«BAG_»

 $\hbox{\tt «SALUTATION»} \hbox{\tt ~«FIRST_NAME»} \hbox{\tt ~~LAST_NAME»} \\$

«STREET»

«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP»

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.



March 7 – In-person worship at 9:30am in sanctuary 11am -Adult Sunday School Via Zoom

March 8 – 6:30pm Elders on Zoom

March 9 – 6:30pm Council on Zoom

March 10 – 5:30pm Bible Study on Zoom – New Study begins!

March 14 - In-person worship at 9:30am in sanctuary 11am -Adult Sunday School Via Zoom

March 15 – 7pm Trustees inperson at the church

March 17 - 5:30pm Bible Study on Zoom



... for **Scott VanVelsor** and for his caregivers and medical staff.

...for **Christina Griswold**, undergoing chemotherapy.

... for Kathy Neave on Hospice.

... for **Jim Eager**, for health and wellbeing. Receiving treatments for a form of blood cancer.

...for **Ginny Murphy and Rosemary Humphrey**, for health and well-being.

... for **Chris Mowrer**, who is recovering from pneumonia and a small blood clot in his lung.

DON'T FORGET YOUR GIVING TO THE LORD!

You may bring your offerings and pledge to worship on Sunday, mail it to the church, have an automatic bank draft from your bank or use the Tithe.ly site on our webpage.





Crusader

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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HOLY VESSELS Broken into Beauty

March 7, 2021

Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch "Holy Vessels: Forgiven"
Scripture: John 8:1-11

March 14, 2021 Message by Pastor Greg Fitch

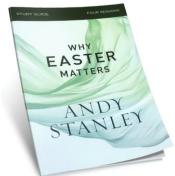
> "Holy Vessels: Restored" Scripture: Luke 8:26-39

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.



THANKS BE TO GOD FOR BUCKETS OF LOVE!

Fifty Buckets of Love were made and distributed on February 20 – and several days later to many folks in the neighborhood. Buckets included cleaning supplies like paper towels, laundry soap, garbage bags and cleaners. We are so grateful to each of you for your donations and for valentines that were included and for all who helped deliver the buckets!



JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY

Our new Adult Bible Study begins on March 10 at 5:30pm. Our 4-week DVD study will lead right up to Easter – and will be Andy Stanley's book "Why Easter Matters". Andy Stanley will "look at some of the people whose lives intersected with Jesus in the weeks leading to his crucifixion. Each of them had an agenda that put them at odds with God and Jesus. (And) as you'll see, there's a little bit of them in all of us."

Study books are just <u>\$8.50</u>. You can get your own book/e-book or let Pastor MJ know if you need a book ordered for you.

The class will be held on ZOOM. To join, please click on this invitation: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83245356539?pwd=L0xiR21TeXdIVVl2azNjaGRLMDEvUT09

BLESSING BOX NEEDS YOU!

We are so blessed to have community support for our blessing box! So many people have contributed food and other items to our box! But we are still in need of *your* donations! One of our goals in the blessing box is to provide items that people cannot secure on their LINK card. When you are able, please bring paper products, hygiene products, cleaning products – along with things like gloves, hats, socks, etc. We thank you so much for the way you give to help others!





GIVING THANKS FOR THE FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER

Our brand-new Family Worship Center is in use, now that we finally have in-person worship! Families are so happy to have a place for them to care for their children and still be in part of our worship service. And they are so incredibly grateful for the donations that made the Family Worship Center possible. And beyond the children who are enjoying this now – we have 2 more babies on the way: **Carrissa Empson**, expecting a baby girl in April and **Kim & Aaron Barton**, expecting a baby boy in June! Thanks be to God!



"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" ~ Psalm 122:1

This past Sunday was wonderful to be back together in the sanctuary with so many of you! It truly echoes, for me, the words of Psalm 122 in stating that there is

rejoicing at going together into the "house of the Lord". To see you and talk with you was certainly uplifting to my day and week!

King David wrote much of the book of Psalms. But as we know that before he became king, he also spent much time in the wilderness, fleeing for his life from King Saul. David was having to exercise the discipline of physical distancing just to stay alive; and the threat of Saul's murderous intent toward him carried a much higher lethal potential than the COVID-19 virus has been to us.

So, whenever David wrote this Psalm and these words, whether during a time of self-isolation ... or after the threat was over and he finally ascended to the throne ... David expressed joy at being able to gather with other believers to worship God inperson in the sanctuary. And now we can do the same. The LORD is not Lord of just one, but of a people. It is a time and place of joy when God's people come together into the house of the LORD for worship. We are a redeemed people. We are a holy people. We are a chosen people. We are a people called to declare God's praise.

So, the invitation is extended ... come and worship with us in person in the sanctuary at the corner of Broad and North Street, if you are able. And if you are not able or are still unsure about being physically present out of concern for the virus, please continue to join us over the internet. We are now broadcasting worship live on Facebook and it will continue to be available as a recorded service on Facebook, YouTube and through our church webpage.

In any case ... continue to rejoice as a part of the Body of Christ as we join together to worship and praise and be filled by God and the Holy Spirit.

Shalom, Pastor Greg