

«BAG» «ZIP_COUNT»
«NAMELINE»
«STREET»
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Anniversaries:

17 – Jake & Mary Runge
18 – John & Debbie Hagan

Birthdays:

4 – Judy St. John
8 – Ron Collinson
12 – Dick Welty
14 – Karen Bjorkman
16 – Jan Farber
20 – Mark Davis, Mary Gehring
21 – Pastor Greg Fitch
22 – Sue Johnson
24 – Cindy Andrews, Cindy Napier
26 – Todd Peterson
27 – Linda Bjorkman
28 – Brandy Hossain
29 – Carole Batterton
30 – Cameron McAlister, Candi Moulton, Isaac Runge
31 – Al Bower

... for **Pastor MJ** as she recovers from surgery. Cards and flowers can be sent directly to her at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, Room 2131, 355 E. Erie St., Chicago, IL 60611.

... for **Bev Norton** who fell and broke her arm and pelvis. She is recovering at BounceBack, 2215 N. Seminary St.

... for **Kim Barton** and her family with the loss of her aunt Ellen. May God grant the family peace and comfort during this difficult time. A celebration of life will be at 10am July 8th at Lake Storey Shelter #4.

... for Neill Unger's brother, **Frank and family**. Frank is now on hospice care.
... for New City Church, Mbandaka, Congo.



I would like to thank Jan Luallen, Brenda Fell and Carolyn Spratt for filling in at the office while I was on vacation. It was very much appreciated! – Lorraine



Crusader

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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July 2, 2023

Message by Misty Stecher

“The High Price of Freedom”

Scripture: Matthew 5:43-48

Worshiping on the lawn at 10am.

Bring a lawn chair to sit outside or sit in your car and listen to the service on FM 88.1.



July 9, 2023

Message by Pastor Greg Fitch

“Summer Baggage: Fear”

Scripture:

Worship will be in-person and on Facebook Live at 10am

JULY BIRTHDAYS – JULY 2nd

During Coffee Fellowship on **July 2**, we will celebrate July birthdays. If you have a birthday in July, you are invited to bring treats to share.





BRADY WARNER LEAVING

Nearly two years ago, when our organist/keyboardist (and cellist) Luke Acerra was preparing to leave us to go to graduate school in Austria, piano and organ teacher Mary Harlan asked if we could provide a student of hers an opportunity to play piano and eventually organ in our services. This student, Brady Warner, was soon to be a high school junior and was just 15 years old. I had seen Brady as a boy in Mary Harlan's piano recitals, when our kids were also taking lessons from her, but I had not seen how skilled he was becoming at the piano until he began playing during our services in September of 2021, first just playing every other week but eventually, by late spring of 2022, nearly every week (every week that he was available).

Over these nearly two years, we have all watched Brady grow tremendously as a musician (both on the organ and as a very capable choir accompanist) and also as a very responsible young man. Although just 16 at the start of his senior year, Brady was named Drum Major of the Galesburg High School marching band and continued to be a stellar student and leader at GHS. With his skills in accounting, he has also been serving as the treasurer at Trinity Lutheran Church (also in Galesburg) while working mostly remotely for an accounting firm in Peoria. Keep in mind he turned 17 just this April!

Brady will soon leave us to attend the University of Iowa to earn a degree with a double major in accounting and organ performance. His last Sunday with us will be on **July 23**. The church leadership would like for the congregation to send him off with a **love offering**, which we will be collecting up to that last week he will be with us, so we can present it to him on that Sunday. It's a **secret** from him, so don't tell him, and don't let him read this. Please bring or send whatever you are able to offer to him to the church office.

We will miss his musicianship, leadership, diligence, and positivity and can-do attitude, though I'm sure we'll be able to see him back in Galesburg from time to time. Perhaps he'll even fill in on the keyboards for us sometime during one of his breaks or during the summer, if he's available and willing. We thank Brady for sharing his gifts and talents with us for the past two years and wish him well as he begins this next stage in his life. – *Steve Jackson*

No meetings in July:
Elders and Council or Worship committee



NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES

New offering envelopes are ready to pick up on the table in the hall by the North Street door. These are for the new fiscal year of 2023-2024 and you can start using them **July 2**. You have been assigned the same contributor number this year because of the new accounting program.

If you do not find a box of envelopes with your name on them, please contact the bookkeeper so you may be assigned a box of envelopes. Only the people who have envelopes will receive a financial statement with their giving.

WORSHIP SERVING SCHEDULE

July 2 – Diaconate Serving: None (Outdoor Worship)

Lead in Communion: Steve Jackson

Offering Message: Tina Burns

Prayers: Pastor Greg

Elders Serving Out: Neill Unger and Steve Jackson

July 9 – Diaconate Serving: David Wilt and Leslie Wilt

Lead in Communion: Pastor Frosty

Offering Message: Misty Stecher

Prayers: Chris Mowrer

Greeters: David Wilt and Leslie Wilt at North St.; Larry Thurman at Broad St.; Don Mundy at canopy door



OUTDOOR WORSHIP

On **Sunday, July 2nd at 10am**, join us for an outdoor service on the lawn led by Misty Stecher. Join us for songs, a craft for all ages and abilities, Rally Robin games, fellowship, and a message "The High Price of Freedom" based on Matthew 5:43-48. Bring a lawn chair to sit outside or sit in your car and listen to the service on FM 88.1.

Mark your calendar for other outdoor services to be held **August 6th and September 3rd**.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:45am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship – July birthdays 10am – Outdoor Worship	3 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous	4  4th of July – Office Closed	5 1:30pm – Caring Ministers	6	7	8
9 8:45am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship 10am —Worship 11:30am – Disciples Sun. School	10 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous <i>Newsletter week</i>	11	12	13 9am – Staff meeting via Zoom	14	15
16 8:45am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship 10am – Worship 11:30am – Disciples Sun. School	17 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous 6:30pm – Trustees	18	19	20 5:30pm – Men’s Night Out at Pizza Ranch and Ladies’ Night Out at Jimmy’s Pizza	21	22
23 8:45am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship 10am —Worship 11:30am – Disciples Sun. School	24 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous <i>Newsletter week</i>	25	26	27	28	29
30 8:45am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship 10am —Worship 11:30am – Disciples Sun. School	31 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous				<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>

LIPANDA DAY FESTIVAL

There will be a celebration festival for Lipanda Day on **Sunday, July 2nd from noon to 4pm** at Park Plaza in downtown Galesburg. Since you're likely wondering what that means, here's the explanation: Lipanda Day is a celebration of Congolese independence. On June 30, 1960, the Congo became a country freed from its European colonial overlord, Belgium. The festival, organized by the fledgling Lipanda Foundation and its founder, Congolese business owner Gorette "Gogo" Kupa and her husband, Yannick Kapita (who have lived in Galesburg for four and six years, respectively), is part of an effort to highlight and empower the growing population of French-speaking Africans, mostly including those who have come from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in Galesburg. The Congolese population in Galesburg has, over the past decade or so, grown to about 2,000 people (which is about 7% of the population of Galesburg). This year's festival, the 2nd annual, is being held on Sunday, July 2nd to accommodate the many people of the African community who live here who work not just on weekdays but also on Saturdays, with Sundays being left free to attend church services. There will be music, food, exhibits, games, and beverages, and it is open to all and free to attend.

In addition, there will be a **concert that evening at 6pm** in the Orpheum Theater featuring a Congolese pastor and gospel singer named Moise Mbiye. Tickets are free to anyone who wishes to attend the concert, and they are available in the church office. I have organized a group of area orchestral musicians to accompany Pastor Mbiye on three of his songs, for which I am providing the orchestral music arrangements. Pastor Mbiye is a singer-songwriter who has numerous recordings and has performed throughout Africa and on other continents to large audiences and congregations, though not in the U.S. until this past Sunday, June 25 in Maine, so this concert in Galesburg will be a landmark event of sorts (his first performance in the Midwestern U.S.). Pastor Mbiye serves as the pastor at Cite Bethel Church in Kinshasa, DRC.

With our congregation's special connection to the Congo through our sister church in Mbandaka and through the missionary efforts of our own Dr. and Mrs. Gene and Sue Johnson and their family, I figured we at First Christian Church would have a particular interest in showing our support for, and further connecting with, the Congolese community and other area members of the French-speaking African community. – *Steve Jackson*



Dear Church Family: Aaron Kelley would like to thank everyone for the cards and well wishes for his high school graduation. He is very thankful that he is so blessed. – Michele Kelley and family

CHRISTMAS IN JULY – CHRISTMAS OFFERING

July 2 and 9

Together Making Disciples of Christ

Each year we take our Christmas offering in July! And the Christmas Special Day Offering supports regional ministries. In 31 regions across the United States and Canada, ministers are nurtured and congregations are provided opportunities for development, work and worship. Often recognized for the ministries of camps and conferences, regions also play a critical role in the preparation and authorization of ministerial ordination. Both are key to church leadership and development. Regions partner with congregations to support the work required to call a new minister.

Your gift to the Christmas offering supports the work of the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) Region, sustaining the life of our church. Thank you for providing your finest gift.



SUPPORT THE BLESSING BOX

We are always in need of supplies for our Blessing Box ministry, especially toiletries, toilet paper, Kleenex, cleaning supplies, and non-perishable food items - including on-the-go items such as packets of tuna, nuts, granola bars, crackers, fruit cups and the like. If you would like someone else to shop for Blessing Box items, monetary donations are welcome.

We could also use another person or two willing to fill the Blessing Box – just pick a day .. it only takes a few minutes.

Take what you need, leave what you can, be blessed!