



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231
FAX: 832-9348

December 14, 2021

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19



The Youth Group will be leading the worship service, and the "Christmas Choir" will be presenting "Take Me Back to Bethlehem," under the direction of Judy Zylstra. There will also be a nativity scene, presented by the younger Sunday School classes. Worship with us this Sunday!!

Christmas Cards



Steve & Sandy Bragg
Dave & Jean Forsythe
Judi Lock
Patti Groves
Kent & Brenda Elam
Rex & Jan Duzan
Lincoln Christian University

Tom & Margaret Black
John & Linda Dilliner
Kurt, Brenda, Dalton & Madison Logan
Bob & Frances Dowler
Paula Webber & Dan Crawford
Mike & Judy Zylstra

Phyllis Vaught
Ray Weaver
Joyce & Greg Ritter
Curaleen Gammon
Glenda Case

Christmas Eve Service
Friday, December 24
7:00 p.m.



DECEMBER 12, 2021

Worship 100

Offering: \$13,855.89

Spendable 13,438.89

Memorial 415.00

Coffee 2.00

Sunday School 60

Sunday Morning Celebration 5

King's Kids 5

Grades 6-8 3

High School 7

Blessed Believers 12

The Fellowship Class 21

Chosen Ones 5

On our
Prayer
List



Penny Arnold (Holly Wiggam's sister)- sick
Nancy Burkeen (Kate Shunk's aunt)- cancer
Christine Clark- surgery went well; hopes to be released Tuesday
Frances Dowler- knee replacement surgery on December 22
John Hughes (Jerry & Sarah's son)- in car accident, with no serious injuries
Family of Jim King- Margaret Black's brother

Suzie Mason (Phyllis Henderson's sister)- health issues

Larry Postlewait (close friend of Rothermel's)- serious health issues; prayers also for his wife and two daughters

Torie Rothermel- taking her exam on Thursday for her Certified Nursing Assistant license

Families of tornado victims

John Waldrop- Tuscola Health Care Center

John Wax- Pleasant Meadows Senior Living

Paula Webber's "bonus" granddaughter, Kaleigh- gave birth to Emily Jane on December 10

Our local Rural King store, located in Champaign, is celebrating "Church Week" from Dec. 9-24.

Rural King will donate 10% of each valid Rural King receipt's total (after sales tax) to a registered Christian organization of your choice. Ask about it at the register.

Rural King®
America's Farm and Home Store



**Church Week-
Supporting Christian Organizations**

Mental Health First Aid is a course that teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem, or experiencing a crisis. As a participant, you will learn an action plan to use during your interaction with others.

There are courses focusing on adults working with youth and also adults working with other adults. You can choose to participate in one or the other, or decide to take both. Each course has a separate manual that you will also get to keep, which has many resources and more information related to mental health and options for engaging with those who may be struggling.

We are looking to begin offering these courses starting in January, 2022. The course will be taught on a Saturday (date to be determined later), and will be an 8-hour course with lunch provided. At the end of completing the course, you will be entered into the Mental Health First Aid database, and will receive a certificate of completion. The cost of attending each course is \$5.

Sara Williamson will be instructing these courses. If you are interested, please complete the sign-up sheet at church, which will be located on the south hallway bulletin board (we will let you know when the sheet has been posted). If you have any further questions, please contact Sara at williamson-sara21@gmail.com or (217)621-3037 (please leave a message).

The Meaning of Christmas in the letter "W"

12/14/2021

My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's winter pageant. I knew I'd have to work the night of the production. So, I made arrangements with the teacher to watch the dress rehearsal. I showed up at the appointed time and discovered about a dozen parents who were also unable to attend the performance.

Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas," I didn't expect anything other than songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer. So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," I was slightly taken aback by its bold title.

Nicholas was aglow. During the song, those in the front row held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. The rehearsal was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed a small, quiet, girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down. The small audience snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding up her "W".

The giggles continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together. A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. Some even brimmed with tears. In that instant, we understood the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place.

*For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear: "**CHRISTWAS LOVE**" And, I believe, He still is. Thank you, children for the unintentional reminder that the true meaning of Christmas always focuses on Christ.*

(copied - Unknown Author)



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 (M, T, Th)

Elders:

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

Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 10:45-11:30 a.m.
Greeters: Glenda Case (West); Raymond Weaver (South)
Serving: B. Kelly, B. Kelly, N. Kelly, P. Eisenmenger
Coffee Fix & Cleanup: Brenda Elam

Elder-On-Call for December: JOHN DILLINER (621-9807)

Mission of the Week: OBLONG CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN HOME
Oblong, Illinois
Amy Kemp, Exec. Director of Operations

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Ray Shunk
Brookstone Estates, Apt. 30
1106 E. Northline Rd.
Tuscola, IL 61953