MERGEFIELD BAG «BAG» MERGEFIELD ZIP\_COUNT

«ZIP\_COUNT»

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MERGEFIELD STREET «STREET»

MERGEFIELD CITY «CITY», MERGEFIELD STATE «STATE»

MERGEFIELD "ZIP" «ZIP» MERGEFIELD PLUSFOUR «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 Brady Warner, Randy Schauer

- ... for Mary Gehring as she continues cancer treatment.
- ... for **Shannon Edwards** and her children.
- ... for **Pastor MJ** who is having surgery on her hand, removing a cyst, on March 23.
- ... peace from violence in our country.
- ... for New City Church, Mbandaka, Congo.

Register for the church's General Assembly – in person and virtual. See disciples.org. Website:

## Crusader First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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

Phone: 343-9960

www.fccgalesburg.org

Office Manager – Lorraine Stone - <a href="mailto:fccgalesburg@gmail.com">fccgalesburg@gmail.com</a>
Bookkeeper – Lorraine Stone <a href="fccfstone301@gmail.com">fcclstone301@gmail.com</a>

**Director of Music – Steve Jackson** 

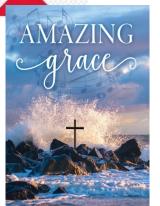
sjackson@sandburg.edu

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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### March 26, 2023 Message by Pastor Greg Fitch

"Amazing Grace: The Worst of the Worst" Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

## April 2, 2023 PALM SUNDAY

**Message by Pastor Greg Fitch** 

"Amazing Grace: Back from Denial" Scripture: John 21:15

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



#### EASTER TULIPS Order by Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>

The tulips are \$10 each and order forms will be in the bulletins. You can also call the office at 309-343-9960 and give Lorraine your order over the phone. Payment is needed at time of ordering and orders must be received no later than Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. No later orders can

be taken. Please make checks payable to First Christian Church and indicate on your check that it is for Easter tulips.

Please remember to take your tulip home with you after the Easter services as no deliveries are available!

#### **HOLY WEEK**

#### PALM SUNDAY ~ April 2<sup>nd</sup>



Celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, the week before His death and resurrection.

Easter Special Offering received

8:45am Coffee House Theology Sunday School Worship at 10am 11:30am Disciples Sunday School

## COMMUNITY NOONDAY HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT TRINITY LUTHERAN ~ Kellogg & Ferris Streets

Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

Preludes daily at 11:45am ~ Services daily at 12:05pm

On Good Friday: Pastor MJ brings the meditation during the 2<sup>nd</sup> word (12:30pm) and the choir will sing during the 3<sup>rd</sup> word.





#### **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE**

April 6th at 6pm in the large fellowship hall

This is the day commemorating the Last Supper of Jesus with His disciples and the initiation of communion. We will gather around tables for a simple soup meal together

and then remember the events of that night Jesus had His last supper with His disciples.

#### **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**

April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the sanctuary

Our Tenebrae Service of darkness will remember the day Jesus willingly suffered and died by crucifixion as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins.



#### HEARTSEEKERS WEEKEND

March 24-25 at Bethel Baptist Church

Karen Abercrombie - Speaker

\$75 for the whole weekend \$35 Friday only \$50 Saturday only

#### WORSHIP SERVING SCHEDULE

March 26 – Diaconate Serving: Aaron and Kim Barton

Lead in Communion: Pastor

Offering Message: Misty Stecher

Prayers: Carolyn Spratt

<u>Greeters:</u> Aaron Barton and Kim Barton at North St.; Karen Bjorkman at Broad St.; Brandy Hossain at canopy door

**April 2** – <u>Diaconate Serving:</u> Chris Wood and Marla Wood

Lead in Communion: Donna Flicek

Offering Message: Tina Burns

Prayers: Pastor

Greeters: Chris Wood and Marla Wood at North St.; David Wilt at Broad St.;

Leslie Wilt at canopy door

Elders Serving Out: Neill Unger and Renee Galvin



## **Knox County Right to Life Pancake, Sausage Breakfast and Bake Sale**

On **April 2**, Knox County Right to Life will be hosting its annual Pancake, Sausage Breakfast and Bake Sale at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1556 E. Fremont St. Serving time

will be from 8am until

1pm. Tickets will be

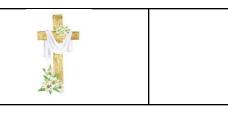
available at the door. Suggested donation is \$5 for adults, \$2 for children under 12, and a \$15 family maximum. Proceeds will be used to support



much-needed pro-life efforts in our area.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes
	Note: Worship services are in-person as well as Facebook Live	Note: Disciples Sunday School and Wednesday Bible Study are both on Zoom and in person.	
2 PALM SUNDAY  8:45am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library  9:30am – Coffee Fellowship – Celebrate April birthdays  10am – Worship  11:30am – Disciples Sun. School	<b>3 5pm</b> – Narcotics Anonymous Newsletter week	4:30pm – Caring Ministers 4:30pm – Yoga (parlor)	9:30am and 5:30 Bible Study No Youth grou 7:30pm – Choir
9 EASTER 9am – Easter Brunch 10am—Worship Special Easter Offering No Sunday School	10 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous	11 4:30pm – Yoga (parlor)	12 5:30pm – Youth 1 No choir
16 8:45am – Coffee House Theology 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship 10am – Worship - guest speaker: Chris Mowrer No Disciples Sun. School	17 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous 6:30pm – Trustees Newsletter week	18 10:30am – Naomi Circle 4:30pm – Yoga (parlor) 6pm – Elders/Council joint mtg 7pm – The Weekend Cluster	9:30am and 5:30p Study 5:30pm – Youth gr 7:30pm – Choir
8:45am – Coffee House Theology Sunday School in library 9:30am – Coffee Fellowship 10am—Worship 11:30am – Disciples Sun. School	<b>24</b> 5pm – Narcotics Anonymous	<b>25 4:30pm</b> – Yoga (parlor)	26





#### EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING APRIL 2 & 9

#### We Are Witnesses – Acts 10:39

On Easter, we rejoice in the good news that God's love is more powerful even than death itself. Gifts to the Easter Special Offering support ministries that help Disciples witness to that good news. General ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) witness to God's love through – relationships with global mission partners, health and social service ministries, mental health resources for pastors and

congregations, leadership development programs, stewardship education, new congregations worshipping in a variety of languages and worship styles, support for hospital and military chaplains serving around the world, and so much more.

We are witnesses to the power of God's love, from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth. For more information, visit disciplesmissionfund.org. Offering envelopes will be in the bulletins on **April 2 and 9**.

#### YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

Youth group meeting dates for the remainder of the school year are: March 22, March 29, April 12 and April 19 (final).

There will be no youth group on **April 5**<sup>th</sup> for Spring Break. We'll see all of you again on **April 12**<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7pm.





Pastors Greg and Martha-Jean will be on vacation **April 10 to April 17.** On **April 16,** Chris Mowrer will bring the message. If you have a pastoral need during the week, please call the church office or your shepherding elder.



## EASTER SUNDAY ~ APRIL 9<sup>th</sup> The glorious celebration – He has risen!!! Worship at 10am

Easter Brunch at 9am – no Sunday School
Please bring a brunch dish or two to share.
Table service & drinks provided.

#### WOMEN'S LENTEN SERIES

Were You There? A Lenten Reflection
With Traditional African American Spirituals
Wednesday Mornings at 9:30am in Large Hall
March 22 – "Do Lord, Remember Me" Speaker: Lisa

Cato-Crider

March 29 - "Were You There?" Speaker: Semenya McCord



# \* \* \* \* \* CLUB

#### BOOK CLUB - APRIL 1st

Our Book Club will be discussing "A Farewell to Arms" by Ernest Hemingway on April 1 at Hardee's. Please note this updated time of 11am (not 11:30am). Hardee's menu items are available for purchase. See you then ... REMEMBER 11AM!

#### APRIL BIRTHDAYS – APRIL 2<sup>nd</sup>

During Coffee Fellowship on **April 2**, we will celebrate April birthdays. If you have a birthday in April, you are invited to bring treats to share.





Thanks to all who came to our "Spud Dinner" Baked Potato Bar and for all the good help. We were able to contribute \$276 to the Disciples Mission Fund. – *Jan Luallen*