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SUPPORT THE BLESSING BOX

Our emphasis in the next few
weeks is Spring Cleaning!
Pure Heart ~ Psalm 51

Items requested for the
Blessing Box include:

Bath soap, hand soap,
laundry detergent,
powdered cleanser
(Ajax/Comet),
shampoo, toothpaste,
sponges, dish soap,
household surface cleaner.



... for **Scott VanVelsor** and for his
caregivers and medical staff.
... for **Dick Welty**, for renewed strength,
health and wisdom for the doctors.
...for **Christina Griswold**, who is
undergoing chemotherapy.
... for **Nico Tarnowski**, nephew of
Carrie Clubb – at St. Francis with
cellulitis.
... for **Diane Pyle** – “God knows the
need” – for strength.
... for those struggling with Covid-19.
and for an end to the pandemic.

*As many of you know I fell in January
fracturing my leg in three places. I
underwent two surgeries and spent over two
months in a rehab center. I am now home
with my little dog, Buddy Boy. I plan to
return to work on June 1st. I appreciate all
of you who encouraged and supported me.
Your prayers, cards, visits and rides to the
doctor meant the world to me. Thank you.*
--Cindy Andrews



Crusader

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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



fccgalesburg@gmail.com Web Page – www.fccgalesburg.org

Church Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

Organist – Amber Clark Director of Music – Steve Jackson sjackson@sandburg.edu

Secretary – Christina Griswold fccgalesburg@gmail.com

Bookkeeper – Lynda White fcclwhite@gmail.com Custodian – Bob Conley

Co-Pastors: Gregory S. and Martha-Jean Fitch pastorgreg02@gmail.com & pastormj02@gmail.com

Vol. 74, No. 17, May 20, 2020

May 24, 2020
Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch
“Open the Eyes of my Heart”
Scripture: Luke 24:44-55
Ephesians 1:15-23

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



GOD BLESS OUR GRADUATES!

We Praise God for the Accomplishments of our Graduates!

Noah Wood – High School Grad from RAES alternative
school in Monmouth

Chelsea Mowrer – Graduate of Western University with a
Bachelor of Arts in English

Linda Mowrer – Graduate of Lincoln Christian University
with a Masters in Bible and Theology.

Lisa Gehring – Graduate of Truman State University with a
Masters of Arts in Elementary Education

Hailey Sedgwick – graduate from Basic Training (AIT) for the US Army



We have been so blessed with wonderful staff members -- two of which are retiring the end of May. Please send your notes of gratitude and prayers of blessing to:

Bob Conley – who has been our custodian since May 2017. We are so grateful for the way he has cleaned our church over the years. He and his wife are moving to Arkansas June 5. To send cards to Bob, his current address is: 108 West Depot Street, Knoxville, IL 61448

Amber Clark – who has been our organist since 2012. Amber has been such a wonderful blessing to our worshipping community. She has played the organ for our traditional worship and special services and has been the pianist for our Women’s Lenten Services. She has directed handbell choirs and she and her husband Bob have provided such wonderful music for our worship services. Bob has served as an elder in our church and also as our 3-month interim minister in 2017 while our pastors were on Sabbatical. To say the least, Bob and Amber both have made a huge impact on our church! We will miss them greatly. To send your words of appreciation to Amber (and Bob!) – their address is: 529 East Losey, Galesburg.



WHAT’S HAPPENING AT THE CHURCH BUILDING?

Our church building is blooming!

First, **Raye Ann Beasley** has once again planted beautiful flowers around the church! And she was helped this year by **Kathy VanVelsor** in caring for the plants



and **Dixie Davis-Sharp**, who has done a lot of weeding and helped Raye Ann with planting the flowers. What a huge blessing! Thanks to Raye Ann, Kathy and Dixie!

And one other way our church will be “blooming” soon is in the building of a new family worship area in our sanctuary. This new family area will help our families “bloom” with their babies and young children – helping them feel part of the worshipping community, while providing a space of their active bodies and for nursing moms. It will be large enough for several young children and parents – and can possibly be used as a Sunday School area for toddlers. It will be built in the northwest corner of the sanctuary, just opposite the sound booth. Six pews will be removed to build this enclosed area. These pews will be available for church members to purchase. The trustees, led by Chair Chuck Boydston, will work out the arrangements.



TESTIMONY – CHRISTINA GRISWOLD TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Beginning the new year, we all picked up a star with our word on it. My word was purpose. How on earth? I mean this is like the biggest struggle of mankind. To define our purpose. In the year 2020 so far, we've had a pandemic come in like a tsunami crashing against our purpose. And personally, I have received a cancer diagnosis. I have ovarian cancer. What does this do to my purpose? Questions swirl. Did my purpose change from the 24 hours before receiving the news? Well for the moment I will simplify it to one purpose: to know Christ and make him known. I have started a support page on Facebook called Team Christina. I post about my struggles and needs for prayer. I post about victories I have had and received. I post about blessings. Wow, during this difficult time have I been blessed! Here is a special blessing I received. The OSF financial advocate called me and told me about a Grant that was available to people with cancer or MS affected during this pandemic. She said to apply now and apply quick because grants don’t last long. So I went online and registered but couldn't apply. I searched for a way to contact them and sent off an email asking for help. I didn’t believe anything would ever come of it. Well, why should it surprise me that God was going to show up. I got walked through the grant application and was approved. Blessings from heaven indeed! If I get the full Grant which that is what I understood, I will be getting \$500 for groceries and delivery service! I even got a call asking if I needed a volunteer to pick up the food. Blessings from heaven. Now what am I supposed to do with this purpose? Well, my team page has over 200 supporters. My platform to testify. I may not always declare my purpose there but my warriors on team Christina know Who holds my purpose and they know Whom I give praise. Thank you, church family for keeping me in your prayers, that is where I find the most peace and comfort.



DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR EPIPHANY STAR?

How is God speaking to you through your Epiphany Star? Tell someone (and the pastors!) your story. In fact, we’d love to share your testimony here, just like we have Christina’s. Just email Pastor MJ at pastormj02@gmail.com.