

«BAG_»
«SALUTATION» «FIRST_NAME» «LAST_NAME»
«STREET»
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP»

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.



September 9 – 5:30pm Bible
Study – via ZOOM

September 13 –
9:30am Worship Outside
11am Traveler's Sunday
School via Zoom

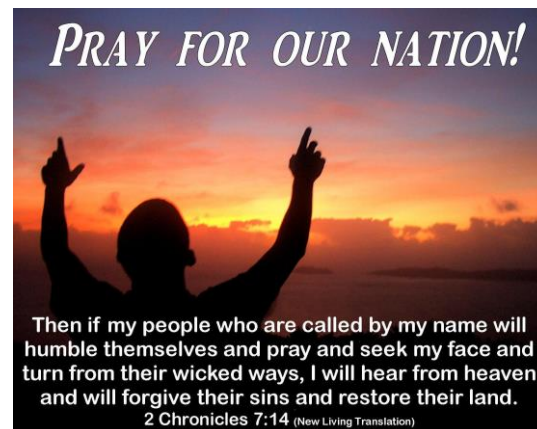
September 14 –
7:00pm – Trustees at the
Church

September 16 – 5:30pm Bible
Study – via ZOOM

September 20 –
9:30am Worship Outside
11am Traveler's Sunday
School via Zoom



... for **Scott VanVelsor** and for his caregivers and medical staff.
... for **Margaret Ann Sandberg** and **Mary Bangert** who are both on Hospice and are both in their homes. They would both love hearing from you. Their addresses are in the directory.
...for **Christina Griswold**, who is undergoing chemotherapy.
...for **Karen Bjorkman's** great-granddaughter, Tatani, with COVID 19.
... for **Shannon Edwards and her son Daniel**, going through a difficult time.



Crusader

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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



fccgalesburg@gmail.com Web Page – www.fccgalesburg.org

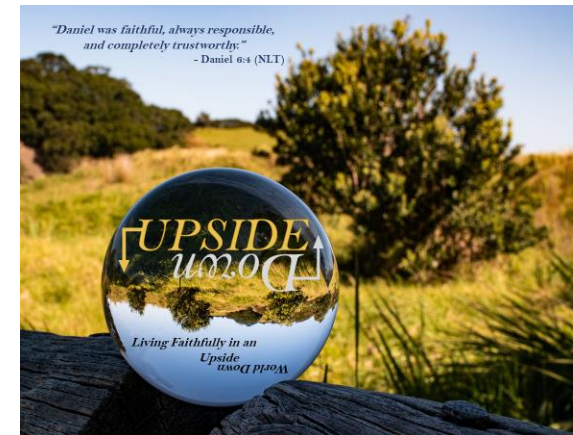
Director of Music – Steve Jackson sjackson@sandburg.edu

Secretary – Christina Griswold fccgalesburg@gmail.com

Bookkeeper – Lynda White fcclwhite@gmail.com

Co-Pastors: Gregory S. and Martha-Jean Fitch pastorgreg02@gmail.com & pastormj02@gmail.com

Vol. 74, No. 23, September 9, 2020



September 13, 2020
Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch
“Upside Down: Focused”
Scripture: Daniel 2

*Worshiping on the lawn at 9:30am.
Bring a lawn chair to sit outside or sit in
your car and listen to the
service on FM 88.1.*

*The service will be
recorded and then uploaded on Facebook page, and Webpage
(fccgalesburg.org) by Sunday afternoon.*

JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY

Join us for our Adult Bible Study class on
Wednesdays at 5:30pm, via Zoom. We are studying the
book of Daniel, led by Rick Warren's study “Unshakable”.

Contact Pastor MJ if interested in attending, please
call/text/email Pastor MJ and she will give you the invite to
join us on Zoom.





ANNUAL RESCUE MISSION HOG ROAST September 12, 5pm-7pm

Due to COVID-19, the Hog Roast this year will be a Drive-Thru event. There will be two drive-thru lanes and a carry out of Roasted Pork, baked beans, potato salad, fruit cup and a roll and cookies and bottled water.

Donations for the meal are: \$7 for adults and \$3 for children (age 11 and under. Please come for a great meal and help support Galesburg Rescue Mission & Women's Shelter.

HYGIENE KITS FOR CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Disciple Women are again inviting the congregation to join with them in making hygiene kits to be sent to CWS. These kits are sent to devastated areas where people have lost their homes in tornadoes, hurricanes, wild-fires and other devastated areas, They are also sent globally where the need exists.

We are asking each member to assemble their own kit by following these instructions. All items need to fit inside a one-gallon plastic zipper closure bag.

- * one hand towel measuring 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or microfiber)
- * one washcloth
- * one wide-tooth comb removed from package
- * one fingernail or toenail clipper removed from package
- * one bath size bar of soap in the wrapper
- * one toothbrush in the package
- * ten standard size bandaids

Do not add any extra items or toothpaste. A tube of extended expiration dated toothpaste will be added to each kit prior to its mailing by CWS. Do not enclose money inside the kit. If you would prefer not to shop for the items, you can make a donation of \$15.00 to CWS by giving it to our new treasurer Carolyn Spratt and she will send one check for all of the donations to CWS.



In our Traveler's Sunday School class, we have been studying David Jeremiah's *Living With Confidence in a Chaotic World*. And don't we have chaotic times? What with a pandemic, civil unrest, racial injustice and a politically divided nation we are truly in uncertain and unstable times. What are we to do?

David Jeremiah has 10 answers to that question that I believe are so helpful. The first one is to **Stay Calm**. We can stay calm in the midst of these trying times because we have Savior who loves us and is right beside us and will never leave us. Jesus said that we are not "to let our hearts be troubled or be afraid." (John 14:1) – because He has a plan and a future of hope prepared for us. And the good news is that, through the Holy Spirit, we have been given a gift of peace of mind and heart. That is the gift we need to remember we have when we are going through these difficult times.

I know when I start to feel overwhelmed and feel my anxiety or worry or fears starting to rise – if I dwell on those and fret and stew, I am worse off! My worrying or stressing "cannot add a single moment to my life" (Matthew 6:27) ... and it certainly is not helping resolve whatever it is I am worried about. ONLY when I calmly turn my concerns over to God, can I find perspective and peace and direction.

One Scripture that keeps coming up in my devotions and Bible reading today is from Exodus 14:14, which says: "*The Lord Himself will fight for you, just stay calm!*" It is a good reminder to me that God is going ahead of me to prepare the way and He will fight for me – and give me the strength to get through *whatever* comes my way. I just have to stay calm and trust Him.

The second thing David Jeremiah believes we need to do in order to live confidently in this chaotic world is to **Stay Compassionate**. We are living in such a divided and often hostile world right now. Turn on the news and you will see great evidence of that. There is some group who doesn't like another group and a lot of tearing down of one another going on. And I must admit, it seems all too easy to fall into that *we vs. they* mentality. We all can probably name someone or some group of people that we don't like and could easily name all the reasons why.

But that is not what God is calling us to do. We can't fall into following the ways of the world. Instead we need to be the ones to show a different way – of loving others – especially those who are different from us. That means loving and praying for even those folks who vote differently or who annoy us or we just don't understand.

David Jeremiah writes: "*This is the very time when the world needs us most of all. ... We need devoted followers of Christ who are at their best when the clouds come out. The Spirit encourages us to go outward and become all the more loving and forgiving.*"

Ask yourself – am I being compassionate in the way I talk about others? Do I tear down or build up? What does the world see in me? The Bible says, "They will know we are Christians by our love." (John 13:35) So, if a stranger watched you or listened to you for one day, would they know you are a Christian?

Stay calm! Stay compassionate! God bless, Pastor MJ