

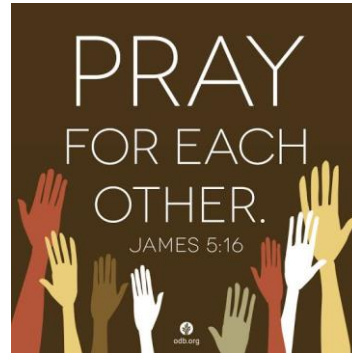
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THE CRUSADER (USPS139220) published weekly except the week after/of Christmas by First Christian Church,  
301 N. Broad St., Galesburg, IL 61401-3696. POSTMASTER: Send Address Corrections to The Crusader at above address.  
Periodical Postage paid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



## HELP CLEAN UP THE SANCTUARY

With the construction of the family worship area in our sanctuary – and because of not being in the sanctuary since March – our sanctuary is in great need of cleaning. We need to clean each pew – and remove and wipe down all the hymnals and Bibles (since we will not be able to use them when we first return due to COVID19 precautions). We also need to clean windowsills and the choir area, etc. If we all “team up to clean up” – we can get the job done easily. We will have two designated times for a Saturday “clean-up” which will be **July 11 and July 18, at 10am**. People can team up and come clean at other times during the week – but will need to check with Pastor MJ about the times and what exactly needs to be done



... for **Scott VanVelsor** and for his caregivers and medical staff.  
... for **Margaret Ann Sandberg** who is at Marigold for Rehab. Her address is 275 E. Carl Sandburg Dr., Room 124, in Galesburg.  
...for **Christina Griswold**, who is undergoing chemotherapy.  
...for **Neill Unger**, who is recovering from a surgery on his knee. Pray that he will be free of crutches soon!  
...for **James McLaren** who is recovering from gall bladder surgery.  
...for **Chris Mowrer** whose sister Carolyn, passed away. Services will be held on June 11.  
...for **Nick Nalley**, recovering from having his wisdom teeth removed.  
... for those struggling with Covid-19. and for an end to the pandemic.

*Please join the  
Facebook prayer group*



# Crusader

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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Vol. 74, No. 18, June 24, 2020

June 28, 2020

Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch

“Shelter: Hanging on in Trouble

Scripture: Psalm 138

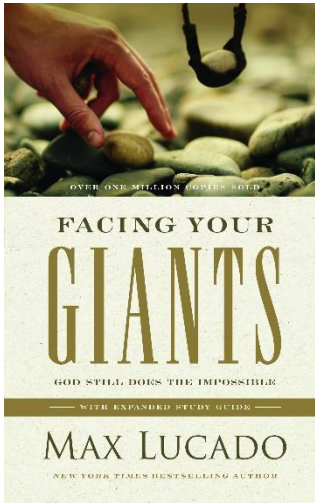
*Please see our Facebook page, YouTube, and  
Webpage ([fccgalesburg.org](http://fccgalesburg.org))  
to see our worship service on Sunday.*



## DRIVE THRU PRAYER and PICK UP YOUR NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES June 26 and 29

Drive-thru the church canopy on the parking lot, between **12pm -2pm on June 26 and June 29**. This is an opportunity to pray and visit with Pastor MJ who will greet you there. And then, you may also pick up your offering envelopes for the new year, that begins on **July 5**.





## JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY

We are starting a new Adult Bible Study class on Wednesday **June 24 at 5:30pm**, via Zoom. For 5 week, we will be studying Max Lucado’s “*Facing Your Giants*”. “Max Lucado uses the story of David to help you learn how to allow God to work with you and for you, and to remind you of who you are to and in Him. You are seen, loved, and cared for by the God who still does the impossible.” Pastor MJ will send, via email, passages to be read in preparation each week and questions to reflect on....thus getting the study book is not required. But if you desire, you can get the book and study guide on Amazon. If you are interested in attending, please call/text/email Pastor MJ and she will give you the invite to join us on Zoom.



The mission of the Knox Prairie Community Kitchen is to serve nutritious food with dignity, respect and compassion to our neighbors regardless of situation, background or ability to pay. We seek to strengthen our community by sharing meals with our neighbors and by

engaging in outreach and educational activities related to hunger, food insecurity and food policy.

All KPCK meals are free and open to the entire community. The First Baptist Church at 169 S. Cherry St. graciously allows meals to be prepared and served in their House.

Due to COVID19 the meals will be no-contact curbside service and prepared to go from **5pm to 6pm** at the Tompkins Street entrance. The next meal is **Thursday, June 25th**. FCC folks have served as volunteers and a sponsor in the past. We hope to be able to plan to do the same when meals return to inside the building. Until then consider enjoying a to-go meal and please keep Knox Prairie Community Kitchen in your prayers.



## TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME....

This summer Galesburg Youth Baseball has decided to play a modified season as long as the state of Illinois gets to stage 4 by the end of June. We have 4 FCC kids (and several youth group kids) that will be participating in GYBL baseball this summer!

**Carson Stecher** will play in machine pitch at O.N. Custer park on East Losey. **Parker Stecher** will play in kid pitch at Voyles #2 behind Walmart. **Noah Nally** will play in Majors division at Voyles #1 behind Walmart as well as be umpiring at O.N. Custer park. **Nick Nally** will be umpiring at Voyles park throughout the summer. You may be able to catch: **Mason Bohm** (machine pitch), **Owen Bohm, Tyler Robinson, Nic James, Jacob Mowen** (kid pitch), and **Sawyer Bruns** (majors) from youth group at the games as well.

We would love to have fans at the ballpark to support the kids as you feel comfortable. Please follow these guidelines if you choose to come to the ballpark.

- \*bring your own chairs (fans are asked to sit along the fence line and stay 6 feet apart)
- \*bring an umbrella for shade (all ballparks have a limited amount of shade and playing in July/August is going to be HOT even in the evening)
- \*Participate in no contact end of game congrats. (tip of the hat, elbow bump, or just a verbal great game!)

We look forward to seeing you at the ballpark!

*(Some of the upcoming games are listed below – a full schedule will be email to you)*

	Noah Nally Voyles #1 Behind Walmart closest to parking lot	Carson Stecher O.N. Custer Park Losey street	Parker Stecher Voyles #2 Behind Walmart, farthest field back
Monday June 29	7:30 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
Tue. June 30		6:00	
Wed. July 1	7:30		7:30
Thur. July 2	7:30	6:00	
Sat. July 4			11:00 AM





## RE-ENTRY TO ON-SITE WORSHIP

With Illinois going into Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan, groups of 50 can now come together and congregate – with continued social distancing. We have formed a “Re-entry Task Force” planning on how we will return to worshipping together at our

church site. Members of the Task Force include: **Bill & Willa Jewsbury, Renee Galvin, Leslie Wilt, Misty Stecher, Neill Unger, Chris Mowrer, Tracy Jackson, Chuck Boydston and the pastors.**

Coming back to the church building will be different than normal – and will be a fluid plan as things can change from week to week, as we know things have been with the pandemic.

The current plan is for us to have our first worship service back at the church property to be on **Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 9am**. And we will be worshipping outside, on the grassy area, north of the church, near the parking lot. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs and their own communion (bread/crackers and juice/water). We are asking everyone to wear their masks and to practice social distancing to help protect each other. There will be a box available to leave your offering. There will be no coffee hour. For those unable to sit out in the sun or in the grass, there will be spaces available for people to park their cars and listen to the service, from their cars.

The Re-entry Task Force will be meeting again soon, to continue work on plans and we will let you know as soon as we can about other details. For now, know that we are all looking forward to seeing everyone and feeling that sense of community again!

## FAMILY WORSHIP AREA

Our new family worship area is now completely built in the northwest corner of the sanctuary. This worship area was built to enable parents with young children to still participate inside the sanctuary and to minister to these families. The space can also be used as a “classroom” for other times with the children. Thanks to the anonymous donor and planners of this space!!



When I was in college, my minor was in Social Work. I took an independent study class which was so eye-opening and informative. It was a class to understand the differences and similarities among people from different cultures and races. The professor and myself were white – she from the north and me from the south. The other two students were black and one came from the north and the other from the south. We discovered through our studies and conversations, that in many cases, the folks from the north shared a similar culture and ways of communicating that differed a lot from those of us in the south.



But beyond those geographical differences, what was so eye-opening for me was to hear the stories of my black fellow students. I became so aware of racism and how it affected them. Sure, I had read about racism – had experienced a lot of it in high school when we had forced “desegregation”, with blacks being bused into my white high school. But I hadn’t really sat down and heard their story! I understood racism and prejudice in a whole new light. I definitely knew that “black lives did indeed matter” to God! And that building relationships and learning one another’s story, helped so much to break down the walls of division.

So, throughout my ministry, I have always tried to help build bridges. In our first church, which was in a 100% white rural community, we had a “sister church” relationship with black church in Denver. It was a wonderful way to build relationships with people who were different than us – and yet the same because they were our brothers and sisters in Christ. It was a delight to be able to have pulpit exchanges with them and have fellowship dinners where we sat across the tables from one another and really heard each other’s story.

And I am so happy that we have developed a great sister church relationship with our brothers and sisters at New City Church in the Congo – and the Congolese church that worshiped in our sanctuary for several months last year.

We as a denomination have adopted our statement of identity as: “*A movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, we welcome all to the Lord’s Table as God has welcomed us.*” And we strive to be a “pro-reconciling and anti-racist” church. We see racism as a sin that breaks the heart of God and we seek ways that we can bring reconciliation and end division and injustice.

One way we can do that is to hear another person’s story – to understand what it is like to walk in their shoes. I encourage you to do that if you are able. And then, there are books you can read that will help you hear their story – and discover ways we can be reconcilers. A list of recommended books will be listed on Facebook.

God has committed to us the message of reconciliation (II Cor. 5:18). May it be said of us that we are reconcilers, working for peace and unity! God bless, Pastor MJ