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Anniversaries:

5 – Randy & Wendy Schauer
12 – Ryan & Rachel Curry

Birthdays:

3 – Mike Wood
5 – Noah Wood
12 – Ray Maddox, Steve Spicher
16 – Keith Munstedt
18 – Mike White
20 – Tom Yeast
22 – Jan Currie
25 – Swede Oehlert, Madison Schauer
27 – Joe Anderson
29 – Ron Frakes
30 – Pastor MJ Fitch, Louwen Barton
31 – Aleta Anderson



... for **Matthew Unger** as he recovers gall bladder surgery.
... for **Mary Gehring, Mary Lydic and Jimmy Ellis** as they undergo cancer treatments.
... for **Mary Runge**, who will be installed as the part-time interim at Coldbrook Christian Church on April 23.
... for New City Church, Mbandaka, Congo.



For Ralph Beasley and his brother, Alan Beasley, will be from **1 to 3pm on Sunday, April 30th** at Boxcar Express, 1974 N. Henderson St., Galesburg. Food will be provided. The family invites the congregation to come and share your memories, stories, love and laughter.



Crusader

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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

Website: www.fccgalesburg.org

Office Manager – Lorraine Stone - fccgalesburg@gmail.com

Bookkeeper – Lorraine Stone fccstone301@gmail.com

Director of Music – Steve Jackson sjackson@sandburg.edu

Part-time Pianist – Brady Warner bwarner06@icloud.com

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

pastorgreg02@gmail.com & pastormj02@gmail.com



Vol. 77, No. 8 ~ April 18, 2023



April 23, 2023

Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch

“Pillars of a Powerful Church: Prayer & Praise”
Scriptures: 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18, Acts 4:2-31 and Acts 12:6-7

April 30, 2023

Message by Pastor Greg Fitch

“Pillars of a Powerful Church: Evangelism”
Scripture: II Corinthians 5:16-6:2

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

GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY, MAY 21

On **Sunday, May 21**, we will be recognizing our graduates during worship service. The graduates we are aware of are: **College** – Cooper Wilt - Bradley University; **High School** – Aaron Kelley and Adelia McGee - Galesburg High School.

Graduates: Please send a photo to be used in a PowerPoint presentation to the church office **no later than May 15**. You can send it by email to fccgalesburg@gmail.com (jpg form) or you can bring one in and we can scan it into the computer.





PASTOR MJ TAKES MEDICAL LEAVE

Beginning on **June 12**, Pastor MJ will be taking a 3-month medical leave. On June 13, she will have major back surgery at Rush University Hospital in Chicago. As part of her contract with the church, she can take up to 12 weeks of paid medical leave. The Elders of the church met with the Pastors and Regional Minister Teresa Duylea-Parker to discuss plans, and how church ministry will be covered during that time.

During Pastor MJ's leave, Pastor Greg will continue to serve in his part-time capacity, and the Elders will help cover some of the shepherding ministry with our congregation and worship. In addition, to help cover some of Pastor MJ's ministry, we have secured a part-time interim who will share in preaching and leading worship – and will be available throughout the week for emergencies.

The interim comes highly recommended by our Regional Minister and was confirmed by the elders. Forrest "Frosty" Krummel, retired as pastor from First Federated Church in Peoria, in 2020. Since then he has been an interim/transitional minister in Pekin and Iowa City. A graduate of Butler University, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and McCormick Theological Seminary, he is married to the Rev. Susan Davis Krummel. They have two daughters and six grandchildren.



Pastor Frosty will begin his ministry with us on June 11. We hope you will be present to welcome him. And thank you for your prayers for Pastor Frosty – and for Pastor MJ as she anticipates surgery in June.



The family of **Deanna Bryant**, who passed away on March 14, 2023, invites the congregation to a **Celebration of Life Open House** in her honor on **Saturday, May 6th, from 2 to 4pm** in the large hall here at First Christian Church. Deanna was a member here on and off for 65 years and then moved to Arizona to be close to her daughter after the death of her husband Doug. She died in Arizona.

Please join us on May 6 as we remember Deanna with stories, memories, love and laughter. And if you wish, you can bring a food item to share.

BOOK CLUB

Our upcoming book is the Galesburg Public Library Big Read selection, *"Interior China .. a Novel,"* by Charles Yu. Copies are free at the library. No date has yet been set for our discussion.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

– MAY 7TH

During Coffee Fellowship on **May 7**, we will celebrate May birthdays. If you have a birthday in May, you are invited to bring treats to share.

JOY BOXES "LIVING WITH GRATITUDE"

Friends, have you remembered to use your Joy Boxes on a regular basis this past year? Disciples Women will be dedicating the offerings from your Joy Boxes on **May 7th** at worship. Please bring your Joy Box contents to church that day and place it in the basket provided on the first pew in the sanctuary. The offering will be dedicated during worship and will then be sent to the Disciples Mission Fund to be added to offerings given by many Disciples Churches for the ongoing work of the Church and Disciples Women.



If you are unable to be at worship on **May 7th**, please give the contents of your Joy Box to Carolyn Spratt, Earlene Crouse, or leave it at the church office.

Thank you for participating in this project of love and gratitude to God. Please keep your Joy Box so you may continue to use it throughout the coming year! Additional boxes are available should you need one. Contact Earlene Crouse at (309) 368-2446.



ELAINE KENDALL REDEDICATION

Elaine Kendall made the decision to rededicate her life to Christ on Sunday, April 9. We celebrate Elaine's decision for Christ and pray for her as she continues to grow in faith! Add Elaine to your church directory: Elaine lives at 1798 Township Road 1575 N, Biggsville, IL 61418.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous Newsletter week	2 1:30pm – Caring Ministers	3 9:30am and 5:30pm – Bible Study	4 9am – Staff meeting 7pm – Choir	5	6 2 to 4pm – Celebration of Life Open House for Deanna Bryant in large fellowship hall
7 8:45am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship – Celebrate May birthdays 10am – Worship 11:30am – Disciples Sun. School	8 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous 6pm – Elders/Council joint mtg	9	10 9:30am and 5:30pm – Bible Study 3pm – Worship at Hawthorne Inn 7:30pm – Choir	11 9am – Staff meeting 2pm – Worship at Knox County Nursing Home	12	13
14 MOTHER'S DAY 8:45am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship 10am – Worship 11:30am – Disciples Sun. School	15 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous 6:30pm – Trustees Newsletter week	16 10:30am – Naomi Circle 7pm – The Weekend Cluster	17 9:30am and 5:30pm – Bible Study 7:30pm – Choir	18 9am – Staff meeting 5:30pm – Men's Night Out at Pizza Ranch and Ladies Night Out at Jimmy's Pizza	19	20
21 8:45am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship 10am – Worship – Pentecost Offering – Commitment Sunday 11:30am – Disciples Sun. School	22 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous	23	24 9:30am and 5:30pm – Bible Study	25 9am – Staff meeting	26	27 1 to 3pm – Graduation Open House for Aaron Kelley in large fellowship hall
28 8:45am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship 10am – Worship – Pentecost Offering 11:30am – Disciples Sun. School	29 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous Memorial Day - Office Closed	30 Newsletter week	31 9:30am and 5:30pm – Bible Study		<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>



OFFICE SPACE CHANGES

The church office has been moved to the back office across from the Blessing Box space, and the main entrance for weekdays will now be at the canopy door. The handicap entrance will continue to be on North Street. Just ring the doorbell and Lorraine will come greet you. **NOTE:** We have an “extra” scanner that we are offering for free to anyone interested but please let us know *as soon as possible* so we can finish rearranging.

BLESSING BOX NEEDS

We are in **desperate need** of supplies for our Blessing Box ministry to continue reaching out to folks needing help caring for their families – as well as the number of homeless folks in our community. We can meet the needs of many through your generous donations. The community is a great support as well!

Needed items include toiletries, toilet paper, Kleenex, cleaning supplies. If you would like someone else to shop for Blessing Box items, monetary donations are welcome. Take what you need, leave what you can, be blessed!

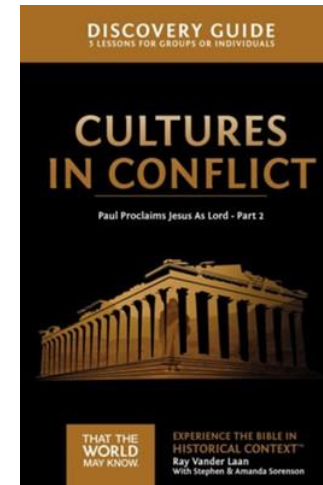


WELCOME LENNOX OLIVER BARTON

*Son of Kim and Aaron Barton
Little brother of Kenley and
Louwen*

Born April 17, 2023

*8 lbs. 2 oz.
19 inches long*



NEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY “CULTURES IN CONFLICT”

A new Adult Bible Study – “*Cultures in Conflict*” by Ray Vander Laan, will begin on **May 3rd at 9:30am and 5:30pm**. How do you live in a culture where the worldview conflicts with Christianity? Learn from Paul as he presents his beliefs to the most powerful court in Athens and settles among the Greco-Romans of Corinth, who valued wealth and class, worship of multiple gods, and decadent pleasure seeking above all else. Should you desire a book, they cost **\$10**. Let Pastor MJ know if you are interested.

WORSHIP SERVING SCHEDULE

APRIL 23 – Diaconate Serving: Marge Patterson and Raye Beasley

Lead in Communion: Misty Stecher

Offering Message: Pastor

Prayers:

Greeters: Marge Patterson and Raye Beasley at North St.; Erik Galvin at Broad St.; Sharon Carnes at canopy door

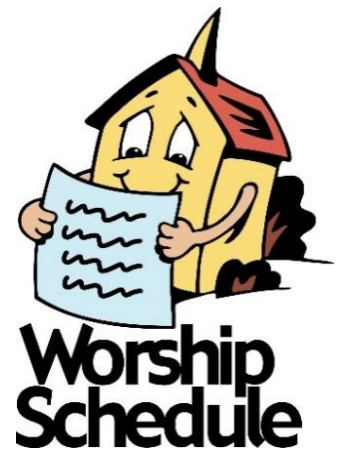
April 30 – Diaconate Serving: Aaron Barton and Kim Barton

Lead in Communion: Neill Unger

Offering Message: Chris Mowrer

Prayers: Pastor

Greeters: Aaron Barton and Kim Barton at North St.; Marge Patterson at Broad St.; Raye Beasley at canopy door



THANK YOU FOR GIVING!

Your quarterly statements of giving for January 1st – March 31st that can be used for income tax purposes are ready to be picked up and are located on the hall table by the North Street door. Thank you for your faithful support of FCC and its missions.