

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

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.



November 17

5:30pm - Youth Group
9am and 5pm – Prayer gatherings
9:30am in-person and 5:30pm in-person and on Zoom
Bible Study
7:15pm – Historical Society

November 18 – 7pm

Worship meeting on Zoom

November 18-20 –

Virtual Summit for Youth

November 21 – **9:30am** in sanctuary & Facebook Live

11am Adult Sunday School
Noon – Hanging of the Greens

November 25-26 – Office Closed

November 28 – **9:30am** in sanctuary & Facebook Live

11am Adult Sunday School
First Sunday of Advent

November 29 – 7pm

Buchanan Chorus Rehearsal



... **Jim Eager** is now at peace and in his eternal home with his Lord. We thank God for the life of Jim and for a life well lived. Please be in prayer for Jim's wife Diane and his daughters Tami, Becky and Jamie. May they know the peace and comfort of our Savior. Funeral will be at **11am Friday, Nov. 19** at the church. Committal service will at 2pm. ... for **Shannon Edwards** and her family. A family member, Nikki Sanchez Warrington, died of a drug overdose recently. The family is in shock and in need of prayers. Pray for their peace and comfort. Your prayers mean so much.



... to **Karen Bjorkman** for making the Advent bags. They are beautiful!
... to **Renee Galvin** for making up the candy bags to put in the Advent bags.



Crusader

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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309-343-9960

Website: www.fccgalesburg.org

Office Manager – Lorraine Stone - fccgalesburg@gmail.com

Bookkeeper – Lynda White fcclwhite@gmail.com

Director of Music – Steve Jackson sjackson@sandburg.edu

Organist (virtual) – Mary Harlan mharlan@knox.edu

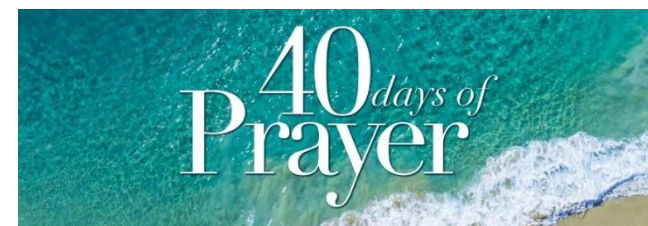
Part-time Pianist – Brady Warner bwarner06@icloud.com

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

pastorgreg02@gmail.com & pastormj02@gmail.com



Vol. 75, No. 23 ~ Nov. 16, 2021



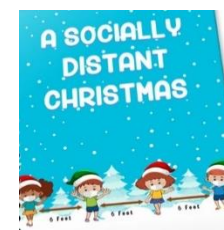
November 21, 2021
Message by Pastor Greg Fitch
*“40 Days of Prayer: How to Pray
For Healing and Restoration”*
Scripture: II Chronicles 7:14

November 28, 2021
Message by Pastor MJ Fitch
First Sunday of Advent

“Find Hope in Uncertainties”

Scripture: Luke 2:22-38; Romans 8:24-26

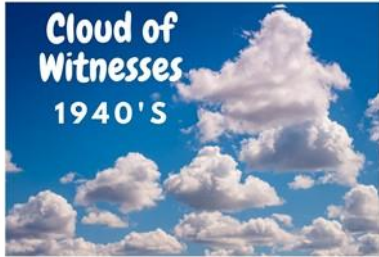
Worship will be in-person at 9:30am and on Facebook Live at 9:30am and later on Sunday morning on our webpage and YouTube



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM!

“A Socially Distant Christmas”

Make plans now for the upcoming Children's Christmas Program coming on **December 19 at 4pm**. You won't want to miss it!



HISTORY OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH – 1940s

As we continue our look at the history of our church, we find ourselves in the 1940's. The Rev. John F. Norman was called to be pastor of the church in 1941 and he served nine years (1941-1950).

December 8 of 1941 brought the declaration of war on Japan – and Americans officially entered World War II. There were several young men who served in the military in the 1940s from our church, among them: Russell Barstow, Ray D. Cameron, Hal Cisco, Ben Hinkson, William R. Jewsbury, Dr. Gene Johnson, Ray Tapper, Carl Sandberg, Larry Shawgo, Donald Trask.

In 1944, the Illinois Christian Endeavor Union had their 52nd annual convention at our church for three days. Christian Endeavor was a national, interdenominational Christian Youth and Young Adult Society, which provided a structure for church youth to “work together to know God in Jesus Christ.”

The church was active with children and youth. On Sundays, during the morning worship in the sanctuary, there was a Junior Worship for youth, held in the Mizpah Chapel (which was located in what we now call “the attic”).

In the 1940's, our denomination (called a brotherhood at the time) had a program called the “Living Link” whereby missionaries were “linked” up with congregations. Our Living Link was Robin R. Cobble who was a missionary at Monieka, Africa. Thus beginning our church's interest in and support of the Congo!

As veterans returned from WWII, our church's membership swelled. Most of them joined the “Future Builders” Sunday School Class. It was noted that a “stronger sense of fellowship within the congregation was developing.”

One last fun story: On Christmas Eve, 1949, a Christmas pageant was held in the sanctuary. In the pageant, angels surrounded the manger where Mary and Joseph watched over their new-born babe. Shepherds came to see the miracle and wise men, as well, who had followed the star. The “actors” in the pageant who played Mary and Joseph were Hugh and Alice White and baby Jesus was the newborn Ed White, born on Nov. 4, 1949!

HANGING OF THE GREENS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Join us as we decorate the sanctuary and hallways for the Advent season on **Sunday, November 21**. We'll provide pizza for lunch at **noon**. The more, the merrier!



DISCIPLE WOMEN'S FUNDRAISER ON DECEMBER 5

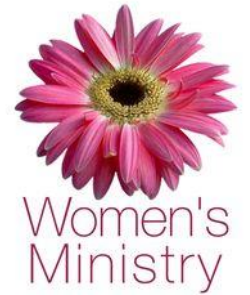
Dear Women of First Christian Church –

In past Decembers we have stirred up batches of cookie dough, or made candy to sell at our annual Cookie walk. But not this year or last year. So we have decided to switch gears.

Instead of all the scrumptious goodies we would definitely enjoy, the Disciple Women's Council is asking you to “beat the heat”. No hot oven door to open and close as you bake those cookies. Instead we are asking you to estimate how much you would have spent on ingredients, electricity, time and effort, and donate cash instead. All donations will be sent to Disciples Mission Fund to be used around the world. Our mission budget this year is \$1,000.00.

On **December 5th** we will ask for your donations to be dropped in the offering plate designated for Disciple Women or mailed to Carolyn Spratt at 1113 Monroe St.

Whatever the amount, big or small. It will truly be appreciated by one and all.



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

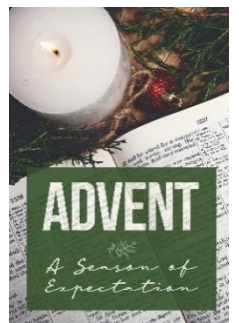
A Service of Healing and Hope – December 5 at 3pm

If you are grieving or struggling, if the Christmas spirit eludes you this season, or you just need a quiet, spiritual break in the midst of busy times, we invite you to join us for this special service.

NEW SERMON SERIES FOR ADVENT: REDISCOVER CHRISTMAS GOOD NEWS IN TROUBLING TIMES

Advent begins **November 28**. Advent is that 4-week season leading up to Christmas; a season of preparation for the coming of Christ. The new sermon series is “*Rediscover Christmas Good News in Troubling Times*.”

In a season often marked by frenzied busyness, Advent is an opportunity to set aside time to prepare our hearts. May this be a season of wonder for you. May it be a rediscovery of Christmas. And may the Holy Spirit lead you on a journey of peace, joy, and love – and ultimately to a deep encounter with Jesus.



**GALESBURG RESCUE MISSION &
WOMEN'S SHELTER**

“Harvestime Sharathon” – Saturday, November 20

To make a pledge, call 342-9194 from **7am to 6pm**

Goal - \$60,000 (15% of their annual budget)

Listen to WGIL 1400AM or 93.7FM to hear the Sharathon.

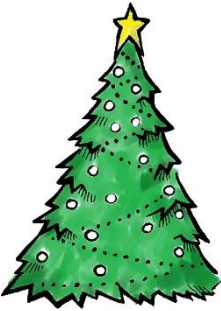


**LOOK FOR THE GIVING TREE
THIS ADVENT SEASON**

*The real joy of Christmas,
Lies in giving - not taking from others,*

*It is the only joy that
Increases by leaps and bounds -*

When you give as much as you can to others.



We are all “gearing up” for a joyous Christmas season! We are reminded that Jesus is love, not only through His resurrection, but also His birth. One of the best ways you can reflect on the love of Jesus is by giving back to those in need.

You are invited to give to our Blessing Box throughout this Advent Season. Look for the “Giving Tree” in the Sanctuary, close to the choir loft. Place items in the boxes provided that are helpful during winter or to provide for a household as they struggle to meet day to day needs. It will increase your joy by leaps and bounds.

Suggested items:

Gifts that help keep our neighbors warm: hats, gloves, mittens, socks, blankets, gently used boots.

Gifts that help maintain homes: dish soap, cleanser, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, sponges.

Gifts that help with personal hygiene: bath soap, deodorant, period supplies, lotion, chap stick, nail clippers, files, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, & floss.

Gifts to help with babies and small children: diapers, wipes, underwear & socks.

Gifts to help make the season bright: cocoa mix, tea, devotionals, candy, note pads, pens, etc.

Christmas is one of the best times of year to be a witness of the love of Jesus. Our neighbors seem to be seeking more, hurting more, and needing more this time of year. The act may seem small to you, but it can make a huge difference in the life of those who are in need the most. When you seek to love others, you are living the true meaning of Christmas.

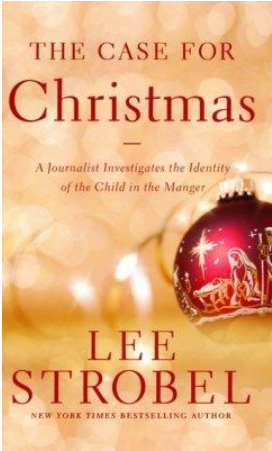
**NEW SERIES FOR ADULT SUNDAY
SCHOOL BEGINS NOV. 21**

The Adult Sunday School class will begin a new study on “*The Case for Christmas*” by Lee Strobel will begin

November 21 through December 26.

“*The Case for Christmas*” invites readers to consider why Christmas matters in the first place. Somewhere beyond the traditions of the holiday lies the truth. Consulting experts on the Bible, archaeology, and messianic prophecy, award-winning legal journalist Lee Strobel searches out the true identity of the child in the manger.

The class meets on Sundays at **11am** in-person in the Conference Room or via Zoom. The cost of the book is **\$7.50**. If you would like a book ordered for you, please contact the church office as soon as possible. Scholarships are available. All are welcome to join.



**MARNIE HERRING
REDEDICATION ON NOV. 14**

On Sunday, November 14, it was a wonderful blessing to have Marnie Herring come forward to rededicate her life to walking closer to Jesus Christ. We celebrate this step of faith Marnie has taken and pray she will be able to fix her eyes on Jesus and always know the Holy Spirit’s presence and power. God bless you, Marnie!

SERVING SCHEDULE			
	DIACONATE	COMMUNION	OFFERING
NOV 21	Renee Galvin Eric Galvin	Hope Nelson	Neill Unger
NOV 28	Kaleb Brown Raeleen Brown	Tina Burns	Mary Runge
DEC 5	Candi Moulton Janet Foster	Cindy Andrews	Tina Burns
DEC 12	Chris Wood Marla Wood	Chris Mowrer	Misty Stecher