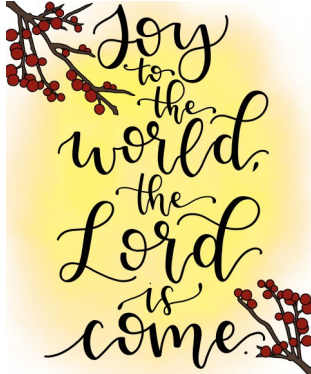




FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231
FAX: 832-9348

December 4, 2023

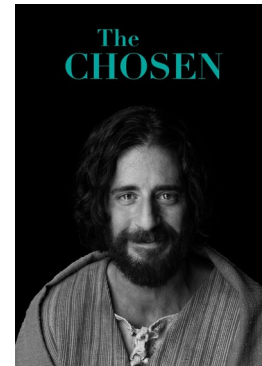


**2023 Youth Sunday &
Christmas Choir Musical**
Sunday, December 17-- 9:30 a.m.

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, “,” under the direction of Judy Zylstra. Please join us for this very special Christmas service!

The final Bible Study of 2023 will be this Wednesday, December 6, at 6:15 p.m. Because of the length of the video, we will be meeting in the auditorium.



DECEMBER 3, 2023

- Worship 100
- Sunday School 63
- Sunday Morning Celebration 4
- King's Kids 3
- High School 8
- Blessed Believers 15
- The Fellowship Class 26
- Chosen Ones 7

OFFERING	11/19	11/26	12/3
Total	\$3,753.59	\$3,230.77	\$5,002.17
Spendable	3,383.59	2,769.00	4,982.17
Benevolence	20.00	461.77	20.00
In Thanks.	325.00		
Memorial	25.00		

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.

Larry & Sherry Mulvaney
Curt & Sarah Cannon
Jeff & Helen Watson
Choices Pregnancy & Health

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Glenda Case- second cataract surgery on Thursday
Family of Kim Crawford- friend of Kent Elam
Mary Gen Frick- has CAT scan at Sarah Bush on Thursday
Family of John Loesch- Holly Wiggam's cousin
Jeri Michael- dealing with cyst in her eye that causes vision problems
Bill Schweighart (Shirley Waldrop's stepson)- had 6-10 hour surgery on Tuesday at Northwestern Hospital (Chicago) for three brain tumors
Linda Stanfield- recovering at Autumn Leaves Asst. Living in Savoy for 2-3 weeks



In Thanks-Giving total:
\$3823.672
Operation G.I.F.T. total:
About \$1000

The family of JOHN WAX acknowledges with grateful appreciation the kind expression of your sympathy. Thank you so much for the flowers at the service. Thank you, also, to those who came and for all of the cards.

THE JOHN WAX FAMILY

A graphic with the text "THANK you." in a mix of bold, sans-serif and cursive fonts. The text is set against a light blue, watercolor-style background.

ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, THERE WILL BE A CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP AT VILLA GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, AT 1:00 P.M. THIS GROUP IS FOR SUPPORT AND TO SHARE INFORMATION.



**Bert & Sheryl Gaston celebrated their
50th Wedding Anniversary
on December 1st.
CONGRATULATIONS!!**



Loving Light Instead of Darkness **12/5/2023**

I am not a fan of cloudy days. String five or six of them together and I feel it. I read that, in the winter, the sun does not rise in Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow), Alaska for 64 days. Nope, not for me. I love the daylight. Maybe that is why I love summer more than winter. It isn't the heat vs. cold. It has everything to do with loving the light more than the darkness.

This should also be true for every Christian. God sent his Son into the world to take on a human form, wear a human name, endure all the temptations we have (without sinning), and be LIGHT in our sin-darkened world.

In John's gospel, light is spoken of 16 times. Seven of those references appear in the first nine verses of John 1. Simply put, John is convinced that Jesus came to bring light into mankind's darkness. However, people tend to choose darkness over light because their deeds are evil. Though we know light is there, many choose to walk away from that light. They disregard the only one who is full of grace and truth. They refuse to submit to the one who can light the path of their life. Rather than listen to the "word of God" (Jesus), we choose the lies of Satan.

The last time the word LIGHT appears in John's gospel is in **John 12:46** where Jesus says, "*I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.*"

If you are unsure why Jesus came into the world, there it is. Would you rather live in eternal darkness, or in eternal light? Who do you love more... the King of Light or the prince of 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: Macen Hughes (South) Janice Thode (Front)

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

Serving: B. Smith, N. Kelly, K. Logan, D. Logan

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

Mission of the Week: LITTLE GALILEE CHRISTIAN CAMP

Clinton, Illinois

Gabe Rutledge, Camp Manager

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

DELLA MAE FRAHM

Eberhardt Village, Room 44

431 W. Palmer

Arthur, IL 61911