

«BAG» «ZIP\_COUNT»  
«NAMELINE»  
«STREET»  
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP» «PLUSFOUR»

THE CRUSADER (USPS139220) published bi-weekly except the week after/of Christmas by First Christian Church,  
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**Wednesday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 and 5:30 Bible Study  
3:00 Worship at Hawthorne Inn  
5:30 Youth group resumes  
7:30 Choir practice

**Thursday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 Disciples Women Council

**Sunday, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>**

8:45 Coffee House Theology Sunday  
School  
9:30 Coffee Fellowship  
10:00 Worship  
11:30 Disciples Sunday School  
3:00 Worship in the "Upper Room"

**Monday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 Trustees

**Tuesday, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 Naomi Circle  
7:00 The Weekend Cluster

**Wednesday, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>**

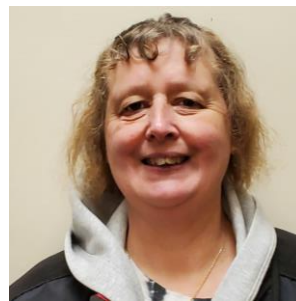
9:30 and 5:30 Bible Study  
5:30 Youth group  
7:30 Choir practice

**Thursday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 Staff meeting  
2:00 Worship at Knox County Nursing  
Home  
5:30 Men's Night Out at Pizza Ranch and  
Ladies Night Out at Jimmy's Pizza



... for **Janet Christiansen**, who recently  
had a partial hip replacement and is  
hospitalized at St. Francis in Peoria.  
... for **Mary Gehring**, who will be  
beginning cancer treatments next week.



**Marnie Herring** made the decision to  
rededicate her life to Christ on Sunday,  
January 8. She says, *"I want to recommit  
my life to Christ and I know He will help  
me draw closer to Him. 'Draw nigh to  
Him and He will draw nigh to you'."* We  
celebrate Marnie's decision for Christ  
and pray for her as she continues to grow  
in faith!



# Crusader

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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[pastorgreg02@gmail.com](mailto:pastorgreg02@gmail.com) & [pastormj02@gmail.com](mailto:pastormj02@gmail.com)



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**Jan. 15, 2023**

**Message by Pastor Greg Fitch**

*"Be Like Minded Toward One Another"*

*Scripture: Ephesians 4:29-32;*

*Romans 15:5-6; Colossians 3:13*

**Jan. 22, 2023**

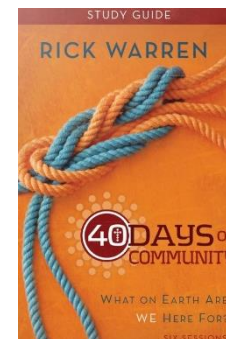
**Week of the Laity**

**Message by Erik Galvin**

*"This is My Testimony"*



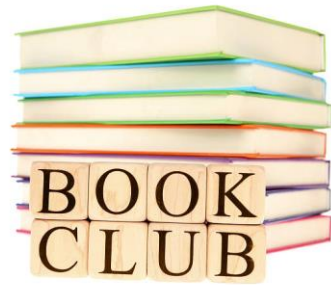
*Worship will be in-person and on Facebook Live at 10am*



## NEW SERIES FOR DISCIPLES SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS JANUARY 15

*40 Days of Community*

Beginning **January 15**, for six weeks, Disciples Sunday  
School will be studying *40 Days of Community*, by Pastor Rick  
Warren. This series will go along with the sermon series we will  
be focusing on in the new year. Each week we will discover how  
we can love, reach out, fellowship, grow, serve, and worship  
together. Cultivate deeper relationships with those around us as we  
discover how we are Better Together.



## BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE

For the first part of the year, we will be reading current member choices. The list is as follows:

- January: *"In His Steps"* by Charles Sheldon
- February: *"The Children's Blizzard"* by Melanie Benjamin
- March: *"A Farewell to Arms"* by Ernest Hemmingway
- April: Public Library Book Read (depending on

book, and the month may change to coincide with library timing)

- May: *"To Kill a Mockingbird"* by Harper Lee
- June: *"The Story of Edgar Sawtelle"* by David Wroblewski

**The January date will be January 28 with exact time and place to be determined.**

Other dates will be announced in Daily Messages and/or Crusader. We discuss the entire book in one sitting and meet for 1 to 1.5 hours. All are welcome.

FYI: A copy of our last book, *"Forever Across the Marsh"*, can be borrowed from the Church Library.

## BLANKET SUNDAYS JAN. 22 & 29

Disciples Women are again asking the congregation to participate in the CWS Blanket+ Program. Blankets+ means that Church World Service will be there as people recover after a disaster strikes; such as hurricane Ian and the terrible destruction it left behind in Florida. CWS was there to support families struggling against poverty as they seek to develop viable, sustainable livelihoods. Your contribution provides the means to transform lives and communities when they are faced with an emergency or simple struggling to put food on the table.

**Just \$10** will buy one blanket or any donation will help purchase a blanket. Please give generously. Thank you for your caring and compassionate response. (Please make your check payable to First Christian Church.)



## THANK YOU TO RENEE GALVIN

We want to thank Renee Galvin for taking down all of the Christmas decorations and storing them until next Advent season. We really appreciate all of your hard work!



## NAOMI CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY JAN. 17

All women are invited to participate in the Naomi Circle Bible Study which is held every month on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 10:30am** in the Conference Room. The next one is **Tuesday, January 17**. We are studying *"Bad Girls of the Bible"* by Liz Curtis Higgs. Our topic for January 17 is on "Delilah". In preparation, you may read Judges 15 & 16.



## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS JANUARY 22

How blessed we are to have a wonderful slate of officers/leaders to serve in our church – elders, diaconate, trustees, chairs of the various ministry teams and the executive team. In worship on **Sunday, Jan. 22**, we will install you and dedicate you to ministry by praying for you.



Please be there to take part in this special service.

## WORSHIP SERVING SCHEDULE

**Jan. 15** – Diaconate Serving: Karen Bjorkman and Brandy Hossain

Lead in Communion: Pastor

Offering Message: Cindy Andrews

Prayers: Carolyn Spratt

Greeters: Karen Bjorkman and Brandy Hossain at North St.; Larry Thurman at Broad St.; Don Mundy at canopy door

Elders Serving Out: Chris Mowrer and Misty Stecher

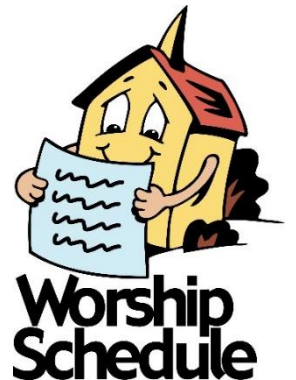
**Jan. 22** – Diaconate Serving: David Wilt and Leslie Wilt

Lead in Communion: Misty Stecher

Offering Message: Pastor

Prayers: Renee Galvin

Greeters: David Wilt and Leslie Wilt at North St.; Karen Bjorkman at Broad St.; Brandy Hossain at canopy door



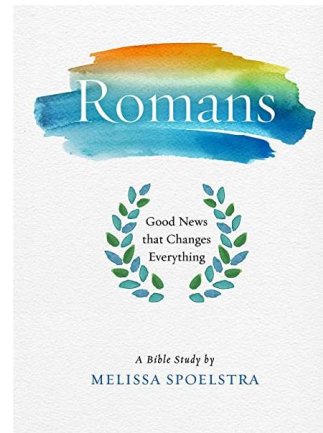


## NEW WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY BEGINS JANUARY 11

*Romans – Good News that Changes Everything*

Study the book of Romans for 6 weeks, with DVD teaching by Melissa Spoelstra, beginning **January 11**. We will have classes on Wednesday at **9:30am and 5:30pm**, both in-person and on Zoom.

Make Bible Study one of your resolutions for the new year!



## COFFEE HOUSE THEOLOGY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Coffee House Theology meets from **8:45 to 9:30am on Sundays** in the Library. We study from the International Sunday School Lessons. This quarter's book is called *"From Darkness to Light."* Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at God's Promises with Scripture texts from Isaiah and Joel. The lessons then move into various NT Scriptures that focus on God's Call

and Responsibilities. All are welcome.

## LADIES NIGHT OUT JAN. 19

Ladies Night Out will be at **5:30pm Thursday, Jan. 19** at Jimmy's Pizza. All ladies from the church are invited to attend. Come join the fun!



## MEN'S NIGHT OUT JAN. 19

Men's Night Out will be at **5:30pm Thursday, Jan. 19** at Pizza Ranch. All men of the church are welcome to join us for food, fellowship, and a brief devotional. Everybody pays their own way.



## THE ARK ENCOUNTER MARCH 17-19

Youth group would like to invite members of the church to join them on their trip to The Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky (<https://arkencounter.com/>)

Ark Encounter features a full-size Noah's Ark, built according to the dimensions given in the Bible. Spanning 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high, this modern engineering marvel amazes visitors young and old. Pastors Greg and MJ have both recently been to the Ark Encounter and would be a good reference for questions.

We will leave Galesburg in the late afternoon on March 17, tour the Ark on March 18, and return to Galesburg on March 19. In order to determine the price per person of this trip, as well as travel arrangements, we need a number of interested people to begin planning in earnest.

Please contact the church office by **Friday, January 20** if you are interested in being a part of the price quote. After the price quote, you will have the opportunity to reserve your spot or decline this time.

## THANK YOU FOR GIVING TREE DONATIONS

Thank you so much for all the donations to our Blessing Box this Christmas season. We were able to bless the community with over 300 items! Thank you to everyone who has been able to continually bless this ministry.



## CHRISTMAS EVE DONATION REPORT

We collected \$323 on Christmas Eve for CCHN (Christian Community Helping Neighbors). These funds will help CCHN continue to meet the emergency financial needs of the people of Galesburg as the program depends on monetary gifts and volunteers from local churches and the community. Thank you so much for your generosity!