



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231  
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March 16, 2020



*If you would like to purchase a flower to be displayed on the stage on Resurrection Sunday, there will be an insert in the Sunday bulletin next week. There are several different plants to choose from, with different prices. Checks should be made out to FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH and all money (with the insert) should be given to Brenda Elam. The flowers may be designated in memory of a special person. The memorial designation will be on a card with the flower, and will be listed on a special insert in the bulletin. Questions? Contact the church office.*

Women's Christian Fellowship will be collecting for the Shopping Cart at Pleasant Meadows Senior Living-- collections will be delivered on April 3. These are the needed items:

- Kleenex (no lotion)
- Snack-size candy bars
- Bite-size peppermint patties
- Little Debbie Snack Cakes (any kind)
- Crackers (4 pack/6 pack)
- Cookies (individually packed)
- (Bins for items are in the cloak room.)
- Snack-size potato chips
- Rice Krispie treats

Please don't forget about our nursing home residents. Since most nursing care facilities are closed, they have no visitors. These items will help "make their day." Thank you for your help!!



**VBS will be here before we know it! Even though a date has not been set, there will be a PLANNING MEETING on Sunday, April 5, at 2:00 p.m. at Living Hope Fellowship. Anyone who would like to help with planning is urged to attend. This year's theme is "Mystery Island," produced by Answers in Genesis. Come help get the ball rolling!!**

# IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

John Cobb (friend of Paul Smith)- heart attack, not doing well  
 Deb Davis (Leslie Harris' mom)- inpatient rehab at OSF  
 Elderly client of Barb Watson- dealing with leukemia  
 Ethel Harville (Margaret Black's sister)- home, doing well  
 Shweta Khorana (Maddie Shunk's friend from India)- unable to return home, as are many foreign college students, because of COVID-19  
 Lois Johnson (mother of Elam's friend, Sarah)- prayers for a comfortable end of life  
 Mulvaney's- dealing with respiratory virus and colds (not COVID-19)  
 Lola Nowning (Sheryl Mulvaney's mom)- failing health  
 Greg Watson- Stage 4 kidney disease; consulting with doctor regarding treatment plan



*Tuesday (3-17)- Girl Scouts are cancelled until further notice*  
*Wednesday (3-18)- Celebration Choir is cancelled until further notice*

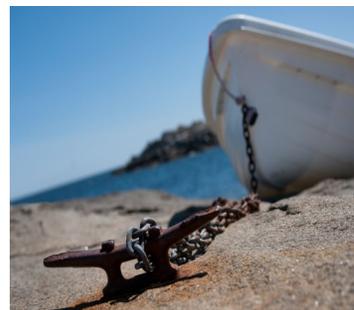
*Thursday (3-19)- SPRING IS NOT CANCELLED!!*  
*Sunday (3-22)- Cantata has been postponed; whether there is rehearsal or not is pending*  
*Tuesday (3-24)- Senior Breakfast has been cancelled (restaurants are closed)*  
*Thursday, Friday (3/26-27)- Preschool Screening has been cancelled*  
*Sunday (3/29)- Fellowship Committee meeting has been cancelled*  
*Friday, Saturday (4/3-4)- The Vine, at Lincoln Christian University, has been cancelled*  
*Wednesday (4/29)- Christian Women's Conference, at Lincoln Christian University, has been cancelled*

## March 15, 2020

<i>Auditorium</i>	71	<u><i>Sunday School</i></u>		<i>Blessed Believers</i>	14
<i>Nursery</i>	0	<i>Nursery</i>	0	<i>Ambassadors</i>	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>71</b>	<i>SMC (Age 3-1st Grade)</i>	4	<i>The Fellowship</i>	17
		<i>King's Kids (Gr. 2-5)</i>	9	<i>Chosen Ones</i>	6
		<i>Grades 6-8</i>	4	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64</b>
		<i>High School</i>	8		
<b>OFFERING TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2476.45</b>				
<i>Spendable</i>	<i>\$2474.45</i>				
<i>Worship (Coffee)</i>	<i>2.00</i>				

## **Anchor for the Soul** **3/17/2020**

Hebrews 6:19-20 – *We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf.*



The early Christians lived in a tumultuous time. They were oppressed and derided. They were mocked by their own countrymen and even betrayed by family members and close friends. Things they believed were rock-solid were shaken. The writer of Hebrews tries to give them encouragement in a chaotic time. He describes how our hope in Christ guarantees our safety. He uses the example of a ship's anchor. When it is cast into the sea, it grips the seafloor and holds the ship's position in safety. We know this is a flimsy analogy, because there are times when the storm is so bad the ship's anchor doesn't hold and the ship sinks. Which is why the writer goes on to say that a Christian's anchor is better, because our anchor is not cast down, it is cast up. Our anchor finds security in the mercy seat of God. Behind the veil. In the Holy of Holies. In the presence of God.

We are currently living through the COVID-19 chaotic storm. Where will we find hope? We won't find it in human products, human preparedness or human wisdom. That said, God did give us a brain and the ability to discern. We must not ignore or deny the situation. However, humanity cannot provide true safety. Our real safety is found UP. Our hope is in Christ.

R.C. Sproul put it this way, "Hope is called the anchor of the soul (Hebrews 6:19), because it gives stability to the Christian life. But hope is not simply a 'wish' (I wish that such-and-such would take place); rather, it is that which latches on to the certainty of the promises of the future that God has made."

Mike

<p><b>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b>          Website: <a href="http://www.fccvg.com">www.fccvg.com</a>          Church E-mail: <a href="mailto:fccvg@frontier.com">fccvg@frontier.com</a>          Minister: Mike Zylstra          Home Phone: 681-1034          Mike's E-mail: <a href="mailto:fccvgmin@frontier.com">fccvgmin@frontier.com</a>          Secretary: Brenda Elam          Office Hours: 9:00-12:00/12:30-4:30 (Mon.-Fri.)</p> <p><b>Elders:</b>          Elmer Decker          John Dilliner          Bob Dowler          Steve Lacine          Chad Reno          Joe Rothermel</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020</b>  <b>Elder: CHAD RENO</b>  <b>Offering Prayer: PETE EISENMENGER</b>  <b>S. SHUNK, ELAM, M. HUGHES, LOHMEYER, RENO</b>  <b>West Door Greeters: TERRY &amp; LOIS NADDY</b>  <b>South Door Greeter: CURALEEN GAMMON</b>  <b>Coffee Fix/Clean-up: MIKE &amp; JUDY ZLSTRA</b>  <b>March JAM Leaders: STEPHEN &amp; BECKY SINKES</b>  <b>AM Nursery: RIANNA &amp; TORIE ROTHERMEL</b>  <b>SS Nursery: MARYANNA SMITH</b>  <b>Offering Scripture: STEVE LACINE (II Corinthians 9:6-8)</b>  <b>No Shut-in Communion (Assisted living facility is closed)</b>  <b>Elder-On-Call for March: JOE ROTHERMEL (834-3346)</b></p> <p><b>REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS</b>  <b>John &amp; Shirley Waldrop</b>  <b>Brookstone Estates, Room 15</b>  <b>1106 E. Northline Rd.</b>  <b>Tuscola, IL 61953</b></p>
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MORNING WORSHIP	9:30 A.M.
JAM (Age 5-5th Grade)	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL	11:00 A.M.
YOUTH GROUP	5:00 P.M.
BIBLE STUDY	6:00 P.M.

CELEBRATION CHOIR WILL NOT MEET.