

The Christian Visitor May 2025



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

Our Life Together in May

First Sunday Fellowship May 4th



First Sunday Fellowship will be on Sunday, May 4th following worship. We will have a sloppy joe lunch and Dr. Hagan will provide information about radon.

Looking Ahead

The June First Sunday Fellowship will be on Sunday, June 1st following worship. Angie Barnard will provide a presentation on her recent trip to Italy.



Stewardship Campaign

This year's stewardship campaign will begin on Sunday, May 18th and end on June 8th. Pledge cards and letters will be 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.

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 May Church Board Meeting has been pushed back a week and will take place on Sunday, May 18th following worship.

Elders Breakfast

There will be an Elders Breakfast on Sunday, May 18th at 8:00am in the fellowship hall.

Welcome New Member!



On Sunday, April 13th, we welcomed Jeff Harden into the membership of First Christian Church.

Memorial Gifts

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

Jalene Medler

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

Worship Leaders

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

More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

Robert's Reflections

On Easter Sunday the world learned of the death of Pope Francis at age 88, the 266th Bishop of Rome. Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he was a man of many firsts, he was the first Jesuit and the first Latin American to be chosen for the papal office. He was the first to choose the name Francis, which of course comes from St. Francis of Assisi who was called by God to “rebuild my church” in the 12th century, known for his love of the poor and his uncanny connection with nature. St. Francis is perhaps most widely known for his prayer:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

Pope Francis faced great challenges as he led the billion plus member global Catholic church in a time of massive cultural change and deep controversies. Perhaps rooting his papacy in the humility, compassion, concern, connectedness, and the desire for peace of St. Francis assisted him as he guided the massively powerful institution of Roman Catholicism through the seas of discontent swirling around the tenets and policies of the most influential movement of Christian faith through the centuries. Francis was noted for his humility, emphasis on God's mercy, international visibility, commitment to interreligious dialogue, and concern for the poor, migrants, and refugees.

Back in 2013, his election was considered a radical move by the conclave of Cardinals. Being a teaching order, scholarly and humble, the Jesuit way is not often associated with high pomp and circumstance. Certainly, a radical choice was not a bad choice. For radical comes from the Latin *radix*, the same word from which we get the word “root.” To be radical is to be rooted, to be grounded in such a way as to draw from the place where one is planted. In this sense, Francis was radical and I hope I am too. In my office at home, I have a statue of St. Francis of Assisi near my desk to remind me that my call is rooted in serving the marginalized and honoring all of God's creation. For the Lord we serve was radical, himself. Jesus was rooted in the unconditional love of God for each and everyone, which he demonstrated through his life and ministry.

As we celebrate the season of Eastertide, farmers are planting crops, gardeners are planting future salads and bouquets and people of faith, filled with the Spirit and rooted in the newness of life revealed through the resurrection of Jesus, are planting seeds of transformation in the world and the church. Lord make us instruments of your peace. Amen.

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

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Fellowship	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day 10:15 AM Worship	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 8:00 AM Elder's Breakfast 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Church Board	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:15 AM Worship	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31

**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
May 2025**

1 Bryan Medler
2 Heidi VanWinkle
3 Jean Donovan
4 Lori Eberly
5 Leah McClure
7 Joe Mouser, Jr.
Rodney Mott
9 Jeff Elder
14 Gary Reiners
Anna Lynn Warren
17 Andrew Iverson
19 Landon Elder
21 Harold Medler
Erin Tabor
25 Lori Rinehart
26 Mona Summers
30 Raymond Goin



**Sister Congregations
in Our Prayers**

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

May 4 NAPAD Ministry and the gifting and gifts of Asian American and Pacific Islander Disciples; Korean Christian, Springfield, IL; Living Stone CC, Evanston, IL; Chicago Christian Church, Des Plaines, IL; Happy Christian Church, North Brook, IL; Chuukese Christian Church, Eau Claire, WI

May 11 Colfax CC, IL; Arrowsmith CC, IL; New Covenant Community Church, Bloomington, IL; FCC Muir, MI

May 18 Mental Health Ministries; Second CC, Rockford, IL; Bethany CC, Detroit, MI; Christian Church of Kalamazoo, MI; Family Camp @ Walter Scott

May 25 Barneys Prairie CC, IL; FCC Mt Carmel, IL; FCC Henry, IL; Lomax CC, IL; Cowden Lake CC, Coral MI

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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217-784-5460
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED