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THE CRUSADER (USPS139220) published weekly except the week after/of Christmas by First Christian Church,
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Tuesday, April 10

6pm Council of Ministries
7pm Ministry Teams

Wednesday, April 11

9:30am Bible Study
5:30pm Bible Study
5:30-7pm Youth Group & Can-Do Kids
7:30pm Choir

Thursday, April 12

9am Staff Mtg.
10:30am DW Council Mtg.
5:30pm Men's Night Out

Sunday, April 15

8:30am Worship
9:30am Coffee in small hall
10am Sunday School
11am Worship
12:30pm Worship Task Force Mtg.

Monday, April 16

4pm Brownie Troop in small hall
7pm Men's Bible Study

Tuesday, April 17

9:30am Ruth Circle at Sue Johnson's
2pm Aperion – Bob Clark
6:30pm Trustees Mtg.
7pm "Weekend" Cluster Mtg.

Wednesday, April 18

9:30am & 5:30pm Bible Study
2pm Rosewood
3pm Hawthorne
5:30-7pm Youth & Can-Do Kids
7:30pm Choir

SERVING SCHEDULE

April 15, 2018

8:30am Worship

Greet at North Street, Prayer Cards & Offering, Serve Communion: Erik Galvin, Tracy Jackson, Marnie Herring
Prepare Communion, Greet at Broad St. & Serve Out if Needed: Richard Stanley, Blair Bruyn
Offering: Misty Stecher
Communion: Steve Spicher
Prayers: Linda Mowrer
Phone: Larry Thurman

11:00 a.m. Worship

Clean up Communion, Greet at Broad St., *Acolyte, Serve Out if Needed:
*Bonnie Glass, Carmen De Voss
Greet at North St., Prayer Cards, Offering, Serve Communion: Chuck Boydston, Ruthann Smith
Elder Serving In: Bruce De Voss
Elder Serving Out: Steve Spicher, Chris Mowrer, Steph Line



April Coffee hosts:
Coffee House Class

**3rd Sunday
of the Month
Congo Coffee**



The Crusader

**First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**

301 N Broad St.
Galesburg, IL 61401 Phone: 343-9960



Church e-mail address: fccgalesburg@gmail.com

Web Page – www.fccgalesburg.org

Church Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

Organist – Amber Clark Director of Music – Steve Jackson sjackson@sandburg.edu

Secretary – Terri Oehlert fccgalesburg@gmail.com

Bookkeeper – Lynda White fcclwhite@gmail.com Custodian – Bob Conley

Co-Pastors: Gregory S. and Martha-Jean Fitch pastorgreg02@gmail.com & pastormj02@gmail.com

Vol. 72, No. 15, April 11, 2018

Sunday, APRIL 15

Message by Pastor MJ: *"More Than Enough: God's Provision"*
Scripture – John 6:1-15

8:30am Worship

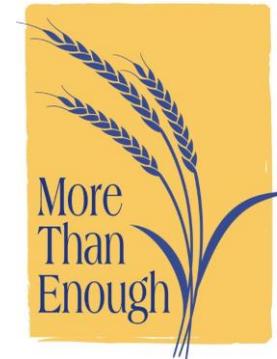
Quest Band plays, *"All I Need"*

9:30am Coffee Time in Small Hall

10am Sunday School

11am – Worship

Choir performs *"Jesus, My Lord"* by Eugene Butler



GOLDEN AGE BANQUET

"Western Round-up"

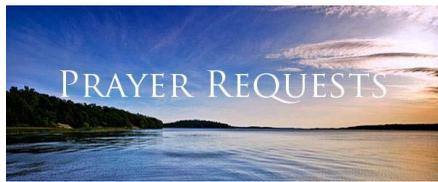
Saturday, April 21st at 5:30pm

For whippersnappers ages 65 years young and up. Hey partners – join us for a good 'ol western roundup and a yee-haw of a good time. Reservations needed. Sign-up forms will be in your Sunday bulletins on April 8th and 15th! Or you can phone the church office and let Terri know you're coming! Dress western casual – jeans are fine!

Menu: Maid-rites, Baked beans, Fruit, Dessert. Coffee, tea or water.



Our Mission Statement: *Growing Spirit-filled, committed disciples of Christ.*



IN OUR PRAYERS

... Pray for **Mark Behle** – Lesotho Missionary.
 ... All our nursing home residents and shut-ins.
 ... New City Church in Mbandaka, Congo.
 ... Pray for **Scott VanVelsor**. Continued prayers for all of his treatments.

... Pray also for **Larry VanVelsor's** uncle who is on Hospice.
 ... **Rena Miller**, condition has deteriorated. Prayers for **Raye Beasley**, for strength and comfort throughout this time.
 ... **Quincy** – healing & strength after hospitalization, his mom for strength/patience.
 ... Good test results for **Darrell Fields**. For **Vicky, Mel, and Joyce** who have breast cancer.
 ... **Jules Henry** who has surgery this week.
 ... **Marilyn Ewing**, minor surgery on Friday.
 ... **Rena's** children, that they will understand her illness and be comforted.
 ... All of our service personnel, police, firefighters, military, etc.

APRIL DISCIPLES WOMEN MEETINGS

Thurs., April 12 10:30am DW Council Mtg.
Tues., April 17 9:30am Ruth Circle at **Sue Johnson's**
Thurs., April 26 1:30pm Lydia Circle at the church



APRIL MEETINGS

Tues., April 10 - 6pm Council of Ministries,
 7pm Ministry Teams
Thurs., April 12 - 5:30pm Men's Night Out @ Pizza Ranch
Tues., April 17 - 6:30pm Trustees Mtg.
Tues., April 24 - 7pm Leaders Training

"CAN-DO KIDS" & YOUTH GROUP APRIL SCHEDULE

Youth Group and Can-Do Kids will meet on **April 11, 18 and 25** from **5:30-7pm**. Bring your friends!



MEN'S NIGHT OUT

Thursday, April 12th, 5:30pm
At the Pizza Ranch

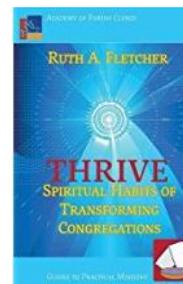
All men welcome! Each pay for their own.
 Fellowship and a short devotion.



"THRIVE" written by Ruth Fletcher

THRIVE EVENT/DESSERT POTLUCK at F.C.C.

Ruth Fletcher, Regional Minister in Montana, has written the book, "Thrive... Spiritual Habits of Transforming Congregations". We are so blessed that she will be here in our church on **Thursday, April 19th**, for a dessert pot-luck event at **7pm**. Church leaders are encouraged to attend – and all are welcome. The book inspires congregations by sharing stories of how God is at work in transforming congregations.



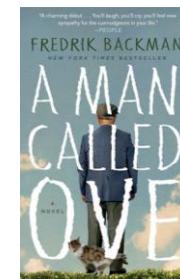
We will be studying this book on **Wednesday** mornings at **9:30am** or **Wednesday** evenings at **5:30pm**, beginning **April 11th** and would invite anyone interested in reading the book to join in. Contact Pastor MJ with any questions you may have. Below, you will find a YouTube link. You are encouraged to go to the link for more information about the book and the regional event being held on **April 21, from 10-4pm** in Springfield, featuring Ruth Fletcher. The registration cost is \$10.
<https://youtu.be/fBI5yINwGFk>

CROSS DISPLAY IN LARGE HALL

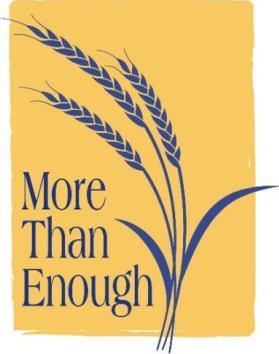
If you loaned us a cross for the display downstairs, please pick yours up. A new display will be created. Thank you for letting us borrow yours!



BOOK CLUB APRIL 22nd - Following Second Service



Our next book is by Backman, and it is called **A MAN CALLED OVE: A NOVEL**. This novel is "...the New York Times bestseller that has taken the world by storm! Meet **Ove**. He's a curmudgeon—the kind of **man** who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse." (Amazon) Nevertheless, I think you'll grow to love him! We will meet in the Conference room across from the Pastors' offices. Feel free to bring a lunch.



God can bless you with everything you need, and you will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others. 2 Corinthians 9:8 (CEV)

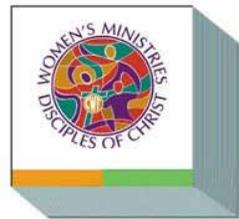
As we serve a God of “more than enough”, He wants us to have an abundance of resources, wisdom and peace—everything we need. In the Bible, God calls us to be generous and He promises to bless us when we are. It’s not only about our finances but also about our hearts, time, talents *and* our treasures.

Blessings follow generosity.

As we begin our annual stewardship campaign, we need to thank God for leading and guiding us into a place of abundance so that we can live generously and give open-heartedly just as he does with us.

THANK YOU’S

- *“Dear First Christian Church Family – Thank you for thinking of us on our very special day! We appreciate the card and blessed wishes.” Sincerely, **Nathan and Leanne Unger***
- *“Thank you for many cards, visits, cookies, candies and all the helping hands. I love you all. Hope to see you soon.” – **Joyce Aldridge***
- *“Dear Friends – Thank you for remembering me on Easter with the beautiful pot of yellow tulips.” – Sincerely, **Dorothy Hays***



BLESSING BOXES “LIVING WITH GRATITUDE”

Friends, have you remembered to use your Blessing Box on a regular basis this past year? Disciples Women will be dedicating the offerings from your Blessing Box on **April 22nd** at worship. Please bring your Blessing Box (or the contents thereof) to the church that day and place it in the basket provided on the first pew in the sanctuary. The offering will be dedicated during worship and will then be forwarded to the Disciples Mission Fund to be added to offerings given by many Disciples churches for the ongoing work of the Church and Disciples Women.

If you are unable to be at worship on **April 22nd**, please give the contents of your Blessing Box to your circle leader, Sue Johnson or Earlene Crouse, or leave it in the church office. Thank you for participating in this project of love and gratitude to God.



Several centuries ago, in a mountain village in Europe, a wealthy nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to his townspeople. He made a good decision. He decided to build them a church. No one was permitted to see the plans or the inside of the church until it was finished. At its grand opening, the people gathered and marveled at the beauty of the new church. Everything had been thought of and included. It was a masterpiece.

But then someone said, “Wait a minute! Where are the lamps? It is really quite dark in here. How will the church be lighted?”

The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls and then he gave each family a lamp, which they were to bring with them each time they came to worship. “Each time you are here,” the nobleman said, “the place where you are seated will be lighted. Each time you are not here, that place will be dark. This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to church, some part of God’s house will be dark.”

I really love that story!! I believe that each and every person is important to the church – and that God has called each of us to be here – to give our unique gifts and talents to make the church that living, growing body of Christ. When, for whatever reason, you fail to come to church regularly – and when, for whatever reason, you decide not to share your gifts of time, talents and resources – the church is not as healthy as it needs to be. Indeed – part of God’s house is dark!!

We are so grateful for those this past Sunday who shined their light through bringing the message – **Misty Stecher** – and all those who contributed to the service by praying, giving a communion or offering message, serving communion. There are others who faithfully, every Sunday, shine their light through singing in Quest Band and the choir – teaching Sunday School classes, running the sound board/projection or preparing the power point slides – and the list can continue on with all who help with the children’s and youth ministry in the middle of the week. Just think about what wonderful light is spread with all of you who faithfully serve each and every week.

But please know, we do greatly miss those of you who have not been able to attend worship or for those who believe that they aren’t able to contribute anything. We need your light! You will help our church to grow and to be faithful witnesses in our community to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus said we are to shine our lights so that the world will see our good works and give glory to God the Father.

What are you doing with your light? Hope that your corner of our church will be bright and shining this Sunday (and every day)!

Praying and giving thanks for you all, **Pastor MJ**