



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231  
FAX: 832-9348

October 27, 2020



## IN THANKS-GIVING 2020

This year's *In Thanks-giving* project will be in support of **CHOICES PREGNANCY & HEALTH**, which FCC has supported financially for many years. Thank you so much for your personal support of this mission.

During November, we will be collecting monetary and supply donations for Choices Pregnancy & Health. We are hoping to collect \$750 for them to replace 3 well-worn loveseats in their client room, to update the rooms and make them more comfortable. Any additional funds will be designated toward car seats, which often cost between \$100 & \$150. Car seats need to be replaced, as they have expiration dates.

In addition, we will be collecting supplies from the list below, to help stock their "baby bucks" room. Choices Pregnancy & Health teaches classes to help their clients learn life skills. There is an "earn while you learn" program that allows clients to earn "baby bucks" to purchase items from what they have in stock. Please place items in the cloak room.

Any monetary donations can be placed in the container in the front of the auditorium, or mailed to the FCC office. *IF WRITING A CHECK*, please write "*In Thanks-giving*" in the memo line.

Items needed for the "baby bucks" room:

Diapers (size 4 or 5), Baby wash/soap, Hygiene items for mom (shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion, toilet paper...), Laundry soap or dish soap, Formula (usually the Enfamil brand), Chapstick for clients, Disinfecting wipes/spray (for the office, as they go through a lot of these)



**This Saturday evening, before retiring, be sure to set your clocks BACK one hour, or you will be extra early for Sunday morning services!!**

**ATTENDANCE**  
10-25-2020

*Morning Worship: 57*

**OFFERING**  
10-25-2020

*Spendable: \$2681.00*  
*Benevolence: 221.00*  
**TOTAL \$2902.00**

*"If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."*  
John 14:14, NRSV

Khristi, Raeanna & Marissa Boyer- doing fine, recovering from COVID-19

Nancy Burkeen (Kate Shunk's aunt)- incurable cancer

Garland Hubert- tested positive for COVID-19; is in quarantine

Mrs. Patel (wife of Dr. Mahindra Patel, who was Paul Smith's doctor)- she has ovarian cancer, and Dr. Patel is retiring so he can take care of her

Duane Piercy (minister of Victory Church, Camargo)- has COVID-19

Joyce Ritter- has rotator cuff surgery on Thursday

Rowan (Glenda Case's great-nephew)- has surgery on November 4

Sherrill Shunk- in Sarah Bush Hospital, still has COVID-19; her breathing and responsiveness is better, and she is in good spirits; prayers needed because she also has a dislocated hip

Roger Surtees- home from hospital, recovering from COVID-19

Alissa Young (young lady paralyzed in car accident)- came home from the hospital on Oct. 22 and is doing her rehab at home; she is able to take 10 steps with a walker



*We would like to say thanks to our church family for all the cards, calls, flowers and well-wishes as we grieve our daughter's passing.*

**DWIGHT & EVELYN HOWARD**

*I want to thank everyone for their prayers. I was given an amazing job offer/promotion that I both gratefully and happily accepted. My hours are changing, but we will get used to it. It's going to be a whole new adventure.*

*Thanks again.*

**SHERYL GASTON**

**Dear Villa Grove First Christian Church,**

**Thank you very much for allowing us to hold Larry's memorial service at the church. Your hospitality and willingness was appreciated. FCC was such a big part of Larry's life, so I know he's smiling from heaven. Thanks again!**

*Sincerely,*

**CINDY, CARA & HOLLY**

**\*\*King's Kids SS lessons for November are on the front pew behind the organ-- they can be picked up next Sunday. MRS. CANNON**

**\*\*This is a reminder that we are posting our Sunday's services online (audio only) on our church's website ([www.fccvlg.com](http://www.fccvlg.com)).**

**\*\*The Central Illinois Revival Prayer Team is hosting an hour of prayer at Penn Station in Arthur on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. This time of prayer is being set aside to pray specifically for the upcoming election, the spiritual condition of our nation, and other issues facing our communities, nation, and world today.**



***"I was only joking!" isn't always funny.***

**10/27/2020**

Elijah, God's fiery prophet, was on Mount Carmel. He had challenged the false prophets (of Baal) to prove that their god was real. They went through hours of worship chants. They slashed themselves with swords. Yelled themselves hoarse and danced to appease their god. Their god did not respond.

As he was watching the charade, Elijah made a number of sarcastic remarks. "Maybe you aren't loud enough. Maybe your god is in deep thought, on a trip, busy or asleep." The jokes seemed to anger these false prophets.

Jesus employed sarcasm when he told his disciples that it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than a rich man to enter heaven, and when he spoke of fault-finding people as those who should remove the plank from their own eye first.

In the Bible, joking or sarcasm was employed to teach and make a point to people who should have known better. Joking was never used to belittle, bully or make a fool of someone who was weak or discouraged.

In modern culture, children call each other hurtful names and say, "I was only joking." Adults use sarcastic jokes to elevate themselves above another. Spouses belittle to gain power over their partner. Teens mask their feelings with jokes. Bosses use humor to humiliate a competitor. Political candidates employ half-truths, spoken jokingly, to debase their opponent and gain an edge.

The results are often not funny. If you've ever been on the receiving end of a contemptuous remark or hurtful sarcasm spoken "in jest" you understand. It can destroy confidence and promote depression.

Proverbs 26:18,19 reminds us, *Like a madman shooting firebrands or deadly arrows is a man who deceives his neighbor and says, "I was only joking!"*

*Mike*



**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Website: [www.fccvg.com](http://www.fccvg.com)

Church E-mail: [fccvg@frontier.com](mailto:fccvg@frontier.com)

Minister: Mike Zylstra

Home Phone: 681-1034

Mike's E-mail: [fccvgmin@frontier.com](mailto:fccvgmin@frontier.com)

Secretary: Brenda Elam

Office Hours: 10:00-12:00/12:00-4:30 (M, T, W)

**Elders:**

Elmer Decker Steve Lacine

John Dilliner Chad Reno

Bob Dowler Joe Rothermel

**Service at the church building on November 1- 9:30 a.m.**

**Greeter: SARAH CANNON**

**Bible Study- Wednesday, October 28, 7:00 p.m.**

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

**Elder-On-Call for November: BOB DOWLER (549-9791)**

**Mission of the Week: EIU CHRISTIAN CAMPUS HOUSE**

**Charleston, Illinois**

**Matthew Thomas, Lead Campus Minister**

**REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS**

**Nina Boyer**

**Brookstone Estates, Apt. 8**

**1106 E. Northline Rd.**

**Tuscola, IL 61953**