



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231
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November 21, 2023

Sara Williamson will be with us on Sunday, November 26, during the Sunday School hour. She will update us on her recent trip to Benin. All Adult Sunday School classes are invited to join together in the auditorium to hear her speak.



MISSIONS



It's time for OPERATION G.I.F.T.! During the month of November, there will be envelopes in the Sunday School classes to collect money to purchase gifts for the needy children of our town. If you would like to donate on your own, go to the Villa Grove State Bank and give them your donations for the account. Be sure to make any checks to "OPERATION G.I.F.T. Thank you!"

*This year's In Thanks-Giving project is
LITTLE GALILEE CHRISTIAN CAMP.
As of Nov. 12, \$3,435.00 has been given-
WE'VE REACHED OUR GOAL!!*



NOVEMBER 19, 2023

Worship 79

Sunday School 58

Sunday Morning Celebration 4

King's Kids 3

High School 7

Blessed Believers 15

The Fellowship Class 23

Chosen Ones 6

TOTAL OFFERING N/A



Rehearsals are November 26, December 3 & 10, at 11:45 a.m. (after Sunday School). The group is singing "Noel, Christ Is Born!"- a celebration for two-part choir. We will be presenting this to the congregation on December 17.

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Jackie Becker (Patti Groves' neighbor)- had surgery on Thursday; still in the hospital, not doing well
Glenda Case- cataract surgeries on November 30 and December 7
Joe Dalton (Smith's son-in-law, wife is Kelli)- came home on Friday, doing well
Mary Gen Frick- goes to Springfield on Wednesday for a consult
Darrell Hinkle- doesn't need surgery; is to go back to Barnes in six months
David Kelly (Bob Kelly's brother)- more kidney problems, is in the hospital
John Klucinkas- on November 29, having nerve block injections in leg and calves to reduce pain
Julie Lacine- knee replacement surgery in Arkansas on November 28
Nation of Israel
Linda Soard- diagnosed with Parkinson's disease
Linda Stanfield- in Carle Hospital with back issues; will have back surgery on Monday or Tuesday
Colby Taylor (Hal Wiggam's grandson)- kidney issues
Fran Waldrop- has heart ablation on Wednesday
Family of John Wax-Brenda Logan's dad; funeral is Friday

Thank You! 

*To my Dearest Church Family,
Thank you for being there when I needed you all the most. Thank you for encouraging words, thoughts, prayers, calls, texts, cards, donations, the beautiful floral arrangement and the plant. Thank you for all of the much-needed hugs and all of the LOVE that you continue to show and give. Thanks to Mike, Holly and Sherry for being with me during Dan's final hours.*

PAULA WEBBER



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Be Thankful for What You Have
11/14/2023

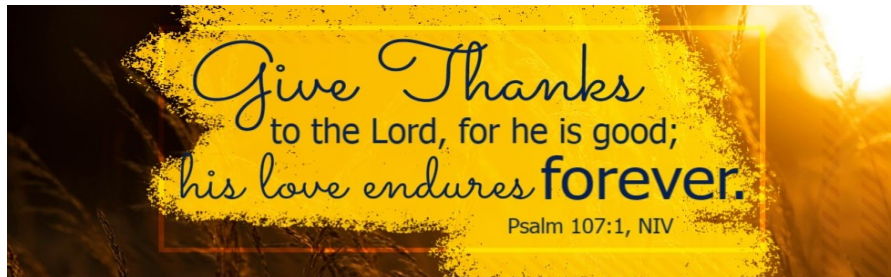
It was a beautiful bike. Green in color, sporting a sparkling, green banana seat. It had a 5-speed shifter on the frame, a “slick” rear wheel and a small front wheel. The name on the bike was *Schwinn Pea Picker*. It was the bike of my dreams when I was in 3rd grade. One of the 6th graders in my West Burlington, Iowa neighborhood had one. I would have given anything to ride it. But he was so much older than I. Maybe my parents could buy me one? With 5 kids, I knew they couldn’t afford such a dream machine. Besides, I had a bike. It was functional. In my mind I heard my parent’s encouragement, “Just be thankful for what you have.” And I was... but... it was a *Schwinn Pea Picker*.

Fast forward 3 years. I’m in 6th grade in Dubuque, Iowa. I don’t remember how, but my parents got me a chrome silver bike with a white banana seat and hand brakes. It wasn’t a *Pea Picker*, but it was beautiful. I remember how grateful I was to have that shiny bike. I rode it all over the neighborhood and especially to school. I was careful with it until one day I forgot it in the school bike rack. Late that evening, I went to retrieve it and it had been stolen. My dreams were dashed. So, I got a practical bike I could use on my newspaper route. I regretted what I lost and tried to be thankful for what I had.

I am still learning how to be thankful for what I have. First, in a world that encourages us to be jealous of what others have, and second, in the face of regrets over my mistakes that have resulted in pain and loss of dreams. Being thankful is hard.

During this season of Thanksgiving, may we spend more time being thankful for what we have. And never forget to whom we need to give thanks. Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Mike



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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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

***No Bible Study on November 22.**
***Church Office will be closed on Thursday, November 23.**
***Brenda will be out of the office until Wednesday, November 29.**

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

Greeters: Judy Zylstra (South) Janet Cassida (Front)
Coffee Fix & Clean-up: Bob Dowler/Sarah Hughes
Serving: S. Sinkes, C. Cannon, R. Graham, B. Akers

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

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

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS
SHIRLEY WALDROP
Brookstone Estates, Apt. 39
1106 E. Northline Rd.
Tuscola, IL 61956