



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231
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December 12, 2023

**2023 Youth Sunday &
Christmas Choir Musical**
Sunday, December 17-- 9:30 a.m.

The youth group will be leading the service-- scripture reading, song leading and prayer time.

During the usual time of the sermon, the Christmas Choir will be presenting a musical, "Noel, Christ Is Born," under the direction of Judy Zylstra.

Please join us for this very special Christmas service!



Wednesday, December 13-- 6:00 p.m. Elders meeting; 7:30 p.m. Board meeting

Thursday, December 14-- 10:30 a.m. Women's Christian Fellowship will be heading to Arthur to have lunch at Yoder's. Please meet at the church.

Friday, December 15-- 3:00-5:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed at Rural Grace Food Pantry

Saturday, December 16-- 6:00 p.m. Blessed Believers Class will have a Christmas party at the home of Janet Cassida (202 Ruby St.). Bring a treat to share.

DECEMBER 10, 2023

Worship 90

Sunday School 53

Sunday Morning Celebration 3

King's Kids 4

High School 5

Blessed Believers 13

The Fellowship Class 22

Chosen Ones 6

OFFERING

Total \$1,760.95

Spendable 1,760.95



Youth Group will meet on Sunday,
December 17, at 6:00 p.m.,
at the church.

IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

Glenda Case- successful cataract surgery

Joe Dalton (Brad & Maryanna Smith's son-in-law)- had bypass surgery on brain on Monday

Mary Gen Frick- awaiting results of CAT scan

Family of Karin Heflin- Brenda Elam's stepmother

Betty Lillard (Tom Lillard's mom)- diverticulitis

Bill Schweighart (Shirley Waldrop's stepson)- doing much better; hope to have two small tumors removed later this week

Janette Stoval (neighbor of Bob & Frances Dowler)- fell, broke wrist, ankle and has bruised ribs

Family of Tina Strode- sister of Elam's brother-in-law, Gary Strode

Chris Wilson (good friend of Steven Gordon)- stage 4 lung cancer; hospice called in

Bernie Zylstra (Mike's dad)- in hospital with influenza A



During the holiday season, everyone is urged to mail or bring in a Christmas card to be posted on the bulletin board. This will be a card to the whole congregation. Not only is this a blessing to us all, but it can save a little stamp money, as your card is for everyone! If you bring in a card on Sunday, just leave it on the counter in the copy room. We'll post it on the bulletin board.

Judi Lock

Mike & Judy Zylstra

Dave & Jean Forsythe

John & Linda Dilliner

Jerry, Sarah, Duncan,

Macen & Shelby Hughes

Marsha Green

Curaleen Gammon

Rich & Jeretta Mabry

Sue & Randy Taylor

Joyce & Greg Ritter

Dennis & Karen Williamson

Paula Webber

Brad & Maryanna Smith

Ray Weaver

Kent & Brenda Elam

Janice & Paul Thode



Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 24
7:30 p.m., at the church.

Everyone is welcome!



God Looks Like Normal People **12/12/2023**

The story is told of a little boy who secretly followed a department store Santa to the changing room. The man came out in his street clothes, ready to go home. The boy popped out, "I knew it!" Nervously, the man looked around, asking, "Knew what?" Smiling ear to ear, the little boy leaned in close and whispered, "I knew that Santa wouldn't be able to keep an eye on all the little girls and boys without a secret identity." The man smiled, nodding. "Just make sure not to tell anyone. It's important that I look like everyone else." The little boy nodded enthusiastically, "I won't, San..." the boy paused, looking around cautiously before adding, "I mean Kris Kringle."

It is very difficult for people to relate to God. God is so immense. He spoke the universe into existence out of nothing. He created things so small humans cannot find them with high powered microscopes, and so big we cannot discover them with space telescopes. Our God has always wanted to have an intimate relationship with those He created in His image. To do that required that God look like those he created. This is the miracle of the incarnation. God became flesh and blood for our sake. He set aside the glory of heaven and did not grasp the perfection of the eternal, so that he could take on a fragile, frail, time-based, temporal, human form that looked like us. Jesus is both fully God and fully human. He is standing at the door of our hearts, knocking because he wants us to let him into every corner of our life, so that by faith in His power and promises, he will transform us into the eternal being he has always intended us to be.

Meditate on that truth as you celebrate Christmas.

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: Neville Linton, Jr. (South) Curaleen Gammon (Front)

Coffee Fix & Clean-up: Judi Lock/Janet Cassida

Serving: S. Shunk, D. Shunk, J. Watson, R. Duzan

Elder-On-Call for December: BOB DOWLER (217)549-9791

Mission of the Week: NEW CHURCHES OF CHRIST

EVANGELISM

Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

Matt Schantz, Executive Director

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

NINA BOYER

Brookstone Estates, Room 42

146 Brookstone E St.

Paris, IL 61944