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

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Anniversaries:

29 – Bill & Lorraine Stone

Birthdays:

1 – Earlene Crouse, Ron
Patterson, Aaron Barton,
Jamie Kelley
8 – Linda Maleck
9 – Bill Stone
10 – Wanda Andrews,
Bill Jewsbury
16 – Mack Glass
21 – Hope Nelson
25 – Erik Galvin
28 – Dave Nalley
29 – Randy Schauer

... for **Shannon Edwards and her son Daniel**, for strength and hope as they are apart from one another. Also pray for Shannon as she continues her studies.
... for **Donna Flicek** and family grieving the loss of her mother, **Evelyn Danforth**. Visitation will be **5-7pm on March 31** at Hinchliff-Pearson-West Galesburg Chapel. Funeral will be at **10am April 1** at HPW. Memorials may be made to the family.
... for **J.B. Smith's sister, Jane**, who has cancer and is on hospice.
... for situation with Ukraine and Russia – that peace and diplomacy will reign.
... for New City Church, Mbandaka, Congo.



Trinity Lutheran Church will host
Community Holy Week **April 11-15**.
Preludes daily at **11:45am**, Services at
12:05pm.



Crusader

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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309-343-9960

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

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

pastorgreg02@gmail.com & pastormj02@gmail.com, [9com](http://9com.com)



Vol. 76, No. 7 ~ March 29, 2022

April 3, 2022

Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch

“With These Stones: Rejected Stone”

Scripture: Mark 12:1-12

April 10, 2022

Message by Pastor Greg Fitch

“With These Stones: Crying Stones”

Scripture: Luke 19:29-40



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

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

HOLY WEEK AT F.C.C.

Maundy Thursday, April 14: Join us in the sanctuary at **7pm** for Living Lord's Supper Drama and Communion. Witness what Jesus and His disciples might have said as they shared their last meal together. Experience the boldness, love, loyalty, grief and

sadness as His disciples tell of their relationship with Jesus.

Good Friday, April 15: Join us at **7pm** for Good Friday worship.

Easter Sunday, April 17: Easter worship at **9:30am**. No Sunday School.



HISTORY OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH – 2010 - 2019

God continued to bless First Christian Church in the decade from 2010-2019!

Physical changes with the church and grounds included purchasing and tearing down the house just north of the church to provide green space, putting in a new kitchen floor, and painting of the church message sign.

Repairs were made to the roof and to damaged

plaster in the sanctuary and balcony.

Pastors Greg and MJ were able to take a sabbatical in 2011 and in 2017. Besides visiting family, friends, and other churches, the highlight of their time of refreshing and renewal was a trip to Egypt, Jordan, and Israel with their family in 2011 and visiting Turkey, Greece and Rome in 2017. Interim pastors in 2011 were Rob Rixman, Max Rixman, and Andrew Wingo; and Bob Clark was interim pastor in 2017.

Bill Jewsbury retired as organist in 2012 after 14 years, and Amber Clark came to share her musical talents on the organ and piano. Church Secretary Terri Ohlert retired in 2019 after over 30 years, and Christina Griswold was hired to fill her position.

Miracle Days were held annually to give back to the community by using our time and talents. Work was done at the Purple Hanger resale shop, Safe Harbor, Defenders of Freedom Home, and even some of our members' homes. We "adopted" Nielson Elementary School and later King School. We also served the community with Trunk or Treat at Halloween, giving out candy at the Christmas Parade, and giving Christmas gifts to St. Mary's Square residents.

Several all-church picnics were held at the Fitch's home. Other fellowship opportunities included "Wild Wednesdays" in the summer, Golden Age and New Member banquets, baked potato bar, Sisters in Christ events, and an all-church Thanksgiving dinner to celebrate the 140th anniversary of FCC in 2012. A new tradition of celebrating birthdays once a month during coffee hour began in 2011 and carried on throughout the decade.

Vacation Bible School was a highlight each summer, with themes such as Sky, Panda Mania, High Seas Expedition, Campout, and God's Everlasting Love.

There were 6 adult Sunday School classes, 3 children's classes, and two worship services each Sunday: contemporary with Quest Band at 8:30, and traditional with organ and choir at 11:00.

We began a partnership with new City Church in Mbandaka, Congo. We supported our sister church through monetary donations and prayer.

God is good! We are truly becoming passionate disciples of Christ!



150th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

First Christian Church will celebrate our 150th Anniversary on **April 23-24, 2022**.

On **Saturday, April 23 at 10am**, we will have a Praise and Worship Service that will be a reunion of members of our Quest Band – that was formed 25 years ago! And then that evening at **7pm**, we will have a Hymn Festival, lifting up the great hymns of the church, played by some of our former church members and our current organists! What a great way to begin our

celebration with thanksgiving and worship to our God!

On **Sunday, April 24**, there will be a celebratory church service at **10:30am** that morning with our "Timothy" Will Jewsbury preaching. Following the service, a light lunch will be served, allowing additional time for fellowship and reminiscing. There is no charge for the lunch, but please call the church office for *reservations by April 12*. We hope that members and friends, old and new, will join together that day in celebration. A room of historical items will be open for viewing and a memorial gift as well as a book of the First Christian history will be given to attendees.

ART DEFINED on April 6th

On **April 6th**, the Youth group is having Art Defined come to lead us in an Easter painting. We want to invite the church to join us. The cost is \$40 each.


If you are interested in joining the youth, please call the church office no later than **Friday April 1 at noon**.

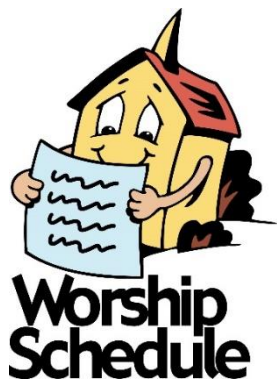


NO YOUTH GROUP APRIL 13th

There will be no youth group on **April 13th** for Spring Break. We'll see all of you again on **April 20th** from 5:30-7pm.

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Note: Worship is in-person as well as Facebook Live at 9:30am</i>	<i>Note: Adult Sunday School and Wednesday Bible Study are both on Zoom and in person.</i>	<i>In person classes are held in the Conference Room, along with Zoom, at the same time.</i>			1 10am – Danforth funeral at HPW noon – funeral luncheon at FCC	2
3 8:30am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School 9:30am – Worship Fifth Sunday in Lent 11am Disciples Sun. School 2:30pm - Rehearsal	4	5 1:30pm – Caring Ministers	6 9:30am and 5:30pm – Bible Study 5:30pm – Youth group with Art Defined 7:30pm – Choir practice	7 8:15am – Staff meeting 6pm – Girl Scout leaders	8	9
10 8:30am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School 9:30am – Worship Palm Sunday – Easter Special Offering 11am Disciples Sun. School 2:30pm - Rehearsal	11 6:30pm – Elders (hybrid) <i>Newsletter Week</i>	12 6:30pm - Council	13 9:30am and 5:30pm – Bible Study Spring Break – no youth group 7:30pm – Choir practice	14 Maundy Thursday 8:15am – Staff mtg 10:30am – Disciple Women’s Council 7pm – Living Lord’s Supper Drama and Communion	15 Good Friday 7pm – Good Friday service Office Closed	16
17 9:30am – Worship EASTER Easter Special Offering No Sunday School	18 7pm – Trustees	19 7pm – The Weekend - Cluster	20 9:30am and 5:30pm – Bible Study 2pm & 3pm – Worship at Seminary Manor & Hawthorne 5:30pm – Youth group 7pm – Historical Society 7:30pm – Choir practice	21 8:15am – Staff meeting 5:30pm – Men’s Night Out at Pizza Ranch and Ladies Night Out at Jimmy’s Pizza	22	23 10am – Praise & Worship Service 7pm – Hymn Festival
24 10:30am - Worship 150th Anniversary with “Timothy” Will Jewsbury 11:30am Lunch	25 Pastor MJ on vacation this week <i>Newsletter Week</i>	26	27 5:30pm – Youth group	28	29	30



WORSHIP SERVING SCHEDULE

April 3 – Diaconate Serving: Janet Foster & Aaron Barton
Lead in Communion: Chris Mowrer
Greeters: Janet Foster & Aaron Barton at North St.; Earlene Crouse & Brandy Hossein at Broad St.; Janet Christiansen at canopy door
Offering Message: Misty Stecher
Prayers: Pastor

April 10 – Diaconate Serving: Candi Moulton & Kim Barton
Lead in Communion: Tina Burns
Greeters: Candi Moulton & Kim Barton at North St.; Janet Foster & Aaron Barton at Broad St.; Janet Christiansen at canopy door
Offering Message: Jan Luallen
Prayers: Carolyn Spratt

LIVING LORD'S SUPPER REHEARSALS
Thursday, April 3 at 2:30pm
Dress Rehearsal, April 10 at 2:30pm

EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING APRIL 10 & 17

This Easter, let us reflect on
God's enduring love in the world –

- Love that creates: spiritual care for those in prison
- Love that inspires: visionary leadership that calls us to imagine new ways of being church
- Love that makes a difference: global ministry partners who work for justice, reconciliation and peace

General Ministries that receive support from the Easter Offering include ministries like: Disciples Home Missions, Disciples Women, Division of Overseas Ministries, Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, National Benevolent Association, National Convocation. You can read all about these and more at disciplesmissionfund.org.



**God's Love
Endures
Forever**
Psalms 118



SPRING CLEANING ADOPT-A-ROOM

Help us get the church sparkling clean before Easter and the 150th Celebration! Since a large portion of the church hasn't been used for basically 2 years due to the pandemic, it's time to clean it up. Please use the form below to "adopt" a room or rooms and return to the church office **as soon as possible**. We do have cleaning supplies at the church but feel free to bring your own. For more information, contact Pastor MJ (309-368-5338) or Kim Barton (309-371-9268).

Volunteer Name: _____

Volunteer Email: _____

Phone Number (10-digit please): _____

Please pick your room to adopt (circle)! You are welcome to choose multiple rooms.

- | | |
|---|--|
| * Attic – multiple church members or a family recommended | * Broad St Entrance – Upper Hall & steps between 1 st and 2 nd Floor |
| * Sanctuary – multiple church members or a family recommended | * Broad St Entrance – 1 st Floor including coat closet and steps to basement |
| * Basement Bathrooms (off of Broad St Entrance) | * North St Entrance, Hallway to Music Room, Steps down to the basement and landing |
| * Parlor & Small Kitchen next to Parlor | * Room 12 (Conference Room) |
| * Sunday School Rooms (2 nd Floor of Education Wing) – multiple church members or a family recommended | * Large Hall & Kitchen – multiple church members or a family recommended |
| * Education Wing Hallways & Staircases (1 st and 2 nd Floor) | * Small Hall, bathrooms, kitchen, & hallway, leading to large hall |
| * Library & bathroom | |

Please pick a time to complete your cleaning if you do not have access to the church at another time. (pick 'other' if these times don't work for you so that we can help find another time that works for you)

- ☐ Any weekday between 9am and 1pm (church office hours)
☐ Sunday, April 3rd – 4pm to 7pm
☐ Saturday, April 9th – 9am to 12pm
☐ Sunday, April 10th – 1pm to 4pm
☐ Tuesday, April 12th – 5pm to 8pm
☐ I have access to the building and will clean at a time that is convenient for me
☐ Other