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February 3 – 5:30pm Bible Study

February 7 – Worship online
10am Adult Sunday School
On Zoom

February 8 – 6:30pm Elders
Meeting via Zoom

February 9 – 6:30pm Council
Meeting via Zoom

February 10 – 5:30pm Bible
Study via Zoom

February 14 – Worship online
10am Adult Sunday School
On Zoom

February 17 – Ash Wednesday
Worship service – recorded
and available by 6pm on
Facebook, our webpage, and
YouTube



... 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**, undergoing chemotherapy.
... for **Kathy Neave** and **Margaret Ann Sandberg**, both on Hospice.
... for **Midge Cameron**, for health and well-being
... for **Jim Eager**, for health and well-being
...for **Carolyn Spratt**, recovering from surgery on January 21.
...for victims of the coronavirus – and for the success of the vaccine.
...for those who have lost their jobs and are struggling financially.



Crusader

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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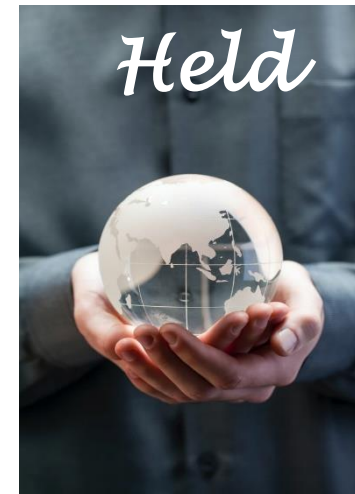
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Vol. 75, No. 3, February 3, 2021



February 7, 2021

Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch
“Held: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”
Scripture: Deuteronomy 33:26-29

February 14, 2021

Message by Pastor Greg Fitch
“Held: Never Out of Sight”
Scriptures: Psalm 121 & 139

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

ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 17

Lent begins on **February 17** with Ash Wednesday. Lent is the 40 day (not counting Sundays) season of preparation prior to Easter. It is a time to focus on Christ’s life, ministry, sacrifice and resurrection. Our Ash Wednesday service will be recorded and available for you to watch by **6pm** on Facebook and the webpage. *In preparation for the service, you will want to gather a candle, some bread and juice, a small bowl of dirt or sand and a little cup of water....items that will be used in the service.*





BUCKETS OF LOVE

Each \$10 donated to our February 13th event will fill a bucket with household products! We will show love to our neighbors by hosting a non-contact drive-up event the morning of 2/13. Through your monetary contributions we will supply cleaning supplies in a bucket. These items cannot be purchased with a LINK card and are often requested by

folks who visit our Blessing Box. Sponsor as many buckets as your heart desires. Send your check to the church office at 301 N. Broad Street marked “Buckets of Love”.

We are also looking for folks to supply Valentines, notes, or drawings to add to each bucket. This is a great way to get all ages involved.

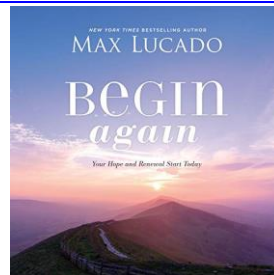
Can you spare an hour or two the morning of the 13th? Contact Steph Line to volunteer!

JOIN BIBLE STUDY!

Our Adult Bible Study meets at **5:30pm on Wednesdays on Zoom**. To join click this invitation:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88347902404?pwd=T2xWbEMwOUV3OTJCRVNHc2FRK1RoQT09>

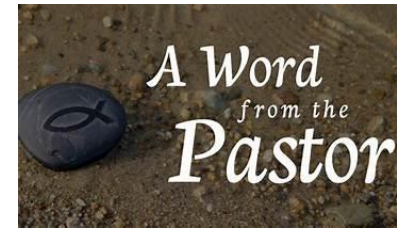
We are studying the newest Max Lucado’s book, *Begin Again: Your Hope and Renewal Start Today*. We will be joining the nationwide 5-week Reading Club and learn about how God’s restores and renews every aspect of our lives. It will be a great study of hope for our new year!



OUR ANNIVERSARY IS COMING!!!

Did you know 150 years ago, in 1871, seven people met together to dream about having a Christian Church in Galesburg? And then, in April of 1872, First Christian Church was finally incorporated. We are just beginning to prepare for a big anniversary celebration. If

you love history, and would enjoy planning for the big celebration day, please see Pastor MJ to see how you can be a part of the Anniversary Task Force.



Here’s the word we have all been waiting for: **Let’s get back to in-person worship!!** Our congregation will gather together live and on-line, beginning **February 21 at 9:30am** – the first Sunday of Lent! With more people getting vaccinated and with Galesburg (being in Region 2) now entering Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan – the Reentry Team

believes it is the right time to return to being together in-person for worship.

As we begin, we will be having only one service at **9:30am on Sundays**. These services will be filmed and will be shown Facebook Live at 9:30am – and later on our church’s webpage and on YouTube. There will be no Sunday School, other than the **Adult Sunday School** which will continue to meet via Zoom, at **11am on Sundays**. And we will not be having any time of Coffee Hour/Fellowship Time, for now.

We will be following recommendations from the State of Illinois, the CDC and our denomination, for safety guidelines. We ask everyone to abide by them so we can continue to provide safety for those who attend, and we can keep worshipping together in-person. Some of these guidelines include:

- **If you feel ill, have a fever, sore throat, new onset of coughing or shortness of breath, please stay home**, and watch the service online.
- **Please wear a mask** when entering the building, walking about, going to the bathroom, etc., and when leaving. Please wear a mask, even if you have had the coronavirus or have been vaccinated. You may remove your mask while sitting in pews and maintaining 6 feet distance....and when partaking of communion.
- **When we sing**, we ask people to wear their mask and sing gently, or even hum, but with spirit, so as to not spread “droplets” farther.
- **Physical distancing** will still be observed. We encourage you to “wave” at one another in greeting and not linger in the building before or after worship. You may hold your conversations/fellowship outside the building.
- **Pews in the sanctuary will be marked** as to where you can sit ... we will sit in every third row to maintain at least 6 feet distance ... then seat yourself and families with enough distance from others in a row. Please do not sit in any other rows.
- **Offering plates/containers** will be set at front and back of sanctuary where financial support can be given to God’s work.
- **Communion** – communion will be served to you – by deacons who will wear a mask and have gloves on.

In our next newsletter, we will have more details. For now, just be praying about our return and praise God for His providence and protection for our church family!

I am so looking forward to seeing you in worship! God bless, Pastor MJ