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**July 22 – 5:30pm** Bible Study –  
Via ZOOM

**July 26 – Worship On-line**

**10:30am – 12pm** - Drive Thru  
Prayer and Communion

**July 29 – 5:30pm** Bible Study –  
via ZOOM

**August 2 – Worship On-Line**  
**9:30am** – Traveler's Sunday  
School Class on ZOOM

**11am – noon** – Drive Thru  
Prayer and Communion

**August 4 –**  
**1:30pm** Caring Ministries on  
ZOOM

**6:30pm** - Elders' Meeting on  
ZOOM



... for **Scott VanVelsor** and for his caregivers and medical staff.  
... for **Margaret Ann Sandberg** who is now on Hospice with bone cancer. She is at her home and would love cards.  
...for **Christina Griswold**, who is undergoing chemotherapy.  
...for **Marnie Herring** whose father passed away. A celebration of life will be held on August 22 in Williamsfield.  
...for **Tracy Jackson** who is dealing with a lot of pain and will be having two MRI's on July 24.  
... for all our nursing home residents.  
... for those struggling with Covid-19, and for an end to the pandemic.  
... for peace and an end to hatred, division and injustice in our country.

*Please join the  
Facebook prayer group*



# Crusader

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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



[fccgalesburg@gmail.com](mailto:fccgalesburg@gmail.com) Web Page – [www.fccgalesburg.org](http://www.fccgalesburg.org)

Director of Music – Steve Jackson [sjackson@sandburg.edu](mailto:sjackson@sandburg.edu)

Secretary – Christina Griswold [fccgalesburg@gmail.com](mailto:fccgalesburg@gmail.com)

Bookkeeper – Lynda White [fcclwhite@gmail.com](mailto:fcclwhite@gmail.com)

Co-Pastors: Gregory S. and Martha-Jean Fitch [pastorgreg02@gmail.com](mailto:pastorgreg02@gmail.com) & [pastormj02@gmail.com](mailto:pastormj02@gmail.com)

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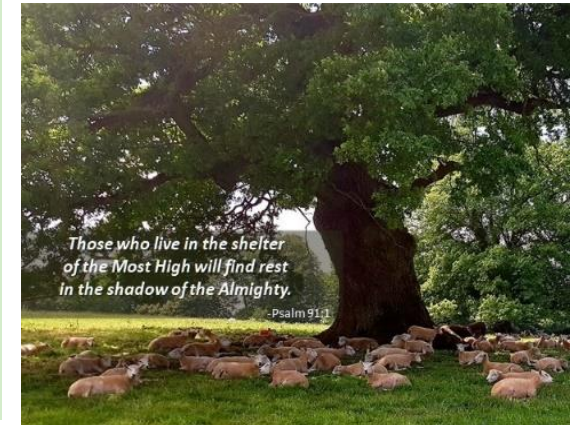
**July 12, 2020**

**Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch**

*“Shelter: No More Shaking”*

Scripture: Psalm 16

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



**DRIVE -THRU  
JULY 26 & AUGUST 2**

Drive-thru the church canopy on the parking lot, between **11am - 12pm on July 26**. Pastor MJ will greet you there and will pray and share communion with you.



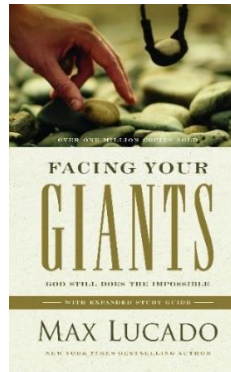
## CHRISTMAS OFFERING IN JULY

It is time once again for our annual “Christmas Offering” for our Regional Ministry – the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW). We take the offering in July – as no offering will be taken in December.

This offering helps our region with their ministry to and with all of the 126 congregations in our region. We are truly “better together”! The region exists to support local congregations. They are committed to providing ministries of leadership development, new church starts, camps for our children and youth, nurturing ministers, and helping churches call their next pastor, among many other ministries. Please give as you are able by mailing your check to the church.

## JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY

Join us for our Adult Bible Study class on **Wednesdays at 5:30pm**, via Zoom. We are 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.” If you are interested in attending, please call/text/email Pastor MJ and she will give you the invite to join us on Zoom.



## NEWS FROM CONGO



**Oscar Pekombe** from Congo recently shared:

*We are staying at home as now we are facing tow epidemics in Mbandaka: Ebola outbreak came again and the COVID 19. If you are able to check in the Internet you will learn more about Mbandaka situation. We are losing faith by the situation. Myself, I was sick for 2*

*weeks and 2 of my sons from malaria. We are all out of the hospital but we still returning every day to the hospital for injections. Kids in Kinshasas are all confined while we are not getting our salaries. We call help from God.”*

Please pray for Oscar, and our brothers and sisters in the DRC – and our sister church New City Christian Church.



Dear Church Family,

I first want to thank you for your continued patience as well as your faithfulness in your financial support of the church. And I want to again encourage you to continue praying for one another, and to also reach out to each other as you are able. As we have been separated from each other it would be too easy to drift apart. I believe that we cannot allow that to happen. So please continue calling each other, sending notes or whatever means you have to stay connected. We are challenged to maintain the bonds that hold us together even though we have been unable to physically be together in worship and fellowship.

When the Board of Elders made the decision to close the building, just before the Governor’s mandate, no one could have imagined that it would have lasted as long as it has. And as it continues the desire to resume worshipping together grows ever stronger. But we must also consider the risks. And so I must say that we don’t know when we will resume worshipping together in our sanctuary. The decision weighs heavy on our hearts. But that day will come. And I pray that God may continue to uplift your spirit and provide your every need and fill your heart with His love and everlasting joy.

Neill Unger

## LUKE ACERRA HIRED AS OUR NEW ORGANIST/KEYBOARDIST

Luke Acerra is a musician from Galesburg, Illinois who recently finished his studies at Indiana University’s Jacob School of Music. Luke graduated with a double BM in cello performance and music composition in May 2019, and continued the following year as a performance diploma student with former LA Philharmonic principal cellist, Peter Stumpf. Luke has studied and performed in masterclasses for cello and composition in the United States as well as Europe. He won two consecutive summer grants from IU’s Honors College to study at the Nadia Boulanger Institute in Paris, France as well as Music-Alp International Academy of Music in Tignes, France respectively. In addition to his principle studies of cello and composition, Luke has played church organ since junior high school. He greatly looks forward to being part of the First Christian Church community and contributing music for the congregation.







Knox Prairie Community Kitchen initiated a series of twice-monthly free meals in October, 2011. KPCK is committed to building relationships with individuals, businesses, and organizations with a long-term goal of bringing the community together. First Christian has enjoyed a relationship with this organization by serving as volunteers and on occasion sponsoring a meal. Their

mission aligns with our commitment to loving our neighbors. We had planned to sponsor a meal and serve as volunteers Spring 2020. During the pandemic, meals are being served curbside and volunteers are limited. We made the decision to send our \$500 donation to sponsor a meal.

The next KPCK meal will be **Thursday, July 23** - a roast pork dinner to go! A free homemade dinner will be served no-contact curbside from **5pm until 6pm** at First Baptist Church. The line begins at the Tompkins Street entrance of the church. They are not serving meals solely to the underprivileged. The only requirement for attending these meals are that you enjoy sharing good food with good people!

Praise God that we can financially support this mission. Please keep Knox Prairie Community Kitchen in your prayers. We look forward to the day that we can assist with serving and sit at the table with members of our community

## CHECK OUT OUR WEBPAGE

[www.fccgalesburg.org](http://www.fccgalesburg.org)

Dr. Gene Johnson has done so much for our church, helping us to work on technology and designing and maintaining our webpage for the last 17 years. We are so incredibly grateful for all he has done. What a blessing he is!

Dr. Gene has now given the web design and maintenance over to Jacob Runge. The web-page still has the same address and information but has a different look, with a lot of pictures and updated information. We encourage you to check it out – and on Sundays, you can watch the morning worship services on the webpage. We are grateful to Jake for all the work he has done – and will continue to do! We have been doubly blessed – with Dr. Gene and now with Jake!



## *Confession is good for the soul!*

I found myself in a *touchy situation* a couple days ago. I was parallel parking my car along a neighborhood road when a shirtless man with bulging muscles and an angry face came out of his house, approached my driver side window demanding to know what I was doing. I informed him I was parking, to which he told me I couldn't. I informed him that street parking is public parking, but he didn't like that response and told me the parking in front of HIS house was HIS! Not wanting to argue or have a larger confrontation, I told him I'd park elsewhere; he then walked to the other side of my car and stood defiantly with angry face, staring through my passenger window, muttering words that I don't use and cannot print, until I drove away.

That ... was the end of it. At least that's what I thought....

He didn't do anything further. But, since that time, I have continued to ruminate on the event again and again, not because I want to, but because it still bothers me! I grew up with bullies and I still do not tolerate them well; and people who intentionally intimidate others, honestly, really irritate me to the point of wanting to put them in their place and "knock" them off their high horse (no physical action).

I've had to pray about this for two days now ... knowing it was evil trying to work its way between me and representing God, and being the person God calls me to be. And I also realize the only person still bothered by this ... was/is me. I am the one needing healing and grace to flow from God, and though me toward others who need this Good News also. It's me who needs to let this go and not replay it again and again in my imagination. Absolutely nothing good can come from this!

So, what have I been doing? As I said, prayer asking God to stop these thoughts, then sensing that I needed to replace those less-than-generous thoughts with wishes for blessing in this man's life, and those he touches. And my imagination has been thinking about what I might have said or done to actually bless the person. Won't do much good now for him ... but it helps me begin to work *on the next time* I might encounter someone of this bend in life. I've also been filling my ears with uplifting music that thanks and praises God (I am especially blessed by music of John Michael Talbot who I always turn to when I need to calm my heart, mind and spirit).

Read Matthew 12:43-45. Jesus said that when an evil spirit/thought/etc. is removed, and something better is not put in to replace it, the evil will come back to fill the void, and maybe even worse than before. I don't want that in my life or yours. I encourage you to join me on this life-long effort to fill our selves with God's goodness and grace. Then, God just might use tense moments in our lives to bless even those who curse us.

Shalom,

*Pastor Greg (still a work in progress)*