

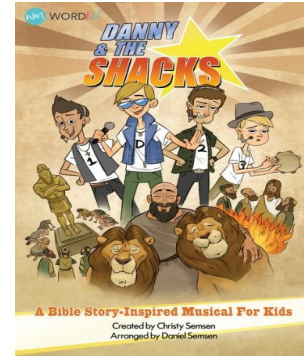


FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231
FAX: 832-9348

January 31, 2023

You are invited to the
performance of
Danny & The Shacks
Sunday, Feb. 12
5pm
First Christian Church,
Villa Grove



*February Fellowship & Fun
Sunday, February 19-- Noon
FCC Fellowship Hall*

*Please bring an ethnic food such as German potato
salad, tacos, Dutch chocolate...
Table service & drinks are provided.*

The 2023 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE will be held at Lincoln Christian University on Saturday, February 18, from 9:00am-3:00pm. If you would like to attend this conference, please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, south hallway. The church will pay the registration fee, lunch is included, and we will take the church bus. Please sign-up by FEBRUARY 9. Please consider attending this valuable conference!

JANUARY 29, 2023

Worship 93

Sunday School 61

Sunday Morning Celebration 2

King's Kids 3

Jr. High & High School 8

Blessed Believers 14

The Fellowship Class 28

Chosen Ones 6

TOTAL OFFERING: \$2,488.00

Spendable 2,250.00

Benevolence 20.00

Memorial 175.00

Worship 3.00

2023 CHURCH LEADERS

**Elders: John Dilliner, Bob Dowler, Jerry Hughes,
Joe Rothermel**

**Deacons: Bill Akers, Curt Cannon, Pete
Eisenmenger, Terry Naddy, Seth Shunk, Stephen
Sinkes, Jeff Watson**

**Trustees: Matthew Boyer, Curt Cannon, John
Dilliner, Rex Duzan, Garland Hubert, Jeff Watson**

Financial Secretary: Kent Elam

Treasurer: Helen Watson

Missions Treasurer: David Shunk

**Servers: Rex Duzan, Duncan Hughes, Macen
Hughes, Bob Kelly, Brandon Kelly, Noah Kelly,
Dalton Logan, Kurt Logan, David Shunk**

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Bill Akers- back in Carle Hospital

Tom Black- Transitions care

Carolyn Eckarty (friend of Sarah Cannon & Karen Williamson)- health is deteriorating and hospice called in

Della Mae Frahm- had dental surgery Tuesday

Lora Gordon- has MRI on Friday to see what they can do to help arthritis in her spine

Beverly Heflin- hospice (at Tuscola Health Care Center)

George Moran (Tony & Creighton Jackson's grandfather)- will have a chemical stress echo this week

Sara Williamson- leaving Feb. 15 for mission trip to Panama City, Panama

**YOUTH GROUP WILL MEET THIS SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 5, AT 5:00 P.M. AT THE LOGAN'S FOR
MOVIE NIGHT!! SEE YOU THERE!!**



The Bible commands us to “Encourage One Another.” To help families be more intentional with our encouragement, we are starting a *FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE MINISTRY*. Within the next month, ten “Facilitator Families” will be contacting a group of five or six other family groups, and this *Friendship Circle* will share contact information, and spend one year praying for each other, connecting, and being and encouragement to each other. May God be glorified through our encouragement.

**Singers needed for
Community Easter Cantata!**

Directed by Janet McCumber

Rehearsals on Sundays- Feb. 19, 26

March 5, 12, 19, 26

Performance Palm Sunday- April 2, 2023

All held at First Christian Church, Villa Grove

ALL VOICES WELCOME, Jr. High-Adult

Performance will be accompanied by area instrumentalists.

For more information:

Janet McCumber (217)493-2425

Judy Zylstra (320)224-7665

Or FCC (217)832-5231



When the Stuffed Lamb is No Longer Needed
1/31/2023



Our daughter was not quite two when we moved to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Though Lisa had plenty of stuffed animals, she became very attached to a stuffed lamb. There was a twist though-- she called it a donkey. And she was pretty adamant about it even when bystanders would try to correct her. We chalked it up to the imagination of children. We lived in that area for 2.5 years and Lisa's "donkey" was always by her side. It was a stressful time in life.

Then, in June of 1991, we moved to Minnesota. We noticed that Lisa was not carrying her "donkey" around much anymore. She even told us it wasn't a donkey, but a lamb. Soon, she started school. Made new friends. Found new interests, and the stuffed lamb was no longer needed. What happened? Much like a child's security blanket, Lisa needed her "donkey" to have a safe space. When a new safe space and lower stress life was introduced to her, the old security was replaced.

In a way, that is what happens when a person comes to Christ. Before Christ, people are obsessed with the things of this world. We hold tight to our bad habits and negative behaviors. We refuse to give up our anger and unforgiveness, even giving them different names so they are palatable to our emotions. We think the world offers security, but it really doesn't.

Then Jesus enters our life, and He wants us to be preoccupied with Him. To be all our minds think about. When we make Jesus our new safe space, our old securities are replaced with eternal securities that are only found in Christ.

Galatians 5:16 says it this way, "Walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh."

Mike

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, F)

Elders:

John Dilliner

Jerry Hughes

Bob Dowler

Joe Rothermel

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

Greeters: Larry & Sheryl Mulvaney (West)

Joe & Fran Waldrop (South)

Coffee Fix & Clean-up: Brenda Elam/Sarah Hughes

Serving: P. Eisenmenger, M. Hughes, S. Shunk, T. Naddy

Elder-On-Call for February: JOHN DILLINER (217)621-9807

Mission of the Week: THAILAND SUSTAINABLE MINISTRIES
Chang Mai, Thailand
Abel & Ruth Sairanttanyu, Missionaries

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Nina Boyer

Brookstone Estates, Room 42

146 Brookstone E. St.

Paris, IL 61944

Daily Prayer Opportunity

Use this guide to pray in specifics. Repeat this calendar every month for a year.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

- Day 1 Pray a prayer of praise for the character and nature of God.
- Day 2 Pray a prayer of confession, acknowledging both your sin and God's goodness
- Day 3 Pray a prayer of repentance as you intentionally turn your life to God
- Day 4 Pray a prayer asking God for forgiveness and seek to forgive those who hurt you
- Day 5 Pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:5-15)
- Day 6 Pray for the body of Christ worldwide, especially those persecuted for their faith
- Day 7 Pray for the local church and the mission God has given her
- Day 8 Pray for ways that God will use your gifts to further His kingdom
- Day 9 Pray for the ability to see people groups in town who do not know Christ
- Day 10 Pray that people of the area will look favorably on the ministry of FCC
- Day 11 Pray for Unity within the body, even when opinions differ
- Day 12 Pray for the Elders, by name
- Day 13 Pray for the Deacons, by name
- Day 14 Pray for the Minister and his family
- Day 15 Pray for the Christian Education teachers and Bible study leaders by name
- Day 16 Pray for the Youth Leaders by name
- Day 17 Pray for the youth and all the children who are growing in their faith
- Day 18 Pray for the Missions this congregations supports by name
- Day 19 Pray that this congregation be good stewards of the resources God grants us to use
- Day 20 Pray that this congregation will know the direction and commission He gives us
- Day 21 Pray for the community you live in. Its businesses, schools and leadership
- Day 22 Praise God for his love, goodness and kindness shown to you
- Day 23 Pray for dedication to read God's word every day
- Day 24 Pray for those who are dealing with a disease or physical ailment
- Day 25 Pray for peace to come upon those dealing with fear, worry and depression
- Day 26 Pray for God to lead new personnel or staff to this ministry
- Day 27 Pray for the issues facing our country
- Day 28 Pray for those dealing with financial turmoil
- Day 29 Pray that you may know God intimately and do what His word says
- Day 30/31 Thank God for the salvation he has given you through Jesus' death on the cross