



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231
FAX: 832-9348

August 18, 2020

Women's Christian Fellowship is trying a small outreach program. We are making "Son Shine Bags." They are small gift bags with 6-8 gifts. Each gift is wrapped and then wrapped in Scripture. The person receiving the gift bag opens one gift each day. A card is included in each bag, explaining how it works.

If you know someone who is sheltering-in-place and needs a little Son Shine and encouragement, please take a gift bag for them. It can be anyone-- they do not need to be a member of our church.

The gift bags will be available starting August 23rd, for about three weeks.



Any questions, please call me.

JUDI LOCK (832-9498)



Judi Berry (Naddy's neighbor)- home, doing well

Lori Boomgarden (Judi Lock's daughter)- fell, broke her wrist; has surgery to put in a plate on Thursday

Family of Doris Dailey- Cindy Coombes' mother

Della Mae Frahm- home after a brief hospital stay

Mariah Golightly- has been found and returned to her father in Villa Grove

Jim King (Margaret Black's brother)- fell, has a fractured back and broken ribs

Tom Lillard- his heart is beating on its own (temporary pacemaker hasn't been needed); had an echocardiogram on Monday

<u>ATTENDANCE</u> 8-16-2020	<u>OFFERING</u> 8-16-2020
9:30 A.M. Service: 39	Spendable: \$3709.00
11:00 A.M. Service: 32	
TOTAL: 71	TOTAL: \$3709.00

God, the Bible and Plagues 8/18/2020

“So... does the word “pandemic” appear in the Bible?” queried a believer, wondering if this situation might be connected to the biblical “end times.” Short answer – no, pandemic is not in the Bible. However, “plague” and “pestilence” appear 122 times.

One Hebrew word often used is maggephah, which can refer to slaughter (of battle), plague, pestilence (divine judgment), or a fatal blow. There are a half dozen other words that describe God’s use of diseases (or a threat of disease) to accomplish His divine purposes, warn of coming judgment for unrepentant sin, or rattle a nation enough to wake them from spiritual laziness.

So, is today’s pandemic divine judgement or just something God is allowing? I do not have the wisdom to provide a definitive answer. The bigger issue is: *Can I be okay with God being God and doing things I cannot understand and might not agree with?*

Besides the infamous ten plagues God foisted upon Egypt (Exodus 7-11), God brought famine, disease, and plagues on the Israelites as a nation and on rebellious individuals.

In Numbers 16:47-49, 14,700 Israelites died of a plague because of a coup staged by a discontent Levitical priest (and followers) who questioned Moses’ leadership motives. Aaron had to step in and make atonement for the people in order for the plague to stop.

In Numbers 25:7-9, 24,000 Israelites died of a plague because they began worshipping gods brought into the camp by Moabite women. Phinehas took a stand for righteousness by killing the offending couple. God commends him and stops the plague.

In the New Testament, Jesus speaks of his ability to heal diseases and plagues (Greek = mastix), as proof that He is the Messiah (Matthew 11:4-6).

Plagues, which will include natural disasters, are guaranteed to appear in the end times (Revelation 15 & 16). Yes, things are going to get ugly before the end. Our task is to be faithful when all around us people are losing faith in God’s sovereignty.

Mike



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Website: www.fccvq.com
Church E-mail: fccvq@frontier.com
Minister: Mike Zylstra
Home Phone: 681-1034
Mike's E-mail: fccvqmin@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

Services at the church building on August 23- 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
No Shut-in Communion (Assisted living facility is closed.)

Greeters: 9:30am J. Watson/J. Rothermel
11:00am S. Lacine/J. Watson

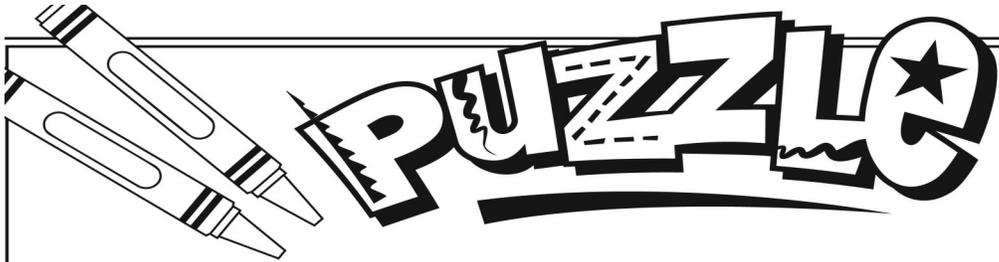
If you would like to greet in September, please contact the church office so we can set up a schedule. Thanks!

Elder-On-Call for August: CHAD RENO (377-9538)

Mission of the Week: RURAL GRACE FELLOWSHIP
Murdock, Illinois
Stevie Shearer, contact person

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

John & Shirley Waldrop
Brookstone Estates, Room 15
1106 E. Northline Rd.
Tuscola, IL 61953



A PLANTING Parable

Jesus had to explain his Parable of the Sower to the confused disciples.

Directions: Use the word bank to answer the clues. Then fill in the correct words below to complete Matthew 13:23, NIV.

WORD BANK: sow, soil, wither, root, thorn, crop, seed, farmer

- 1. Plant part that absorbs water _____
- 2. Contains what's needed to grow a plant _____
- 3. To plant _____
- 4. Sharp part of a plant _____
- 5. What is harvested. _____
- 6. To dry up and shrivel _____
- 7. Person who plants _____
- 8. The earth a plant grows in. _____

“But the 2 falling on good 8 refers to someone who hears the word and understands it.

This is the one who produces a 5, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was 3 n.”

M A T T H E W 1 3 : 2 3 , N I V

ANSWER IN NEXT WEEK'S SON TIMES

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER: prosperous