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APRIL

April 18 & 25 –

In-person worship  
at **9:30am** in sanctuary  
**11am** Adult Sunday School  
on Zoom

April 19 – **7pm** Trustees meet at  
the church.

April 22 – **7pm** Worship Team

### COMMUNION SERVING SCHEDULE

DATE	DEACONS	ELDER
April 18	Chris & Marla Wood	Hope Nelson
April 25	Jake Runge Earlene Crouse	Pastor Greg
MAY 2	Kaleb & Raeleen Brown	Neill Unger
MAY 9	Janet Foster Candi Moulton	Mary Runge



... for **Scott VanVelsor** and for his  
caregivers and medical staff.  
...for **Christina Griswold**, for strength  
and hope as she fights a difficult battle  
with cancer.  
... for **Jim Eager**, for health and well-  
being as he receives treatments for a  
form of blood cancer.  
... for **Pastor Don Williams** of 1<sup>st</sup>  
Christian Knoxville, who is hospitalized  
and battling COVID.  
... for **Rosemary Humphrey**, whose  
daughter Tina is having heart issues.



*It's a Girl!*

**WELCOME DALYZA CARMA!**

*Born April 6, 2021 - 7 lb. 3 oz.*

*Daughter of Carrissa Empson and Devin  
Hamlet - Congratulations!*



# Crusader

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

301 N Broad St. Galesburg, IL 61401

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



Vol. 75, No. 8, April 14, 2021

*Come and discover how the resurrection  
changes everything!*

**April 18, 2021**

**Message by Pastor Greg Fitch**

*“This is Love: Love That Conquers Death.”*

Scripture: Acts 13:32-37

**April 25, 2021**

Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch

*“This is Love: Love that Creates All Things New.”*

Scripture: I Corinthians 15:51-57

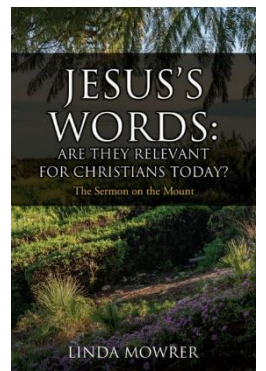


Worship will be in-person at 9:30am and on Facebook Live at 9:30am and later on  
Sunday morning on our webpage and YouTube.

### BOOK SIGNING – APRIL 18

*Jesus's Words – by Linda Mowrer*

How very proud we are of **Linda Mowrer** who has  
published her Bible Study on the Sermon on the Mount. She will  
be present at worship this coming Sunday after her stint preaching  
at Gerlaw Christian Church! And she will be ready to sign copies  
of her new book, right after the service, in the church office. You  
won't want to miss getting this inspiring study, written by one of  
our very own! A very relevant word for our day and time!





## BLESSING BOX UPDATE

Our busy Blessing Box served many through-out the winter, but the blustery spring days took its toll. The wind caught the doors and took them off their hinges. We are blessed by **Steve Spicher** and his willingness to share his talents! He was able to repair both doors and get us back in business.

Now for a little spring spruce up! Answering a call for volunteers, **Aaron and Kim Barton** will be giving the box a fresh coat of paint soon! Thank you!

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. Remember that you cannot buy hygiene items, period supplies, or cleaning supplies with a LINK card. 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!



## JOY (BLESSING) BOX DEDICATION

As we try to get our church back to some form of normalcy, we ask our congregation to be patient with us as we try to bring back some of the projects, we did in 2019. One of those projects was our personal Joy Boxes (aka our Blessing Boxes) which we dropped coins in each day when we felt blessed by God. It could be a penny, a nickel, a dime or whatever we felt in our heart to give. It was thanking God for all the blessings he bestowed upon us for the year. We will have a dedication of our Joy Boxes at worship on **Sunday April 25th**, then the money will be sent to the Disciples Mission Fund for the ongoing work of the church and Disciples Women.

We realize not everyone is coming to worship at this time, so if you are, there will be a basket on the front pew of the sanctuary on **April 25th** that you can drop your coins in. You can give them to Earlene Crouse or Carolyn Spratt at any time. Also, you can call *Earlene Crouse at 343-6445* and she will be glad to pick them up if you are not attending church at this time. Thank you for participating in this project of love and gratitude to God.



## 50 DAYS OF PRAYER MAY 2 to JUNE 21

*There is power in a praying church!*

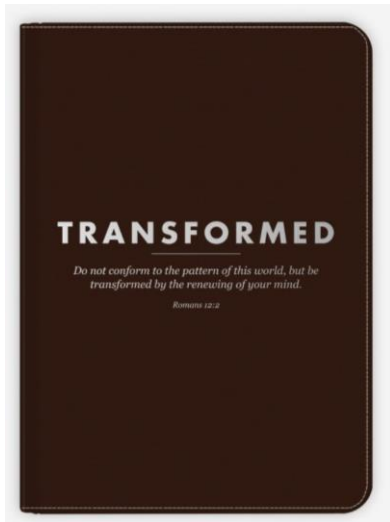
It is time to believe that God can transform and move in our church – and in our neighborhood!

George Otis, Jr. has said, *“The time has come to lift the bar of expectations. Transformation is attainable for God. This is the heartbeat of God. It’s not the work of man. It’s the finger of God. ‘If you call on me, I will answer.’ He takes care of the problems.*

*The church becomes a beacon of light and hope.”*

It has been a very long year with the pandemic, and we all have been apart for so long! We are in great need of gathering together and focusing our hearts as one to pray for the growth and transformation of our church and our ministry in our community.

Beginning **May 2**, we are challenging you to make a commitment to pray **every day** for the growth of our church. To thank God and praise Him and call on Him to restore and renew and revive us once again. Will you take the challenge?



## COMING IN MAY – TRANSFORMED!

### *New Sermon Series and Study*

Beginning **May 2**, we will be joining churches around the country for a 50-day campaign to be *Transformed! Seeing How God Changes Us!* Based on Romans 12:2, this series will look at the health of our body, mind, and spirit – and the transforming power of Jesus Christ. It is said that 40% of US Adults have reported dissatisfaction with their mental & emotional well-being due to the pandemic. People are hurting for many reasons... and it is so important for us all to know that God has a plan to transform us in *every* area of our lives, for His glory.

Going along with this series is an *All-in-one Workbook and Video*, written by Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church in California. Small groups and/or families can study this together. The leather-bound workbook includes:

- a study guide for all 7 small group lessons,
- a daily devotional for each day of the series (49 total),
- space for weekly sermon notes
- suggestions for further study based on each week's topic & helpful tools & tips.
- journal space to set goals and a Spiritual Health Check.

The series and the workbook will help you:

- Grow closer to God • Live life with less stress • Reconcile broken relationships
- Better handle money • Be more confident at work

God cares about and wants to bless us in *every* area of our lives. He wants us to be healthy in body, soul, and in spirit. And He has given us the steps and principles in His Word that we can take to live healthy, fulfilling lives. We are praying we will be transformed in our relationship with God and with others throughout this series.

The **Adult Sunday School Class** that meets on **Zoom at 11am Sundays** will be studying this series – and we always have room for others to join us! We are hoping there can be many other groups (or even individuals) who will choose to study this book together between **May 2 and June 20**. Books are \$13 and will be ordered in bulk by the church. Please contact Pastor MJ if you are interested and would like a book ordered for you.

May we individually and as a church be transformed to the glory of God!