



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231
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May 12, 2020



Concrete cutter



Concrete demo

The remodeling of the men's room is progressing. It should be done by the end of May. Hopefully, we will be able to worship together by then. Until then, we'll keep you updated with information and photos!

New supplies



A few weeks ago, our Youth Group posted a video on YouTube and shared on their Youth Group Facebook page. Since many of you do not have Facebook accounts, Brenda Logan thought it would be important to share the link with you. Thanks to Kurt and Brenda for holding weekly ZOOM meetings with our Youth Group. To see the video: <https://youtu.be/zVfdptCdIE> (You will have to type in the entire address to see it on your computer- we cannot link to it from here.)

If you are looking for something to do, the windows at the church could really use a good washing. This would be a job for just a few people, not an entire group, but it would sure make the building look great. Call the church office, if you would be interested.



May 10, 2020

OFFERING TOTAL \$3223.00

**And 3,000 Were Baptized
5/12/2020**

Baptism

I am an avid reader of the *Christian Standard* magazine. FCC always has copies in our literature stand. Generally, if an article is good, I file it for later. However, in May's edition, publisher Jerry Harris wrote a short but powerful description of baptism (immersion), as the first of 10 foundation stones God expects of Christ's disciples, found in Acts 2:41-47. I'm going to summarize it here.

He says that *"Baptism is our initiation into salvation, our first confession, our sinner's prayer, our cleansing, our clothing, our guarantee, and our initial connection to the act that saved us—the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus."*

Harris then describes four reasons why, after hearing the first gospel message preached by Peter on the day of Pentecost and accepting it, 3,000 were baptized.

- 1) *"Baptism is the way God has chosen to signify us, 'stepping over the line.'" Harris says that in baptism, we cross the line-in-the-sand that separates our old life from our new life.*
- 2) *"Baptism is the way God wants us to ask Him to save us."* Peter elaborates on this in 1 Peter 3:20-21 using Noah as an illustration. *"Just as Noah and his family were saved through the water of the great flood, baptism saves us from God's wrath."*
- 3) *"Baptism makes me clean and presentable to God."* The power to cleanse isn't in the water, but in God (Galatians 3:27). Baptism goes a step further than just cleansing us of our sin. It also clothes us in God's righteousness.
- 4) *"Baptism connects me to the only thing that could ever save me."* It is simply the blood of Jesus. It is a picture of death, burial and resurrection. And, according to Romans 6:3-5, if I have been united with Christ's death in baptism, I WILL be united with Him in His resurrection.

If you've never read the *Christian Standard* I encourage you to begin. Feed Your Faith!

Mike

PRAYER NEEDS...

Family of Lori Broady- 4th Grade teacher at Tuscola; has 3 school-age children
Theresa Fields (former VG teacher, wife of Corky)- lives at Charleston Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center; has Parkinson's disease and is rehabbing from a broken hip
Lloyd & Marilyn Kellems- moving from North Carolina to Texas in a few weeks (Tuesday, May 12, is Marilyn's birthday- if you get the chance, send her a FB message or text of congratulations)
Family of Tommy Williams- son of Barb Watson's niece

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Website: www.fccvg.com
Church E-mail: fccvg@frontier.com
Minister: Mike Zylstra
Home Phone: 681-1034
Mike's E-mail: fccvgmin@frontier.com
Secretary: Brenda Elam
Office Hours: 10:00-12:00/12:00-4:30 (T, Th, F)

Elders:

Elmer Decker Steve Lacine
John Dilliner Chad Reno
Bob Dowler Joe Rothermel

No services at the church building on May 17.
No Shut-in Communion (Assisted living facility is closed.)
Elder-On-Call for May: BOB DOWLER (549-9791)
Mission of the Week: RURAL GRACE FELLOWSHIP
(Food Pantry)
Murdock, Illinois
Stevie Shearer, Contact Person

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Nina Boyer
Brookstone Estates
1106 E. Northline Road
Tuscola, IL 61953

Puzzle!

Find these words — all from the book of Acts — forward, backward or diagonally in either direction.

H N A I P O I H T E E Q S D L
 O J E R U S A L E M A Z A G N
 L P G I Z T A G E J S M C B E
 Y R E C R O S I P Y A Q R S H
 S A N H E D R I N S B V O A P
 P Y T H G I L A G A A V D Z E
 I E I C T I G U S E A N O T S T
 R R L J H O S K A I R A O M A S
 I W E P G A E P L Y A O H U C
 T E S U I T R R X A B P S L R
 B N E B A P T I Z E K J T A P O S
 C G H U R C H S O R T K E J T A O H
 K E T M T R C G O R T H E U I J
 N O M I S G C N N P B R L J U

Ananias	light
baptize	Paul
Barnabas	Peter
basket	Phillip
chariot	prayer
church	prison
Damascus	Samarita
Dorcus	Sanhedrin
Ethiopian	Saul
Gaza	Simon
Gentiles	sorcery
Holy Spirit	Stephen
Jerusalem	stones
Jesus	Straight
Joppa	synagogue

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

Across: 1. Elizabeth 4. Sapphira 5. Esther 7. Rebekah 9. Martha 11. Gomer 13. Miriam
 Down: 1. Eve 2. Bathsheba 3. Zipporah 6. Deborah 8. Rachel 10. Dorcas 12. Mary