



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231
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October 17, 2023

This year's In Thanks-Giving project is LITTLE GALILEE CHRISTIAN CAMP. We will be collecting up to \$3000 for updating the dean's quarters for the main camp. They hope to add new flooring and bedding before next summer. "Our deans are in charge of our weeks of camp and are invaluable. We want them to feel valued and special by the accommodations we give them." Mike can attest that updating is needed. We will be collecting donations from now until November 26. Thank you! There is a container for donations located in the auditorium. NOTE: If you write a check, please make it to FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, and put "In Thanks-giving" on the memo line. Thanks!



October 29 is a Fifth Sunday, and we will be welcoming students from Eastern Illinois University (Charleston)! Leader, Elise and some students from the Campus House will share their testimony, and what CCH means to them. They will be bringing brochures that explain the ministry of Christian Campus House.

This year's THANKSGIVING DINNER will be held on Sunday, November 5, at noon, in the Fellowship Hall. Turkey, ham, dressing, drinks and table service will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. Make plans to join us!!
If you are interested in helping out with the Thanksgiving Dinner by baking a turkey or small pan of dressing, please contact Deanne Rothermel.

*Thanksgiving
Dinner*



OCTOBER 15, 2023

Worship 95
Sunday School 54
Sunday Morning Celebration 4
King's Kids 2
High School 5
Blessed Believers 12
The Fellowship Class 26
Chosen Ones 5

TOTAL OFFERING \$3,511.95
Spendable 3,145.00
In-Thanksgiving 275.00
Worship 91.95



**BLOOD
DRIVE**

VILLA GROVE COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE
Friday, November 3, 3:00-6:00 p.m.
First Christian Church Fellowship Hall

To schedule an appointment:

*Scan the QR code on the insert in Sunday's bulletin

*Call ImpactLife @(800)747-5401

*Go to www.blodcenter.org/group (group #70301)

Masks are optional; appointments are required.

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Ray Dable (friend of Mabry's)- no change

Joe Dalton (Smith's son-in-law, wife is Kelli)- scheduling surgery for a brain blockage that needs to be bypassed

Mary Gen Frick- surgery was cancelled; will be rescheduled at a later date

Darrell Hinkle- fell out of bed and fractured his shoulder in two places; he also needs surgery on his right leg, as it is totally blocked from just above the knee to his foot

Lincoln Christian University

Missy Smith (Smith's daughter-in-law)- is on the mend; in inpatient rehab

Praise God for blessings and His watch over Bob (Kelly) and Missy (Smith) in the accident. Thank you, wonderful Christian family, for the many cards, texts and love. BRAD & MARYANNA SMITH

Nation of Israel

John Weaver (Ray's brother)- kidney stone issues; on new meds

Wendy (friend of Matt & Khristi Boyer)- just diagnosed with cancer; has MRI testing this week



**SCRAPBOOK & CRAFTS
RETREAT
October 20-22**

Come join us! Dean is Ivy Koritz. Lodging is in the cabins. The retreat begins on Friday at noon, and ends on Sunday at 5:00pm. Creative Memories will be at the retreat with tools to use and products to buy, if needed. Cost is \$55 for one night or \$75 for the entire retreat, per person. This includes four delicious meals- Friday supper, Saturday brunch, Saturday supper and Sunday brunch. All the crafting will take place in the Activity Center. Questions? Contact Ivy Koritz at (217)622-8280, or the camp office at (217)935-2809. Register at www.LittleGalilee.org, or call the office.

Wrestling with God **10/17/2023**

His name is Jacob. He is the grandson of Abraham. That pedigree doesn't prevent him from having a less-than-sterling reputation. He deceived his brother twice, his father once and his father-in-law at least once. Of course, he was deceived by his father-in-law. So, turn about is fair play, I guess. He is one of those Bible characters we can all relate to. When he gets caught in his deceit he runs away. 20 years have past. He is told that Esau is approaching. He seems trapped. In that moment, he wrestles with God.

Jacob isn't the only one to wrestle with God. Samson had a real "come to God" moment when he was weak, blind, and in chains. Job cried out to God, in the midst of his unprecedented tragedy, asking that question that baffles everyone, "WHY?" Even in the New Testament, Peter had to wrestle with his guilt when he heard the rooster crow, following his three-fold denials.

We've all been where these heroes of the faith were. In Jacob's case, the wrestling was not mental or emotional alone. It was quite physical. Scripture says that Jacob and the Lord wrestled all night. And, when it was all over, Jacob was a new man. He was given a new name and a new purpose. Oh, yeah, and a new limp. When we are confronted by God, He might not remove our inadequacies. He may even give us a new handicap, just to remind us that He is sovereign.

The Apostle Paul knew this first-hand. He prayed for God to remove a "thorn in my side." Instead, God reminded him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

When God wrestles away our pride and ego, it is a good thing. Only when we are weak, and humbly dependent on God, can He do His best work in us.

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: Brenda Elam (South) Bob Dowler (Front)
Coffee Fix & Clean-up: Dilliner/ Bob Thomas & Holly Wiggam
Serving: B. Smith, C. Cannon, R. Graham, B. Akers

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

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

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

DELLA MAE FRAHM

Eberhardt Village Room 44

431 W. Palmer

Arthur, IL 61811