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THE CRUSADER (USPS139220) published weekly except the week after/of Christmas by First Christian Church,
301 N. Broad St., Galesburg, IL 61401-3696. POSTMASTER: Send Address Corrections to The Crusader at above address.
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Tuesday, January 9

6pm Council of Ministries Potluck
No Ministry Teams but welcome to Potluck

Wednesday, January 10

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

Thursday, January 11

9am Staff Mtg.

Saturday, January 13

5:30pm D.W. Chili/Potato Soup – L.H.

Sunday, January 14

8:30am Worship
9:30am Coffee time in small hall
10am Sunday School
11am Worship

Monday, January 15

Martin Luther King Jr. Day – office closed
7pm Men's Bible Study

Tuesday, January 16

10:30am Heartland – Bob Clark
6:30pm Trustees Mtg.
7pm "Weekend" Cluster

Wednesday, January 17

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

SERVING SCHEDULE

January 14, 2018

8:30am Worship

Greet at North Street, Prayer Cards & Offering, Serve Communion: Janet Foster & Ja Unger

Prepare Communion, Greet at Broad St. & Serve Out if Needed: Rachel Rose & Linda Mowrer

Offering: Hope Nelson
Communion: Neill Unger

Prayers: Pastor MJ

Phone: Larry Thurman

11:00 a.m. Worship

Clean up Communion, Greet at Broad St., *Acolyte, Serve Out if Needed: * Renée & Erik Galvin

Greet at North St., Prayer Cards, Offering, Serve Communion: Marge Patterson & Mack Glass

Elder Serving In: Jan Luallen

Elder Serving Out: Neill Unger



January Coffee hosts:

Friendship 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

For Church News call 345-4020

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. 2, January 10, 2018



Sunday, January 14 - Epiphany

Message by Pastor Greg

"Led by the Light: Lighten Up"

Isaiah 9:1-4

8:30am Worship, Quest Band plays, *"Great Light of the World"*

9:30am Coffee time in small, January birthdays celebrated

10am Sunday School

11am – Worship, Choir sings *"Christ Will Give You Light"* by Robert M. Hutmacher

CHILI OR POTATO SOUP SUPPER

Saturday, January 13th at 5:30pm

All proceeds go to Disciples Mission Fund



We understand that due to extremely cold winter conditions, snowy roads, etc. many of you are unable to be with us at worship on Sunday. Unfortunately, the bills keep rolling in! Please consider mailing your tithe and offerings to the church if you're unable to join us. Thank you!



IN OUR PRAYERS

... CCIW Prayer list: Colfax CC, Arrowsmith CC, New Covenant CC Normal.
 ... Pray for **Bethany Waggoner** – Missionary in Lebanon with Global Ministries.
 ... All our nursing home residents and shut-ins.
 ... Scott is in Iowa City receiving infusion medication

to slow the progress of ALS. Prayers the treatment is successful. – **Jess, Larry & Kathy VanVelsor**

... New City Church in Mbandaka.
 ... **Phyllis Peterson**, hospitalized and not doing well.
 ... for our custodian, **Bob Conley**, as he recovers from recent neck surgery.
 ... Prayers for a 4-month old baby with a tumor on his liver.
 ... **Lynne Bruyn**, currently hospitalized at Cottage.
 ... Prayers for **Bella's** surgery to go well Tuesday; continued prayers for **Ralph Nalley**.
 ... **Marilyn Swegle**, in Bounceback, hip issues/can't walk.

BLANKET SUNDAYS

January 21 and 28

Disciples Women are again asking the congregation to participate in the CWS Blankets+ program. Blankets+ means that CWS will be there as people recover after a disaster or basic needs are not being met because of so much poverty. CWS published a 2016 impact report for the distribution of 3,064 blankets to people in the U.S. Total kits and blankets distributed

to the US and other countries was 237,659. This proves our contribution provides the means to transform lives and communities when faced with an emergency or struggling to put food on the table.

Just a donation of \$5 will go towards purchasing a blanket or \$10 will purchase a blanket fully. Please give generously. Thank you for your compassionate response. Please make your check payable to First Christian Church.

Go to www.churchworldservice.org to learn more about this organization and all the ways you can help.

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

“CAN-DO KIDS” & YOUTH GROUP JANUARY SCHEDULE

In January the youth group and Can-do Kids will meet on **Wednesdays from 5:30-7pm on January 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st.**



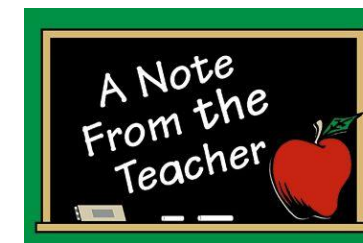
REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION BREAKFAST January 15th at 7:30am Guest Speaker – Tony Franklin

The Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee invites you to the annual Holiday Breakfast. The designated national holiday of Martin Luther King Jr. **January 15th**. The breakfast will be held at First Lutheran Church, 364 E Waters St., at **7:30am**. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children ten and under.

“KING CORNER” ...

*Featuring weekly news
from the teachers at King School*

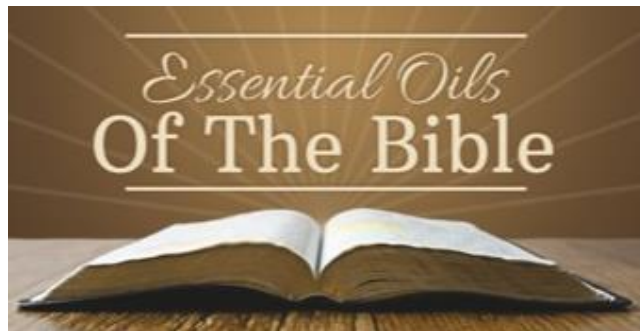
“My name is **Kristi Malek**. I would like to thank you for the many blessings you have extended to King School staff and students. I have taught for 22 years in Galesburg, twelve of them have been in the kindergarten classroom at King School. I truly enjoy the many changes that take place during the kindergarten year. My young students learn to read, count, add, subtract, share and cooperate throughout the year. It's amazing how much they are capable of learning! Beyond the classroom, I am a wife and mother of three sons. My oldest son is attending the University of Iowa, my middle son is a senior at ROWVA High School and my youngest son is in junior high. I love having the responsibilities of a teacher in one district and the parent/volunteer responsibilities in another school district. I am sincerely grateful for the many things your church has done to help our students. Thank you for your continued support and prayer.”



**ESSENTIAL OILS
OF THE BIBLE**
“An Educational Event”
Saturday, January 20th at 2pm in
Large Hall
*Nourish and Support Your Body,
Mind and Spirit*

Hosted by **Melanie Antonacci**
& **Candi Moulton** here at First
Christian Church. Daily applications of essential oils in Biblical times were extensive indeed. 36 of the 39 books of the Old Testament and 10 of the 27 books of the New Testament, mention essential oils or the plants that produce them. These were the medicines provided by God. Learn how to use Essential Oils based on what the Bible has shared with us for thousands of years.

Sign up and have faith guide your health at Healthsavvy.synduit.com/EOB0002



SUPER SERMON SPIES

Super Sermon Spies – **Dinah, Divinity and Renée Galvin** listened to **Pastor MJ's** sermon this past Sunday so closely, they heard her say the following words: Star-6 times, Light – 58 times, Jesus – 14 times and Epiphany – 7 times.

Why not join the Spy Club and follow along this Sunday to **Pastor Greg's** sermon? See if you can “detect” the mystery words in his message and you can be a Super Sermon Spy too!

You won't stumble in the dark if you walk in the light of God's word.

Knutty Knitters 

The next meeting of the Knutty Knitters will be on Monday, January 22nd, from 9am-11am at Faith United Methodist Church.

FROM THE PASTOR

We have begun a new sermon series called “Led by the Light”. All throughout Epiphany (the next 6 weeks leading up to Lent), we will focus on ways we can be “light-hearted” and “light-focused”...energized and enlightened by Jesus, the Light of the World.

Our theme song for our series is from Psalm 119:105 – “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” We can trust God's Word to show us the way and guide us on our journey of life. God's words give us strength for today and hope for tomorrow. We may not always see all of the future laid out before us, but we will always have enough light for each step we take, one step at a time.

I ran across a devotional from Joe Stowell that I thought helps explain this perfectly. Joe Stowell writes this:

I've always thought that I could get through just about anything if the Lord would tell me what the outcome would be. I believe that “all things work together for good” in the end (Rom. 8:28), but I'd do a lot better in dark times if I knew exactly what the “good” would look like.

But God usually doesn't show us where He is taking us. He just asks us to trust Him. It's like driving a car at night. Our headlights never shine all the way to our destination; they illuminate only about 160 feet ahead. But that doesn't deter us from moving forward.

We trust our headlights. All we really need is enough light to keep moving forward. God's Word is like headlights in dark times. It is full of promises we need to keep us from driving our lives into the ditch of bitterness and despair. His Word promises that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5). His Word assures us that He knows the plans He has for us, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give us “a future and a hope” (Jer. 29:11). And He tells us that our trials are there to make us better, not bitter (James 1:2-4). So, the next time you feel as if you're driving in the dark, remember to trust your headlights—God's Word will light your way.

This week's challenge, to be “Led by the Light” is to start a daily Bible Reading Plan. We have copies of a Bible Reading Plan available at the church office. But there are many plans available on-line and there might even be one in the index of your own personal Bible. I also highly recommend getting the YouVersion Bible App on your smart-phone. There are hundreds of different devotionals and Bible reading plans you can choose from.

The most important thing is to start reading God's love letter to you – and trust those headlights – God's word to light your way into this new year!

Let me know how God's word is speaking to you, *Pastor MJ*