

The Christian Visitor June 2023



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

Our Life Together in June

Pulpit Guest Sunday, June 11th

On Sunday, June 11th we will welcome Rev. Dr. Alex Ruth to the pulpit. Alex is the region's Associate Regional Minister for Transformation and recently led our church's Leadership Retreat.

Welcome Table Wednesday June 21st

This month's Welcome Table Wednesday will take place on June 21st, with a meal at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall, followed by a short lesson. We are looking for people to provide the meal for these evenings. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Congregational Meeting June 25th

The Annual Congregational Meeting has been set for Sunday, June 25th immediately following worship. This meeting is for electing Elders and Deacons and approving next year's budget.



Bible Study

A weekly bible study meets every Tuesday evening at 6:30pm. There will be no bible study on June 6th, as Pastor David will be out of town, but will pick back up on June 13th.

Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Sunday, June 11th following worship.

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

Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes for the new church year, beginning Sunday, July 2nd, are available for pickup in the narthex. Please sign your name next to the number that matches the box you take.

ATTEND- ANCE		SUNDAY WEEK					AVG
		1	2	3	4	5	
2023	JAN	29	41	41	41	37	38
2023	FEB	40	32	30	40		36
2023	MAR	27	41	36	30		34
2023	APR	48	54	40	35	37	43
2023	MAY	31	40	43	39		38

Memorial Gifts

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

Ivan Donner

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

More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

A PASTOR'S PONDERING

So the church finds herself in what we call “that long green season” — known in church parlance as *The Season After Pentecost*, or *Ordinary Time*. It lasts from The Second Sunday After Pentecost until The First Sunday of Advent, usually 26 weeks or so. We call it the “Green Season” because the liturgical color for the season is green, signifying growth.

As I drive in from Rantoul, I pass along a whole lot of farm land. For the past couple of weeks, I've noticed the fields becoming more and more green with growing corn and soybean. Lisa has done some gardening at the house, and her pots and planters are beginning to yield, as well. This certainly is the season for growing, isn't it!

As I watch the fields and planters getting taller, it causes me to think about the growth of our church. I wonder how we are going to grow as individuals and as a community of faith. We will certainly grow in age. I hope we'll also grow in wisdom and grace! I've noticed some green sprouts as we emerge into the season. Our giving has increased. We have gotten Welcome Table Wednesday up and running. Our Bible study has seen great participation. We're looking to build our budget to include some new ministries, new opportunities, and new ways of building community. Our leadership has begun meeting to assimilate and implement the things we discussed in our leadership retreat in April. We're beginning to bloom where we've been planted!

As I become more and more “moved in” among you, I perceive the particular things to which I feel this community is called. Your strengths and your energy point me to a couple of things that I hope we can build on (it's always good to build on your strengths!). One is your care and compassion for each other and your friends and neighbors in the community. This is a caring congregation. The other is that you all like to be together. You have close ties with one another. You look at each other as being part of one big family in the Lord. Those are the strengths I'd like for us to focus on and build upon as we move forward together.

When we met in our retreat, it became evident, as you shared your history and stories, that this congregation is very proactive. That was also made evident during our recent stewardship campaign. You are a forward-looking community. That's a great tool to have in our tool box as we seek to grow together in compassionate community this season! We have the ability to plan, to strategize, and to “take care of business.” It is this trait that will help us move forward in growth.

I think this is why you and I are such a great fit. You all are a compassionate community. You know by now that I talk about “**right relationship**” a lot as a spiritual endeavor. Right relationship builds community. Right relationship builds our awareness of the ways in which God is working in our lives. Right relationship fosters those things Jesus thought important enough to teach us:

- Compassion
- Forgiveness
- Kindness
- Forbearance
- Hospitality
- Welcome of the stranger
- Self-giving
- Inclusion of the outsider
- Justice
- Equity
- Love

I'm going to stress these things as points along which we can grow together in our spiritual journey. I'm going to stress ways in which we can begin to notice God in our lives and in the world around us. Because God is always there — especially in the “small stuff” of life.

I'm excited to see how we shall grow together, as we finish out this church year and move into a new one. I hope we'll walk together in love as Christ has loved us.

May it be so! May it be so for us!

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

June 2023

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2	3
4 10:15 AM Worship	5	6	7	8	9	10	
				Pastor Vacation			
11 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Church Board	12	13 6:30 PM Bible Study	14	15	16	17	
18 10:15 AM Worship	19	20 6:30 PM Bible Study	21 6:00 PM Welcome Table Wednesday	22	23	24	
25 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Congregational Meeting	26	27 6:30 PM Bible Study	28	29	30		

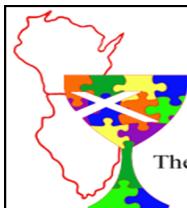
**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
June 2023**

6 David & Cathy Hagan '81
Kate Provin
8 Ron and Janet Hoffman '96
10 Ron & Melanie Warfield '67
Harold & Jalene Medler '62
11 Angie Barnard
Patty Storm
Steve & Beth Tabor '94
16 Beth Tabor
17 Cheryl Elder
Jeff & Cheryl Elder '78
Josh & Stephanie Johnson '06
19 Darrell & Sue Ann Rickey '71
20 Elliott & Leah McClure '15
22 Sue Walker
Wesley Johnson
24 Troy & Kathy Jo Spears '00
Matt & Angie Barnard '06
27 Jerry & Ida Wahls '70



Worship Leaders

Please consider serving as worship leader in June. A sign up sheet is on the table in the narthex.



**Sister Congregations
in Our Prayers**

The Christian Church in Illinois - Wisconsin
Together Making Disciples of Christ

June 4 FCC Blue Mound, Harvest Time Fellowship, Muskegon Heights, MI
June 11 Gilead Chicago, Root and Branch CC, New Beginnings Fellowship;
June 18 15th Ave CC Rock Island, Memorial CC Moline, FCC Maywood, Riverview Park CC, St. Joseph, MI
June 25 Second CC Rockford, Bethany CC, Detroit, MI; Summer Camps at Camp Walter Scott, Crystal Lake Conference Center

Pastor - David Massey-Brown
Administrative Assistant - Jennifer Hagan
Choir Director - Tim Ricks
Church Pianist - Joan Ricks
Custodians - Jeff and Cheryl Elder

10:15 a.m. Worship Service
Church Phone 784-5460
Email address: gcfccdoc@yahoo.com
Website: fccdocg.com

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED