



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231
FAX: 832-9348

February 17, 2026



Wednesday, February 18– 6:30 p.m. Bible Study at the church

Sunday, February 22– BENEVOLENCE SUNDAY

Sunday, February 22– 3:00 p.m. Cantata rehearsal

Saturday, February 28– Judy Zylstra will be using the building for a music festival

To my church family,
Thank you so much for your prayers, visits, calls, cards, flowers and texts since my foot surgery. Thanks to all who have taken me to appointments, and were there for me when I needed them.

I appreciate everything so much!

PATTI GROVES



Stewart Elam (Kent's brother)- had heart valve surgery on Tuesday

Sarah Hughes– doing well

Judith (friend of Sara Williamson in Democratic Republic of Congo)- dangerous situation (rebels) in Congo; Judith was attacked and is in the hospital

Nicole Kneer– having radiation treatments

Amy Ray (friend of Sarah Cannon, Murdock)- needs extensive surgery on her arteries; surgery not scheduled yet

Luke Reed (friend of Boyer family)- in Carle ICU with double pneumonia

Praise! Holly Wiggam's daughter is home

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

Worship & Nursery	92
Sunday School	47
Preschool Class	2
Sunday Morning Celebration	2
King's Kids	3
Blessed Believers	14
The Fellowship Class	21
Chosen Ones	5
OFFERING Total	\$2,081.00
Spendable	2,081.00



Because Secret Sisters began a week late (weather-related), the reveal date has been moved to March 15. Have fun!



Ash Wednesday
2/17/2026

Tomorrow, according to the liturgical church calendar, is **Ash Wednesday**. Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of **Lent**, which is a time dedicated to preparing minds, hearts and souls for Easter. Many mainline church denominations hold special services where the priest/pastor will dip a thumb in a bowl of ashes and make the sign of the cross on a congregant's forehead. The ashes are the burned remains of the palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration. The service is designed to remind believers that, while our natural state is sinful, we must come to God in self-evaluation, humility, repentance, and confession seeking forgiveness, wholeness and cleansing. Our redemption is celebrated with Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Why ashes? The Bible has many examples of people who, in acknowledgment of their grief or sin, would put ashes on their head and wear sackcloth (a very coarse and uncomfortable fabric). When Jonah declared to the people of Nineveh that God was going to destroy them for their sin and wickedness, everyone from the king on down responded with repentance, fasting, and sackcloth and ashes (Jonah 3:5-7). They even put sackcloth on their animals (verse 8), all in hope that God would relent from destroying them. And God did not destroy Nineveh, much to the consternation of Jonah.

It is appropriate for us to remember that only God can give us hope. Only He can provide full forgiveness. Only He can redeem, restore and purify. And when we realize *that* truth, we can then experience celebration and joy.

King David, who wore sackcloth when he mourned the death of his General Abner, wrote of God's power in **Psalm 30:11** - "***You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy***".

Remember, you are valuable to God. He replaces our mourning with joy.

Mike

<p>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 701 N. Sycamore St. Villa Grove, IL 61956</p> <p>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 Joe Rothermel John Dilliner Bob Thomas Jerry Hughes</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 22, 2026 Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m.</p> <p>Greeters: Lee Ann Frick (Front) Judi Lock (South)</p> <p>Coffee Fix/Cleanup: Bob Dowler/Glenda Case</p> <p>Nursery: Maryanna Smith</p> <p>Serving: R. Mabry, S. Sinkes, M. Hughes, P. Eisenmenger</p> <p>Elder-On-Call for February: John Dilliner (217)621-9807</p> <p>Mission of the Week: OBLONG CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN HOME Oblong, Illinois Debby Danner, Executive Director</p> <p>REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS JOE HOLSAPPLE 315 S. Douglas Villa Grove, IL 61956</p>
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