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Anniversaries:

12 – Ryan & Rachel Curry

Birthdays:

3 – Mike Wood
5 – Noah Wood
12 – Ray Maddox, Steve Spicher
16 – Keith Munstedt
18 – Mike White
22 – Jan Currie
25 – Swede Oehlert
27 – Joe Anderson
29 – Ron Frakes
30 – Pastor MJ Fitch, Louwen Barton
31 – Aleta Anderson

MAY BIRTHDAYS – MAY 5th
During Coffee Fellowship on **May 5**, we will celebrate May birthdays. If you have a birthday in May, you are invited to bring treats to share.



... for **Rosemary Humphrey**, for health and improved eye pressure.
... for **Jimmy Ellis**, who is recovering from a broken elbow and broken hip – at Bounceback.
... for **Janet Christiansen**, at Monmouth Nursing Home.
... for our sister church, New City Church, in Mbandaka, Congo.



Our deepest sympathy to Sue Colvin, whose husband Chris, died on April 22. No funeral services will be held. May God wrap His arms around Sue and her family and give them comfort and peace.



Crusader

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

301 N Broad St. Galesburg, IL 61401
309-343-9960



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

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Vol. 78, No. 8 ~ April 23, 2024



April 28, 2024

Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch

"Unity in Christ"

Scripture: John 17:20-26; Ephesians 4:1-6, 16

May 5, 2024

Message by Pastor Greg Fitch

"Jesus – the Gate of Stewardship"

Scripture: John 10:1-18

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

NEW SERMON SERIES: JOURNEY TO GENEROSITY

We are on a journey of generosity – to follow the Way of Jesus. God is the perfect model of generosity – giving and giving, blessings upon blessings. When we are generous with others because of God's generosity towards us – God is glorified and the kingdom of God is built. Beginning **May 5**, we will join in a journey focusing on the Gospel of John.





Dear Church Family: A big thank you for all the cards, visits and phone calls on my birthday. I enjoyed all of them and miss seeing everyone at church. – Wanda Andrews



Dear Church Family: Thank you so much for all the cards, visits and phone calls on my birthday. – Bill Jewsbury



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – June 21-23

Join us for “*Outback Rock*” Weekend Vacation Bible School, where kids will venture into solid faith, from **5:30-8pm on June 21-22, and wrap-up on Sunday, June 23**. A short meeting will be held after service on **Sunday, May 5** where more information will be given about volunteering at VBS and what it entails, along with handouts on what positions are available/needed. And volunteer training will be offered as well in early June: **3pm on Saturday June 1st and 6pm on Monday, June 3rd**.

If you have any questions, contact Jackie Smith-Esters at (309) 569-7960 or Kim Barton at (309) 371-9268.

OUTREACH EVENT – LOVING BOTTOMS DIAPER BANK

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a donation drive for Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank from **April 28 through May 19**, and then asking for volunteers to help at the Diaper Bank from **4-5pm on May 20** and delivering our collection. Please bring your donations of diapers and/or wipes to the church. To sign up to volunteer, go to: <https://x.gldn.io/e/B9S4GyH4OIb>



GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY, JUNE 2

On **Sunday, June 2**, we will be recognizing our graduates during worship service. The graduate we are aware of as of this date is: **College – Katie Jackson** – Carl Sandburg College. NOTE: Please let us know of other graduates in our church so we can be sure to recognize them.

Graduates: Please send a photo to be used in a PowerPoint presentation to the church office **no later than May 26**. You can send it by email to

fccgalesburg@gmail.com (jpg form) or you can bring one in and we can scan it into the computer.

PENTECOST OFFERING 2024 SUPPORTING NEW CHURCH MINISTRY

Restore and Rewind

When it comes to church, we have a lot of negative tapes playing in our heads: “*Church is judgmental.*” “*Church is hypocritical.*” “*They think they’re better than everyone else.*” It’s time for restoration. Time to rewind the tape.

New Church Ministry is dedicated to fostering faithful communities marked by deep Christian spirituality and a passion for God’s love and justice.

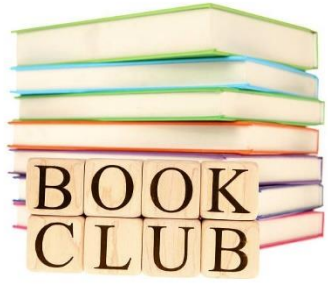
Like our ancestors, we’re going back to the beginning, when new Christian communities gathered together and shared all they had, organizing everything around the Spirit’s dreams for their lives and their communities. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow, God is singing a new song: not a song of judgment, but of welcome and forgiveness; not a song of superiority, but of humility and grace; not a song of hoarding, but of sharing everything we have!

Your gifts to the 2024 Pentecost Offering on **May 12 and 19** are divided equally between our regional ministry, which supports local new churches, and New Church Ministry, which trains, equips, and assists emerging leaders to be “movement initiators.” For more information, visit disciplesmissionfund.org. Offering envelopes will be in the bulletins on **May 12 and 19**.



May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Note: Worship services are in-person as well as Facebook Live</i>	<i>Note: Disciples Sunday School and Wednesday Bible Study are both on Zoom and in person.</i>		1 9:30am and 5:30pm – Bible Study 5:30pm – Youth Group	2 9am – Staff meeting 7pm – Worship committee	3	4
5 8:40am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School conference room 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship – Celebrate May birthdays 10am – Worship 11:30am – Disciples Sun. School	6 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous <i>Newsletter week</i>	7 1:30pm – Caring Ministers	8 9:30am and 5:30pm – Bible Study 3pm – Hawthorne Worship 5:30pm – Youth group	9 9am – Staff meeting 2pm – Knox County Worship	10	11
12 8:40am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in conference room 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship 10am – Worship – Pentecost Offering 11:30am – Disciples Sun. School	13 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous 6pm – Council meeting 7pm – Elders meeting	14	15 7pm – Choir practice	16 9am – Staff meeting 5:30pm – Men’s Night Out at Pizza Ranch and Ladies’ Night Out at Jimmy’s Pizza	17	18
19 8:40am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in conference room 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship 10am – Worship – Pentecost Offering – Commitment Sunday 11:30am – Disciples Sun. School	20 4-5pm – Volunteer at Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous 6:30pm – Trustees <i>Newsletter week</i>	21 10am – Naomi Circle	22	23 9am – Staff meeting	24	25
26 8:40am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in conference room 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship 10am – Worship – <i>Guest speaker: Rick Hamilton, Interim Regional Minister</i>	27 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous Office closed – Memorial Day	28	29	30 9am – Staff meeting	31	



BOOK CLUB NEWS

We are beginning a new series of books based on the year you were born. There are several lists available that provide the top books for each year. We are using anyone of those Top 10, 20, or even 100 books from your birth year.

The first book is based on 1946. We will read “*The King’s General*” by Daphne DuMaurier. The novel is set at the time of the English civil war.

Amazon.com describes the book as a “bittersweet saga,” in which “the weak prove their courage and the privileged become traitors.”

With our library being closed there are other libraries that are honoring Galesburg library cards. Anyone is invited to read this book and join the discussion, which will take place **during the lunch hour on April 30 – notice revised date** (place to be determined and published in our Daily Messages). You can also learn at that discussion more about choosing your book.

WORSHIP SERVING SCHEDULE

April 28 – Diaconate Serving: David and Leslie Wilt

Lead in Communion: Tracy Jackson

Offering Message: Pastor

Prayers: Jan Luallen

Greeters: David and Leslie Wilt at North St.;

Marge Patterson at Broad St.; Sharon Carnes at canopy door

May 5 – Diaconate Serving: Janet Foster and Jan Unger

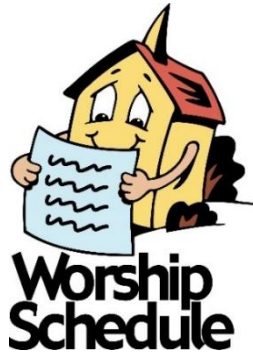
Lead in Communion: Donna Flicek

Offering Message: Neill Unger

Prayers: Pastor

Greeters: Janet Foster and Jan Unger at North St.; David Wilt at Broad St.; Leslie Wilt at canopy door

Elders Serving Out: Chris Mowrer and Misty Stecher



Dear Church Family,

Jesus invites us on a journey – we call it discipleship. It is a journey that is meant both to form us more into the image of Christ through the disciplines of study, worship, prayer, service, and generosity; as well as strengthen us in becoming powerful agents for the good that God is doing in our world. In each of the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Jesus sends the disciples on a mission to proclaim the kingdom of God. We know that in these gospels, the disciples represent *each of us* – the church. When Jesus speaks to them, He speaks to us. As they were sent, so are we.

On **May 5**, we will begin a *Journey to Generosity* in preparation for determining our investment in the ministry and mission of First Christian Church. The journey will conclude on Commitment Sunday as part of worship on **May 19, Pentecost Sunday**. I hope you will be intentional about being present in person with us, to celebrate the gifts God has given and asks us to share ... and to celebrate the birthday of the church. (And be sure and wear red – the color for the Holy Spirit.)

God has done and continues to do remarkable things through us and with us – things that matter in our community and beyond into the world! Your prayers and your participation are keys to helping us advance further down the pathway of discipleship. We know that when the early church gathered, they did so with glad and generous hearts and that there was no need among them (Acts 2). We hope and pray that such a spirit of true community will be among us. We look forward to considering with you what it means for us to be on a “Journey of Generosity”, as we seek to be faithful disciples in this place.

Grateful to be walking along this journey with each of you!

God bless and keep you all,

Pastors Greg and MJ