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January 8 – 10am

De-Hanging of the Greens

January 9 –

Worship at 9:30am in sanctuary &
Facebook Live
11am Adult Sunday School

January 10 – 6:30pm

Elders

January 11 – 6:30pm

Council

January 12 –

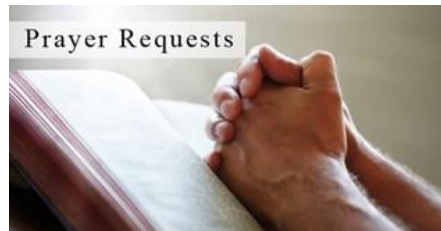
9:30am in-person and 5:30pm
in-person and on Zoom
Bible Study
5:30pm – Youth Group

January 16 –

Blanket Sunday
Worship at 9:30am in sanctuary &
Facebook Live
11am Adult Sunday School

January 17 –

7pm – Trustees
Office Closed



... for **Shannon Edwards** and her son, **Daniel**, for strength and hope as they are apart from one another. Also pray for Shannon as she continues her studies.
... for **Dr. Gene Johnson** who has had a stroke and is hospitalized in St. Francis Hospital in Peoria.
... for all that are struggling with COVID and for the medical teams at work caring for them. Pray in particular, for **Mary Lydic's son Josh**, who has COVID. Josh is the grandson of **Clarence and Dorothy Roberts**.
... for **Leigh Nygard**, friend of our congregation, who is now on Hospice, in Indiana.
... for **Tom Dougherty and Kate Doss**, in need of housing. Pray for them as they are going through tough times.
... for **Keith and Missy Munstedt** who are experiencing some struggles and need prayers. They also ask for prayers for Keith's nephew, Landon, who has COVID.
... for people affected by the Colorado wildfires.



Crusader

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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

pastorgreg02@gmail.com & pastormj02@gmail.com



Vol. 76, No. 1 ~ Jan 4, 2022



January 9, 2022

Message by Pastor Greg Fitch

“Unshakable Faith: What Are You Looking At?”

Scripture: II Kings 6:17-20

January 16, 2022

Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch

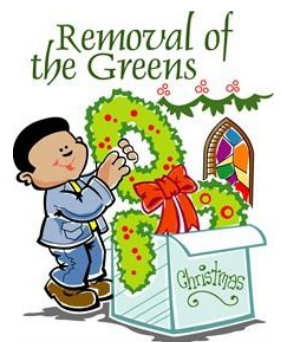
“Unshakable Faith: Faith in Times of Trouble”

Scripture: Job 19:25-27; Isaiah 43:1-5

Worship will be in-person at 9:30am and on Facebook Live at 9:30am and later on Sunday morning on our webpage and YouTube

DE-HANGING OF THE GREENS

Come on down to the church on **Saturday, January 8th**, at **10am** until? We'll be taking things down and putting the Christmas decorations away.



HISTORY OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH – Marilyn’s Musings

I was the Director of Christian Education from 1965 to 1968. I had just graduated with my Masters of Divinity from Lexington Theological Seminary and Galesburg was the first church that I was called to serve. I had barely graduated and I arrived early so that I could participate in Vacation Bible School and then serve as a camp counselor. Both were great experiences and introductions to the youth.

The pastor, James Smith, resigned not long after I arrived and so I found myself in a unique position as the search began for the next pastor who was Ralph Bennett. I found myself doing a lot of things that I hadn’t planned on – preaching more, and pastoral and administrative work with the committees. It was indeed a rich and learning process for me. While I was nervous at first, the great people at Galesburg took me under their wing and provided great support for this new pastor.

It was a joy to know and work with Dr. Harry Sykes and see the wonderful work he did with the bell choirs and his outstanding organ playing. I had a wonderful group of young people and shared many good times with them. I especially remember the Living Nativity Scenes that they produced outside on the lawn. People like the Jewsburys, Noeckers, Johnsons, Sackeys and many others were always supportive of me and the young people. When a young person, like Will Jewsbury whom you have known, makes the decision for ministry, it is always a reason for rejoicing. Every church should provide the loving atmosphere that plants and nurtures the seeds for ministry.

My relationship with First Christian Church in Galesburg came full circle when I was ordained to Christian Ministry on June 24, 1973 in the sanctuary where I first served.

God Bless you all as you see new visions and ways of continuing to serve the Lord. – Rev. Marilyn Williams (Spry) Holloway



CELEBRATING WEEK OF THE LAITY

God has called all of us as believers to be in ministry together! We celebrate that we have very active lay people who are in ministry alongside our pastors.

On **Sunday, January 23**, we will celebrate that ministry by having lay persons lead in all parts of the worship service. We will also have an installation of officers that day, during the service.

We give thanks to God for our wonderful lay people!



BLANKET SUNDAYS January 16 & 23 HOPE, JOY AND LOVE WE SHARE WITH THE WORLD ON BLANKET SUNDAY

HOPE comes in many forms. In blankets wrapped around survivors of a deadly hurricane, hope to people in great distress – and provide the emergency and long term assistance to help them create a far brighter future than the one they see before them right now.

JOY AND LOVE: We share together on Blanket Sunday when we support The CWS Blanket program. It sends a powerful message to people facing extreme challenges: WE CARE.

You can purchase a blanket for \$10.00 each by mailing a check 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 a hope-filled tomorrow to people all around the world.

THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR GIVING

Our Christmas Eve Offering for CCHN (Christian Community of Helping Neighbors) was **\$930**. That gift translates into many lives being blessed in helping with emergency needs for rent, electricity and utility bills.

We are also grateful for all the gifts for our Blessing Box Christmas Tree. Many gifts of hygiene needs and food were given. Thank you for your generosity.



WORSHIP SERVING SCHEDULE

Jan 9 – Diaconate Serving: Chris Wood & Marla Wood
Lead in Communion: Chris Mowrer
Greeters: Chris Wood & Marla Wood at Broad St.; David Wilt & Leslie Wilt at North St.
Offering Message: Jan Luallen
Prayers: Pastor

Jan 16 – Diaconate Serving: Kaleb Brown & Raeleen Brown
Lead in Communion: Cindy Andrews
Greeters: Kaleb Brown & Raeleen Brown at Broad St.; Candi Moulton & Kim Barton at North St.
Offering Message: Willa Jewsbury
Prayers: Carolyn Spratt

Jan 23 – Diaconate Serving: Candi Moulton & Kim Barton
Lead in Communion: Pastor
Greeters: Candi Moulton & Kim Barton at Broad St.; Kaleb Brown & Raeleen Brown at North St.
Offering Message: Misty Stecher
Prayers: Renee Galvin

Jan 30 – Diaconate Serving: Marge Patterson & Raye Ann Beasley
Lead in Communion: Tina Burns
Greeters: Marge Patterson & Raye Ann Beasley at Broad St.; Earlene Crouse & Brandy Hossain at North St.
Offering Message: Linda Mowrer
Prayers: Pastor

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



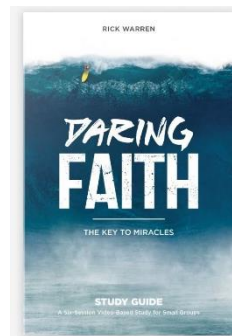
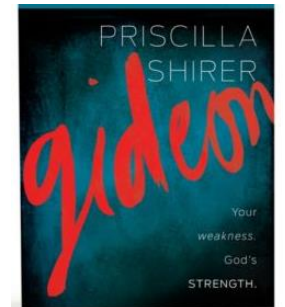
NEW SERMON SERIES BEGINS JANUARY 9, 2022

As we begin a new year, we will be exploring how to grow in our faith, discovering that God can give us a strong working faith, even when life is uncertain and shaky.

We begin January 9 when we will focus on the “Faith for the Future” and trust God, for the plans He has for us.

NEW BIBLE STUDY BEGINS JAN. 12

A new Bible Study on Priscilla Shirer’s book, *“Gideon: Your weakness. God’s strength,”* will begin **Jan. 12 and meet each week through Feb. 23** with two session options: 1) in-person at **9:30am** in the Conference Room; or 2) in-person or on Zoom at **5:30pm**. All are welcome to join.



NEW SERIES FOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS JAN. 9

The Adult Sunday School class will begin a new study, *“Daring Faith,”* by Pastor Rick Warren on **January 9 through February 13**. The class meets on Sundays at **11am** in-person in the Conference Room or via Zoom. All are welcome to join.

JANUARY YOUTH GROUP

Youth group will meet on **January 12th and 26th from 5:30-7pm** here at the church. Let’s kick off a great new year!

