

The Christian Visitor June 2025



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

Our Life Together in June

First Sunday Fellowship June 1st



The June First Sunday Fellowship will be on Sunday, June 1st following worship. It will feature Italian appetizers and a presentation by Angie Barnard about her recent trip to Italy.

Stewardship Campaign

This year's stewardship campaign is underway and will end on June 8th. Pledge cards and letters have been sent out, with extras available on the table in the narthex.

June 8th will be Celebration Sunday with the collection of pledges and a catered meal following worship.

Pentecost Offering June 1st & 8th



It's all about layers. God breathing life into dust. Moses leading people out of slavery into freedom. Hagar calling on God to remember God's covenant. Layer after layer. Mary saying yes. Jesus breaking bread. Young people seeing visions. Elders dreaming dreams. Our ancestors building a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. Going above and beyond church as it's always been.

Your participation in the 2025 Pentecost Offering lays down another layer, going above and beyond what's been done to what God's spirit is doing next. These gifts support local new churches and New Church Ministry, which trains, equips, and assists emerging and affiliating communities of faith and their leaders.

Congregational Meeting June 22nd

The Annual Congregational Meeting has been set for Sunday, June 22nd immediately following worship. This meeting is for electing Elders and Deacons and approving next year's budget.

Offering Envelopes



Offering Envelopes for the new church year, beginning Sunday, July 6th, are available for pickup in the narthex. Please sign your name next to the number that matches the box you take.

Church Board

The June Church Board Meeting will take place on Sunday, June 15th at 8:30am.

Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed the week of June 9th-13th.

Hustlers

The Hustlers will meet on Sunday, June 22nd at 5:00pm.

More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

Robert's Reflections

Greetings! On my drive to and from my home in Kankakee and the church in Gibson City, I have seen the transformation of the seemingly lifeless fields of winter as tiny rows of corn begin to emerge from spring planting. The landscape has been changing color all around us these past several weeks as leaves dominate once empty branches and flowers signal the return of warmer temperatures and increased hours of daylight. The songbird migration has happened with millions of birds moving north by nightfall to nest in the more temperate climate of the northern states and Canada. Goslings have begun making their appearance along waterways and ponds and the ever productive rabbits' nests are filling with bunnies.

I have been busy preparing and planting my garden plots at my homestead. Gardening is in my blood, passed down from parents who worked the tiny strips of soil to produce vegetables for canning and sharing with relatives and friends. My ancestry traces back to French immigrants who came to Illinois via Canada as truck farmers in the St. Anne area. Our family name was spelled and pronounced differently back in the 1800s. Boucher (Boo-shay) was so often mispronounced that the family changed the spelling to Bushey with the intent of getting the correct French pronunciation but English phonetics took over and we have been Bush-ees ever since.

In the church we are closing in on the end of the fiscal year as we change worship seasons from Eastertide to Pentecost and Ordinary Time. Liturgical colors will change from white to red to green and the focus of the lectionary readings will also change some as we leave the resurrection appearances and early missionary stories of the church and follow the teaching and ministry of Jesus as recorded in Luke's gospel. As a congregation we will vote on a new budget for the coming fiscal year based in part on your faithful response through your annual giving or your pledged giving to First Christian Church. A celebration of our Stewardship Campaign will be held on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th. Officers, Elders and Trustees will be elected to serve new terms and we will begin the process of reviewing the Constitution and by-laws of the congregation.

Seasons change, landscapes change, names may change, leadership changes and churches change over time. Change is ironically one of the constants of life. Transformation on the other hand is not. We may change specific things about ourselves, our living spaces, or our worship for instance without doing the work of transformation or fundamentally altering anything. We could change our diet to decrease sodium intake, for instance, without becoming a vegetarian or vegan. Transformation may require a shift in core values, beliefs and organizational structures. That's something most individuals and many congregations are reluctant to do. And, it is exactly what discipleship calls us to do. As followers of the risen Christ, empowered by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, we are invited to be transformed in the newness of life and to transform our relationships, our homes and our community with the unconditional love of God and unreserved concern for the well-being of our neighbors made known to us in Jesus.

In just a few short weeks, we will reach the pinnacle of hours of daylight on the solstice and begin the cycle of shortening days once again. The changes will impact our lives, but probably not in a transformative way. My hope and prayer is for a spirit of transformation, an openness to the power and presence of God in our midst as we worship, study, fellowship, serve, give and share together through the summer and beyond. May it be so.

Peace & Joy, Rev. Robert Bushey

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

June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Fellowship	2	3	4	5	6	7 Church & Fellowship Hall Reserved
Pentecost Offering						
8 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Celebration Meal	9	10	11	12	13	14
Pentecost Offering			Secretary Vacation - Office Closed			
15 8:30 AM Church Board 10:15 AM Worship	16	17	18	19	20	21
			Secretary Vacation			
22 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Congregational Meeting 5:00 PM Hustlers	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 10:15 AM Worship	30					

**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
*June 2025***

6 David & Cathy Hagan '81
Kate Provin
8 Ron and Janet Hoffman '96
10 Ron & Melanie Warfield '67
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



**Sister Congregations
in Our Prayers**

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

June 1 15th Avenue CC, Rock Island, IL; Memorial CC, Moline, IL; FCC Maywood, IL; Handyperson Skills Week at Walter Scott

June 8 Pentecost Offering for New Church Ministry; Root and Branch CC; ANEW Church; Continuous Grace CC, Flint, MI; Kingdom Building CC, Detroit, MI; Word Encounter CC, Detroit, MI; CYF Camp at Walter Scott

June 15 Disciples Men's Ministry; You & Me Camp at Walter Scott; Beginners Camp at Walter Scott; Elementary Camp at Crystal Conference Center

June 22 Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors; Old State Road CC, Charleston, IL; FCC Watseka, IL; JYF Camp at Walter Scott; Day Camp at Crystal Conference Center

June 29 Healing of our nation; Chi-Rho Camp at Walter Scott

Interim Minister - Rev Robert Bushey
Administrative Assistant - Jennifer Hagan
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: fccdocgc.com

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED