



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
VILLA GROVE, ILLINOIS

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August 4, 2026

BAPTISMS REFLECTIONS

Praise the Lord! We are celebrating two baptisms in the last two weeks!
JULIE SWIGART, daughter of J.P. & Lindsay, was baptized into Christ on Sunday, July 26. Julie will be a freshman at VG High School, and is very involved with our Youth Group. Her Sunday School teacher, Sarah Cannon, baptized her.

JETHRO SINKES, son of Stephen & Becky, was baptized into Christ on Sunday, August 2. Jethro is 10 years old, and will be in the 4th Grade at Unity East in Philo.

**PLEASE KEEP THESE YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS
AS THEY BEGIN THEIR NEW LIVES IN CHRIST!**

upcoming events

Sunday, August 9– 11:45 a.m. The Fellowship Ministry will meet after Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday, August 12– 6:00 p.m. Elders meeting

7:30 p.m. Monthly Board meeting, at the church

Thursday, August 13– 6:30 p.m. Women's Christian Fellowship will meet at the church.

Hostess: PATTI GROVES

Missions: BRENDA ELAM

Devotions: FRANCES DOWLER

AUGUST 2, 2026

Worship & Nursery 81
Sunday School 39

Preschool Class 2
Summer Youth Class 3
Blessed Believers 12
The Fellowship Class 17
Chosen Ones 5

OFFERING: Total \$3,165.00
Spendable 3,135.00
Memorial 30.00



For everyone... CHOICES PREGNANCY & HEALTH'S annual fundraising banquet— Saturday, September 19, 6:00pm, at the McKenna-Yost Convention Center, Mattoon

For our ladies... ASPIRE EVENING JUST FOR WOMEN— Friday, October 2, 7:00pm, Crossroads Community Church, Charleston

POSTERS FOR BOTH EVENTS ARE ON THE BULLETIN BOARD!

IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

Praise! John & Rachel Henderson (Phyllis' son and daughter-in-law)- they have moved back to the area, and the couple is expecting twins!

Sarah Hughes- hospice has been called in, keeping her pain-free; is eating and gaining weight; is lucid and not discouraged

Kurt Logan- cancer treatments

Praise! Congratulations to Jethro Sinkes, who has baptized into Christ on Sunday!

Dennis "Butch" Thompson (Greg Ritter's uncle, Charleston)- has been moved to a rehab center in Greenup

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**



Thank You!



Philippians 1:6

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for everything.

Thank you for all the cards, texts, phone calls, visits, etc. and all the food brought for our family. My biggest sadness is that I cannot be at church with you all. I keep praying for everyone and rejoice when we receive great news about baptisms and healings.

Thank you for being there for our family. I love this church and pray that I can keep serving as much as possible.

***In His Service,
SARAH HUGHES***



PHILIPPIANS 1:6, NIV

Are You Blessed?

8/4/2026

I was hurriedly walking down the street when a gentleman walked toward me. I reached out my hand and offered a customary greeting, “Hey! How are you doing?” His response was, “I’m blessed beyond what any human deserves.” We released hands and I replied, “Aren’t we all!”

It was a quick conversation, but I have questioned my response for months. Did I answer truthfully? Are we all blessed more than we deserve? What does it mean to be “blessed?” I began to Bible word study of blessedness and learned a lot. I challenge you to do your own research on this rich and beautiful concept. Here are a couple of nuggets I discovered.

Lesson #1 – Biblical blessings always describe God’s favor, approval, and spiritual enrichment based on a deep relationship with Him. In **Genesis 12:2** God told Abram, “*I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.*” The Hebrew word used is barak (בָּרַךְ) which means to kneel, bow down, or invoke God’s favor, resulting in peace, and well-being. God wasn’t promising Abram earthly prosperity but an inner wholeness. When God does “bless” with material stuff, he expects those blessings to be used to care for others.

Lesson #2 – “Blessed” in the New Testament is most famously used in the **Beatitudes** (Matt 5). The Greek word makarios (μακάριος) conveys an inner joy, a spiritual contentment, and a sense of peace as one favored by God, even when circumstances are difficult. “Blessed” is the person who experiences spiritual enrichment that flows into them by God’s grace. No one deserves to be blessed. Yet, in love, God blesses all who through faith live in His peace and wholeness.

Even when life’s circumstances aren’t in our favor, because of Jesus’ grace and mercy, we are blessed to the glory of God.

Mike



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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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 9, 2026

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

Greeters: Marsha Green (Front) Patti Groves (South)

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

Nursery: Cecile Eisenmenger

Serving: B. Smith, M. Hughes, R. Graham, R. Mabry

Mission of the Week: INTERNATIONAL COFERENCE ON MISSIONS (ICOM)

Clayton, Indiana

David Empson, Executive Director

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

JOE HOLSAPPLE

315 S. Douglas St.

Villa Grove, IL 61956