



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231
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August 6, 2024



**United Church Directories is the company that will be publishing our
2024 CHURCH DIRECTORY!**

Jerry Hughes has been setting up times for families' photos, which will take place August 19 and 20. If you have not yet signed up to get your family photo taken, please contact Jerry Hughes (217-369-5495) or email at lighthousefarms66@gmail.com. We want EVERYONE to be a part of this project! Get signed up today!



HARVEST OF HOPE FAMILY CONCERT 2024

Saturday, August 10- Peterson Park, Mattoon
5:00-9:00 p.m.

The concert will feature Ann Wilson, Rend Collective and Rhett Walker. Tickets are \$25-\$35 and can be purchased online or by calling (866)821-5151. Seating is general admission, but special accommodations can be requested when ordering tickets. If you are interested or have questions, contact Karen Williamson (217-552-0751) as soon as possible.

AUGUST 4, 2024

Worship	97
Sunday School	45
Sunday Morning Celebration	5
King's Kids	2
High School/College	5
Blessed Believers	10
The Fellowship Class	15
Chosen Ones Class	8

OFFERING (8/4/2024): N/A
Spendable



WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, August 8
6:30 p.m.

Hostesses: JANICE THODE & SARAH HUGHES
Devotions: SHERYL MULVANEY
Missions: JUDI LOCK

IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

Frances Dowler- in Hilltop Nursing Home, Charleston, for rehab
Jeri Michael- having tests for health issues
Mike Nussell- still has blood clot in his legs
Family of Ernie Revell
Ray Weaver- home, recovering



VBS Missions- Camp New Hope

Final tally: \$422.00!!

On the August Calendar...

KAREN WILLIAMSON- birthday is on August 7

LINDA DILLINER- birthday is on August 9

I apologize for the confusion- please make this correction on your calendar! Brenda

Please join us at FCC's

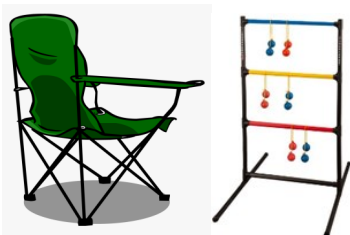
Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024

Henson Park Pavilion

Villa Grove, 12:00 pm

Tableware provided- bring dishes to share.



**You are invited to enjoy a fun afternoon!
Get to know the FCC folks better.**

Struggle Leads to Strength

8/6/2024

The 2024 Olympics are in full swing. Thousands of athletes are swimming, biking, running, lifting, rowing, tumbling, shooting, throwing, kicking, even speed walking. Four nations sent only one athlete to the games while the USA sent 592. Regardless of the resources, each athlete must put in the time, pain and struggle to reach the goal of competing at the highest level. They struggle knowing it will build strength.

Scripture frequently uses athletic metaphors in talking about the Christian life. Athletes establish a training regimen, knowing that the struggle will lead to planned growth. However, some struggles, like breaking a bone, tearing a ligament or battling an internal disease, are surprises. The athletes who overcome, find a new strength. As disciples of Jesus, we plan for growth in prayer, love, forgiveness, etc. knowing our struggle will lead to strength. But, some struggles are thrust upon us. We lose a job, experience a betrayal, are devastated by a broken relationship, etc.

In August 2022, Christian singer Toby Mac released a song titled, *Faithfully*. He speaks of life being good and things going well. Then it all falls apart. Verse 2 of the song goes, “*I’ve had a hard time findin’ the blue in the skies above me. And if I’m keepin’ it real, I been half-fakin’ the happy they see. I may look like the same man. But I’m half the man I was. It’s been a hard year. It almost took me down.*” The song concludes by stating that God is always faithful. He sees us, knows us, and helps us through our struggle. We will never be who we were. God helps us to be stronger.

James 1:2-4 reminds us, ***Consider it pure joy, my brothers whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.***

Mike



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Website: www.fccvg.com
Church E-mail: fccvgoffice@gmail.com
Minister: Mike Zylstra
Home Phone: 681-1034
Mike's E-mail: fccvgmin@gmail.com
Secretary: Brenda Elam
Office Hours: 10:00-4:30 (M, T, Th, F)

Elders:

John Dilliner Jerry Hughes
Bob Dowler Joe Rothermel

AUGUST 11, 2024

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

**Greeters: (South) Judi Lock (Front) Mary Gen & LeAnn Frick
Coffee Fix & Cleanup: Brenda Elam/Sarah Hughes**

Serving: D. Shunk, D. Logan, K. Logan, P. Eisenmenger

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

**Mission of the Week: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON MISSIONS (ICOM)
Clayton, Indiana
David Empson, Exec. Director**

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

**DORIS BLACK
201-C Nicholas Dr.
Tuscola, IL 61953**