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The church will be closed
until further notice.

Our staff will be working at home
in accordance with the Governor's
"Stay at Home" order.



STAFF CHANGES

. . . Our custodian, **Bob Conley** and his wife will be moving to Arkansas as of June 5. We will be sorry to see him go, but are very happy for he and his wife as they will be enjoying their retirement together. We pray God's blessings to them in their new chapter of life. . . . Our organist **Amber Clark** will be retiring in June! Bob and Amber will remain in Galesburg and enjoy their retirement together! We will greatly miss Amber (and Bob's) musical talents as they have led us in worship for many years.



... for **Scott VanVelsor** and for his caregivers and medical staff..
... for **Terri Oehlert**, for recovery after having gall bladder surgery.
... for **Rosemary Humphrey** for health and well-being.
... for **Christina Griswold** for renewed health.
... for the son of **Gene and Sue Johnson**, Ralph Johnson, who is recovering from emergency surgery in Champaign.
... for those struggling with Covid-19.
and for an end to the pandemic.
... for health care workers.
... for those who have lost their jobs.
... for our leaders and the decisions, they need to make for our nation.



Crusader

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

301 N Broad St. Galesburg, IL 61401
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Church Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

Organist – Amber Clark Director of Music – Steve Jackson sjackson@sandburg.edu

Secretary – Christina Griswold fccgalesburg@gmail.com

Bookkeeper – Lynda White fcclwhite@gmail.com Custodian – Bob Conley

Co-Pastors: Gregory S. and Martha-Jean Fitch pastorgreg02@gmail.com & pastormj02@gmail.com

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HAPPY ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY!

Our many thanks to
Christina and Lynda!

Wednesday, April 22, is Administrative Assistant's Day and we are celebrating **Christina Griswold** who serves as our secretary and **Lynda White** who serves as our treasurer. They are both such an incredible blessing to our congregation. We encourage you to let them know of your gratitude! We give thanks to God for the gift of their presence and help – and ministry in our church!



April 26, 2020
Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch
"Straight from the Heart"
Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

Please see our Facebook page, YouTube
and webpage
to see our worship service on Sunday.



BE THE CHURCH SUNDAY

At a time when many events are being changed or canceled, we look at Be the Church Sunday. Plans were made to celebrate Spring and rejoice in being part of a neighborhood. We will not be gathering at the building or joining crews to complete projects, but Corona Virus and Stay in Place orders do not change our call to Be the Church!

The theme is Psalm 51 Spring Cleaning- Pure Heart!

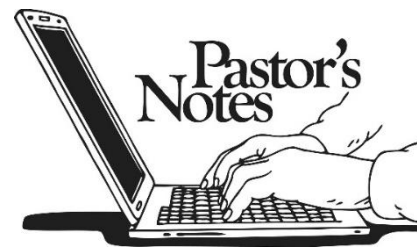
Create in me a pure heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me with a willing spirit to sustain me.

Surely you can think of many ways to “Be the Church” and we know that you work in our community as the hands and feet of Christ regularly. The challenge is to be even more deliberate in the next few weeks.

Ideas that you might consider:

- Take a prayer walk in your neighborhood or in the church neighborhood.
- Place cleaning supplies or personal grooming items in the Blessing Box.
- Pick up litter in your neighborhood or venture over to the church yard to pick up litter.
- Send a card, write a letter, make a call to members of the church family who may be isolated.
- Save your change for improvements to the corner “White Building” when we can gather again.
- Leave a surprise for your neighbor or someone in the church neighborhood.

The list could go on and on! We would love to know what you do during this time that we celebrate Spring Cleaning! Clean Mind! May your joy be restored as God creates in you a clean heart!



This past Sunday I shared a video called “Carriers”. For those who don’t have internet access, I’m reprinting the words for you as encouragement during difficult times, and encouragement to continue sharing God’s Good News of Jesus. For those who do have access to the video worship ... here it is for the same reason:

Psalm 46:1-2

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way, and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.

In our world ... in our country ... in our city, we’re living in a moment unlike any other. People are scared, dismissive, frustrated, cynical ... they’re full of uncertainty, fear, helplessness, sadness. We’re all in a moment that feels complex and confusing and unsure.

But what if the hope of Jesus can be carried into our broken world by those who love Him? What if it’s our chance to listen without judging, to pray without ceasing, and to love without limits? What if it’s our chance to tell the story of the cross and to proclaim the glory of the stone rolled away?

This is when the church becomes the people, not the building. And we become carriers of hope. This is when grace and peace are offered to all. And the faithfulness of God is on display.

*Christ in us. Christ through us. For the sake of the world.
Carry the hope of Jesus.*

Shalom,

Pastor Greg