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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.



July 8, 5:30pm Bible Study
on Zoom.

July 11, 10:00am – Church
Clean-up of Sanctuary. Wear
masks and bring cleaning
supplies – especially hand-
held vacuums

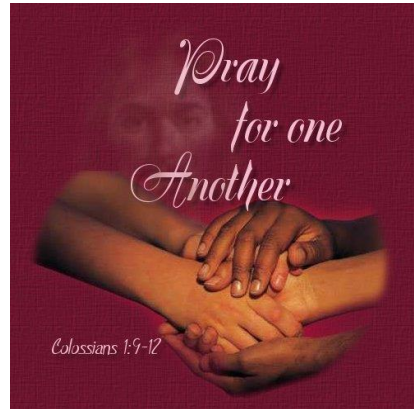
July 12, 10:30am – 12pm -
Drive-Thru Prayer at church

July 14, 6:30pm - Council
Meeting on Zoom

July 15, 5:30pm – Bible Study on
Zoom

July 18, 10am – Church Clean-Up
of sanctuary. Wear masks
And bring cleaning supplies

July 19, 10:30am – 12pm – Drive-
Thru Prayer at church



... for **Scott VanVelsor** and for his
caregivers and medical staff.
... for **Margaret Ann Sandberg** who is
now on Hospice with bone cancer. She
is at her home and would love cards.
...for **Christina Griswold**, who is
undergoing chemotherapy.
...for **Marnie Herring** whose father
passed away after his battle with late
stage lung cancer and pneumonia and
emphysema.
...for **Neill Unger** who continues to
recover from knee surgery.
... for all our nursing home residents.
... for those struggling with Covid-19.
and for an end to the pandemic.
... for peace and an end to hatred,
division and injustice in our country.

*Please join the
Facebook prayer group*



Crusader

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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Vol. 74, No. 19, July 7, 2020

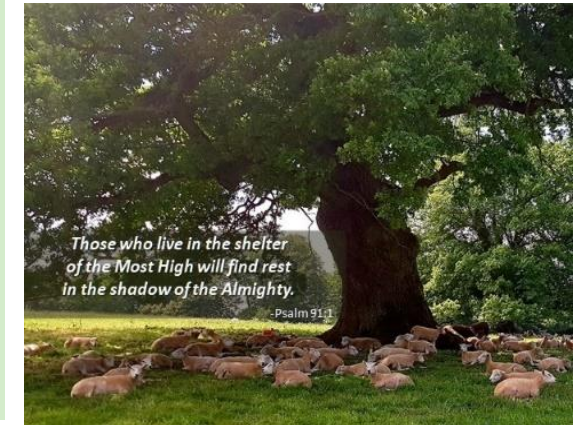
July 12, 2020

Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch

“Shelter: Thirsting for God”

Scripture: Psalm 63

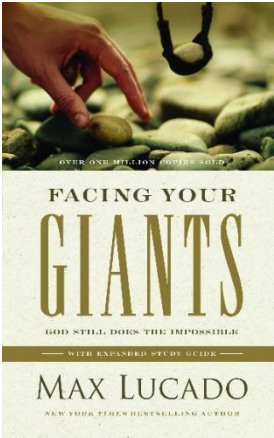
*Please see our Facebook page, YouTube, and
Webpage (fccgalesburg.org)
to see our worship service on Sunday.*



CHRISTMAS OFFERING IN JULY

It is time once again for our annual “Christmas Offering” for our Regional Ministry – the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW). We take the offering in July – as no offering will be taken in December.

This offering helps our region with their ministry to and with all of the 126 congregations in our region. Through the region, ministers are nurtured, and congregations are provided opportunities for work and worship. Regions help in the ministries of camps and conferences and play a critical role in the preparation and authorization of ministerial ordination. Both are key to church leadership and development. And regions partner with congregations to support the work required to call a new minister. Please give as you are able by mailing your check to the church.

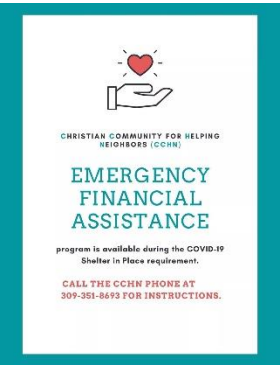


JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY

Join us for our Adult Bible Study class on **Wednesdays at 5:30pm**, via Zoom. We are studying Max Lucado’s “*Facing Your Giants*”. “Max Lucado uses the story of David to help you learn how to allow God to work with you and for you, and to remind you of who you are to and in Him. You are seen, loved, and cared for by the God who still does the impossible.” If you are interested in attending, please call/text/email Pastor MJ and she will give you the invite to join us on Zoom.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Help for rent/mortgage payments, power bill and water bill is available through CCHN. During Covid19 precautions, all steps of the process are via phone. There are no income requirements. You simply must be a Galesburg resident in need. To begin the process call (309) 351-8693.



**DRIVE TRU PRAYER and
PICK UP YOUR NEW OFFERING
ENVELOPES
July 12 & July 19**

Drive-thru the church canopy on the parking lot, between **10:30am and 12pm on July 12 & July 19**. This is an opportunity to pray and visit with Pastor MJ who will greet you there. And then, if you haven’t gotten your new offering envelopes you can pick them up then...or get the



latest issue of the Upper Room Devotional book.



**TAKE ME OUT TO THE
BALLGAME....**

Who’s ready to see some baseball? Come and support our church kids playing this summer: **Carson Stecher** will play in machine pitch at O.N. Custer park on East Losey. **Parker Stecher** will play in kid pitch at Voyles #2 behind

Walmart. **Noah Nally** will play in Majors division at Voyles #1 behind Walmart as well as be umpiring at O.N. Custer park. **Nick Nally** will be umpiring at Voyles park throughout the summer. You may be able to catch: **Mason Bohm** (machine pitch), **Owen Bohm, Tyler Robinson, Nic James, Jacob Mowen** (kid pitch), and **Sawyer Bruns** (majors) from youth group at the games as well.

We would love to have fans at the ballpark to support the kids as you feel comfortable. Please follow these guidelines if you choose to come to the ballpark.

- *bring your own chairs (fans are asked to sit along the fence line and stay 6 feet apart)
- *bring an umbrella for shade (all ballparks have a limited amount of shade and playing in July/August is going to be HOT even in the evening)
- *Participate in no contact end of game congrats. (tip of the hat, elbow bump, or just a verbal great game!)

We look forward to seeing you at the ballpark!

(Some of the upcoming games are listed below – a full schedule will be email to you))

	Noah Nally Voyles #1 Behind Walmart closest to parking lot	Carson Stecher O.N. Custer Park Losey street	Parker Stecher Voyles #2 Behind Walmart, farthest field back
Thursday July 9	7:30pm	7:30pm	7:30pm
Friday July 10		7:30pm	
Saturday July 11		2pm @ Knoxville	
Monday July 13			7:30pm
Tuesday July 14	5:30pm		
Wednesday July 15	7:30pm		7:30pm
Thursday July 16	5:30pm	7:30pm	



RE-OPENING DELAYED

Dear Church Family,

Under the direction of the Board of Elders, I formed a task force to begin work on when we should begin holding worship services at church as well as other events. This task force was also to define a set of protocols and procedures to be followed once we did resume use of our church building. All was then to be presented to the Board of Elders for approval. At our first meeting I instructed the task force that whatever we agree on, first and foremost is the safety and wellbeing of our members.

Last month I had written that plans were being made to begin meeting together for worship on July 19. Since then we have seen a spike in co-vid cases across the country. Most states have experienced record numbers of cases. Closer to home just last week Rock Island County saw their numbers jump to such a degree that it caused some businesses to step back from reopening. Macomb has also experienced an alarming increase in positive cases. Keeping the congregation's wellbeing in mind, the task force agreed that we should delay the reopening of our building as well as the resumption of corporate worship. And that is what I will recommend to the Board of Elders.

I know that there are churches that are already holding worship services. I also know that we all want that for our church. I cannot speak as to the reasons some churches have resumed services, and I wouldn't want to try. My concern is with FCC. And I believe that God is acting on the hearts of each task force member to do what is God's Will for First Christian Church. And I also acknowledge that God's Will for FCC could be different from His Will for other churches. It is the focus of the Board of Elders, the Task Force for Reopening, Pastors Greg and MJ as well as myself to try to follow God's Plan as we work through this pandemic.

These are difficult times and the decisions that have been made have not been easy. I ask for your prayers and support for Pastors Greg and MJ, our Elders and the members of the task force as we continue to seek God's Will as we move forward.

I would like to encourage you to look at John 4. During a conversation with a Samaritan woman Jesus says "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." Our worship is not dependent on where we are physically, only where our heart is.

Thank you for your patience and your faith.

Neill Unger
Church Board Moderator, Board of Elders Chair



Our "Re-entry Task Force" members include: **Bill & Willa Jewsbury, Renee Galvin, Leslie Wilt, Misty Stecher, Neill Unger, Chris Mowrer, Tracy Jackson, Chuck Boydston and the pastors.** The Re-entry Task Force will be meeting again soon, to continue work on plans and we will let you know as soon as we can about other details. For now, know that we are all looking forward to seeing everyone and feeling that sense of community again! Please continue to pray for our discernment and wisdom – as we seek to look for keeping our church safe and following God's will and direction.



Think back to Epiphany this year, January 5. Do you remember those "Epiphany Stars" we all received? What word was written on your star? Well, guess what my word was? "Patience!" ☺ Who knew back in January how that word "patience" would affect me - especially as we had to close the church building in March? I have had to work at being "patient" for the re-opening of our church. I really have missed being in worship with you all – and seeing all of you on a regular basis. That is one of the reasons I really have been blessed to see some of you at the Drive-Thru Prayer Times – and I hope to see more of you in the next couple of weeks.



I have learned throughout my life that fretting and stewing about my circumstances instead of being patient – only makes me miserable and weary. But if I ask God to help me be patient and to trust His timing, I can find a peace – even when I don't understand or have all the answers.

Patience can be defined to be "persistent, refusing to stop, enduring, waiting expectantly and standing firm". That is my prayer that God will keep me fixed on Him, during this crisis – knowing that God can and will "work all things together for good for those who love Him." (Romans 8:28).

Won't you join me in being patient – and waiting expectantly to see what God will do in and through us through this very unprecedented time in history? May we all be in prayer and devotion, looking to Jesus, who will guide us through this storm.

God bless and keep you all, Pastor MJ