



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231
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October 31, 2023

This year's THANKSGIVING DINNER will be held this 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!!

*Thanksgiving
Dinner*



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!

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.



OCTOBER 29, 2023

Worship 86
Sunday School 52
Sunday Morning Celebration 0
King's Kids 4
High School 3
Blessed Believers 16
The Fellowship Class 23
Chosen Ones 6

TOTAL OFFERING \$2,872.08
Spendable 1,145.08
In-Thanksgiving 1,202.00
Benevolence 520.00
Worship 5.00

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.



IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Dan Crawford (friend of Paula Webber)- advanced dementia

Joe Dalton (Smith's son-in-law, wife is Kelli)- surgery for a brain blockage in November

Mary Gen Frick- had surgery on Monday

Lee Ann Frick's cousin's in-laws -living in Nazareth and are safe there
Lincoln Christian University

Jeri Michael- surgery on vocal chords on November 2

Mike Reed (brother-in-law of Rich & Jeretta Mabry)- lives in Ft. Myers, FL; heart cath didn't work for a stent, so having quadruple bypass on November 2

Missy Smith (Smith's daughter-in-law)- doing well, in inpatient rehab
Nation of Israel

John Wax (Brenda Logan's dad)- hospice; prayers needed for comfort

Sara Williamson- moving to Florida, her new address is: 7381 Navarre Pkwy. 1113
Navarre, FL 32566

Thank You!



Dear beloved church family,

Thanks so much for all of the cards, gifts and well-wishes during Pastor Appreciation Month. You really know how to love on a minister. ALSO- a massive THANK YOU to all who honored me on the 40th Anniversary of my ministry. Judy and I were blessed to receive well-wishes from people in our previous congregations. Thanks to: Angela Graham for all the cupcakes, Sarah Hughes and crew for decorating the fellowship hall, the FCC Elders, who each played a role making the day special, and all the others who pitched in to make the day memorable. I can't imagine ministering with a better group of leaders, or a more supportive congregation. You are all deeply loved.

Mike Zylstra



**YOUTH GROUP
MEETS
THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5
6:00 P.M.
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Responding to Halloween 10/31/2023

Today is Halloween. It is celebrated all over the world as a night that glorifies evil and desensitizes children to things that the enemy, Satan, loves. Am I being too harsh? Some say, "Yes!" as they point out the fun costumes, delightful lights, party atmosphere and smiles on children's faces as they receive their "treats." What's the harm? Besides, we can redeem the holiday by wearing Bible costumes and having a Harvest Party, right?

So, how should a Christian respond to Halloween? How can we show love and not legalism on this Holiday?

First, remember that, unless your celebration includes divination, seances, witchcraft, sorcery, devil worship, or anything else scripture directly condemns, there are no biblical directives on whether you should participate in a Halloween Party. So be careful not to judge those who choose to celebrate. And don't judge those who choose not to celebrate. This truly is a matter of conscience.

Second, remember that we are not fighting against flesh and blood, but against the principalities of darkness in this world. Our enemy is not the children dressed as police officers, princesses or even the occasional witch. It is Satan and the hold he has on people's lives.

Third, be a representative of Christ and shed His love and light. Maybe that means handing out a gospel tract, or saying, "Jesus loves you!" to each child who gets the candy. We connect with people when we try to find common ground. Even Paul said (1 Cor 9:22) that he became all things to all people so that by all possible means he might save some.

Last, if, through Halloween you meet a new neighbor, follow up with them. Visit them and learn of their faith journey. Re-connect and build a new relationship with them and their children. They may not even have a home church and your invitation is just what they were looking for.

Halloween may still be a dark day. By shedding the light of Christ on the day, you can help dispel the darkness.

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: Larry & Sheryl Mulvaney (South)

Joe & Fran Waldrop (Front)

Coffee Fix & Clean-up: Bob Dowler/Margaret Black

Serving: Rex Duzan, Kurt Logan, Dalton Logan, Brad Smith

Elder-On-Call for November: JOE ROTHERMEL (217)369-5285

Mission of the Week: CHOICES PREGNANCY & HEALTH
Charleston, Illinois
Chris Bugle, Executive Director

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

SHIRLEY WALDROP

Brookstone Estates, Room 39

1106 E. Northline Rd.

Tuscola, IL 61953