

«BAG» «ZIP\_COUNT»  
«NAMELINE»  
«STREET»  
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP» «PLUSFOUR»

THE CRUSADER (USPS139220) published weekly except the week after/of Christmas by First Christian Church,  
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#### Anniversaries:

- 2 – Erik & Renee Galvin
- 5 – Tom & Rosemary Humphrey
- 26 – Chris & Stacie Admire

#### Birthdays:

- 3 – Dinahsty Galvin
- 4 – Ryan Oehlert
- 6 – Don Billups, Travis Stecher
- 10 – Cooper Wilt
- 11 – Michael Johnson
- 12 – Gene Johnson
- 15 – Jessica Van Velsor
- 16 – Janet Christiansen
- 17 – Noah Nalley
- 20 – Richard Reno
- 25 – Aaron Kelley
- 26 – Stacie (Fleming) Admire
- 31 – Tina Burns



... for those recovering from COVID.  
... for **Mark Davis' mother, Georgia**,  
who is facing Alzheimer's and is at  
Bounceback.  
... for **Sallee Wade** who is currently  
hospitalized at St. Mary Medical Center.  
... for situation with Ukraine and Russia  
– that peace and diplomacy will reign.  
... for New City Church, Mbandaka,  
Congo.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Thank you for your generosity towards  
FCC in 2022! Finish the year strong with  
a year-end donation. Please turn in your  
offerings **no later than noon on Dec.  
29<sup>th</sup>** in order to be recorded for 2022  
giving.



# Crusader

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

301 N Broad St. Galesburg, IL 61401  
309-343-9960

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Part-time Pianist – Brady Warner [bwarner06@icloud.com](mailto:bwarner06@icloud.com)

Co-Pastors: Gregory S. and Martha-Jean Fitch

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### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT/COMMUNION SERVICE

*“What Child is This?”*

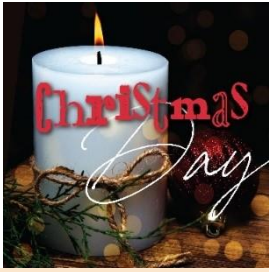
**Saturday, December 24th at 7:30pm**

Invite your family and friends to join us as we  
celebrate our dear Savior! The offering taken at this  
service will be donated to Christian  
Community Helping Neighbors (CCHN).



*Merry Christmas  
From your  
Church Staff*

Pastors Greg & MJ  
Rachel Ridgeway Sutter  
Lorraine Stone  
Steve Jackson  
Brady Warner



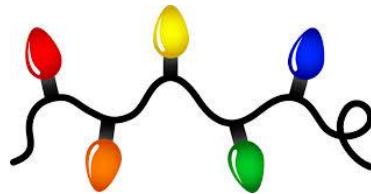
**Worship - Dec. 25, 2022**  
**CHRISTMASTIDE**  
Message by Pastor Greg Fitch  
"Where is the Child?" (Magi)  
Matthew 2:1-12

**Worship - Jan. 1, 2023**  
Message by Steve Jackson  
"What Will Guide You This Year?"  
There will be no Sunday School

*Worship will be in-person and on Facebook Live at 9:30am*

### CHRISTMAS OFFICE SCHEDULE

The church office will be closed from **Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> – Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>**, and there is **no Crusader the week of Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>**.



### PASTORS ON VACATION

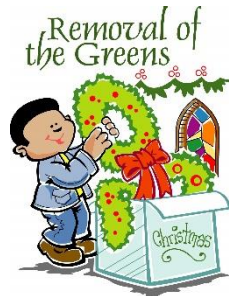
Pastors Greg and MJ will be on vacation the week of **December 26<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>** and back in the office on **January 3<sup>rd</sup>**. While they are gone, if there is a pastoral need, please contact the elder of your shepherding group.

On **January 1**, we will be blessed to have Steve Jackson filling the pulpit. You won't want to miss hearing his message.



### DE-HANGING OF THE GREENS

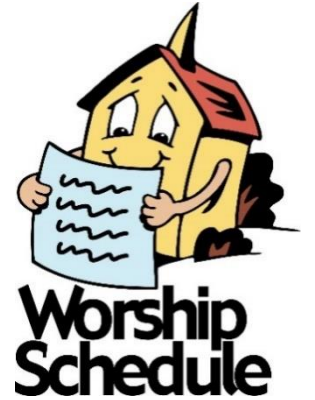
A special thanks to all who helped decorate the church building so beautifully. Please mark your calendars now for take down on **January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10am**. Thank you!



## WORSHIP SERVING SCHEDULE

**Dec. 25** – Diaconate Serving: Earlene Crouse and Brandy Hossain  
Lead in Communion: Pastor  
Offering Message: Jan Luallen  
Prayers: Renee Galvin  
Greeters: Earlene Crouse and Brandy Hossain at North St.; Marnie Herring and Chuck Boydston at Broad St.; Janet Christiansen at canopy door

**Jan. 1** – Diaconate Serving: Janet Foster and Jan Unger  
Lead in Communion: Donna Flicek  
Offering Message: Tina Burns  
Prayers: Neill Unger  
Greeters: Janet Foster and Jan Unger at North St.; Aaron Barton and Kim Barton at Broad Street; Janet Christiansen at canopy door.  
Elders Serving Out: Neill Unger and Renee Galvin



### NEW SERMON SERIES BEGINS JANUARY 8, 2023

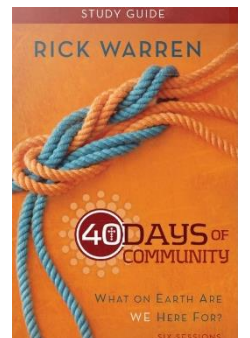
Pastor MJ will be kicking off our new sermon series on **January 8** – "Better Together". Using the New Testament "one another" texts, we will focus on fulfilling God's purposes for us as a church as we fellowship, worship, grow and serve together.



### NEW SERIES FOR DISCIPLES SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS JAN. 8

*40 Days of Community*

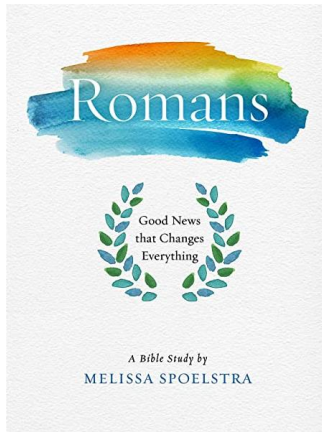
Beginning **January 8**, for six weeks, Disciples Sunday School will be studying 40 Days of Community, by Pastor Rick Warren. This series will go along with the sermon series we will be focusing on in the new year. Each week we will discover how we can love, reach out, fellowship, grow, serve, and worship together. Cultivate deeper relationships with those around us as we discover how we are Better Together. For those wanting a study guide, the price is \$7. Order deadline is **January 2**.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>8:45am</b> – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library <b>9:30am</b> – Coffee Fellowship <b>10am</b> – Worship – Guest speaker: Steve Jackson <b>3pm</b> – Worship in the Upper Room	<b>2</b>  <b>Office Closed – New Year’s Day Holiday</b>	<b>3</b>  <b>1:30pm</b> – Caring Ministers	<b>4</b>  	<b>5</b>  <b>9am</b> – Staff meeting	<b>6</b>  	<b>7</b>  <b>10am</b> – De-Hanging of the Greens
<b>8</b> <b>8:45am</b> – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library <b>9:30am</b> – Coffee Fellowship <b>10am</b> – Worship <b>11:30am</b> – Disciples Sun. School <b>3pm</b> – Worship in the Upper Room	<b>9</b> <b>5pm</b> – Narcotics Anonymous <b>6pm</b> – Elders/Council joint mtg <b>Newsletter week</b>	<b>10</b>  	<b>11</b> <b>9:30am and 5:30pm</b> – Bible Study  <b>5:30pm</b> – Youth group	<b>12</b> <b>9am</b> – Staff meeting  <b>10:30am</b> – Disciples Women Council	<b>13</b>  	<b>14</b>  
<b>15</b> <b>8:45am</b> – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library <b>9:30am</b> – Coffee Fellowship <b>10am</b> —Worship <b>11:30am</b> – Disciples Sun. School <b>3pm</b> – Worship in the Upper Room	<b>16</b> <b>5pm</b> – Narcotics Anonymous <b>7pm</b> – Trustees  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>17</b> <b>10:30am</b> – Naomi Circle  <b>7pm</b> – The Weekend Cluster	<b>18</b> <b>9:30am and 5:30pm</b> – Bible Study <b>3pm</b> – Worship at Hawthorne Inn <b>5:30pm</b> – Youth group	<b>19</b> <b>9am</b> – Staff meeting <b>2pm</b> – Worship at Knox County Nursing Home <b>5:30pm</b> – Men’s Night Out at Pizza Ranch and Ladies Night Out at Jimmy’s Pizza	<b>20</b>  	<b>21</b>  
<b>22 Week of Laity</b> <b>8:45am</b> – Coffee House Theology <b>9:30am</b> – Coffee Fellowship <b>10am</b> – Worship – Blanket Sunday <b>11:30am</b> – Disciples Sun. School <b>3pm</b> – Worship in the Upper Room	<b>23</b> <b>5pm</b> – Narcotics Anonymous  <b>Newsletter week</b>	<b>24</b>  	<b>25</b> <b>9:30am and 5:30pm</b> – Bible Study <b>5:30pm</b> – Youth group	<b>26</b> <b>9am</b> – Staff meeting	<b>27</b>  	<b>28</b>  
<b>29</b> <b>8:45am</b> – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library <b>9:30am</b> – Coffee Fellowship <b>10am</b> —Worship – Blanket Sunday <b>11:30am</b> – Disciples Sun. School <b>3pm</b> – Worship in the Upper Room	<b>30</b> <b>5pm</b> – Narcotics Anonymous	<b>31</b>  			<i>Note: Worship services            are in-person as well as            Facebook Live</i>	<i>Note: Disciples Sunday            School and Wednesday            Bible Study are both on            Zoom and in person.</i>





## NEW WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY BEGINS JANUARY 11, 2023

*Romans – Good News that Changes Everything*

Study the book of Romans for 6 weeks, with DVD teaching by Melissa Spoelstra, beginning **January 11**. We will have classes on Wednesday at 9:30am and 5:30pm, both in-person and on Zoom. Study guides are \$13 and the deadline to order is **January 2**.

Make Bible Study one of your resolutions for the new year!

## BLANKET SUNDAYS JAN. 22 & 29

Disciples Women are again asking the congregation to participate in the CWS Blanket+ Program. Blankets+ means that Church World Service will be there as people recover after a disaster strikes; such as hurricane Ian and the terrible destruction it left behind in Florida. CWS was there to support families struggling against poverty as they seek to develop viable, sustainable livelihoods. Your contribution provides the means to transform lives and communities when they are faced with an emergency or simple struggling to put food on the table.



**Just \$10** will buy one blanket or any donation will help purchase a blanket. Please give generously. Thank you for your caring and compassionate response. (Please make your check payable to First Christian Church.)



and other activities at the church! We want to extend our best wishes as she begins a new adventure!

## THANK YOU RACHEL

Thank you to **Rachel Ridgeway Sutter** for all her hard work as our custodian the past few months. We really appreciate how lovingly she has taken care of FCC! You will be missed, not only as our custodian but also as a faithful participant in choir

## CELEBRATING THE CHILDREN'S & YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM ON DEC. 18<sup>TH</sup>



**Our Mission Statement:** *Growing Spirit-filled, committed disciples of Christ.*