

«BAG» «ZIP_COUNT»
«NAMELINE»
«STREET»
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP» «PLUSFOUR»

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Anniversaries:

17 – Al & Jeannie Bower
21 – Jerry & Linda Bramlett

Birthdays:

1 – Tom Maleck, Charlene Thompson
2 – Nathan Fitch
3 – Kenley Barton
4 – Nick Nalley, Lois Hobbs
9 – Diego Galvin, Kendra Hossain
11 – Mary Runge
13 – James Jackson
15 – Jane Hopkey, Logan Nelson
16 – Richard White
19 – Jeannie Bower
20 – Val Morris
21 – Carolyn Spratt
26 – Jackie Smith-Esters
28 – Chris Mowrer

... for **Janet Christiansen**, recovering from hip replacement surgery.
... for **Carole Batterton**, recovering from heart surgery.
... for **Mary Gehring**, who had a surgical procedure for cancer and will begin Chemo and radiation.
... for New City Church, Mbandaka, Congo.



Mark your calendars and start making plans—the 2023 General Assembly “The Kingdom of God Within Us, Among Us” will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, **July 29-August 1**. Engage in the dynamic discernment of the church, gather for energizing worship and deepen your faith with Bible study and workshops.



Crusader

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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

Website: www.fccgalesburg.org

Office Manager – Lorraine Stone - fccgalesburg@gmail.com

Bookkeeper – Lorraine Stone fccstone301@gmail.com

Director of Music – Steve Jackson sjackson@sandburg.edu

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

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

pastorgreg02@gmail.com & pastormj02@gmail.com



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Jan. 29, 2022

Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch

“Help Each Other”

1 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10

Feb. 5, 2023

Message by Pastor Greg Fitch

“Serve One Another”

Galatians 5:13; John 13:1-5;

Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5

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

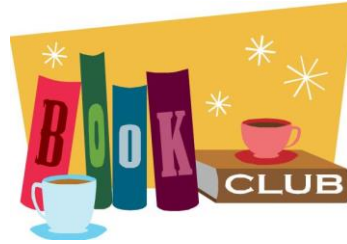
BLANKET SUNDAY JANUARY 29

On January 29 you will once again be given an opportunity to purchase a blanket for \$10.00. First Christian Church can join with CWS bringing warmth, building hope! Please make checks payable to First Christian Church and designate it for Blanket Sunday. Your support is very much appreciated and will give a hope-filled tomorrow to people all around the world.



BOOK CLUB – JANUARY 28

Book Club will meet at **11:30am Saturday, January 28** in the Church Conference Room to discuss *“In His Steps”* by Charles Sheldon. Feel free to bring a sack lunch. FYI: The February book is *“The Children’s Blizzard,”* by Melanie Benjamin. Each person is responsible for obtaining his/her own book.

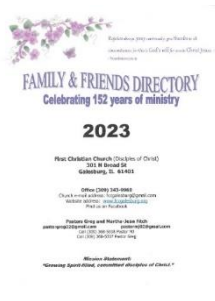


JOB OPENING FOR CUSTODIAN

We appreciate that Larry Thurman has once again agreed to fill in as our custodian. The personnel committee is seeking candidates to hire for a part-time position. Pass the word to all of your family and friends and contact the church office if you know of anyone who might be interested.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING!

Your quarterly statements of giving that can be used for income tax purposes are ready to be picked up and are located on the table outside the church office door. These statements were generated using the new accounting program.



2023 FAMILY & FRIENDS DIRECTORY

Copies of the 2023 Family & Friends Directory were distributed on Sunday but if you were not able to pick one up at that time, you can pick one up in the church office during normal office hours, 8am to noon and 1-3pm

Congratulations to **Adelia McGee** who graduated mid-term from Galesburg High School this month.



COMMUNITY WOMEN’S LENTEN SERIES

Women in the community will gather in our Fellowship Hall on six Wednesdays of Lent, **Feb. 22 to March 29, at 9:30am** for a time of worship, with guest speakers from the community. This year’s theme is *“Were You There? A Lenten Reflection with Traditional African American Spirituals”*.



ARK ENCOUNTER March 17-19

The Youth group will be going on a trip to The Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky (<https://arkencounter.com/>)

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.

Church members are invited to join the youth for this trip but you need to contact the church office *as soon as possible* 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.

HEARTSEEKERS WEEKEND

March 24-25 at Bethel Baptist Church Karen Abercrombie - Speaker

Karen Abercrombie will be this year’s speaker at the Heartseekers Weekend with her theme of Hope & Joy. Retreat and registration information are available at Brighter Life Bookshoppe, 72 N. Seminary St., Galesburg; phone: (309) 344-3987.





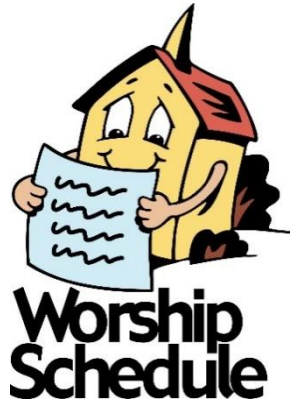
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS – FEB. 5th

During Coffee Fellowship on February 5, we will celebrate February birthdays. If you have a birthday in February, you are invited to bring treats to share.

WORSHIP SERVING SCHEDULE

Jan. 29 – Diaconate Serving: Chris Wood and Marla Wood
Lead in Communion: Renee Galvin
Offering Message: Chris Mowrer
Prayers: Pastor
Greeters: Chris Wood and Marla Wood at North St.; David Wilt at Broad St.; Leslie Wilt at canopy door

Feb. 5 – Diaconate Serving: Kaleb Brown and Raeleen Brown
Lead in Communion: Neill Unger
Offering Message: Tina Burns
Prayers: Jan Luallen
Greeters: Kaleb Brown and Raeleen Brown at North St.; Chris Wood at Broad St.; Marla Wood at canopy door
Elders Serving Out: Neill Unger and Renee Galvin



Our Identity As a Church

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

Our Mission as a Church

Growing Spirit-filled and Christ-centered disciples of Christ. To be and share the good news of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.



Through a mutual friend, I have been blessed to have found a church in Kyiv, Ukraine – specifically the pastor's wife of the church – Maia Makheluk - who I am following on Facebook. I have been so touched to read of the struggles they are facing during this war from Russia – and have learned a lot of history and first-hand information about Ukrainians – stories you don't hear on the television.

A recent posting from Maia, I found very enlightening. I share it in her words below. The picture is of their church, worshiping on Christmas Day:

*332nd day of ruzzian invasion.
48th Sunday service since the invasion started.*

I just read on a friend's page this quote: "As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient, it's important to remember why church attendance for and you and your family matters so much.

You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have a community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshiping together on your sofa. Christians aren't consumers. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together." (Michael Carl)



Before the invasion started, we had problems with people staying at home to watch the service instead of coming to fellowship. But the war cured that very quickly. The war reminded us what church is about and it's not about watching Sunday service on TV screen. People now even walk to church quite long ways when during air raid the public transportation stops.

What message does that speak to you about church attendance? Why do you think it is in a crisis that this church is actually growing and is very active in service?

We will continue, as this church does, to broadcast our worship services online! We do reach a lot of people that way – many of whom can't get to in-person worship, for whatever reason. However – we do need to form community – to be together in person and do life together. May it be that we our church will grow together – to give – encourage – serve and shine Christ's light together! Pastor MJ

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30am and 5:30pm– Bible Study 5:30pm – Youth group 7:30pm - Choir	2 9am – Staff meeting	3	4
5 8:45am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship 10am – Worship 11:30am – Disciples Sun. School	6 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous Newsletter week	7 1:30pm – Caring Ministers	8 9:30am and 5:30pm– Bible Study 3pm – Worship at Hawthorne Inn 5:30pm – Youth group 7:30pm – Choir	9 9am – Staff meeting 10:30am – Disciples Women Council 2pm – Worship at Knox County Nursing Home	10	11
12 8:45am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship 10am—Worship 11:30am – Disciples Sun. School	13 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous 6pm – Elders/Council joint mtg	14 	15 9:30am and 5:30pm– Bible Study 5:30pm – Youth group 7:30pm – Choir	16 9am – Staff meeting 5:30pm – Men's Night Out at Pizza Ranch and Ladies Night Out at Jimmy's Pizza	17	18
19 8:45am – Coffee House Theology 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship 10am – Worship – Week of Compassion 11:30am – Disciples Sun. School	20 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous 6:30pm – Trustees Newsletter week Office Closed	21 10:30am – Naomi Circle 7pm – The Weekend Cluster	22 9:30am – Woman's Lenten Series begins 6pm – Ash Wednesday Service 7:30pm – Choir	23 9am – Staff meeting	24	25
26 8:45am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship 10am—Worship – Week of Compassion 11:30am – Disciples Sun. School	27 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous	28			<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>

