



# The Christian Messenger

February 2020



## Grant's Good News

*Rev. Grant Wade*

### What is Church Membership?

At First Christian Church, the only requirement for membership is a profession of faith in Jesus as God's son and a desire and willingness to follow Him.

Those who desire to join our faith community are invited to speak to our Pastor after worship on Sundays or to contact him directly sometime during the week.

Church membership takes a few potential forms:

- 1) Profession of Faith – this is simply making the statement that you believe in Jesus and choose to follow His teachings.
- 2) Transfer of Membership – if you have previously been a member of another church, we can send a letter to them, simply notifying them that you have decided to transfer your membership to FCC.
- 3) Baptism – if you have not yet been baptized, we can discuss the importance of that and its significance in the life and journey of faith. All people who are baptized at FCC become members as a part of the process.

Being a member of a local church means many things. Because we believe the Christian journey is best traveled together, we encourage our members to attend worship regularly, to be involved with some activity that fosters personal spiritual growth, to support and participate in the ministry of the congregation, and to serve God's people in need in an active way. You can check out the ways that we serve one another and our community by viewing our Outreach Brochure.

Being a member does not mean that you must immediately begin giving to the church financially. We recognize that a life of faith is a journey, and we're all at different points on that spectrum. We hope that as you grow to know and love this church that you will be excited to partner in ministry with our church in this way at some point in the future.

(Continued on page 2)

## Grant's Good News (continued)

Officially, being a member allows you to serve in any level of leadership, as well as the ability to vote during Congregational Meetings.

If you have questions about any of this, please feel free to contact me at: [grant@fccsullivan.org](mailto:grant@fccsullivan.org)

See you Sunday,



Pastor Grant

## Super Bowl Sunday Torpedoes

Don't forget to pick up your LaGondola Torpedo sandwiches and loaves of bread on Sunday, February 2, in the Parlor after worship service. If you haven't paid in advance, please pay for your items when you pick them up. All proceeds go to the Parking Lot Fund.



## Ashes-to-Go

If you're familiar with Ash Wednesday—also known as the Day of Ashes—then you know that every year people receive dark ash marks on their foreheads in the sign of a cross. You've probably seen people walking around on Ash Wednesday displaying these black streaks. What's the reason behind the ashes and why are they given on this day?

Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him.

Ash Wednesday begins Lent by focusing the Christian's heart on repentance and prayer. The ashes symbolize two main things: death and repentance. Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust or clay (Genesis 2:7). When we come to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires, and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy. With this focus on our own mortality and sinfulness, Christians can enter into the Lent season solemnly, while also looking forward in greater anticipation and joy of the message of Easter and Christ's ultimate victory over sin and death.

Ash Wednesday is February 26, and we are again doing "Ashes-to-Go." Pastor Grant and the Elders will be at the corner of Jackson & Hamilton Streets in the empty lot across from CVS. They will impose ashes, say a prayer, and share a blessing with you as you "drive through." There will be three sessions to help make it convenient for everyone to participate. Come anytime from 7:00 to 8:00 am, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, and 4:30 to 6:00 pm.



## 1st Tuesday Lunch

Everyone is invited to join Pastor Grant on Tuesday, February 4, at 11:30 am, at Red Apple Family Restaurant for 1st Tuesday Lunch. Whether you're a regular attender or first-time guest, we'd love to have you join in on good food, good friends, good conversation — what more could you ask for! We had another great turnout last month, and this is a great way to get to know each other better and share in each other's lives. Please RSVP to the church office or fill out the communication slip on Sunday, February 2.



## Bits from the Board

For 2019, FCC finished the year financially "in the black." Projected weekly offerings for 2019 were \$224,440, with actual total offering coming in at \$223,656.81. That means we received 99.65% of what we anticipated last year in weekly offerings. The even better news is that our projected expenses were \$228,440, and actual expenses ended up at \$222,776.90. So for 2019, FCC ended the year \$16,563.90 income over expenses.



Looking at the parking lot loan, some extra payments will be made this month to help bring down the remaining total principal amount. With the success of the Holiday Market, we are able to add an additional \$6,000 to our payment this month. On top of that, excess income over expenses from last year has led to a surplus of available funds. The board voted to make an additional \$20,000 payment this month toward the parking lot loan. These additional payments will bring the balance of the loan to \$122,773. This remaining balance will now be reflected in each edition of the Weekly Update. As part of the project, we also borrowed funds from other church accounts to help keep the loan amount down. These accounts will be paid back following the repayment of the parking lot loan.

The property team continues to complete various projects, repairs, and improvements to the church building and property. The wrought iron posts in front of the building were repaired, repainted, and reinstalled last month. The bathroom vent fans were cleaned, serviced, and are in working order. Some repairs have been made to the pavilion as well. Thanks to the property team for keeping our church home a safe, comfortable place to worship.

A nominating team is being formed to begin work on finding leaders for various church positions for the next couple of years. You will be hearing more about this later in February and on into the Spring. As always, we appreciate everyone who serves so willingly, and we are always looking to find new people to serve in leadership. If you have questions about this process or would like to become more involved in the next year, please reach out to our Vice Moderator, Betty Wilson.

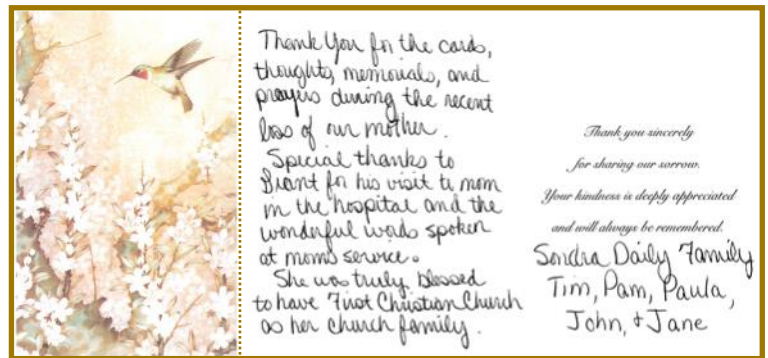
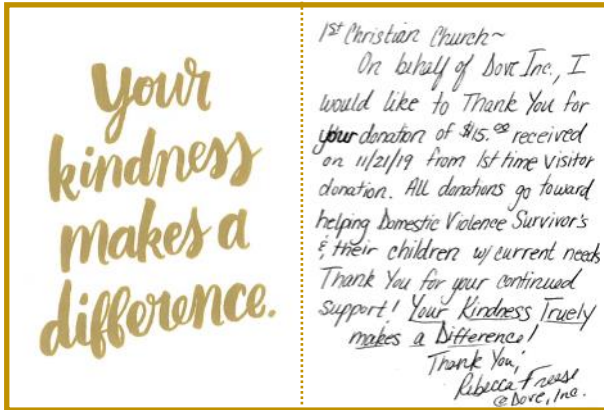
Current board members are: Roger Glazebrook-Moderator, Betty Wilson-Vice Moderator, Nancy Burcham-Secretary, Kim Smith-Treasurer, Kathy Thomas, Wilma Durbin, Judy Sumner, Charlie Bragg, Brenda Kroll, Nancy Elder, Brenda Pierce, and Dave Walker.

## Food Pantry

During the month of January, we collected goods for the local Food Pantry, which provides food and staples to families in need in our community. Because of the love and generosity of our church family, the shelves in the lobby were filled with the much needed items! Thank you to everyone who shared their blessings with those in need!



## Thank You



## Week of Compassion

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, and works to alleviate suffering throughout the world.



When you give to the Week of Compassion, your gift travels to places where disaster or poverty has caused great suffering. Through your generosity, we empower communities to grow new kinds of crops in a changing climate; we support youth education and vocational training; we rebuild homes and churches and help provide needed supplies after disasters; and we empower women with skills to support their family and their neighbors.

In these and so many other places, we are co-workers in the kingdom of God. Building, planting, watering... and trusting that God gives growth to all good gifts shared in faith. See where we take action to help people all over the world: <https://www.weekofcompassion.org/>

We will be receiving our Week of Compassion offering here at FCC on two Sundays, February 16, and again on February 23, during worship.



## February Sermons & Scriptures

In January, we looked at who Jesus is; for February, we're going to take a look at what it means to follow him. February's theme is focused on some of the most loved stories in the gospels, and in this series, we will explore these great gospel stories on Jesus, the people he loved, and what it means for us to follow him. Here's what Pastor Grant has planned for each week.



Feb. 2: "Zacchaeus: Rich, Lost, and Searching" — Luke 19:1-10

Feb. 9: "The One Who Returned" — Luke 17:11-19

Feb. 16: "Jesus Loves the Little Children" — Mark 5:21-24; Mark 9:42

Feb. 23: "The Woman at the Well" — John 4:6-26

## Weekly Groups

**"Ladies of Faith" — 10:00 am at 5 West Coffee Lounge, Thursdays.**

Women of all ages are welcome to come together for an hour of discussion, devotion, and great fellowship over a cup of coffee or tea.



**"Weight Watchers" — 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall, Thursdays.**

Weigh-in at 8:30 am, Meeting at 9:00 am — Everyone is welcome!



**"Yoga Wednesdays with Crystal" — 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall, Wednesdays.**

Everyone is welcome! Contact Crystal Roberts at 217-454-0499 for more information.



## Monthly Groups

**"Coffee & Chat at Courtyard Estates" — 10:00 am, second Wednesday of each month.**

Pastor Grant and a group of volunteers provide a fun activity to share with the residents, sing a few familiar songs, and share a delicious treat, coffee, and tea with them. 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 many visitors. If you'd like to join us, just let Pastor Grant know.



**"AMEN Men's Group" — 8:00 am in the Parlor, third Saturday of each month.**

Men of all ages are invited to join this group for an uplifting time of sharing and praying together as they discuss matters of faith.



**"Mending Hearts Grief Group" — 10:00 am in the Parlor, last Saturday of each month.**

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 share ideas and activities with one another that help with the process of learning to live with loss and grief. All are welcome.



## Scripture Readings for February



1 Leviticus 19:1-18	11 Psalm 81	21 Colossians 4:2-18
2 Deuteronomy 5:1-22	12 Psalm 86	22 Jude 1-25
3 Deuteronomy 6:1-25	13 Psalm 90	23 Psalm 17
4 John 3:1-21	14 Psalm 108	24 Psalm 33
5 John 3:22-36	15 Psalm 136	25 Psalm 36
6 John 4:1-26	16 1 Corinthians 13:1-13	26 Matthew 6:1-18
7 John 4:27-42	17 Colossians 1:1-23	27 Psalm 50
8 John 4:43-54	18 Colossians 1:24—2:5	28 Psalm 51
9 Luke 10:25-37	19 Colossians 2:6—3:4	29 Psalm 57
10 Luke 17:11-19	20 Colossians 3:5—4:1	

## February Serving Schedule

### Elders

Lilly Haverstock  
Bob Haverstock

### Worship Leaders

Feb. 2: Venessa Marshall  
Feb. 9: Erin Wade  
Feb. 16: Scott Neal  
Feb. 23: Dan Beard

### Deacons

**Check & Serve:** Venessa Marshall  
**Serve:** Candy Monroe  
**Serve:** Karen Beard  
**Prep & Serve:** Dan Beard

### Tech Booth

**Media:** Mike Smith  
**Sound:** Kyle Kroll



### Greeters

Feb. 2: Scott & DJuana Neal  
Feb. 9: Steve & Marcia Epperson  
Feb. 16: Judy Sumner  
& Ethan Smith  
Feb. 23: Kurt & Brenda Pierce  
& Beverly Pierce

## CCIW / Local Church Prayer Calendar

Feb. 2–8: FCC Maywood, Mechanicsburg CC, FCC Quincy / Sullivan Church of God

Feb. 9–15: Week of Compassion / Vineyard Church

Feb. 16–22: FCC Lawrenceville, Lomax CC, Mackinaw CC / New Beginnings Apostolic Church

Feb. 23–29: Union Ave. Litchfield, Long Point CC, Flanagan CC / Allenville Christian Church



## Prayer Requests

**Joys:** Philip Martin—new church member, Don Harchous doing well, Pastor Grant—great week of class, Sullivan Singers—solid first Show Choir performance, Our Church, 2020

**Concerns:** Family of Bill Krigbaum, Brenda Pierce's mom, Jan Dust's brother-in-law—Walt, Jim Abderhalden, Jerry Rohman, Family of Evelyn Burtcheard, June Voegel, Duane Voegel, Dee Kuhns, Darlene Devore, Paul Shuman, Shirley Sparks, Bill & Marge Gaule, Jeremy & Sarah Hartman, Military Families, Greg Crawford, Helen Cole

# Calendar

**Sundays** — 9:00 am Small Groups; 9:30 am Coffee & Cookies; 10:00 am Worship; 10:15 am Kids' Church  
**Wednesdays** — 5:30–6:30 pm Yoga Class in Fellowship Hall  
**Thursdays** — 8:30 am Weight Watchers in Fellowship Hall; 10:00 am Ladies of Faith @ 5 West  
**Fridays** — 5:00–8:00 pm Pavilion Reserved

Sunday, Feb. 2	10:00 Worship ~ Dan Fultz, Guest Preacher
Tuesday, Feb. 4	11:30 am 1st Tuesday Lunch at Red Apple
Wednesday, Feb. 5	7:00 pm Choir Practice
Saturday, Feb. 8	All Day Fellowship Hall Reserved
Wednesday, Feb. 12	10:00 am Coffee & Chat at Courtyard Estates 5:45 pm Elders' Meeting in Parlor 7:00 pm Choir Practice
Thursday, Feb. 13	6:00–8:00 Head Start Meeting & Meal in Fellowship Hall
Friday, Feb. 14	"Valentine's Day"
Saturday, Feb. 15	8:00 am AMEN Men's Group in Parlor
Monday, Feb. 17	"Presidents' Day" 12:00–3:30 pm Fellowship Hall Reserved 3:00 pm Newsletter Articles Due
Wednesday, Feb. 19	7:00 pm Choir Practice
Thursday, Feb. 20	12:00 pm Board Reports Due
Wednesday, Feb. 26	6:00 pm Board Meeting in Parlor 7:00 pm Choir Practice
Saturday, Feb. 29	10:00 am Mending Hearts Group in Parlor



## February Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

1 Krystin Best	14 Helen McCorkle
3 Cathrine Craig Michael Edmonds Kristen Jesse	17 JR Craig Julie McClain Stephony McMahon
4 Howard Nolen	18 Janet Daily Janet Reedy
7 Vienna Freese	20 AJ McPheeters
8 Judy Sumner	25 Darian Sparrow
9 Robert Webb	27 Richard Glazebrook Roger Glazebrook Andrew Smith
10 Ben Allen Leslie Campbell Mary McLaughlin	28 Brandon Stone
13 Lauren Sesko	

### Anniversaries

9 Brad & Cheri Burcham  
19 Jim & Margi Gaither  
28 Robert & Susie Webb





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

Return Service Requested

Extra Copy

### Worship with us!

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Kids' Church: 10:15 am

### Contact us!

Rev. Grant Wade, Pastor • [grant@fccsullivan.org](mailto:grant@fccsullivan.org) • 217.454.9090

Julie Ramsey, Administrative Assistant • [office@fccsullivan.org](mailto: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.sullivan.church](http://www.sullivan.church)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/fccsullivan](http://www.facebook.com/fccsullivan)