



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

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March 2, 2021



Dear FCC Families,

The Elders have looked at all the latest data and have prayed over when to reopen our Sunday School and JAM times. Right now does NOT appear to be that time. It is concerning to us that Douglas County is last in Illinois with a very high COVID positivity rate. And the VG school just started back with in-school learning on March 1. Lots of kids have been quarantining.

Therefore, the Elders have decided it is prudent to not offer in-person Sunday School for the 2021 Spring Quarter (March, April & May). Summer quarter begins June 1, and we will see how things are at that time. We will be looking at all options.

In the meantime, please send cards, make phone calls, text and message encouragement to one another, and try to stay positive. We've come this far-- we can endure a few more weeks.

Mike Zylstra



Women's Christian Fellowship

The time for Women's Christian Fellowship on the March calendar is incorrect. The ladies will be meeting at 6:30pm on March 11.

Sara Williamson has asked for prayer for the women of Kivu:
"Dynamic Women in Missions has been asked to help the women of Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, that was raided by Jihadists who align themselves with ISIS. Dynamic Women in Missions has been asked to help in restoring dignity to the women of this province who desperately ran for their lives with only the clothes on their backs. A \$20 donation will be used to provide the native dress of the Kivu women, head scarf and 2 bars of soap for washing clothes. Please partner with us to provide 1000 dresses, scarves and soap"
<https://onemissionsociety.org/Projects/detail/restoring-dignity-to-the-women-of-kivu-dric>



<u>Sunday, February 21</u>	<u>Sunday, February 28</u>
<u>Attendance-51</u>	<u>Attendance- 65</u>
<u>Offering- \$3551.00</u>	<u>Offering- \$3170.00</u>
	<u>Spendable 2688.00</u>
	<u>Bldg.-Grounds 332.00</u>
	<u>Benevolence 150.00</u>

IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

Michael Bird (son of Joe & Kristy Bird; nephew of Nicole Poe)- has COVID-19, is in Carle Hospital with COVID pneumonia
Nancy Burkeen (Kate Shunk's aunt)- had scan of lungs, the spot of cancer had grown; waiting on another scan to check status of colon cancer
Joe Cassano (Toni's dad)- had triple hernia surgery last Tuesday
Juanita Dowler- weak, but recovering at home
Brenda Elam- recovering from cataract surgeries
Dave Forsythe- recovering from appendectomy
Darlean & Melvin Greeley (Judy Zylstra's parents)- Melvin scheduled for hip surgery in late March; Darlean doesn't need chemo
Patti Groves- home from hospital; had an intestinal infection
Family of Greg Gulick
Jamie Hamilton (Bob & Frances Dowler's daughter)- admitted to Carle with gall bladder issues; will be having surgery
The Kelly family- all recovering from COVID-19
Vincent McGee (John Klucinkas' brother-in-law)- fell and broke 7 ribs & cracked a vertebrae
Joyce Montgomery (Glenda Case's daughter)- back in hospital; having heart surgery March 11
Traci Poe (Pete & Linda Lake's daughter)- uterine cancer; surgery March 4
Joe Rothermel- recovering from carpal tunnel surgery
Quarantined school students/teachers
John Wax (Brenda Logan's dad)- still has health issues, but is now in Champaign (closer to home)



Thank you for the prayers during my hospital stay and for my foot surgery. Also, thanks for the phone calls, cards (birthday and get well) and visits! I appreciated it all very much! Love you all!

PATTI GROVES

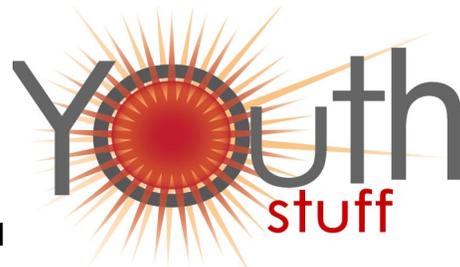
Thanks to all for the cards, calls and prayers for my dad's passing.

JULIE LACINE

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

ALLISON EISENMENGER- winner of the 2021 Douglas County Spelling Bee!!

KATE EISENEMGNER- a member of the undefeated 2021 VGHS Scholastic Bowl Team!!





Is “Giving” Part of Your Worship? **3/2/2021**

When COVID-19 hit in March of 2020, every church experienced a sudden reduction in services provided, and programming offered. Many saw their offerings take a hit. In July, I read that some churches reported a decrease in giving of up to 65%. Church staff had to be laid off and a few even closed their doors for good.

Some people stopped giving because they lost their job. Some because they needed their funds to pay their health bills. One report said that a number of regular church givers stopped giving because they weren't receiving any services.

Scripture advocates that Christians give from a worshipful spirit. The first example of this is Cain and Abel, who each brought an offering to God. Abel's was acceptable. Cain's was not. Abel offered a gift that honored God's will and was given in worship. Cain seemed to give out of a sense of duty and did not worship God.

Abraham gave a 10% tithe to Melchizedek, to honor and worship the “King of Salem” (some believe this King was a forerunner of Jesus.) Throughout the Bible, giving is directly linked to worship of God.

I am thrilled that the believers at FCC have not wavered in their giving. I believe the reason for this springs from mature faith and a desire to worship God with everything we have. We know that offerings proclaim our dependence on God, whom we trust to provide for our every need. We realize that our gifts express how much we love God's goodness. We give in humble obedience, acknowledging God's will above our will.

Each gift is given to worship God, and not just to pay the bills. Each gift is indeed a holy and sacred moment where believers loudly proclaim rock-solid faith and confidence in God as the author and provider of everything.

May God always be praised and worshipped with our giving.

Mike

<p>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)</p> <p>Elders: Elmer Decker Jerry Hughes John Dilliner Steve Lacine Bob Dowler Joe Rothermel</p>	<p>Service at the church building on March 7, 9:30 a.m. Greeter: MACEN HUGHES Wednesday (3/3) 7:00 p.m. Bible Study</p> <p>Elder-On-Call for March: JOE ROTHERMEL (834-3346)</p> <p>Mission of the Week: CHOICES PREGNANCY & HEALTH Charleston, IL Chris Bugle, Executive Director</p> <p>REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS Beverly Heflin Tuscola Health Care Center 1203 Egyptian Trail Tuscola, IL 61953</p>
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