



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231
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January 6, 2026

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION!

****The 2026 Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 11, at 10:45 a.m. (during Sunday School time).**

****Please have annual reports in the church office by January 8.**

****Those on the ballot are:**

Elder: Scott Beccue, Joe Rothermel, Bob Thomas

Deacon: Pete Eisenmenger, Richard Graham, Jeff Watson

Trustee: Matt Boyer, Richard Graham

Financial Secretary: Kent Elam



Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, January 7, at 6:30 p.m. The new study is on Joshua, using video curriculum from Ozark Christian College.

Women's Christian Fellowship will meet on Thursday, January 8, at 1:00 p.m. for lunch. At 2:00 p.m., the meeting will begin.

**Hostess: Sarah Cannon
Devotions: Brenda Elam
Missions: Molly Hughes**

**Women's
Christian Fellowship**



JANUARY 4, 2026

Worship & Nursery	109
Sunday School	56
Preschool Class	3
Sunday Morning Celebration	2
King's Kids	4
Blessed Believers	13
The Fellowship Class	28
Chosen Ones	6
OFFERING Total (12/21/2025)	\$4,167.00
Spendable	4,117.00
Benevolence	50.00
OFFERING Total (12/28/2025)	\$11,205.26
Spendable	10,634.26
Benevolence	571.00
OFFERING (1/4/2026) Total	\$3,478.00
Spendable	3,478.00



**WCF would like to invite you to become a
SECRET SISTER!**

Secret Sisters give cards, small gifts, words of encouragement, prayers, or kind deeds to their chosen Sister from February 1 to March 12.

If you would like to participate, please fill out and return the completed form, located in the red folders near the collection baskets. Please do this by January 25. Try to treat your sister each week. The emphasis is not on how much you spend, but the creative ways you can encourage each other. Questions? See any of the WCF officers (J. Lock, K. Williamson, S. Cannon, J. Thode)



IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Praise! Birth of Sutton Irene Avery to Danielle, Chris Clark's niece, on December 26

Praise! Kenzie Cardiff was baptized into Christ on December 22

Glenda Case— had surgery on her throat on Tuesday at Carle at the Fields

Mary Gen Frick— having surgery January 23

Patti Groves— upcoming heel surgery, January 7

Sarah Hughes— cancer

Praise! Jessica Irace (friend of Joyce Ritter)- doing very well, going back to work part time

Kenton Jones (Kimberly Anderson's cousin, Iowa)- having mini-strokes; is in comfort care

Family of Josh Prosser- son of Stan & Jill Prosser, Hugo

Rachel Romine & family (Sarah Cannon's niece)- arrived in US on December 31; prayer that 2026 will be a year of growth for all involved

Barb Watson— if insurance is approved, will have heart surgery on January 8



First Christian Church,
Thank you for your financial donations, collected items,
and hours of volunteer service to the Rural Grace Food
Pantry this year.
You are an integral part of our mission of service to
Douglas County residents.

With Appreciation,
Richard Rose, Pantry Director

(Although it didn't make the calendar, our congregation will be working at the Food Pantry on Friday, January 16.)



When I am afraid
I put my
trust in you.

Psalm 56:3



The Doxology **1/6/2026**

As a lad I grew up singing the hymn known as “**The Doxology**” every week. The tune and words are burned into my memory. The Bible is filled with many such doxologies (e.g.: Psalm 96:6, Romans 11:36 & 1 Timothy 1:17).

This hymn was written by Thomas Ken in 1674. Thomas was born in Little Berkhamstead, England, in 1637. He was orphaned at a young age, and grew up living with his married sister. He was ordained into the Church of England in 1662. On websites where you can read Thomas Ken’s biography, they all say that Ken took bold stands because of his faith. These included denouncing the corruption of the Dutch royal court; calling out the sins of King Charles II; refusing to publish the **Royal Declaration of Indulgence** document in support of

Roman Catholicism; Being imprisoned in the **Tower of London**; and refusing to support the reign of William and Mary. Ultimately, Ken was stripped of his Anglican Bishopric, lived in poverty with a friend and died without a farthing to his name in 1711.

Yet, his hymn of praise is forever remembered. As a Winchester College teacher, Ken wrote three devotional hymns and required his students to sing them daily.

The **Morning Hymn lyrics are:** *Awake, my soul, and with the sun,
Thy daily course of duty run; Shake off dull sloth, and early rise; To pay thy morning sacrifice.*

The **Evening Hymn lyrics are:** *Direct, control, suggest, this day; All I design, or do, or say;
That all my powers, with all their might, In Thy sole glory may unite.*

The **Midnight Hymn lyrics are:** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

All hymns were sung to the same tune.

Though Thomas Ken was oppressed he knew that praises to God supersede the mistreatment of the world. If it takes singing a daily devotional hymn to burn that truth in our brain, may we sing the praise our triune God with faithfulness.

Mike

<p>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 701 N. Sycamore St. Villa Grove, IL 61956 Website: www.fccvg.com Church E-mail: fccvgoffice@gmail.com Minister: Mike Zylstra Home Phone: (217)681-1034 Mike’s E-mail: fccvgmin@gmail.com Administrative Assistant: Brenda Elam Office Hours: 10:00-4:30 (M, T, Th, F)</p> <p>Elders: Scott Beccue Jerry Hughes John Dilliner Joe Rothermel Bob Dower</p>	<p><u>JANUARY 11, 2026</u> Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Greeters: Janet Cassida (Front) Curaleen Gammon (South) Coffee Fix/Cleanup: Dowler/ Hughes Nursery: Molly & Shelby Hughes Serving: M. Hughes, C. Cannon, J. Watson, P. Eisenmenger Elder-On-Call for January: Jerry Hughes (217)369-5495 Mission of the Week: COLEGIO BIBLICO Eagle Pass, Texas Gonzalo Flores, President</p> <p><u>REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS</u> JOE HOLSAPPLE 315 S. Douglas Villa Grove, Illinois 61956</p>
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