



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231  
FAX: 832-9348

December 19, 2023



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

*Christmas*  
EVE

**Everyone is welcome!**



**CHRISTMAS CARDS**

**Patti Groves**  
**Phyllis Vaught**  
**Rex & Jan Duzan**  
**Bob & Frances Dowler**  
**Sara Williamson**  
**David Shunk**  
**Mary Gen & Lee Ann Frick**

**Margaret Black**  
**Dale & Garland Hubert**  
**Dwight & Evelyn Howard**  
**Glenda Case**  
**Darrell & Linda Hinkle**  
**Joe, Deanne, Rianna & Torie Rothermel**  
**Edna Waldrop**



*Dear beloved church family,*  
*Judy & I wish to thank you for all the Christmas cards, well wishes and gifts. We especially thank the church board for the Christmas bonus. We are delighted to be in our 10th year of service with you.*  
**MIKE & JUDY ZYLSTRA**



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**DECEMBER 17, 2023**

**Worship 119**  
**Sunday School 59**  
**Sunday Morning Celebration 0**  
**King's Kids 3**  
**High School 12**  
**Blessed Believers 14**  
**The Fellowship Class 24**  
**Chosen Ones 6**

**OFFERING**

**Total \$7,492.00**  
**Spendable 7,492.00**

**Joe Dalton-** moved out of ICU on Friday, following brain surgery  
**Della Mae Frahm-** recovering from UTI  
**Mary Gen Frick-** surgery postponed until January  
**Family of Betty Karnes-** friend of Paula Webber  
**Julie Lacine-** recovering well from knee replacement surgery  
**Steve Lacine-** unexpected rotator cuff surgery; 6 weeks for recovery  
**Joyce Ritter-** pink eye  
**Bill Schweighart-** at Shirley Ryan Rehab Center for radiation  
**Linda Stanfield-** at her daughter's home in Tuscola  
**Ray Weaver-** cellulitis in arm; at Carle Hospital  
**Family of Chris Wilson-** friend of Steven Gordon  
**Bernie Zylstra (Mike's dad)-** recovering at home

## ***A Candle of the Day or a Candle of the Night*** **12/19/2023**

Christmas is a time for lights and candles. In a devotional written by Jonathan Cahn, he talks about the light of a candle. Cahn notes that, in the day, the candle's light is in harmony with the light of day. This is like a Christian shining brightly among other Christians in a culture of faith. The believer's light blends easily with its surroundings. "But," Cahn writes, "The candle in the night represents the believer who shines in the midst of a post-Christian civilization, an apostate civilization, an anti-Christian, anti-biblical, anti-God civilization. The light of the gospel is no longer in harmony with the surrounding culture. In fact, the culture stands increasingly in opposition to the light. The light cannot blend in. It must now increasingly stand out in contrast to its surroundings, and increasingly shine against the flow."

It was into a dark world that Jesus came to be the light. He didn't come to blend in with the darkness, but to shine and dispel the darkness. The candle that shines in the daylight can hardly be seen. The candle that shines in darkness can be seen miles away.

At the darkest times of your life, when it seems impossible to shine for God, **that** is when it is needed the most. The deeper the darkness, the more powerful the light is. Jesus reminds us of this truth in Matt 5:14-16, *You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

*Mike*



### **FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Website: [www.fccvg.com](http://www.fccvg.com)

Church E-mail: [fccvg@frontier.com](mailto:fccvg@frontier.com)

Minister: Mike Zylstra

Home Phone: 681-1034

Mike's E-mail: [fccvgmin@frontier.com](mailto: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

**\*\*Brenda will be out of the office Dec. 22-28, and Jan. 1-2.**

**\*\*There will be no SON TIMES published next week. If you have information for the bulletin, please leave a message on the church phone, or send an email. Thank you!!**

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

**Greeters: Shelby Hughes (South) Bob Dowler (Front)**

**Serving: B. Akers, D. Shunk, M. Hughes, C. Cannon**

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

**Mission of the Week: COLEGIO BIBLICO**

**Eagle Pass, Texas**

**Gonzalo Flores, President**

### **REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS**

**SHIRLEY WALDROP**

**Brookstone Estates, Apt. 39**

**1106 E. Northline Rd.**

**Tuscola, IL 61953**