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THE CRUSADER (USPS139220) published bi-weekly except the week after/of Christmas by First Christian Church,
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Wednesday, March 8th

9:30 Community Woman's Lenten Series
3:00 Worship at Hawthorne Inn
5:30 Youth group
5:30 Bible Study
7:30 Choir

Thursday, March 9th

9:00 Staff meeting
2:00 Worship at Knox County Nursing Home

Sunday, March 12th

8:45 Coffee House Theology Sunday School
8:45 Disciples Sunday School
9:30 Coffee Fellowship
10:00 Worship
11:30 DWF Potato Bar

Monday, March 13th

6:00 Elders and Council joint mtg

Tuesday, March 14th

9:30 Bible Study

Wednesday, March 15th

9:30 Community Woman's Lenten Series
5:30 Bible Study
5:30 Youth group
7:30 Choir

Thursday, March 16th

9:00 Staff meeting
5:30 Men's Night Out at Pizza Ranch and
Ladies Night Out at Jimmy's Pizza



... for **Mary Gehring, Jimmy Ellis and Pam Whittom** in their cancer treatments.
... for **Isaiah Whittom** as doctors determine how to treat his infection and his ankles.
... for Frank and Louise, brother and sister of **Neill Unger and Jan Unger's** sister Karen – for health and well-being.
... for **Sue Johnson's** health and strength.
... for **Rosemary Humphrey**, for her struggles with her health & breathing.

Our Mission:
Growing Spirit-filled
& Christ-centered
disciples of Christ!



Crusader

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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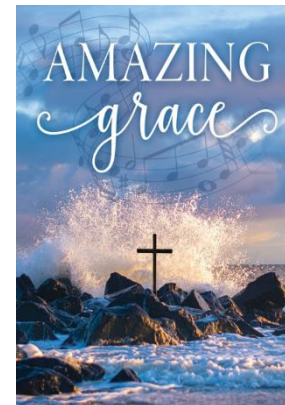
Director of Music – Steve Jackson sjackson@sandburg.edu

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

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

pastorgreg02@gmail.com & pastormj02@gmail.com

Vol. 77, No. 5 ~ March 7, 2023



March 12, 2023

Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch

“Amazing Grace: Was Blind But Now I See”

Scripture: John 9:24

March 19, 2023

Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch

“Amazing Grace: Living Waters for All”

Scripture: John 4:13-14

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

“SPUD DINNER” ~ BAKED POTATO BAR MARCH 12, 2023 ~ 11:30am in Large Hall

Disciples Women invites you to our annual St. Patrick's “Spud Dinner” Baked Potato Bar, **Sunday March 12th, at 11:30am** in our very own Emerald Isle – otherwise known as Large Fellowship Hall. The menu will be potatoes with lotsa toppins’ along with dessert and drink. Cost is \$8.

Make your reservations now by calling the church office **as soon as possible**. We guarantee you'll have a jolly good time with all your “Irish” friends! Proceeds will go to Disciples Mission Fund.



COMMUNITY WOMEN'S LENTEN SERIES

Were You There? A Lenten Reflection
With Traditional African American Spirituals
Wednesday Mornings at 9:30am in Large Hall

March 8 – Chris Bailey

March 15 – “Kum-Ba-Yah”

Speaker – Renee Galvin

March 22 – “Do Lord, Remember Me”

Speaker: Lisa Cato-Crider

March 29 – “Were You There?” Speaker: Semanya McCord



WORSHIP SERVING SCHEDULE

March 12 – Diaconate Serving: Larry Thurman and Don Mundy

Lead in Communion: Renee Galvin

Offering Message: Tina Burns

Prayers: Cindy Andrews

Greeters: Larry Thurman and Don Mundy at North St.;
Janet Foster at Broad St.; Jan Unger at canopy door

March 19 – Diaconate Serving: Karen Bjorkman and Brandy Hossain

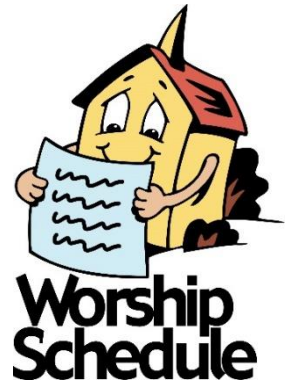
Lead in Communion: Neill Unger

Offering Message: Jan Luallen

Prayers: Pastor

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

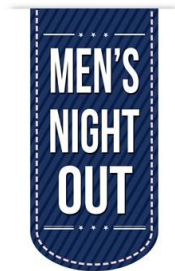


LADIES NIGHT OUT MARCH 16

Ladies Night Out will be at **5:30pm Thursday, March 16** at Jimmy's Pizza. All ladies from the church are invited to attend.
Come join the fun!

MEN'S NIGHT OUT MARCH 16

Men's Night Out will be at **5:30pm Thursday, March 16** 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.

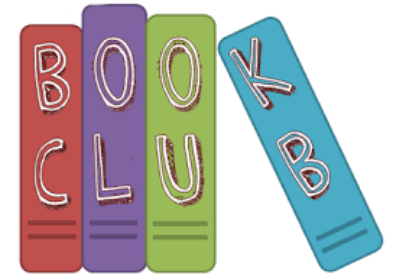


NAOMI CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY MARCH 21

All women are invited to participate in the Naomi Circle Bible Study which is held every month on the **3rd Tuesday at 10:30am** in the Conference Room. The next one is **Tuesday, March 21**. We are studying “*Bad Girls of the Bible*” by Liz Curtis Higgs. The “bad girl” we will be studying is Rahab - reading her story in Joshua 2.

BOOK CLUB NEWS

Our current book is “*A Farewell to Arms*” by Ernest Hemingway. The setting for this book is Italy during World War I. This classic had been one of the Big Read books that the National Endowment for the Arts sponsors at libraries. We will be discussing this book on **April 1 at 11:30am**. A location will be announced at a later date.



SAVE THE DATE

COMING UP

March 13 – Council and Elders at 6pm

March 17-19 – Youth trip to the Ark Encounter

March 20 – Trustees at 6:30pm



HEARTSEEKERS WEEKEND

March 24-25 at Bethel Baptist Church

Karen Abercrombie - Speaker

Early Registration fees must be received
at Brighter Life on or before March 14th!

\$55 for the whole weekend

\$25 Friday only

\$40 Saturday only

BLESSING BOX NEEDS

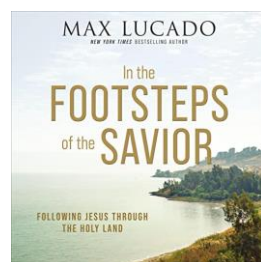
We are in desperate need of supplies for our Blessing Box ministry. Our Blessing Box serves many different kinds of people....each one a child of God. Some need help feeding their family or need basic supplies such as dish soap or toilet paper. We also have a group of individuals who are homeless. They come looking for personal items and food, but obviously need items they can carry with them. We can meet the needs of many through your generous donations. The community is a great support as well!

If you would like someone else to shop for Blessing Box items, monetary donations are welcome.

Needed items:

- Shampoo, bath soap, body wash, toothpaste, deodorant
- Period supplies, toilet paper, Kleenex
- Non-perishable food items- including on-the-go items such as packets of tuna, nuts, granola bars, crackers, fruit cups and the like.
- Cleanser, dish soap, laundry detergent, disinfectant/floor cleaner, spray cleaner, etc.
- Can openers, small appliances, pans (gently used is fine)

Take what you need, leave what you can, be blessed!

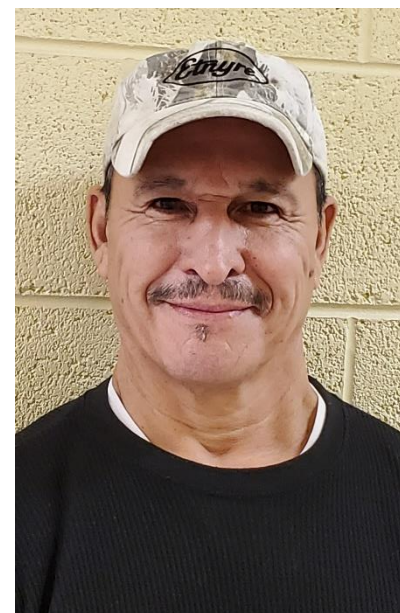


ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 5:30pm

Tuesdays at 9:30am

Max Lucado teaching in the Holy Land -
following Jesus through His life on earth



WELCOME TO CARLOS JUAREZ NEW CUSTODIAN

We are praising God for our new custodian: Carlos Juarez. Carlos shares this: *I'm grateful and thankful to First Christian Church for the opportunity to work here with an excellent staff that I am getting to know and hope to continue serving my brothers in Christ. I would say to the community that it would be a good time to start seeking Christ no matter what denomination as long as you seek the truth and the truth will set you free. I am willing to go the extra mile to accommodate the needs of this church and if there is anything that I can help the members or congregation with, I would be glad to try to find time and help them. I would ask people to pray for my family – 5 kids, 18 grandkids – that they may also find Christ and find a narrow path to righteousness.*

God Bless you all in the name of the Lord and wish everyone a journey in Christ Jesus.

Noonday Holy Week Services at Trinity Lutheran Church, **April 3-9.** Services will start at 12:05pm Monday-Thursday, and Friday services will be from 12:05pm to 3pm. On Good Friday **Pastor MJ** speaks during the 2nd word at 12:30pm and the choir will be performing during the 3rd word.



We gathered digitally and echoed Paul's words that "nothing can separate us from the love of God" and now we are gathering digitally and in person for the **2023 General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky, July 29-August 1.** Mark your calendars to be a part of worship, workshops and community building as we celebrate "The Kindom of God Within Us, Among Us."