

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

THE CRUSADER (USPS139220) published bi-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.



Wednesday, May 3rd
9:30 and 5:30 Bible Study

Thursday, May 4th
9:00 Staff meeting
7:00 Choir practice

Saturday, May 6th
9:00-noon Church Yard Clean Up
2-4pm Celebration of Life Open House
for Deanna Bryant

Sunday, May 7th
8:45 Coffee House Theology Sunday
School
9:30 Coffee Fellowship
10:00 Worship – Joy Box Dedication
11:30 Disciples Sunday School

Monday, May 8th
6:00 Elders and Council joint meeting

Wednesday, May 10th
9:30 and 5:30 Bible Study
3:00 Worship at Hawthorne Inn
7:30 Choir practice

Thursday, May 11th
9:00 Staff meeting
2:00 Worship at Knox County Nursing
Home

Saturday, May 13th
Rain date for Church Yard Clean Up



... for **Mary Gehring, Jimmy Ellis and Pam Whittom** in their cancer treatments.
... for **Carrie Nava**, for health and relief of back pain.
... Praises for successful surgery for **Tami Eager**. Prayers for good results of the pathology report.
... Praises for **Diane Pyle's** foot healing and no need for her to have surgery,
... for **Bev Norton** whose brother-in-law Stan Gregory passed away April 13.
... for Martha Gilson who will be having eye surgery on **May 10**.



Vacation Bible School – June 25-29



Crusader

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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

pastorgreg02@gmail.com & pastormj02@gmail.com

Vol. 77, No. 9 ~ May 2, 2023



May 7, 2023
Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch
“Building Blocks: Gifts and Talents”
Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-16
Joy Box Dedication

May 14, 2023
MOTHER'S DAY
Message by Pastor Greg Fitch
“Building Blocks: Koinonia”
Scriptures: Acts 2:42-47, 1 John 1:6-7

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



date will be May 13th.

Please join us on **Saturday, May 6**, to clean up our church yard and outside areas around the building. We will work from **9am to noon**. Bring yard gloves, trowels, yard bags, weed eaters, trimmers, rakes, mulch, or any other yard tools. We appreciate your help in making our building “curb appeal” organized! **Rain**



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER – MAY 4

12:00 noon AND 6pm

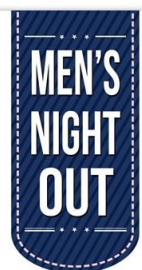
at the Square in downtown Galesburg

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sponsored by Unity in the Community Alliance of Galesburg

LADIES NIGHT OUT MAY 18

Ladies Night Out will be at **5:30pm Thursday, May 18** at Jimmy's Pizza. All ladies from the church are invited to attend. Come join the fun!



MEN'S NIGHT OUT MAY 18

Men's Night Out will be at **5:30pm Thursday, May 18** at Pizza Ranch. All men of the church are welcome to join us for food, fellowship, and a brief devotional. Everybody pays their own way.

NAOMI CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY MAY 16

All women are invited to participate in the Naomi Circle Bible Study which is held every month on the **3rd Tuesday at 10:30am** in the Conference Room. The next one is **Tuesday, May 16**. We are studying "*Bad Girls of the Bible*" by Liz Curtis Higgs – and focusing on the bad girl Michal. To prepare for the study, please read I Samuel 18 & 19. (Note – our last meeting for Naomi Circle will be **June 5**).



WORSHIP SERVING SCHEDULE

May 7 – Diaconate Serving: Larry Thurman and Don Mundy
Lead in Communion: Chris Mowrer
Offering Message: Ellen Anderson (recorded)
Prayers: Jan Luallen
Greeters: Larry Thurman and Don Mundy at North St.; Janet Foster at Broad St.; Jan Unger at canopy door
Elders Serving Out: Neill Unger

May 14 – Diaconate Serving: Chris Wood and Marla Wood
Lead in Communion: Misty Stecher
Offering Message: Leslie Wilt
Prayers: Pastor
Greeters: Chris Wood and Marla Wood at North St.; Larry Thurman at Broad St.; Don Mundy at canopy door

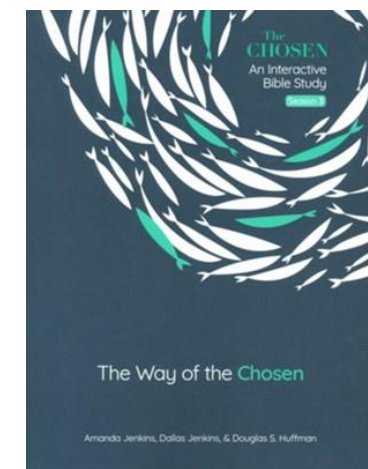


MAY MEETINGS

May 8 – Elders and Council joint meeting at 6pm
May 15 – Trustees at 6:30pm
May 23 – Diaconate at 6:30pm

DISCIPLES SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS TO BEGIN NEW STUDY

Beginning **May 7**, the Disciples Sunday School Class will be studying The Way of the Chosen (Season 3). The third season of the groundbreaking television show, "*The Chosen*," picks up with how Jesus' followers apply His teaching to their lives. Participants will be challenged to move from knowing who Jesus is to living out their faith by going the way of the Chosen in Season 3. Disciples Sunday School meets at 11:30am Sunday mornings. All are invited to join! Books are \$11 ... if interested in securing one – let Pastor MJ know.





EMAIL RECEIVED FROM PASTOR BAFALANGA ~ CONGO

Dear Colleague Martha (Jean) -

May the peace of the risen Christ be with you. By (With) this message, I would like to thank you for your tireless efforts in helping with the construction of the new, New City Parish Temple (church). We send our equal thanks to the family of Dr. Gene Johnson for their large contribution. We just advanced (moved forward) with all of the metal doors and windows. Oscar has sent the update to Global Ministries, to Dr. Cannon Kahala.

We pray every day that on the day of inauguration, one or two of your parishioners will be present.

We pray a lot for the health of our Papa Dr. Gene and Mama Sue. We are also grateful for the liaison work of our brother Oscar Pekombe and our sister Steph Cameron (Line).

In Christ,

Rev. Jeannette Bafalanga, Incumbent Pastor of the Parish, New City

BLESSING BOX NEEDS

We are always in need of supplies for our Blessing Box ministry, especially toiletries, toilet paper, Kleenex, cleaning supplies, and non-perishable food items - including on-the-go items such as packets of tuna, nuts, granola bars, crackers, fruit cups and the like. If you would like someone else to shop for Blessing Box items, monetary donations are welcome.

Take what you need, leave what you can, be blessed!



Every Sunday morning, at 9:30am, we have a coffee fellowship in our small hall. It is a great time to gather and visit with the church family, prior to worship at 10am.

If anyone would like to sponsor a Sunday by bringing doughnuts or other breakfast treats, let Jan Luallen know at church or by calling her at (309) 343-8129.



PENTECOST OFFERING

*We Are A Movement For Wholeness
in a Fragmented World*

In the beginning, every church was new! As written in the Book of Acts, early disciples came together, sharing all things in common, breaking bread with glad and generous hearts. And in the beginning, Jesus sent out disciples, two by two, not to “plant” churches, but to proclaim good

news, to experience the hospitality and wisdom of neighbors all around. In both instances, God was doing a new thing: creating a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

At New Church Ministry, we believe God is calling the whole Church back to becoming new, back to becoming who we already are: a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

Your gifts to the 2023 Pentecost Offering on **May 21 and 28** help ensure our movement continues to embody the Disciples of Christ vision: “To be and to share the good news, witnessing, loving, and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth”. Half of your gift supports the local new church movement through your region’s ministry. The other half supports New Church Ministry efforts across the United States and Canada to equip, train and empower new leaders. Please give generously to this year’s Pentecost Offering. For more information, visit disciplesmissionfund.org.



Sympathy and comfort to the family and friends of **Deanna Bryant**, who passed away on March 14, 2023 in Arizona. You are invited to a **Celebration of Life Open House** in her honor on **Saturday, May 6th, from 2 to 4pm** here at First Christian Church. If you wish, you can bring a food item to share. Memorials may be made to the Parkinson’s Foundation or to First Christian Church. Cards may also be sent to Deanna’s stepdaughter, Keri Jamison, PO Box 152, Cameron, IL 61423; or Deanna’s sisters: Connie Schroeder, 8900 Jaywick Drive, Apt. 208, Fishers, IN 46037; or Linda Machler, 9121 E. Calle de Las Brisas, Scottsdale, AZ 85255.



BE THE CHURCH SUNDAY – JUNE 4

Worship will be at 10am followed by a free lunch at 11:30am in large hall. Serving Out will be 12:30pm to 2pm.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

➤ KITS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

Prepping Kits. Did you know that in 2022 there were 737 homeless veterans in Illinois? And did you know that the Salvation Army of North Central Illinois housed 87 in shelters until they could find permanent housing? Most Americans are one paycheck away from being homeless. Usually economic crisis or mental health is the cause of veteran homelessness. To help our veterans, who sacrificed their lives for our freedom, we can give them a hygiene kit when they enter our shelter programs. Most are able to take a shower but most will have to use dirty towels and put back on dirty underwear after they shower. So how wonderful would it be if we could help them by giving them a new towel and clean, new underwear and socks to put on after a shower. The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is **to preach the gospel of Jesus ...** . Good for low mobility volunteers.

DONATION OPPORTUNITY (*drop off to Church Office OR leave in boxes at front of Sanctuary*)

Towels

New Underwear (buy the size you wear)

New Socks (buy the size you wear)

Washcloths

Loofahs

➤ CLEAN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Exactly what you are thinking! Gloves, trash bags, and maps of assigned cleaning areas will be provided. Let's get our neighborhood looking clean!

➤ VISITS WITH KNOX COUNTY NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

The residents are ready to chat and get outside! They are short staffed so going outside isn't always an option. They have a wonderful, shaded garden, farm animals to visit and walking paths. For residents that don't want to go out they might want to stay in and play uno or another card game like pitch. What better way to serve our community than to visit with them!

Dear Church Family –

We have been focusing on Sundays on the Building Blocks for a Healthy Congregation. We see that the early church had many building blocks that helped them to be a healthy and growing church: they were devoted to prayer – committed to sharing the good news with all – dedicated to teaching and fellowship and growing in discipleship.

On May 21, we will talk about how the early church was filled with generosity and cared for the needs of others. Their giving (and ours) is to be an act of worship and trust – a response of love and gratitude for our blessings from God. On May 21, we will have the opportunity as a community of faith to offer our estimates of giving for the investment in the things God is calling us to do as God's church. Our gifts help to create and implement ministries that change lives, transform communities, and spread the good news of Christ.

We hope that you will prayerfully consider how God is calling you to give of your resources for the ministry of this church in the coming year. By completing and returning the enclosed Estimate of Giving Card, you are expressing your intent and affirming your desire to honor God with your resources. Returning your Estimate of Giving Card makes it possible for our church to plan and implement ministries without hesitation. Knowing your plans allows wise management of resources throughout the year. All ministries our church implements are dependent on the generosity of God's people.

God has done and continues to do remarkable things with us. Your prayers and your participation are keys to helping us get to the next level 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). May that spirit be so among us!

God bless and keep you all,

Pastors Greg and MJ

