



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231
FAX: 832-9348

September 8, 2020

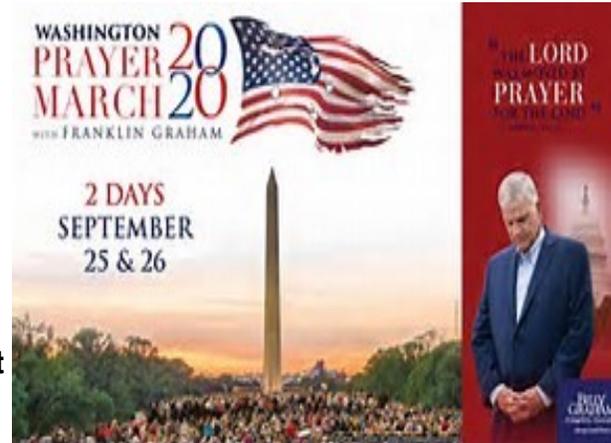


We will once again be helping out Choices Pregnancy and Health by filling baby bottles with change, cash or checks! The bottles should arrive sometime this week (hopefully before Sunday), and we'll be collecting them, filled with \$\$, to send back to Charleston by the beginning of October.

The bottles, along with a sign-up sheet, will be located at the SOUTH DOOR. Take as many as you want, fill them up and bring them back to church. Be sure to indicate, on the sign-up sheet, how many bottles you have taken; when you return them, be sure to check your name off the list. Thank you for your help-- Crisis Pregnancy & Health is very grateful!

America is in trouble like we haven't seen in our lifetime. As you know, we have no hope, outside of God. We will not make it unless God's people call on His Name for help.

Franklin Graham is inviting our congregation to join him and thousands of believers for Prayer March 2020 in Washington, DC on September 26. For those of us who cannot be there in person, please keep this event in your prayers. God is faithful and He promises to hear when we call out to Him. Please ask the Lord to intervene in this critical time for our country.



Women's Christian Fellowship

Women's Christian Fellowship
Thursday, September 10
6:30 p.m., at the church

Hostess: Karen Williamson
Devotions: Sarah Hughes
Missions: Sandy Bragg

ATTENDANCE
9-6-2020

9:30 A.M. Service: 34
11:00 A.M. Service: 31
TOTAL: 65

OFFERING
9-6-2020

Spendable: \$4874.00
Benevolence 10.00
TOTAL: \$4884.00

Melvin Greeley (Judy Zylstra's dad)- hip replacement surgery on Sept. 10

Mark Hefner (Barb Watson's brother-in-law)- has a mass on his intestines- is lymphoma; tests at Carle Hospital. His wife is Debbie, Greg Watson's sister

Steve Lacine- kidney stone procedure on Sept. 9

Cathy Landreth (friend of Jeff & Helen Watson)- recurrence of multiple Myeloma, going to Barnes for shots, starting Sept. 11; has stem cell transplant on Sept. 23

Amanda Lentz (daughter-in-law of Janet Cassida's friend)- 34 yrs. old, has stage 3 breast cancer; she is a young wife and mom to a 6 yr. old, a 4 yr. old and a 1 yr. old.

Terry Naddy- knee replacement surgery on Sept. 21 at Sarah Bush Hospital

Davin Smith- home!

Carl & Linda Soard- in a car accident; Linda is home, Carl was being evaluated to see if he needed to go to a rehab center



Thank You! 

Dear Church family,

I would like to thank each of you for all of the kind words, thoughts, prayers, cards and air hugs at the passing of my brother-in-law, Mark. They were all greatly appreciated. Thank you all.

In His Precious Holy Name,
PAUL WEBBER

Dear First Christian Church, Thank you so much for your continued support. ICOM serves as a connection point for global missions and as an encouragement to so many. Thanks for making it all possible. We hope you will be able to join us for the in-person conference in Indianapolis or the virtual conference on Nov. 20-21. Thanks again!

JOHN CLAUSEN
Director of Development



Bob Dowler is celebrating his 70th birthday on September 20. Frances (his wife) would like to have a CARD PARTY for this special day, since they cannot have an open house. You can send cards to Bob at: 221 Tyler Dr. Arcola, IL 61910

IT'S A SURPRISE-- don't let him know!!



BRADEN BOYER- was alternate in a golf match against Shelbyville (Braden plays golf for Tuscola High School)

BRANDON KELLY scored a 64 in a golf match against Tri City on Aug. 24 (Brandon plays golf for Villa Grove High School)

LOGAN LILLARD shot a 68 for VGHS girls golf team against Salt Fork on Aug. 24

MADISON LOGAN placed 59th in the St. Thomas More Saber Cow Invitational race on Aug. 29th. Madison runs on the VGHS Cross Country team

“Like a Wineskin in the Smoke.”

9/8/2020

I have read Psalm 119 many times. But had never really seen these words (vs. 83.) I tend to be a visual learner and my mind raced at the picture these words elicited. I know that wine skins were made of animal hides because, the hides would expand as the grapes or other fruit fermented into a beverage that could be stored.

In the New Testament, Matthew, Mark and Luke all report Jesus using wineskins as an illustration. Jesus referred to himself as new wine and his Disciples as new wineskins. In contrast, the Pharisees (old wineskins) lived according to the traditions of the Law (old wine). The good news gospel message, had to have a new heart, a flexible instrument that would allow the new wine of the Holy Spirit to fill and expand it and keep it good.

Christians are that new wineskin. However, there are times when we feel more like that “wineskin in the smoke” the Psalmist speaks of in Psalm 119. If you read from vs. 81 you discover that the author is in a state of anxiety. He believes he has failed. He is discomforted and feels that God’s salvation (intervention) is not happening. He is wearing down and is near the end of his strength. Vs. 86 says he is being persecuted without cause and he feels dried up, useless, shriveled and unattractive like a soot covered, dehydrated wineskin dangling in the smoker.

In despair, where does the Psalmist look? Vs. 88 gives us the answer. The only place to look when we feel like a waste is God’s love and God’s commands. Only God can bring life out of death, comfort out of hopelessness, flexibility out of rigidity, cleansing out of soot-covered filth.

When we feel like a wineskin in the smoke, turn to Jesus for cleansing, new birth and new purpose.

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, W, F)

Elders:

Elmer Decker

Steve Lacine

John Dilliner

Chad Reno

Bob Dowler

Joe Rothermel

Services at the church building on Sept. 13- 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

No Shut-in Communion (Assisted living facility is closed.)

Elder-On-Call for September: JOE ROTHERMEL (834-3346)

Mission of the Week: NEW CHURCHES OF CHRIST

EVANGELISM

Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

Matt Schantz, Executive Director

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Ken & Awanda Heyen

The Villas of Holly Brook

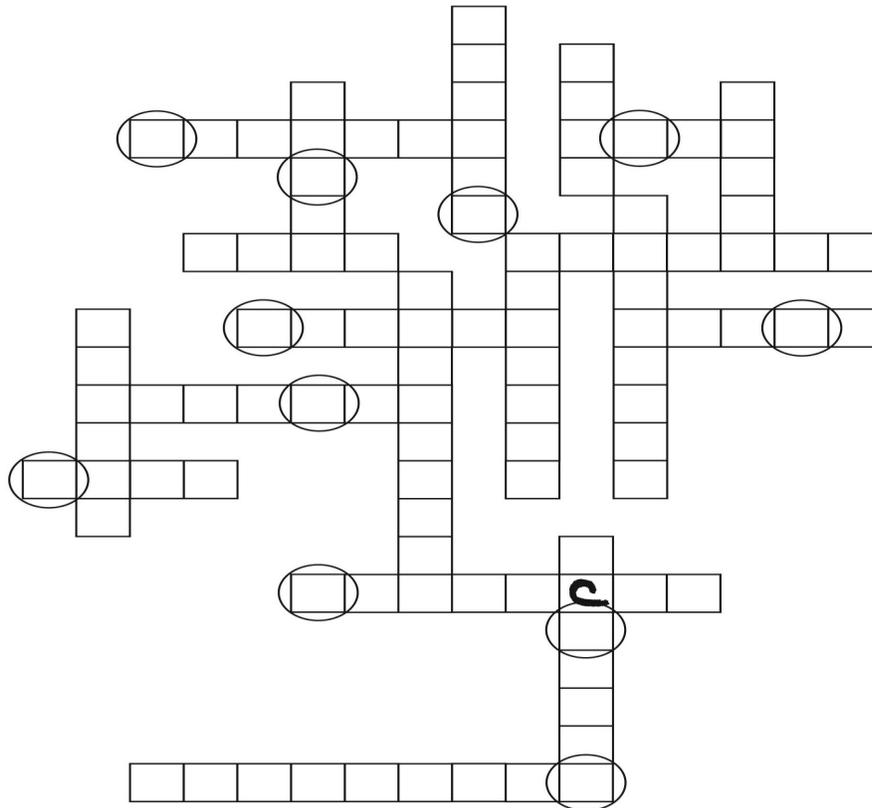
68 E. Airport Rd., Apt. #9

Savoy, IL 61874

Puzzle!

Fit the names of these Bible-times places in the puzzle. Then write the circled letters on the lines below, in the order found, to find out where your citizenship is.

Tyre	Sidon	Kedesh	Ephesus	Philippi
Cana	Berea	Sychar	Corinth	Bethlehem
Rome	Lycia	Galilee	Iconium	Jerusalem
Gaza	Athens	Ephraim	Damascus	



ANSWERS IN NEXT WEEK'S SON TIMES