



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231
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January 3, 2024



Sunday, January 14-- ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
11:00 a.m.

REPORTS NEED TO BE TURNED INTO THE OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU!

SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR 2024

Elder: John Dilliner (1 year) Jerry Hughes (3 years)
Deacon: Stephen Sinkes (3 years) Bill Akers (3 years)
Ray Weaver (3 years)
Trustee: Curt Cannon (3 years)
Jeff Watson (3 years)
Church Treasurer: Helen Watson (3 years)

The FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE will meet at
11:45 a.m. this Sunday, January 7, in the
Fellowship Hall.



For the next twelve weeks, Mike will be preaching a series of sermons entitled "Shedding the Weight." Hebrews 12:1 is the basis for the series, and Mike is challenging everyone to memorize that verse by the end of the series.

DECEMBER 24, 2023	DECEMBER 31, 2023
Worship 97	Worship 80
Sunday School --	Sunday School 57
Sunday Morning Celebration	Sunday Morning Celebration 4
King's Kids	King's Kids 3
High School	High School 7
Blessed Believers	Blessed Believers 14
The Fellowship Class	The Fellowship Class 22
Chosen Ones	Chosen Ones 7
OFFERING	OFFERING
Total \$3,581.00	Total \$2,380.00
Spendable 2,815.00	Spendable 2,356.00
Benevolence 766.00	Worship 24.00

"If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."
John 14:14, NRSV

PRAYER LIST

Heath Bigelow (Mulvaney's nephew)- waiting for heart transplant
Charlie (Darrell & Linda Hinkle's grandson-in-law)- was to have heart/lung transplant on Sunday
Vicki Gentry- struggling with memory issues
Steven Gordon- having dental work
Bobby Graham (Rich Graham's brother)- bacterial pneumonia, and multiple blood clots
Linda Hinkle- upcoming hand surgery, January 15
Norma Johnson (Maryanna Smith's sister)- in hospital with heart problems
Betty Lillard- out of hospital; looking into home health care
Birth of Henry Wayne Sawyer- cousin to Mary Gen & Leann Frick, born on 12/30/23 in Louisville, Kentucky
Bill Schweighart- holding his own, having chemo and therapy

SCRIPTURES TO HELP YOU THROUGH YOUR YEAR

When you feel like you don't have a friend	Proverbs 18:24
When you think your grief will never end	Psalms 30:5
When you are being "pushed around"	Psalms 16:8
When you feel NOBODY cares	1 Peter 5:7
When you feel you've been CHEATED	Psalms 59:10
When you feel the "bottom's dropped out"	Deuteronomy 33:27
When NOTHING goes right	Zephaniah 3:17-18
When you are terribly angry	James 1:20
When you feel like you are INSIGNIFICANT	Psalms 139
When you're sick and your sickness lingers	Psalms 119:71
When you think you can't make ends meet	Psalms 37:25-26
When you're not getting the desires of your heart	Psalms 37:3-4
When the evil "gets ahead" and you "get behind"	Psalms 37:1-2
When you feel you've lost your radiance	Psalms 34:5
When you've sinned and feel terribly GUILTY	Psalms 51
When you are just plain WORRIED	Philippians 4:6
When you feel like "GETTING EVEN"	Romans 12:17
If you want to "get rich quick"	Proverbs 13:11
When you are tempted to KEEP QUIET AND PLAY IT SAFE	Mark 8:38
When you feel like God has forsaken you	Joshua 1:5



What Gets You Out of Bed? 1/3/2023

It seems like a simple question. What motivates you to get up and do what you do? For some, it is their job or career. Maybe it is an important meeting or special rendezvous. Maybe you were hungry, or your parents made you get up. The reasons are myriad. On the flip side, we all know times when we didn't want to get out of bed. Maybe we were sick, clinically depressed or exhausted.

About 9 years ago, a pollster posed that question to random people across the USA who are part of the Millennial Generation (born between 1981 & 1996.) Except he added, "What gets you out of bed to go to church?" He targeted these adults because studies show that they were least likely to go to church. The respondents stated that they would go to church if it was authentic, genuine, embraced technology, offered mentorship opportunities, was focused on service and not just religious rituals. They were not impressed with buildings or the entertaining performances of worship bands. They were looking for a welcoming, connecting community that is concerned with social justice issues. They were also looking to the church for spiritual refreshment, and a retreat from the chaos of regular life.

Having received this information, many churches changed their methods and techniques to cater to that generation. Has it worked? No! The 27-42 year olds are still the least likely adult generation to attend church. Maybe it is because they aren't looking for what scripture says is the real motive for a person to be part of a community of Christians.

Jesus stated it clearly in John 12:32 - *But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.* There is no greater motive than worshipping the exalted Christ. During 2024, lift up Christ and join a church where they are doing the same thing.

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

****2024 Offering Envelopes are located
at the front of the auditorium.****

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

Greeters: Curaleen Gammon (South) Seth & Kate Shunk (Front)

Coffee Fix & Cleanup: Dilliner/Thomas

Serving: B. Akers, B. Kelly, B. Kelly, N. Kelly

Elder-On-Call for January: JERRY HUGHES (217)369-5495

Mission of the Week: ONE MISSION SOCIETY

Greenwood, Indiana

Sara Williamson, Missionary

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

DELLA MAE FRAHM

Eberhardt Village, Room 44

431 W. Palmer

Arthur, IL 61911

Daily Prayer Opportunity

Use this guide to pray in specifics. Repeat this calendar every month for a year.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Day 1	Pray a prayer of praise for the character and nature of God.
Day 2	Pray a prayer of confession, acknowledging both your sin and God's goodness
Day 3	Pray a prayer of repentance as you intentionally turn your life to God
Day 4	Pray a prayer asking God for forgiveness and seek to forgive those who hurt you
Day 5	Pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:5-15)
Day 6	Pray for the body of Christ worldwide, especially those persecuted for their faith
Day 7	Pray for the local church and the mission God has given her
Day 8	Pray for ways that God will use your gifts to further His kingdom
Day 9	Pray for the ability to see people groups in town who do not know Christ
Day 10	Pray that people of the area will look favorably on the ministry of FCC
Day 11	Pray for Unity within the body, even when opinions differ
Day 12	Pray for the Elders, by name
Day 13	Pray for the Deacons, by name
Day 14	Pray for the Minister and his family
Day 15	Pray for the Christian Education teachers and Bible study leaders by name
Day 16	Pray for the Youth Leaders by name
Day 17	Pray for the youth and all the children who are growing in their faith
Day 18	Pray for the Missions this congregations supports by name
Day 19	Pray that this congregation be good stewards of the resources God grants us to use
Day 20	Pray that this congregation will know the direction and commission He gives us
Day 21	Pray for the community you live in. Its businesses, schools and leadership
Day 22	Praise God for his love, goodness and kindness shown to you
Day 23	Pray for dedication to read God's word every day
Day 24	Pray for those who are dealing with a disease or physical ailment
Day 25	Pray for peace to come upon those dealing with fear, worry and depression
Day 26	Pray for God to lead new personnel or staff to this ministry
Day 27	Pray for the issues facing our country
Day 28	Pray for those dealing with financial turmoil
Day 29	Pray that you may know God intimately and do what His word says
Day 30/31	Thank God for the salvation he has given you through Jesus' death on the cross