



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231
FAX: 832-9348

November 7, 2023



The Elders at FCC are inviting everyone to a special meeting this coming Sunday, November 12, at 3:00pm, where we will be talking about the future growth of the congregation and our efforts to find someone to assist this ministry by specifically working with children, youth and families.

We want the congregation to stay informed about this process. If you have any encouragement or concerns regarding hiring a second full-time minister that you want addressed at this meeting, please email or text one of the elders and we will do our best to address your questions during this open discussion time.

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.



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8
6:00 p.m.-- Elders meeting
7:30 p.m.-- Board meeting

NOVEMBER 5, 2023

Worship 92
Sunday School 60
Sunday Morning Celebration 4
King's Kids 6
High School 10
Blessed Believers 13
The Fellowship Class 22
Chosen Ones 5

TOTAL OFFERING \$4,281.00
Spendable 4,161.00
In-Thanksgiving 120.00



*Women's
Fellowship*

Women's Christian Fellowship will meet this Thursday, November 9, at 6:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

Hostess: PATTI GROVES
Devotions: SARAH HUGHES
Missions: JUDY ZYLSTRA

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
Lincoln Christian University
Richard Hipler Family (of Casey)- related to Boyd family
Mike Reed (brother-in-law of Rich & Jeretta Mabry)- lives in Ft. Myers, FL; had quadruple bypass on November 2
Nation of Israel
John Wax (Brenda Logan's dad)- hospice; prayers needed for comfort



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. As of Nov. 5, \$2520 has been given.

NOTE: If you write a check, please make it to FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, and put "In Thanks-giving" on the memo line. Thanks!

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 month, Lincoln Christian University announced that they will be acquired by Ozark Christian College at the end of the academic year, next May. If you were present when David Upchurch gave us an update on the university's future, he shared the difficult path they had moving forward after the economic impact for shutting down during COVID, and low enrollment. We will continue to support LCU until that time, and ask for prayers for the students, faculty and staff as they move forward where God leads them. For a full view of the university's future, you can read their formal announcement at this link. <https://lincolnchristian.edu/news/joint-statement/>

Worship

Why Worship Matters 11/14/2023

On February 27, 2019, Philip Wagner wrote an article for Churchleaders.com entitled *6 Essential Reasons Why Worship Matters*.

- #1 Worship involves surrender of our lives. Romans 12:1
 - #2 Worship is putting our focus on him. True worship is based on the desire to honor God. It requires a personal revelation of God as found in the Scriptures. Worship is not based on my likes or dislikes. It is not based on my personal preferences or priorities. It is a focus on Him.
 - #3 Worship involves “Getting out of the way.” We have to learn to remove our worries, our opinion, our questions and ourselves—so we can worship with appropriate honor. Sometimes, we get in the way of our own experience of genuine worship.
 - #4 Worship involves personal sacrifice. Praise can be easier when times are good, or we have had the big victory. True worship requires a sacrifice of our own feelings and fears so we can give Him the focus He deserves. (Hebrews 13:15)
 - #5 Worship even when dealing with great pain and loss. King David’s first-born son with Bathsheba died because of God’s judgement. David prayed and prayed, but the baby died. His response was to worship God (2 Samuel 12:20). It is so important that in times of pain and loss, we move toward God rather than away from Him.
 - #6 Worship is celebrating who God is and what He has done. (Psalm 100:1-5)
- I’d like to add a couple more:
- #7 Worship must be Spirit-directed. (John 4:24) God is Spirit and those who worship must worship in Spirit and in truth.
 - #8 Worship takes great faith. It helps us exult as fact, what we cannot possibly know. We worship the splendor of God’s glory, though we can’t comprehend what that is.
- “Worship is our response to the overtures of love from the heart of the Father.” ~Richard J. Foster.

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

SAVE THE DATE!

**Community Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.
Villa Grove United Methodist Church**

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

**Greeters: Marsha Green (South) Rex & Jan Duzan (Front)
Coffee Fix & Clean-up: Brenda Elam/Sarah Hughes
Serving: Bob Kelly, Brandon Kelly, Noah Kelly**

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

**Mission of the Week: MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION
Villa Grove & Camargo
Ministers in Villa Grove & Camargo**

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

**DELLA MAE FRAHM
Eberhardt Village, Room 44
431 W. Palmer
Arthur, IL 61911**