

# The Christian Visitor February 2021



*We are called to share our Christian Faith and Christ's Love with all people.*

## Our Life Together in February

### Sunday Morning Worship One Service at 10:15am

Since our region of Illinois has entered Phase 4, we can now go back to having one service each week at our usual time of 10:15am. However, if we move down a phase at any point, we will have to reassess. Any changes to our morning worship plans will be announced via email and social media. As always, we encourage anyone who does not feel safe attending or is currently feeling sick to please stay home. A video service will continue to be sent out through email and Facebook for those worshipping from home.

### Return to Sunday School February 7th

As we have gone back to having only one service on Sunday mornings, Sunday school will begin meeting again on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 9:15am. We have classes for:

- Sunday Seekers (ADULT)
- Pre-K to Kindergarten
- 1st and 2nd grade
- 3rd through 5th grade
- 6th through 8th grade



### Daily Song Reflection

Now until Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17th), we will be partaking in a daily song reflection from Pastor Mat's playlist. This reflection will be emailed to our daily study email group and posted to our church Facebook daily. If you would like to be added to our email list, please contact Pastor Mat or the office at (217) 784-5460



### Operation Snow Shovel



Brrrrr!! Punxsutawney Phil is predicting 6 more weeks of winter. If you or someone you know is needing their sidewalk or driveway cleared, please call the church 784-5460 or Sharon Higgins 784-5319 or 217-418-9294. We have individuals ready and willing to help.

### Bi-weekly Fellowship Study

A Bi-weekly Fellowship Study will meet every other Thursday beginning February 4th at 6:00pm at Pastor Mat's house (817 E 1st St). Everyone is welcome to attend.



### Blood Drive



The hospital auxiliary is hosting a blood drive on February 15, 2021 from noon-5:30pm at First Presbyterian Church. Call Sharon at 217-249-8103 by February 10th to make an appointment to donate.

### Elders Meeting

The Elders will meet on Sunday, February 21st immediately following worship.

## More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

### Pastor Mat's Musings February 2021

*Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

I have always admired Abraham Lincoln's capacity for bringing together people of different persuasions and personalities. Among his more famous quotes was, "Some of my friends are for it. Some of my friends are against it. I am for my friends". While this probably did not satisfy either of his friends, it illustrates his desire to keep peace as much as he could.

The apostle Paul shared that passion. He was "eager" to maintain the unity of the body. Some groups of people try to do that by only hanging with those who are like them in everything. But, the early churches of the NT era had slaves as members. Some of them had their masters in the same congregation. Think of what that felt like to the slaves. Think of how the masters had to labor to respond to slaves as "co-equal sharers in the life of Jesus", just as influential and valued in that church community. There were Jews who were zealous for their traditions in which they had learned to know and love God. There were Gentiles to whom those traditions were meaningless. Wealthy Roman citizens, whose whole economic prosperity was due to their birth and position took communion with people of other nationalities. Most of those other ethnicities were people forced to serve in Roman cities because they had been vanquished by the arm of Rome. How did they pull off unity?! Their lives were united around a Person. Jesus was central to their lives. It was His Spirit that was the bond of peace.

May God help us all be continually "eager" to maintain such unity! Jesus' church always brings together people who should not be able to co-exist. But, it is the glory of the Spirit to make it happen.

**Praise be to God!**

### Small Groups

#### Bi-Weekly Fellowship Study

This small group meets every other Thursday at 6:00pm at Pastor Mat's house. Meeting dates for this month: February 4th and 18th

#### DWM

The Disciple Women's Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month. These brief gatherings provide a casual atmosphere for the women in the church to study and encourage each other in faith and family. Next meeting: February 16th at 7:00pm at the church.

#### Seekers

The Seekers Adult Sunday School class meets the first and third Sunday of each month at 9:15am. Meeting dates for this month: February 7th & 21st

#### Hustlers

Hustlers Group meets on the fourth Sunday of each month.

### Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Tuesday, February 9th at 6:30 pm at the church.

If you have any items to add to the agenda, please notify the church office.

### Memorial Gifts

Memorial Gifts to First Christian Church have been received in memory of

**Clyde McRae**

These gifts are added to our Memorial Fund for current and future projects, furthering our shared ministry and mission.

**Office Hours:**  
 Mon—Fri: 9:00 am—1:00 pm  
 Church Phone: 217-784-5460  
 gcfcedoc@yahoo.com  
 fecdocgc.com

# February 2021

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5	6
				6:00 PM Rise Youth Group	6:00 PM Fellowship Study		
<b>7</b>	9:15 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 5:00 PM High School Ministry	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6:30 PM Church Board	<b>10</b> 6:00 PM Rise Youth Group	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	10:15 AM Worship 5:00 PM High School Ministry	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7:00 PM DWM	<b>17</b> 6:00 PM Rise Youth Group	<b>18</b> 6:00 PM Fellowship Study	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	9:15 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Elders Meeting 5:00 PM High School Ministry	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:00 PM Rise Youth Group	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	10:15 AM Worship 5:00 PM High School Ministry						

**LOCAL  
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES  
*February 2021***

- 1 Ashley Nicole Spears
- 2 Lindsey Graham
- 10 Ruth Reiners
- 14 Dayne White
- 21 Hailey Johnson  
Jessica Moore
- 22 Dennis Higgins
- 23 Penny Lorenzen
- 25 Janet Iverson
- 29 Sue McClard



## High School Ministry

Our High School Ministry meets each Sunday at 5:00pm in the youth room with pre-packaged snacks and social distancing.



## Rise Youth Group

Our Rise Middle School Youth Group meets each Wednesday at 6:00pm in the youth room with prepackaged snacks and a short lesson.



**Pastor** - Mat Bowen  
**Administrative Assistant** - Jennifer Hagan  
**Choir Director** - Tim Ricks  
**Church Pianist** - Joan Ricks  
**Custodians** - Jeff and Cheryl Elder

9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. Worship Service  
Church Phone 784-5460  
Email address: [gfcfcdoc@yahoo.com](mailto:gfcfcdoc@yahoo.com)  
Website: [fcdocgc.com](http://fcdocgc.com)

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED