



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

PHONE: 832-5231

FAX: 832-9348

July 28, 2026

Back To School



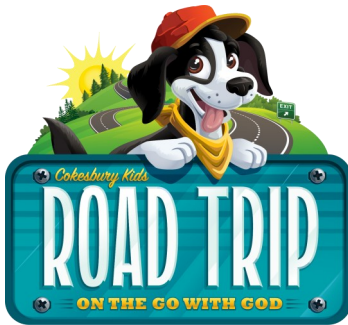
LAST WEEK FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROJECT!

Back-to-School volunteers will collect donations in July for Villa Grove students' school supplies, Grades K-8. You may deposit your donations in the cans near the collection baskets or you may deposit donations at the VG State Bank. If you write a check, please make it payable to **BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROJECT.**

Thank you to my church family for the birthday cards! It was very much appreciated.

JOYCE RITTER

Holly Wiggam would like to thank the church for all the birthday cards and get well cards she has received.



2026 VBS CLOSING INFORMATION!

****30 children attended each night**

****\$250 was received for Camp New Hope**

Thank you to all those who donated, helped, volunteered and worked with VBS this year!



JULY 26, 2026

Worship & Nursery 86
Sunday School 32

Preschool Class 0
Summer Youth Class 0
Blessed Believers 12
The Fellowship Class 15
Chosen Ones 5

OFFERING: Total \$2,206.47
Spendable 1,690.00
Benevolence 374.00
Worship 142.47

In August, Mike will be continuing his series "Little Books with a Big Message"!

August 2	Nahum
August 9	Habakkuk
August 16	Zephaniah
August 23	Titus
August 30	5th Sunday Family Worship

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Steve & Sandy Bragg– not doing well

Sarah Hughes– home; has new pain issues

Kurt Logan– stage 1 Hodgkin's lymphoma

Rich Mabry– successful GI surgical procedure; is recovering

Monte (friend of Paula Webber)- recovering from a stroke

**Shelly (friend of Sarah Cannon)- 18-month old daughter died from an infection;
sympathy and prayers for the family**

Kelly Smith (Brad & Maryanna's daughter)- has broken ankle

Dennis "Butch" Thompson (Greg Ritter's uncle, Charleston)- severe infection

**Women's
Christian Fellowship**



Women's Christian Fellowship is asking for your help in these three areas:

****WCF would like to get a committee together to decide on what window treatments would be best for the cloak room and Mike's office. If you would be interested, contact Judi Lock.**

****Judy Zylstra suggested we have some lady do the decorations for both foyer areas and the front of the auditorium. See Judy, if you might like to do this.**

****WCF is in need of someone to take over the Card Ministry for the church– this person sends birthday, anniversary, get well, sympathy cards to folks in the congregation. If this sounds like something you would like to do, contact Judi Lock.**



On August 10, PHYLLIS VAUGHT will be celebrating her 100th birthday! If you would like to send her a card, her address is:

Phyllis Vaught

P.O. Box 273

Paw Paw, IL 61353

The Administrative Assistant position at the church will be opening in December. This is a part-time, hourly-paid position. Applications will be received until **FRIDAY, JULY 31**. Applications are available in the church office or can be emailed. Questions? Contact Mike Zylstra (at the church) or any of the Elders. For more information, you can also call the church office at (217)832-5231.



**Administrative
Assistant
Position Opening**

Pain Hurts; But it Isn't Permanent

7/28/2026



It seems a bit obvious, but regardless of the form it takes, pain hurts. Whether it is chronic pain you have lived with for 50 years or the instantaneous pain of stubbing your toe, pain hurts. Many people pray that God would take away their pain. They are tired of fighting the battle against it. They are frustrated with the pain management medicines they are prescribed. Tired of pain being the focus of their life. Tired of pain's demands on their body and mind. I can't blame them. Pain can lead people to doubt God's goodness, withdraw from family and friends, or elicit anger and irrational behavior.

Of course, pain can also lead people into a closer relationship with God. When the Apostle Paul prayed for his "thorn in the side" to be taken away God said, "No." Paul's conclusion was to lean into God's grace and draw closer to God for he knew that his pain was just temporary compared to the eternal perfection that awaits those who through faith live in Christ.

C.S. Lewis once called pain, "the megaphone of God." Through pain, God is getting our attention. He is refining our faith, strengthening our resolve, maturing us as disciples of Jesus, conforming and transforming us into His image, and teaching us perseverance. His discipline is painful, but good.

As much as we wish there was no such thing as pain, we know that as long as Satan rules this world there will be pain: physical, emotional, mental, relational, financial, even spiritual. Satan doesn't bring perfection and wholeness. He brings chaos, corruption, disease and pain.

A painless world will never happen until that glorious day when Christ returns, redeems everything and recreates it as He originally intended. Until that day, expect pain. Also know that **1 John 4:4** - "Greater is He who is in you, than he who is in the world."

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

AUGUST 2, 2026

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

Greeters: Macen, Molly & Shelby Hughes (Front) Janet Cassida (South)

Coffee Fix/Cleanup: Brenda Elam/no one signed up for cleanup

Nursery: Curt & Sarah Cannon

Serving: T. Shunk, S. Shunk, D. Shunk, J. Watson

Mission of the Week: TCM INTERNATIONAL
Indianapolis, Indiana
Tony Twist, President

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

SHIRLEY SCHWEIGHART

Brookstone Estates, Apt. 39

1106 E. Northline Rd.

Tuscola, IL 61953

(217)253-3692