

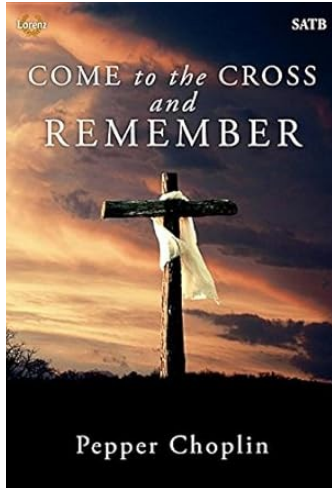


FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231

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March 24, 2026



**COMMUNITY EASTER CANTATA
SUNDAY, MARCH 29– PALM SUNDAY
4:00 P.M.**

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, VILLA GROVE

Please join us for this special event! There is a choir of 43 singers, a 16-piece orchestra, 2 narrators and prop people ready to bring you this special cantata. This will be a great way to open Holy Week! This is a free event, though there will be an opportunity to leave a donation to help defray expenses. The event is sponsored by the Villa Grove Area Ministerial Alliance.



Thursday, April 2 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service at the church

Friday, April 3 Good Friday services in the community

**Sunday, April 5 Sunrise Service– 7:30 a.m.; Breakfast to follow–
8:00 a.m. Worship Service– 9:30 a.m.**

No Sunday School or Youth Group on this date

(NOTE: There is a sign-up sheet on the south bulletin board for two more breakfast casseroles for the Easter Breakfast.)

MARCH 22, 2026

Worship & Nursery	82
Sunday School	46
Preschool Class	0
Sunday Morning Celebration	0
King's Kids	2
Blessed Believers	13
The Fellowship Class	26
Chosen Ones	5
OFFERING Total	\$2,542.00
Spendable	2,185.00
Benevolence	357.00



*There will be a VBS meeting on **MONDAY, MARCH 30**, at 6:00 p.m. at the VG Methodist Church library. This is for anyone interested in helping with VBS this summer.*



PRAYER REQUESTS

Family of Tom Bennett– Jennifer Bender’s father

Mary Gen Frick– health issues

Olive Hamann (Jeretta Mabry’s granddaughter)- responding well to medication

Sarah Hughes

Nicole Kneer

Amy O’Neill– lung cancer in both lungs

Davin Smith (Brad & Maryanna’s grandson)- having heart problems again, sees doctor in St. Louis this week

Our current church administrative assistant, Brenda Elam, will be retiring on December 15, 2026. Duties and responsibilities will be discussed with all serious candidates. Knowledge and use of the computer, word processing and other computer programs is a must. If anyone in the congregation might be interested in filling this position, please contact Mike Zylstra at the church (217)832-5231, or one of the elders.



To our graduates’ parents/families: please let the office know about any 8th Grade, High School or college graduates you have– we don’t want to miss anyone!

upcoming events

Sunday, March 29– 9:30 a.m. This is a FIFTH SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE, and the theme for the day is “REMEMBER.” Please join us for this special service.

Thursday, April 9– 6:00 p.m. Women’s Christian Fellowship is having their annual Salad Supper! There will be a sign-up sheet in the bulletin this Sunday and next. Feel free to invite a guest! More information to come...

Saturday, April 18– 11:00 a.m. The Christian Campus Fellowship (Campus Ministry) will be having a fundraising luncheon at 303 E. Green St., Urbana. This will be a casual BBQ-style gathering to celebrate the graduates and to hear about their vision for the future. For complete information, see the card on the bulletin board.

“Follow the Lights; Stay in the Tracks.”

3/24/2026

The words of the title were continually repeated in my mind one snowy night in Wisconsin. My family was traveling home on a two-lane highway when darkness came on us. We were 45 miles from home when a wind-whipped snowstorm began with such heavy snowfall that I could barely see the quickly disappearing road. Safety forced me to drive at a slow crawl. I didn't know if we would make it home. We approached a town and discovered that directly ahead of us was an 18-wheeler headed in our direction. The snow was scraping the bottom of our Ford Pinto. All I could see was the semi's taillights, and our Pinto just fit in the tracks the truck made. I told Judy, "If this truck goes in the ditch, I'm going in right after him." As long as I followed the lights and stayed in the tracks we should get home. It was slow going but over 2 hours later we saw the streetlights of Readstown, Wisconsin. We were home. Almost. We turned on the road that went to our house, but, with no truck to plow the way, we promptly got stuck 2 blocks from our house. We walked the rest of the way and entered our home exhausted but very relieved.

Painful circumstances of life can seem like that snowstorm. We walk in the dark with no way of discerning what direction we should go. We don't know why the pain is happening to us. We don't like being in the situation. And life feels like we are just barely crawling forward. We need to find a point of light and a path to follow. If we follow Jesus, the light of the world, and read the Bible, the path that guides our steps. We can find our way home. Just stay focused on the light and trust the path. Jesus knows the way through every pain.

Mike



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)

Elders:

Scott Beccue	Joe Rothermel
John Dilliner	Bob Thomas
Jerry Hughes	

MARCH 29, 2026

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

Greeters: Glenda Case (Front) Bob & Frances Dowler (South)

Coffee Fix/Cleanup: Cecile Eisenmenger/Janet Cassida

Nursery: John & Amanda Boyd

Serving: S. Sinkes, M. Hughes, R. Graham, C. Cannon

Elder-On-Call for March: JOE ROTHERMEL (217)369-5285

Mission of the Week: NEW CHURCHES OF CHRIST EVANGELISM

Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

Matt Schantz, Executive Director

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

SHIRLEY SCHWEIGHART

Brookstone Estates, Apt. 39

1106 E. Northline Rd.

Tuscola, IL 61953