laura Fisher, Larry Summers., Pat Joyer, Bonnie Duffie, Dennis Copeland, Sam Kostreva. Be in prayer for our nursing home residents and the families and friends of those who have lost loved ones. Remember the health care workers, caretakers, fire fighters, police officers, and our armed forces members and their families. Pray for individuals who have lost their homes, family, and friends in fires, floods, and other disasters. Pray for our community, state, country, and the world. Pray for peace, acceptance of all, and love for one another.

### CHURCH SCHEDULE – DECEMBER 2025


| DATE        | ELDERS         | SPEAKERS       | MUSIC          | OVERHEAD        |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| December 7  | Randy Killip   | Aaron Baker    | Jody Little    | Glade Mason     |
| December 14 | Monte Mason    | Jim Richardson | Anna James     | Gary Smith      |
| December 21 | Dave Hunt      | Aaron Baker    | Jean Dougherty | Taylor Thompson |
| December 28 | Alan Driskell  | Aaron Baker    | Jody Little    | Dave Hunt       |
| DATE        | WORSHIP LEADER | GREETERS       | NURSERY        | DEACONESS       |
| December 7  | Mary Killip    | Patsy & Bud    | Kaila Mason    | Pat Hainline    |
| December 14 | Monte Mason    | Randy & Mary   | Pat Hainline   | Pat Hainline    |
| December 21 | Dave Hunt      | Beth           | Roxanne Mason  | ??              |
| December 28 | Alan Driskell  | Russell        | Paula Snowden  | ??              |

**PLEASE HELP:** Let Mary know when you are not available to serve in one of the above areas so she will not schedule you for that date. If you cannot serve as scheduled, please find a substitute. Thank you.

**ELDERS AND BOARD MEETING:** Monday, December 8- Elders – 6:30 p.m. – Board – 7:00 p.m.

**WORSHIP/FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING** – Monday, December 1- 7:00 p.m. Come join the group and help plan church events.

Please contact Mary Killip at 309-337-8032 or by mail at P.O. Box 235, Blandinsville, IL 61420, if you have newsletter items or know of someone who would like to receive a newsletter.

  
*For unto us a child is born, unto us  
a son is given...and his name shall be called  
Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God,  
The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*  
Isaiah 9:6



## IN MEMORY

**JOHN ERIC COOK**, 63, of Sciota passed away at his home on Saturday, October 25, 2025. He was born February 1, 1962, in Macomb to Dean J. and Phillis R. (Combs) Cook. He was a 1980 graduate of Northwestern High School. He attended Western Illinois University before returning to the family farm. He married Elizabeth Anne Cooper at Wesley United Methodist Church in Macomb on July 14, 1984. John served on the Good Hope -Sciota Fire Department, the Sciota and Farmers Grain Elevator Boards, the West Prairie School Board, and several church committees. He was an avid Minnesota Vikings fan. He enjoyed riding his Harley-Davidson Road Glide motorcycle, "Jeeping," shooting pool, repairing 8-track tapes, and restoring vintage Lawn-Boy mowers. He was preceded in death by his parents. Surviving are his wife Elizabeth; two sons Clayton (Sarah) Cook of Good Hope and Dylan (Jill) Cook of Sciota; and three grandchildren Oliver David, Elise Renae, and Carson John. Also surviving are two sisters Claudia (Bruce) Winterrowd of Springfield, IL, and Anita (Steve) Bradley of Cantrall, IL; nephews Adam and Ben Winterrowd; niece Rachel (Logan) Cox; and many cousins and dear friends.

**MARVIN DUANE "DEWEY" CHAMBERS**, 79, of Blandinsville passed away on Thursday, October 30, 2025, at his residence. He was born on February 7, 1946, in Canton to Marvin and Opal Irwin Chambers. He married Bonnie Brewer on September 18, 1965, in Good Hope. She survives. Also surviving are his children Amy (John) Bowman of Sciota and Lance Chambers of Blandinsville; six grandchildren, Jon Bowman, Megan Bowman Pendergast, Peyton (Matthew) McCoy, Cole Chambers, Brynn Chambers and Cade Chambers; and one great-grandchild Miles Pendergast. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister Rosalind Lew. Dewey has lived in Blandinsville for 52 years. He worked for the McDonough County Highway Department for 23 years, retiring in 1997. He is an Army veteran serving from 1965 to 1967. He was a member of the American Legion. He enjoyed golfing, bowling, and hunting. He drag raced for several years. He was an avid Cubs and Bears fan.

**TIMOTHY MELVIN (TIMM)**, 75, passed away on November 1, 2025, after a long illness. He was born on May 5, 1950, in Burlington, IA, to Gene and Bette Taylor Melvin. He graduated from Northwestern High School. He married Janet Buck on August 16, 1986. She survives. Also surviving are one daughter Nicolette (Oliver) Jones of Olathe, KS; two grandchildren Emilia and Nia Jones of Olathe, KS; two brothers Mitch (Brenda) Melvin of Blandinsville and Lonnie Melvin of West Burlington, and sister-in-law Cindy Trainor of Springfield, IL, as well as several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Ricky Melvin, sister-in-laws Teresa Melvin and Diane Melvin, and brother-in-law Bob Trainor. He owned and operated Timm Melvin Plumbing for nearly three decades. He enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson and spending time with his loved ones. He liked the Beach Boys, watching Andy Griffith Show reruns, the Chicago Bears, and the Macomb Bombers.

## PRAYER REQUESTS AND UPDATES

Please be in prayer for Laurie Locke, Duane Chipman, Antonia Aguirre, Mary Evans, Kieran Woods, *Jeramiah Byers*, *Otto Pinto*, Kelvey Hamm, Lisa and Stephen Molzhon, Kim Walters, Gisele Hamm, Makenzie Hawkins, Jennie Terrell Brush and family, Cindy Soule, Donnie Little, Ed Hunt, Brad Hunt, Kevin Kleinkopf, Jeremy Hamm, Erin Thilyaw, Jim Olson, Alan Driskell and family, Mike Rawleigh, Hudson Thrapp, Jason Siegworth, Michelle Bixler, Jerri Stevens, Tim Hamm, Mike Baker, John Fowler, Kara Hunt, Ruth Dildine, Joanne Dela Cruz, Marlena Goodlaxson's parents, Karlene Kurtz, Alfred Huston, Sherry