



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231
FAX: 832-9348

October 24, 2023

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 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. We will be collecting donations from now until November 26. 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!

Wednesday, October 25
Elders meeting-- 6:00 p.m.
Board meeting-- 7:30 p.m.



Board Meeting

OCTOBER 22, 2023

Worship 93
Sunday School 58
Sunday Morning Celebration 4
King's Kids 3
High School 8
Blessed Believers 13
The Fellowship Class 24
Chosen Ones 6

TOTAL OFFERING \$3,398.43
Spendable 2,048.00
In-Thanksgiving 820.00
Benevolence 530.43

Thanksgiving Dinner



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!!

****We are still needing one person to bake a turkey and one person to make a pan of dressing for the dinner. If you can help out, please contact Deanne Rothermel.**

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Dan Crawford (friend of Paula Webber)- advanced dementia
Family of Ray Dable- friend of Mabry's
Joe Dalton (Smith's son-in-law, wife is Kelli)- surgery for a brain blockage is in November; will be two surgeries, 6 weeks apart
Rachel Erb (friend of Sara Williamson)- fell off horse, broke her finger and will have surgery soon
Mary Gen Frick- new surgery date: October 30
Lincoln Christian University
Jeri Michael- surgery on vocal chords on November 2
Missy Smith (Smith's daughter-in-law)- doing well, in inpatient rehab; had outpatient surgery on wrist on Tuesday
Nation of Israel
Jeff Watson- surgery on Thursday
John Wax (Brenda Logan's dad)- hospice; prayers needed for comfort
Sara Williamson- moving to Florida
Judy Zylstra- recovering from surgery on her lip

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.



****If anyone is interested in decorating a tree for the Villa Grove Festival of Trees auction, in behalf of the church, talk to Mike. The deadline to sign up is October 31.**

****Plans are in the works for a Christmas Choir! Rehearsals will be on November 12, 19, 26, December 3 & 10, at 11:45 a.m. (after Sunday School). The group will be singing "Noel, Christ Is Born!"- a celebration for two-part choir.**

If you would like to sing, please talk with Judy Zylstra. Be sure to ask others to join the choir, too. Judy's phone number is (320)224-7665, or call the church office.

Can God use Me?

10/24/2023

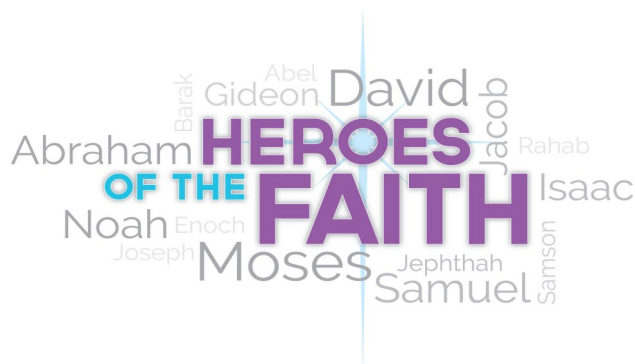
She is an interesting Old Testament character. She is also listed in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus. James wrote about her. And the author of Hebrews mentions her in chapter 11, among those described as people who lived by faith.

Her name is Rahab, and her story can be found in Joshua 2 and 6. She is identified five times in scripture as "Rahab the prostitute." What a moniker. Imagine going through life having your name attached to sinful choices you made and likely regret. Why wasn't she dubbed "Rahab the faithful." Or "Rahab the Grandmother of King David." Humans don't forget past mistakes, but God does. God forgave her and used her because of her faith, not because of her name.

How about you? Have you ever wondered if God can use you? Maybe your past is remembered by others. Maybe you even identify yourself by your past mistakes. Maybe they were things we consider small sins, things like lying, gossip, or hidden lust. Maybe they were more exposed sins like theft, assault, embezzlement, sexual immorality, or murder. The world is quick to identify us by our sin. Satan wants us to believe that our past disqualifies us from being used by God.

Except it doesn't. God can use dysfunctional, sinful humans. It seems to be His M.O. He loves reintegrating castaways into society, elevating the weak above the strong, giving the least more recognition than the greatest. He does that only with those who, through faith, know they are forgiven of their past. This deep love God has shown to us should prompt us to choose loyal obedience and a willingness to give ourselves fully to Jesus, who has atoned for our sin and has given us new life.

It doesn't matter what people call you. Live according to the name Jesus has given you. Child of God.



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: Judi Lock (South) Margaret Black (Front)
Coffee Fix & Clean-up: Joe & Deanne Rothermel
Serving: S. Shunk, D. Shunk, T. Naddy, P. Eisenmenger

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

Mission of the Week: CHRISTIAN CAMPUS HOUSE
Eastern Ill. University, Charleston, Illinois
Matthew Thomas, Lead Campus Minister

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

NINA BOYER

Brookstone Estates, Room 42

146 Brookstone E St.

Paris, IL 61944