



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231
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December 7, 2021



Are you dreading the winter blahs? WCF would like to invite you to become a Secret Sister to another church lady from January 1 to February 28. Secret Sisters would give cards, small gifts, or kind deeds during January and February. Secret Sisters can reveal their identity with their last treat in late February.

If you would like to participate, there is a survey to be filled out and returned to the folder near a collection tray (at either door) by **THIS SUNDAY**. We will randomly choose a Secret Sister for you to spoil, and distribute your sister's information in a sealed envelope by January 2, 2022. We'd like to suggest you do one special thing for your Secret Sister each week. The emphasis is not on how much we spend, but the creative ways we can encourage each other. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact a WCF officer: Judi Lock, Karen Williamson, Sarah Cannon and Janice Thode.

Women's Christian Fellowship will leave the church at 10:30 a.m. on December 9 to have lunch at Yoder's in Arthur. Mike will be driving the van for us. This will be in place of our December Meeting.

JUDI LOCK, PRESIDENT OF WCF



All ladies of the church are invited to attend a baby shower for Christine Herschberger. The shower will be held on Sunday, December 12, at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Herschberger's are expecting a boy and could use lots of diapers (both cloth and disposable), including overnight diapers. Questions? See Sarah Cannon or Judy Zylstra

DECEMBER 5, 2021

Worship 90

Offering: \$5,954.00

Spendable 5,515.00

Bld. & Grounds 65.00

Memorial 290.00

Tickets 84.00

Sunday School 58

Sunday Morning Celebration 6

King's Kids 5

Grades 6-8 2

High School 7

Blessed Believers 14

The Fellowship Class 17

Chosen Ones 7

IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

Family of Edie Brandenburg- Linda Stanfield's son-in-law's mother
Nancy Burkeen (Kate Shunk's aunt)- cancer
Christine Clark- having a hysterectomy on Dec. 13
Lea Daly (Lora & Steven Gordon's daughter)- had tonsillectomy last Thursday
Lily Gawthorp (friend of Shunk's)- severe medical issues
Nancy Jackson- is home
Tuscola Health Care Center- has COVID-19 again
John Waldrop- Tuscola Health Care Center for rehab; would love visitors
John Wax- back to Pleasant Meadows Senior Living; still has medical issues



During the holiday season, everyone is urged to mail or bring in a Christmas card to be posted on the bulletin board. This will be a card to the whole congregation. Not only is this a blessing to us all, but it can save a little stamp money, as your card is for everyone! If you bring in a card on any Sunday, just leave it on the counter in the copy room. We'll post it on the bulletin board.

*Daren & Sandy Moses
Sue & Randy Taylor*

*Janice & Paul Thode
Choices Pregnancy & Health*

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 Night Before Jesus Came **12/7/2021**

'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house,
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
The bibles were abandoned on the shelf without care,
in hopes that Jesus would not visit there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed,
not once ever kneeling or bowing their head.

Mama in her rocker with babe on her lap,
was watching "The Late Show" while I took a nap.

When out of the east there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
A light, like the sun, sent forth a bright ray,
I knew in a moment, this must be the day.

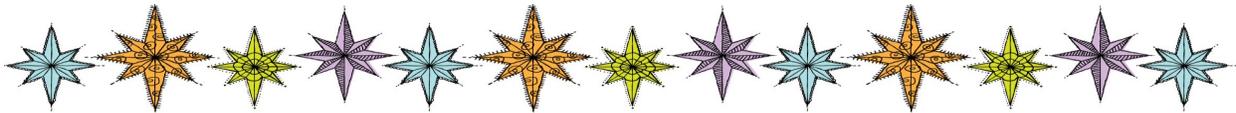
The light of His face made me cover my head.
It was Jesus, returning, just like He said.
His eyes shown of love as he opened the book,
For the names of the saved He would carefully look.

His eyes shone of love as he searched for my name.
When he said, "It's not here," my head hung in shame.
The people whose names had been written with love,
He gathered to take to His Father above.

I fell to my knees, but my prayer was too late.
I had not repented and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as He rose out of sight,
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear,
The coming of Jesus, as promised, is near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call,
We'll find that the Bible was right after all.

{source unknown – adapted for this space}



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: Margaret Black (West); Garland Hubert (South)

Serving: S. Shunk, D. Shunk, D. Logan, K. Logan

Coffee Fix & Cleanup: Judi Lock/D. & K. Williamson

Wednesday, Dec. 8-- Elders mtg. 6:00pm,

Board meeting 7:30pm

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

Mission of the Week: CHRISTIAN CAMPUS HOUSE

EIU- Charleston, Illinois

Matthew Thomas, Lead Campus Minister

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Nina Boyer

Brookstone Estates

146 Brookstone E St., Room 42

Paris, IL 61944

Sunday, December 11 is the last day to bring items in to the church for this program. Thanks!



**Youth Sunday Special Offering for
Villa Grove Schools Snack Pack program
Collection Nov. 28 - Dec. 12**



This year for youth Sunday on Dec. 19, the youth group will again be asking for a special offering. The offering will go to the Villa Grove School Snack Pack program. With the holidays, it is the perfect time to help those in need. We will be collecting non-perishable items (preferably individually packaged) from Dec. 1 to the 12th. If you would like to do a monetary donations by writing checks to "Villa Grove School" NOT to the church. We will make sure they get the check or you may send it directly to the school. Thank you for helping us give to our youth. The list of non-perishable items are listed below.

Please no peanut butter or nut products.

Mac-n-cheese cups	Fruit cups	Granola bars	Chip bags
Packets of tuna and/or chicken	Fruit snacks	Oatmeal packets	Snack crackers
Soup with meat and/or vegetables	Fruit bars	Breakfast bars	Oatmeal Cream Pies
Cups of noodles/ Ramen noodles/ rice/mashed potatoes	Dried fruits/raisins	Jello cups/Pudding cups	Bags of pretzels and/or goldfish
Beef jerky/Slim Jims/Pepperoni/Dinty Moore meals	Applesauce	Individual boxes of cereal	Cheese & cracker packs
Canned vegetables	Canned fruit	Pop-tarts	Juice boxes

