



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231  
FAX: 832-9348

October 16, 2024



## IN THANKS-GIVING!!

### "Operation Christmas Child" with Samaritan's Purse

*If you would like to fill a shoebox with gifts for a child, there are lists of suggested items for several ages located in the work room at the church; please add \$10 for shipping, if possible. If you would like to give a monetary donation, there is a box located in the auditorium. Boxes and donations will be collected until November 10.*

Sunday, October 27: 2:00-4:00 p.m.

The VG United Methodist Church will be having an INDOOR TRUNK OR TREAT at their church. The community is invited and it will take place, rain or shine! You are invited to bring treats to pass out, and you can decorate your table, or even come dressed up yourself! If you would like to take part in this, contact the Methodist church office (217)832-3971- leave a voice mail if no one is there. Please RSVP so they know how many tables to set up.



Dear Church family,  
Judy & I wish to thank everyone for their kindness shown us on Pastor Appreciation Sunday. It is an honor to serve our powerful God with you.

MIKE & JUDY ZYLSTRA

### OCTOBER 13, 2024

Worship	93
Sunday School	65
Nursery	4
Preschool Class	3
Sunday Morning Celebration	5
King's Kids	3
High School/College Class	6
Blessed Believers	5
The Fellowship Class	33
Chosen Ones	6
OFFERING:	\$1,860.01
Spendable	1,860.01



Sunday, November 10-- 12:00 p.m.

### Annual Church Thanksgiving Dinner!

Turkey, ham, dressing, drinks and table service will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. Invite your friends and neighbors! There will be an insert in the bulletin on Oct. 20- please fill this out so the committee will know how much meat to buy and prepare.

# IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Juanita Chupp (Dave Herschberger's sister)- stage 4 breast cancer plus other health issues;  
has four small children, one only 3 months old

Debbie Crabill (friend of Paula Webber)- cancer; in nursing home, not well

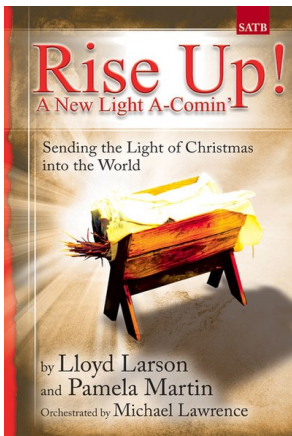
Brian Frick (Mary Gen Frick's son)- in Barnes Hospital

Jacob Hatfill- back in hospital in Chicago, not doing well

Becky Russell- health concerns

William VanWassenhove (friend of Sonja Jones)- had surgery to remove his right leg above the  
knee last Thursday; prayers for full recovery and rehab, as he will need a prosthetic leg

Holly Wiggam- fell, hurt her knee



*We are planning to have a Christmas Choir again this season! We will be preparing "Rise Up! A New Light A-Comin" by Lloyd Larson and Pamela Martin. The Christmas service is scheduled for Dec. 15. Due to some scheduling conflicts, the first rehearsal will be in the evening on Sunday, Oct. 27, at 5:00pm. The other rehearsals will be on Sunday morning, following services from 11:45-12:30pm, on Nov. 3, 17, 24, Dec. 1, 8.*

*We'd love to have you join in the fun of preparing and privilege of presenting this message to the congregation. Please let JUDY ZYLSTRA or MATT BOYER know if you will be part of this year's Christmas choir! Questions? Contact Judy at (320)224-7665.*

Because we have new babies (yay!), we are going to offer a nursery during the worship and Sunday School service! If you would be willing to stay in the nursery during church or Sunday School, please let Brenda know. She'll make up a schedule, and we'll start having this helpful ministry on NOVEMBER 1. Thank you for your willingness to serve!!



*The ladies of the Villa Grove United Methodist Church have invited our ladies to a time of Spiritual growth entitled "Resurrection Women." The group will be sharing a time of music, study and prayer as they learn more about how women played an important part in the Resurrection of Jesus.*

*If you are interested, they study will take place on Saturday, October 19 at VGUMC- bring a Bible, pen and notebook. If you would like to attend, please contact LINDA SHADWICK at (217)493-9617 as soon as possible.*

*For if you forgive men  
when they sin against you,  
your heavenly Father will  
also forgive you...*



## ***Forgiveness is Supernatural*** **10/15/2024**

This is a true story. On December 20, 1974, Christopher Carrier, age 10, stepped off his school bus and vanished. Six days later, a hunter found him 75 miles from home, sitting on a rock in the Florida Everglades. Someone had stabbed him repeatedly with an ice pick, burned him with cigarettes, then shot him. The bullet had entered Chris' right temple, exiting through his left eye.

The prime suspect was David McAllister, an ex-convict who was a nurse, tending to Chris' elderly uncle. Chris' father had fired David for drinking on the job. McAllister was furious. Police received a composite sketch from Chris that resembled McAllister. But there was no hard evidence to link David to the crime.

22 years later, a Detective who had worked the unsolved case came to Chris and told him that McAllister, who was now 77, was near death and living in a nursing home. Chris made arrangements to visit McAllister and McAllister confessed that he was the abductor. Instead of bitterness toward the man who put a bullet through his skull, leaving him blind in one eye, Chris forgave the man. He visited his kidnapper every day until David died a few weeks later, read the Bible to him and forged an unlikely friendship. "Nobody could imagine that I would shake the hand that tried to kill me," Chris told *The Miami Herald*. "When I look at him, I don't stare at my abductor and potential murderer. I stare at a man, very old, very alone and scared. He's never been able to live without memories, guilt and pain. In that perspective, he has paid the price for his sins and served his time." Chris' power to forgive came "Through my faith in Jesus."

**Matthew 6:14-15:** *For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

Forgiveness is always possible, because it is supernatural.

*Mike*

### **FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Website: [www.fccvg.com](http://www.fccvg.com)  
Church E-mail: [fccvgoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccvgoffice@gmail.com)  
Minister: Mike Zylstra  
Home Phone: 681-1034  
Mike's E-mail: [fccvgmin@gmail.com](mailto: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

### **OCTOBER 20, 2024**

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

**Greeters: (Front) Janet Cassida (South) Sarah Hughes**

**Coffee Fix & Cleanup: Hughes/Rothermel**

**Serving: B. Kelly, B. Kelly, N. Kelly, P. Eisenmenger**

**Elder-On-Call for October: JOHN DILLINER (217)621-9807**

**Mission of the Week: LINCOLN CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE**  
Lincoln, Illinois  
Dr. Silas McCormick, Exec. Director

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

**SHIRLEY WALDROP**

**Brookstone Estates, Apt. 39**

**1106 E. Northline Rd.**

**Tuscola, IL 61953**