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THE CRUSADER (USPS139220) published weekly except the week after/of Christmas by First Christian Church,
301 N. Broad St., Galesburg, IL 61401-3696. POSTMASTER: Send Address Corrections to The Crusader at above address.
Periodical Postage paid at Galesburg, IL 61401.



January 10 — Worship online
10am Adult Sunday School on
Zoom

January 11 – 6:30pm Elders on
Zoom

January 12 – 6:30pm Council on
Zoom

January 17 – Worship on-line –
10am – Adult Sunday School

January 18 – 7pm Trustees
meeting at the church

January 24 – Worship on-line
Week of the Laity
Message by Christina Griswold
!0am – Adult Sunday School

January 24 & 31 – Blanket
Sundays



... for **Scott VanVelsor** and for his caregivers and medical staff. And for the many family members who have or have had coronavirus.
...for **Christina Griswold**, who has begun her second round of chemotherapy and seeking second opinions.
... for **Judy Krueger**, whose mother, Marcella Krueger passed away Dec. 20.
... for **Kathy Neave** and **Margaret Ann Sandberg**, both on Hospice.
... for the family of **Harriett Anderson**. Harriett passed away Jan. 2 and was buried on Jan. 5. Harriett attended our church since 1941. She was an aunt by marriage to **Earlene Crouse**.
... for **Dori Oberman**, whose cousin Ruth died recently from coronavirus.
...for **Lynda White's** Uncle Don who is gravely ill, hospitalized with COVID 19.
...for **Carolyn Spratt**, who will be having tests on January 12 and then will have a partial mastectomy on January 21.



Crusader

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

301 N Broad St. Galesburg, IL 61401
Phone: 343-9960



fccgalesburg@gmail.com Web Page – www.fccgalesburg.org

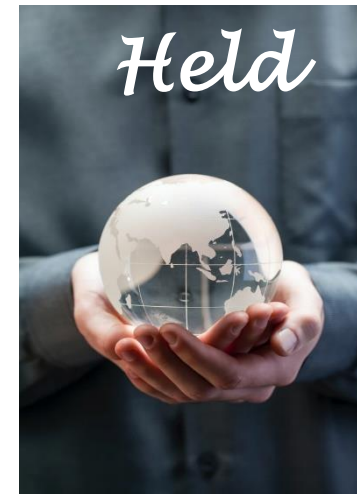
Director of Music – Steve Jackson sjackson@sandburg.edu

Secretary – Christina Griswold fccgalesburg@gmail.com

Bookkeeper – Lynda White fccwhite@gmail.com

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

Vol. 75, No. 1, January 7, 2021



January 10, 2021

Message by Pastor Greg Fitch

“Held: Fingerprint”

Scriptures: Psalm 31

January 17, 2021

Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch

“Held: Through all the Stages & Ages”

Scripture: Isaiah 46:3-4

Worship will be pre-recorded and shown on Facebook,
on our webpage and YouTube by Sunday morning.

HELD

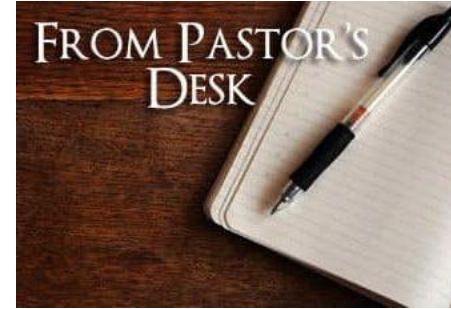
A Journey of Assurance for the New Year

In uncertain and ever-changing times, it is good to know that we have a never-changing, certain God who holds us in His everlasting arms. Our sermon series will focus on those great promises we have in God. And we will be blessed with testimonies from our church family about how God has held them throughout this past year.



EPIPHANY STAR WORDS

This past Sunday, we continued a tradition, which began last year, to give Star Gifts or Star Words. A “star word” is a word to ponder and reflect on and see how God might speak to you throughout the year, through that word. It is just a simple process that hopefully will help draw a person closer to God and stronger in faith. If you have not received your “star word”, go to the church’s webpage: fccgalesburg.org and click on the star and a word will be generated for you. You can also go to Dayspring.com and answer some questions and then a word will be generated. Or Pastor MJ will be happy to mail you a paper star. And then be on the look for how God might surprise and delight you through this year!



As I sit down to write this article, it is Epiphany – a day we celebrate the light of the star that led the magi to find the Christ child...our Prince of Peace. We rejoice that the light is still shining brightly and darkness cannot overcome it!

I found it so sobering that this year’s Epiphany was on such a dark day in the United States. It was so difficult to see such anarchy and violence on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. I

am urging all of us to unite together in praying for the peace and the healing of our country. I am praying that our country can turn away from the hatred and division and and turn to God – the only One who who can bring reconciliation and hope. Indeed we need to pray for our nation to turn to our Prince of Peace and make Him the Lord of their lives.

I read recently: “*our job during Epiphany is to think of ways we can **bring** light and **be** the light in the world around us.. Darkness can be overcome! May this season be a season of light – in your life and in your family; and especially light in our community and country!*” (<https://www.soulistry.com/epiphany-light-in-the-darkness>)

We as a church family must continue to find ways we can connect with one another and learn and grow in our faith. Beyond our time of worship, we have two opportunities to do that: Adult Sunday School and Adult Bible Study. We are starting new studies this month – and so this is a good time to join in.

Our Adult Sunday School meets at **10am on Sundays on Zoom**. To join click this invitation: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3610895950>. We are starting this Sunday, **Jan. 10**, to study Kathie Lee Gifford’s DVD Bible Study called *The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi*. Hiking the ancient paths of Israel, Gifford will talk with a Messianic Jewish Rabbi who will help the Bible come alive, by looking into the Hebrew language, culture and heritage and the life of Jesus. This study will go all the way until Easter.

Our Adult Bible Study meets at **5:30pm on Wednesdays** on Zoom. To join click this invitation: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88395654041?pwd=T1Y5UFZRUXFBSGFSGFSQWNGUOrTXFodz09>. Beginning on **January 27**, we will be studying the newest Max Lucado’s book, *Begin Again: Your Hope and Renewal Start Today*. We will be joining the nationwide 5-week Reading Club and learn about how God’s restores and renews every aspect of our lives. It will be a great study of hope for our new year!

If there is one thing I know we’ve been learning this crazy year is that we need each other! Together we are better and together we can grow and make a difference! Stay focused in prayer – stay connected in service – keep your heart open and listening to the Spirit’s leading!

God bless and keep you all! Pastor MJ

BLANKET THE WORLD WITH~LOVE

January 24th and 31st



In the midst of crisis, faith guides a loving response. That's how the CWS (Church World Service) Blanket Program started, and that's why your gift mean so much during this pandemic. Through the generosity of congregations, shelters, vulnerable people around the world are getting supplies like blankets and hygiene kits to keep them safe and healthy. And, if you

are able, please give generously to show that love never fails...

You can purchase a blanket for \$10.00 each by mailing a check payable to First Christian Church, mark it for Blanket Sunday, and mail to 301 N. Broad St. Your support is very much appreciated and will give many a hope filled tomorrow for people all around the world.

BE A BLESSING TO HELP SOMEONE ELSE!

Please consider providing items for our Blessing Box!

Items needed:

- Hats, gloves, warm socks
- Hygiene items-bath soap, toothpaste, deodorant, sanitary products, razors, shampoo
- Household items-cleanser, laundry soap, toilet paper, paper towels, hand can openers

Items may be placed in the box or left at the church to be placed in the box a bit at a time. If you need to arrange a drop off or pick-up contact Steph Line or Pastor MJ

