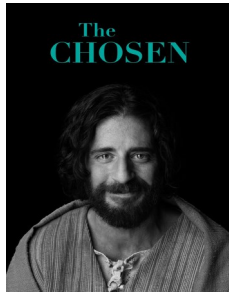




FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231
FAX: 832-9348

September 19, 2023



BIBLE STUDY RESUMES!
Wednesday, September 20
6:15 p.m.
Church Fellowship Hall
Everyone is invited to attend!!

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Family of Todd Fleming- Pam Cler's brother
Mary Gen Frick- kidney stone surgery on September 23
Sophie Kaeb – (Deanne Rothermels' newborn cousin)- home, after 41 days in the NICU
Randy Lake (Pete & Linda's son)- had quadruple bypass surgery, home, doing well
Don & Becky Russell (friends of Joyce Ritter)- Becky has cancer, not doing well
John Wax (Brenda Logan's dad)- in hospital with respiratory issues
Sara Williamson- upcoming Seed Sower mission trip to Benin, October 6-14

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WILLING TO BE TRAINED IN THE USE OF OUR WORSHIP TECHNOLOGY. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, TALK TO MIKE.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

Worship 95
Sunday School 55
Sunday Morning Celebration 3
King's Kids 4
High School 7
Blessed Believers 15
The Fellowship Class 21
Chosen Ones 5

TOTAL OFFERING \$3,253.00



SOUP SUPPER!
Hosted by the ladies of
Women's Christian
Fellowship
Thursday, October 10
6:00 p.m.
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!!

Overcoming the Cloud of Depression 9/19/2023

From 1934 to 1977, Al Capp drew a comic strip called Li'l Abner. One of the characters, named Joe Btfsplk, was known as the world's worst jinx. He was well-meaning, but brought disaster and misfortune to everyone around him. A small, dark rain cloud perpetually hovered over his head to symbolize his bad luck. I can't imagine a more depressing life.

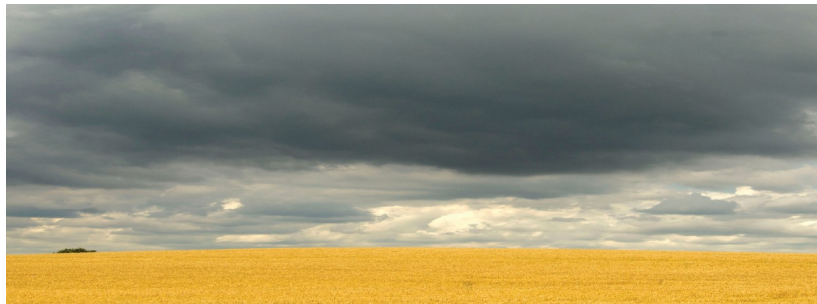
Maybe it hasn't been perpetual, but we've all been there. We've known times when nothing good happens... when several loved ones died in a few short months, when we've shelled out big bucks for car repairs, received bad health news, lost a job, gone through a divorce, and had our good name sullied. We've wanted to scream, "I can't take one more piece of bad news."

We even beg God, "Lord, take this cup from me." And then we remember another who said those very words. As Jesus was alone in Gethsemane, forsaken by his friends who had fallen asleep, sweat glands producing drops of blood, as he faced betrayal, beatings, false accusations, crucifixion, and death, in his ultimate distress, Jesus found a light that pierced the dark cloud of his gloom and despair. *"Not my will, but your will be done."*

There it is. Hope in despair- the absolute hope that is found nowhere except within God's perfect will. The promise that God will never leave us nor forsake us. That glimmer of light cutting through the dense fog of our darkest times. God's gentle reminder that it isn't about our strength, but His power. It isn't about what we can or cannot handle, but about the presence of God to give us eternal purpose.

When we need a friend to lend a hand and help lift us out of our storm cloud life, that hand might just be the hand of Jesus reaching down to give us peace.

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: 10:00-4:30 (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: Joe & Deanne Rothermel (South)

Neville Linton, Jr. (Front)

Coffee Fix & Clean-up: Brenda Elam

Serving: T. Naddy, S. Sinkes, R. Graham, M. Hughes

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

Mission of the Week: LINCOLN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Lincoln, Illinois

Dr. Silas McCormick, President

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

SHIRLEY WALDROP

Brookstone Estates, Apt. 39

1106 E. Northline Rd.

Tuscola, IL 61953