



The Christian Messenger

February 2019



Grant's Good News

Rev. Grant Wade

Usually, I prefer to write my own newsletter article. However, there are some occasions when I find something that I think is really well written and needs to be shared. That is the case for this article today. I follow many different Christian leaders, one of whom is Thom Rainer, retiring president and CEO of LifeWay.

Recently, Dr. Rainer wrote an article titled: Ten Commandments for Guest-Friendly Church Members. He writes this article with a bit of sarcasm, but there are some great things here for those of us who have been church members so long that we've forgotten what it's like to be a guest. For your sake, I've chosen the six "commandments" that I think are most valuable.

- ◆ Thou shalt not fill up the back rows first. Move to the front so guests don't have to walk in front of everyone if they get there late.
- ◆ Thou shalt not sit on the ends of the rows. Move to the middle so guests don't have to walk over you. You'll survive in your new precarious position.
- ◆ Thou shalt pray for people in the services whom you don't recognize. They are likely guests who feel uncomfortable and uncertain.
- ◆ Thou shalt offer assistance to guests. If someone looks like they don't know where to go, then they probably don't know where to go. Get out of your comfort zone and ask them if you can help.
- ◆ Thou shalt not gather too long in your holy huddles. Sure, it's okay to talk to fellow members; but don't stay there so long that you are not speaking to guests.
- ◆ Thou shalt greet someone you don't know. Yes, it's risky. They may actually be members you don't know. And you may get caught in a 45-second conversation. You'll be okay; I promise.

Most of these are lighthearted and simple. I think each one of us is probably guilty of one of these at some point or another. See what you can do this Sunday to make our church extra guest-friendly!

See you Sunday,

Pastor Grant

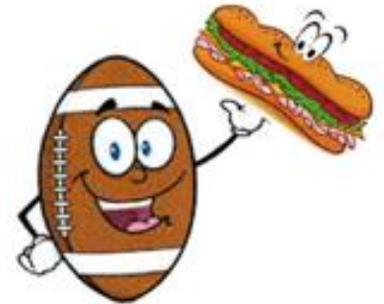
1st Tuesday Lunch

Please join Pastor Grant and church friends at Yoder's Kitchen in Arthur on Tuesday, February 5, at 11:30 am for some delicious food and an enjoyable time of fellowship. If you would like to carpool, meet here at the church at 11:00 am. This is a great chance to get to know each other a little better and share in each other's lives. You can RSVP to the church office or fill out the communication slip on Sunday, February 3. Everyone is welcome — the more the merrier! Hope to see you there!



"Super Bowl Sunday" Torpedoes

Don't forget to pick up your LaGondola Torpedo sandwiches on Sunday, February 3, after worship service in the Fellowship Hall! Whether you're cheering for the Patriots or the Rams, these sandwiches will help make the game more enjoyable! (If you can keep from eating them until then!) Better yet, order enough for lunch **and** for the game! There will not be any extra sandwiches ordered, so make sure you get yours ordered in time — don't delay! Order forms need to be turned in no later than Sunday, January 27. Any questions, call the church office or Brenda Kroll at 217-665-3050.



Food Pantry

We have been receiving donations for our local Food Pantry, and because of the love and generosity of our church family, the shelves in the lobby are filling up! Thank you to everyone who has given to this need! We are going to continue to receive donations for the next several weeks to help the Food Pantry provide food and staples to families in need in our community.

Here is a list of the Food Pantry's needs:

toilet tissue, wrapped bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, Ramen noodles, soup, pork & beans, canned spaghetti sauce, canned ravioli, canned potatoes, canned fruit, cake mixes

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." — Hebrews 13:16

February Sermons & Scriptures

If you would like to prepare ahead for each week's sermon, here's what Pastor Grant has planned for this month.

February 3: "The Lord's Prayer" — Matthew 6:7-21

February 10: "The Golden Rule" — Matthew 7:1-14

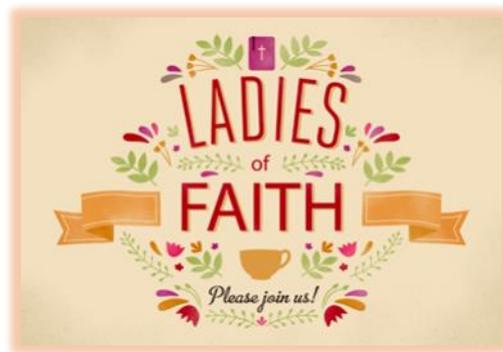
February 17: "Parables of the Kingdom" — Matthew 13:24-43

February 24: "Feeding 5,000" — Matthew 14:13-33



Ladies of Faith

On Thursday mornings at 10:00 am, you'll find this group of ladies gathered uptown at Cathrine's 5 West Coffee Lounge sharing their faith over a cup of coffee or tea. If you're looking for a way to be uplifted and enjoy some time connecting with others, this group could be for you! Women of all ages are welcome to come together for an hour of discussion, devotion, and great fellowship. We hope to see you there!



Coffee & Chat

Please join Pastor Grant on Wednesday, February 13, as he heads over to Courtyard Estates for our monthly "Coffee & Chat." Pastor Grant prepares a fun activity, along with a lesson, to share with the residents. We also sing a few familiar songs, and share a delicious treat, coffee, or tea with them. We gather at 9:45 am, our program begins at 10:00 am, and we finish up before 11:00 am. This is a great way to serve and be a blessing to some of our own church members who live there, as well as many folks who don't get a lot of visitors. If you'd like to join us on the second Wednesday of each month, just let Pastor Grant know. He'd love to have your help!



AMEN Men's Group

The AMEN Men's Group meets here at FCC on the third Saturday of each month. They come together for fellowship (and donuts!) as they discuss matters of faith. Men of all ages are invited to join this group for their next monthly meeting on Saturday, February 16, at 8:00 am in the Parlor for an uplifting time of sharing and praying together.



Mending Hearts



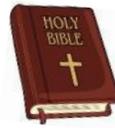
If you've suffered the loss of a loved one and are in need of support, our grief group, Mending Hearts, is here for you. They meet on the last Saturday of each month to share ideas and activities with one another that help with the process of learning to live with loss and grief. Everyone is welcome to join them on Saturday, February 23, at 10:00 am, here at FCC in the Parlor.

Flower Calendar

If you haven't had a chance to sign up on the Flower Calendar, it's not too late! The calendar will be on the credenza in the office for your convenience to sign up or to check the date you signed up to bring flowers. Please have your flowers here at the church prior to the Sunday morning worship service, and place them in front of the communion table. Be sure to take them home with you after the service to enjoy throughout the rest of week!



Scripture Readings for February



1 Leviticus 19:1-18	11 John 6:1-21	21 1 John 1:1-10
2 Luke 10:25-37	12 John 6:22-40	22 1 John 2:1-17
3 John 1:19-34	13 John 6:41-71	23 1 John 2:18-29
4 John 1:35-51	14 John 7:1-24	24 1 John 3:1-24
5 John 2:1-12	15 John 7:25-52	25 1 John 4:1-21
6 John 2:13-25	16 John 8:1-20	26 1 John 5:1-21
7 John 3:1-21	17 John 8:21-47	27 2 John
8 John 3:22-36	18 John 8:48-59	28 3 John
9 John 5:1-18	19 John 10:1-21	
10 John 5:19-47	20 John 10:22-42	

February Serving Schedule

Elders

Richard Glazebrook
Harry McCorkle

Worship Leaders

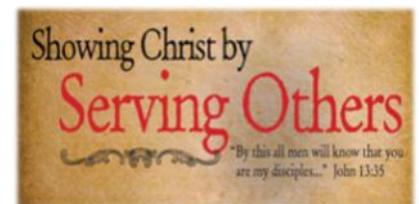
Feb. 3: Richard Glazebrook
Feb. 10: David Walker
Feb. 17: David Horsman
Feb. 24: Richard Glazebrook

Deacons

Check & Serve: Karen Beard
Serve: Dan Beard
Serve: Erin Wade
Prep & Serve: Scott Neal

Tech Booth

Media: Mike Smith
Sound: Kyle Kroll



Greeters

Feb. 3: Kim & Jim Warren
Feb. 10: Dave & Sharon Walker
Feb. 17: Barry & Judy Featheringill
Feb. 24: Jeff & Linda Waite

CCIW / Local Church Prayer Calendar

Feb. 3-9: FCC Maywood, Mechanicsburg CC, FCC Quincy / Southern Baptist Church

Feb. 10-16: Colfax CC, Arrowsmith CC, New Covenant CC Normal / Sullivan Church of God

Feb. 17-23: FCC Lawrenceville, Lomax CC, Mackinaw CC / Vineyard Church

Feb. 24-March 2: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Concejo Ecumenico Cristiano de Guatemala / New Beginnings Apostolic Church

Prayer Requests

Joys: Several weddings for young church members this year, Midge Mills' successful surgery & recovery at Mason Point, Nick Voegel's baptism

Concerns: Clark Foster, Art Welsh, the world & our government, government workers without pay during shutdown, Midge Mills, Jack Crane, Ron Thomas, Jerry Dolan, Folks traveling for the winter, Tim & Helen Cole



Calendar

Sundays — 9:00 am Small Groups, 9:30 am Coffee & Cookies, 10:00 am Worship, 10:15 am Kids' Church

Thursdays — 9:00 am Weight Watchers in Fellowship Hall; 10:00 am Ladies of Faith @ 5 West Coffee Lounge

Tuesday, Feb. 5 11:30 am 1st Tuesday Lunch at Yoder's Kitchen in Arthur
(Meet at church at 11:00 am to carpool)

Wednesday, Feb. 6 7:00 pm Choir Practice

Friday, Feb. 8 All Day Fellowship Hall Reserved

Saturday, Feb. 9 All Day Fellowship Hall Reserved

Wednesday, Feb. 13 10:00 am Coffee & Chat at Courtyard Estates

5:45 pm Elders' Meeting in Parlor

6:30–8:30 pm Fellowship Hall Reserved

7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, Feb. 14 Valentine's Day

Saturday, Feb. 16 8:00 am AMEN Men's Group in Parlor

Sunday, Feb. 17 10:00 am Worship ~ No Choir

Monday, Feb. 18 Presidents' Day

12:00 pm Newsletter Articles Due

12:00–4:00 pm Fellowship Hall Reserved

Wednesday, Feb. 20 7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, Feb. 21 12:00 pm Board Reports Due

Saturday, Feb. 23 10:00 am Mending Hearts Group in Parlor

12:00–5:00 pm Fellowship Hall Reserved

Wednesday, Feb. 27 6:00 pm Board Meeting in Parlor

7:00 pm Choir Practice



February Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays



1 Krystin Best

3 Cathrine Craig

Michael Edmonds

Kristen Jesse

7 Vienna Freese

8 Judy Sumner

9 Robert Webb

10 Ben Allen

Leslie Campbell

Mary McLaughlin

13 Lauren Sesko

14 Helen McCorkle

17 JR Craig

Julie McClain

Stepheny McMahon

18 Janet Daily

Janet Reedy

20 AJ McPheeters

25 Darian Sparrow

27 Richard Glazebrook

Roger Glazebrook

Andrew Smith

28 Brandon Stone

Anniversaries

9 Brad & Cheri Burcham

19 Jim & Margi Gaither

28 Robert & Susie Webb



What Do We Believe?

“An Attitude of Tolerance and a Rejection of Creeds as Tests of Faith”

We celebrate diversity as strength rather than weakness, and do not expect everyone's interpretation of the Bible or the Christian life to be identical.

This is one of the most unique things about our church, and our denomination as well. Too often I see churches who are torn apart because of this very issue. The church decides to take a defiant stance on a topic or issue, and because of that, division is created among the congregation.

Here at FCC we represent a myriad of beliefs on various topics. We occasionally find ourselves on completely different sides of an issue than the person sitting next to us in the pew. The beautiful thing is that we each accept one another's beliefs, knowing that we all see and understand scripture differently. What a wonderful thing it is to be a part of a church and denomination that values diversity, promotes tolerance, and unites around Jesus.

Week of Compassion

The theme for the 2019 Special Offering for Week of Compassion is “More than we can imagine!” That theme, based on Ephesians 3:20, reminds us that we are not alone in our imagining a better world for all God's children, for it is God's imagination that fuels and empowers ours! In the midst of suffering and uncertainty, God pulls us, calls us, uses us to be compassion. We, the Church, are called to be God's compassion at work in the world, helping to rebuild and create a better world for all.



God imagines a world where no one is left to face the ravages of natural disaster alone; clean and abundant water and ample sanitation facilities are available to every person; work brings security from hunger and the land is treated with respect; families displaced from their homes are able to build new lives; women are no longer subject to discrimination and gender-based violence.

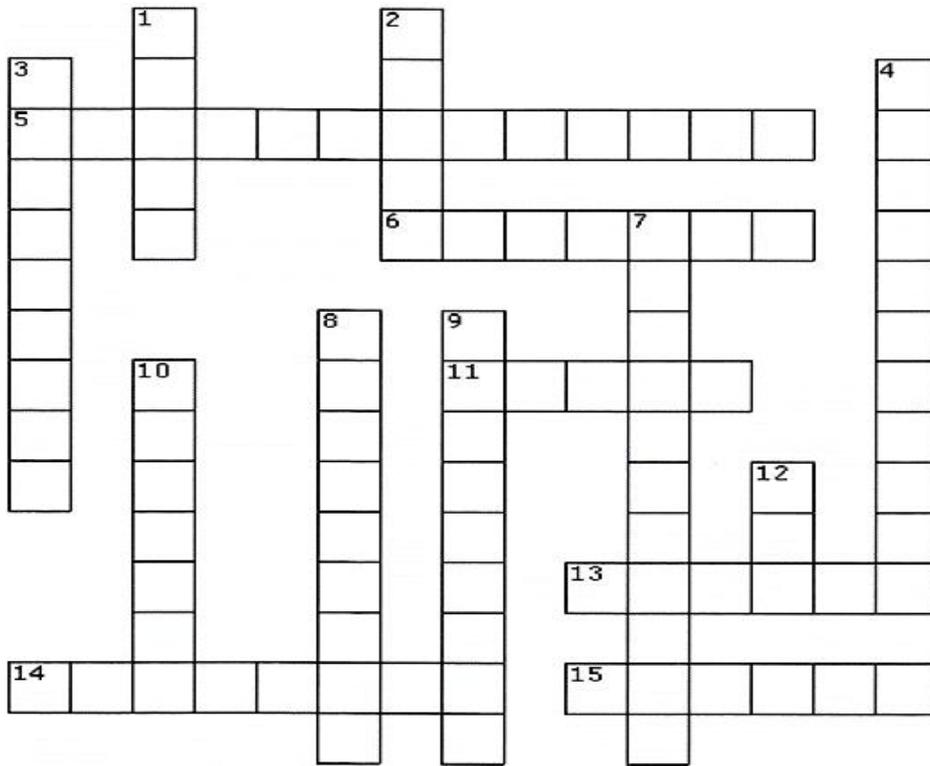
And God also imagines Christians of many traditions, coming together to help make these things ever more a reality for more and more people! For you see, our imagination of what might be is founded and grounded in what God envisions and hopes for. And we can help – through our gifts of treasure and talent, prayer, and presence, we can make this world ever more like the way God would wish it, ever more the way that God would imagine it!

We will be receiving our Week of Compassion offering on two Sundays, February 17, and again on February 24, during worship.

Holiday Market News

It might seem early to be thinking about this coming fall, but plans for the Holiday Market are in the works! There will be a “Sullivan Redskins” Quilt Raffle, and Sharon White is making the quilt. If you have any new, like new, or slightly used Redskins T-shirts you would like to donate to this project, please bring them to the church office or get them to Sharon by April 1. This will be a great quilt!

Crossword Puzzle: The Sermon on the Mount



ACROSS

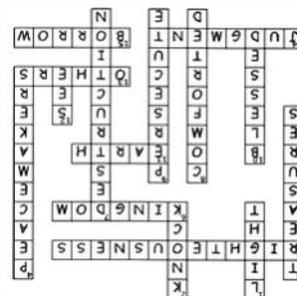
- 5 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for __, for they will be filled
- 6 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the __ of heaven
- 11 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the __
- 13 So in everything, do to __ what you would have them do to you
- 14 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to __
- 15 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the

one who wants to __ from you.

DOWN

- 1 You are the __ of the world
- 2 Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; __ and the door will be opened to you
- 3 Do not store up __ on earth
- 4 Blessed are the __, for they will be called children of God
- 7 Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to __
- 8 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be __

- 9 Love your enemies and pray for those who __ you
- 10 __ are the merciful, for they will receive mercy
- 12 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will __ God





First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
1357 CR 1200 E
Sullivan, IL 61951

Return Service Requested

«AddressBlock»

Worship with us!

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Kids' Church: 10:15 am

Contact us!

Rev. Grant Wade, Pastor • grant@fccsullivan.org • 217.454.9090

Julie Ramsey, Administrative Assistant • office@fccsullivan.org • 217.728.7351

Office Hours: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, 12:30 – 3:00 pm, Monday – Thursday; Closed Friday

Connect with us!

Website: www.fccsullivan.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fccsullivan