



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231  
FAX: 832-9348

September 21, 2021

# LOVE PACKAGES

## Annual "In Thanks-Giving" Project

Steven Schmidt founded *Love Packages* in 1975 when God showed him the abundance of Christian literature he had and the lack of the same in 3<sup>rd</sup> world nations. *Love Packages* collects Bible donations- as well as donations of Christian books, Sunday school materials, and more – from people and publishers across the US, and ships it to a network of distributors all over the world. They ship more than 1,000 tons of recycled literature on the mission field every year.

### WHAT THEY CAN USE:

Bibles – New or used, any translation, New Testaments, portions, gospel booklets

Reference materials – any

Books – Christian adult/children, Non-fiction

Magazines, Daily devotionals, tracts – Any from Christian publishers

Sunday school materials – Adult quarterlies, Teacher's manuals, full student materials

CD, DVD, Blu-Ray – Music, movies, teachings from well known speakers (Billy Graham, Swindoll ...)

Puppets, nativity sets, etc. – Bible games, puzzles, anything to help teach the gospel

### ITEMS THEY CANNOT USE:

VHS/Tapes/records/8-tracks

*Guideposts*

Handiwork or busy papers from Sunday school

Secular books (other than dictionaries)

Donations can be dropped off in the containers in the coat room at FCC through October.

*Monetary donations are being collected now—a special collection container is located in the church auditorium.*

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2021**

Worship Attendance: 72

Offering: \$1,569.00

Sunday School:	47
<i>Sunday Morning Celebration</i>	4
<i>King's Kids</i>	5
<i>Grades 6-8</i>	3
<i>High School</i>	4
<i>Blessed Believers</i>	16
<i>Chosen Ones</i>	6
<i>The Fellowship</i>	9



Dear Church Family,

I am so thankful for the many cards, prayers and flowers from my church family. Whenever I felt upset or overwhelmed, I would get a card, or Mike would stop in at the hospital, and I would be able to calm my thoughts and trust that God had the situation under control.

One of the messages on our sign out front summed it up very well. The message was "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." How comforting is that??

Thank you all for the love and compassion you give so freely.

In Him,

Nancy Jackson

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

Shirley Bradbury- cancer has returned

Nancy Burkeen (Kate Shunk's aunt)- returns to Cancer Center in Chicago in October

Chris Clark- heading to Barnes in mid-October; possible liver transplant

Jan Elkin- home from rehab

Family of Shirley Hines- funeral is on Friday

Sarah & Shelby Hughes- not feeling well

Noah Kelly- has COVID-19

Mike Maness (Marilyn Kellems' 30-year old great nephew)- COVID-19 has affected his heart and lungs; will have surgery to remove blood clots from heart and lungs

Janet Paluczak (Joyce Ritter's cousin)- has three large lumps on collar bone, chemo & radiation start September 28

Steve Peters (friend of Mike & Judy Zylstra)- recovering from prostate surgery

Connie Prosser- mass on pancreas and liver; in Carle Hospital

Family of Tami Rocke- Sarah Cannon's friend

Samantha (24-yr. old granddaughter of Lloyd & Marilyn Kellems)- hysterectomy and mass on ovary

John Wax (Brenda Logan's dad)- Carle Hospital

Heidi & Alisia (Holly Wiggam's daughter & granddaughter)- COVID-19

**JOIN OUR  
BIBLE  
STUDY**

**Wednesday, September 22  
7:00 p.m.  
Church Fellowship Hall  
Studying Ray Vander Laan's series,  
"That the World May Know"  
Everyone is invited!!**

## **Maybe it's Not So Funny?**

### **9/21/2021**

The other day I heard the phrase, “Funny how that goes!” as a person was encapsulating a news story they read describing someone who had no family of their own, yet lived in service to others. When the faithful servant passed away, there was no money for a funeral, and no one stepped up to assist. Life is filled with funny things that really aren’t.

FOR INSTANCE: Funny how big a \$50 bill looks in the offering plate at church, and how small it looks in the grocery store. Funny that sitting through an hour-long worship service is torture, but a three-hour movie is easy as pie. Funny how we can talk, text, and tweet our friends for hours, but struggle to find five minutes worth of things to say to God in prayer. Funny how fast we can read a 400-page novel, but how slow we are at reading one chapter of the Bible. Funny how much time we need to schedule a church event into our personal calendar, but are ready to go out with friends in a moment’s notice. Funny how easy it is to remember gossip, and how hard it is to remember the Gospel. Funny how firmly we believe anything in print, except if the print is in the Holy Bible. Funny how effortless it is to memorize the lyrics of the latest top 40 hit, yet how much we struggle to memorize the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. Funny how calmly we proclaim God’s name in worship and praise on Sunday, and then use that name as a curse word the rest of the week. Funny how focused we are in advancing our education or career, yet how hard it is to advance the Kingdom of God. Okay, maybe it’s not so funny.

*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, Th)

#### **Elders:**

Elmer Decker	Jerry Hughes
John Dilliner	Steve Lacine
Bob Dowler	Joe Rothermel

Service at the church building on September 26, 2021, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School, 10:45-11:30 a.m.

Greeters: Toni Cassano (West); Sue Taylor (South)

Serving: C. Cannon, M. Hughes, T. Naddy, P. Eisenmenger

Coffee Fix: Lock/Cassida Coffee Clean-up: Lock/Cassida

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

Mission of the Week: CHOICES PREGANCY & HEALTH

Charleston, IL

Chris Bugle, Executive Director

#### **REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS**

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