



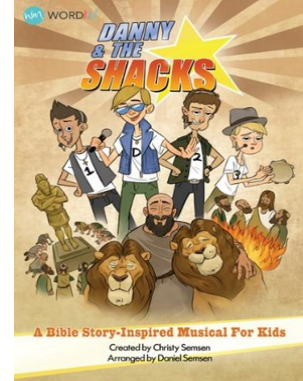
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231  
FAX: 832-9348

January 3, 2023

The youth of all the area churches are invited to be part of a youth musical, Danny & the Shacks, to be performed on Sunday, February 12, 2023. Students are encouraged to bring their friends, too. This is an effort to have a community-wide gathering of youth, working together in a Christian setting on singing, acting, preparing sets and costumes as they prepare to perform this program. Students in Kindergarten up through High School are welcome.

Rehearsals will be Sundays- January 8, 15, 22, 29, and February 5, 12, from 3:00-5:30pm at First Christian Church, Villa Grove. On February 12, we will have a slightly shortened rehearsal, followed by the performance. The musical should be about 45 minutes in length.



*The Fellowship & Outreach Ministry will meet on SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, immediately after Sunday School, in the Fellowship Hall. Bring ideas for a February event.*

Our January 12 Women's Christian Fellowship meeting will be at 2:00pm. We will be having lunch at 1:00pm. Unless I contacted you to bring something specific, please bring four sandwiches, cut in half. Hope to see you all there! Questions? Call me.

JUDI LOCK  
(217)832-9498



DECEMBER 25, 2022

Worship 97  
No Sunday School

Total Offering: \$8080.25  
Spendable: 7,619.00  
Benevolence 461.25  
Final Deposit 400.00

JANUARY 1, 2023

Worship 69  
Sunday School 53  
  
Sunday Morning Celebration 0  
King's Kids 1  
Jr. High & High School 7  
Blessed Believers 18  
The Fellowship Class 23  
Chosen Ones 4  
  
Total Offering: \$3566.00  
Spendable: 3,556.00  
Benevolence 10.00

# IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

Nancy Burkeen (Kate Shunk's aunt)- hospice, in final days

Toni Cassano- traveling for work

William Ernst (Frances Dowler's brother)- heart attack on Dec. 27; is home, doing better

Della Mae Frahm- in Harsha Behavioral Center, Terre Haute, for two weeks; doing well

Cynthia Kaag (co-worker of Nancy Jackson)- part of kidney to be removed

Bill O'Neill (Tolono-friend of Rich & Jeretta Mabry)- stroke and brain bleed, awaiting surgery

Family of Mary Overturf- good friend of Sarah Cannon

Ray Shunk- home from hospital

Family of Steve Vollmer- friend of Greg & Joyce Ritter



**\*\*The 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 15, at 11:00am. Any annual reports for the meeting need to be in the church office as soon as possible.**

**\*\*The January Elders meeting and Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 18 at 6:00pm and 7:30pm.**

**\*\*The 2023 Offering envelopes are available in the auditorium, and may be picked up at any time.**

Are you dreading the winter blahs? WCF would like to invite you to become a Secret Sister to another church lady from Feb. 1-Mar. 31. Secret Sisters will give cards, small gifts, or kind deeds during these two months, and can reveal their identity with their last treat in late March.

If you would like to participate, please return the form (found in the folder near the collection plates at both doors) by JANUARY 22. We will randomly choose a Secret Sister for you to spoil, and will give you the info in a sealed envelope by Jan. 29. We suggest you do one special thing for your Secret Sister each week. The emphasis is not on how much you spend, but the creative ways you can encourage each other.

Questions? Contact a WCF officer: Judi Lock, Karen Williamson, Sarah Cannon or Janice Thode.



*Dear beloved Church Family,  
Judy and I wish to thank everyone for the cards and gifts given to us during this Christmas season. Thank you to the church board for the Christmas bonus.  
May God bless our ministries in 2023.*

**MIKE & JUDY ZYLSTRA**

## Who is God? 1/3/2023

It is the most foundational question that anyone could ever ask. Is God even knowable? And, if He is, how has he revealed himself to humanity? To just say, "We can know him through scripture," isn't enough. Jesus wants us to also know God through creation, through the Holy Spirit's guidance. And, most importantly, through the testimony of one who knows God intimately--Jesus, our incarnate God.

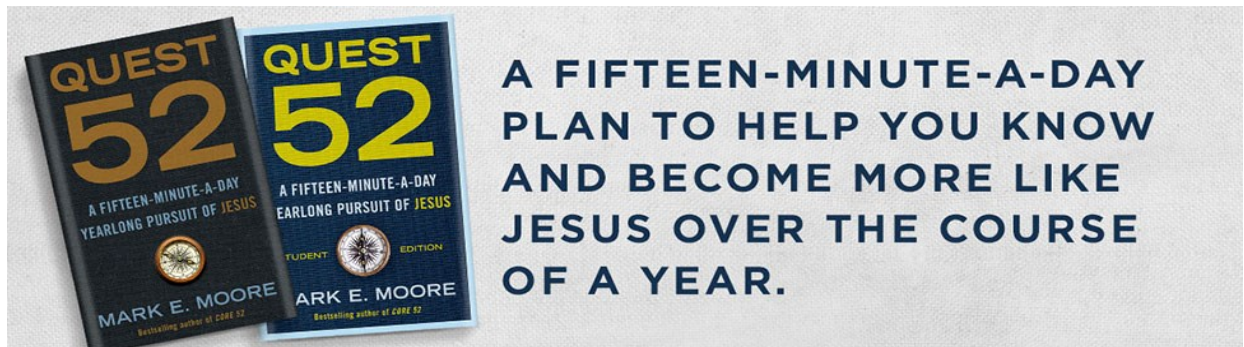
Throughout 2023, the church will be doing a deep-dive into the person, power, preaching and passion of Jesus. We call ourselves "Christian," but do we really belong to Christ, or do we just belong to an image of who we think Jesus is or should be? And, if the church claims to be the body of Christ, what does that really mean? Is Jesus really our head?

It isn't an understatement to proclaim that Jesus is the person who has had the largest impact on humanity. Jesus is so different from other gods of the world. Only Jesus is personal. Only Jesus wants to be near His followers. Only Jesus has love for all, even his enemies, those who deny His existence, and those who blaspheme His name. Only Jesus willingly went to the cross to suffer and sacrifice himself, so that humanity might have hope.

Other deities tend to be demanding, aloof, standoffish, and unreasonable. They will accept praise and adulation from those loyal to them, but they generally demand that followers remain loyal or be destroyed. Other gods do not pray for or love their enemies. Instead, at best they tell the faithful to ostracize the unbeliever. At worse they demand the death of the infidels.

We want to be better disciples of Jesus, the Christ. Join us in our *Quest 52*, in our desire to be in hot pursuit of Jesus, our only hope for eternal salvation.

*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, F)

#### Elders:

John Dilliner

Jerry Hughes

Bob Dowler

Joe Rothermel

Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Greeters: Janet Cassida (West) Margaret Black (South)

Coffee Fix & Clean-up: Zylstra/A. Phelps & G. Hubert

Serving: B. Kelly, N. Kelly, S. Sinkes

Elder-On-Call for January: JERRY HUGHES (217)369-5495

Mission of the Week: EIU CHRISTIAN CAMPUS HOUSE

Charleston, Illinois

Matthew Thomas, Lead Campus Minister

#### REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Beverly Heflin

Tuscola Heath Care Center

1203 Egyptian Trail

Tuscola, IL 61953