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***Released as a community service on behalf of Lynne Barnes***

**NINTH ANNUAL FREE COMMUNITY DINNER SET FOR CHRISTMAS DAY**

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. – Once again, First Christian Church will serve as the host site for the annual Community Christmas Dinner for people who would otherwise be alone or without a special holiday meal to share on Christmas Day. This event will take place on Christmas Day, **Tuesday, December 25**, 3601 South Staley Road, Champaign. Appetizers will be served at 12:30 p.m. with a traditional, sit-down dinner at 1 p.m.

Jim Turpin, local radio personality and well-known host of *Penny for Your Thoughts* on WDWS-AM, will once again serve as guest emcee of the event.

**While dinner is free, reservations are requested no later than Friday, December 21** by calling or texting (217) 714-7822 or accessing online: christmasdinner@fcc-online.org. Please provide name, daytime phone number and number of guests attending. All children under 12 will receive a small gift.

This event will be held regardless of any wintery weather conditions.

“It is always such a pleasure to continue to see the community support and interest in this event on Christmas Day for the past eight years,” said Lynne Barnes, who has been involved with this event since its inception. “We have incredible volunteers and usually just over 400 guests who clearly enjoy celebrating this day together. We look forward to sharing this meal and another time of great fellowship as we celebrate Christmas once again.”

To volunteer to help with this event, sign up on-line by Friday, December 22 at <http://fcc-online.org/christmas-dinner> or go to the website and click on the Christmas Dinner image.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**