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Remarks from Pastor Steve

Do people know I'm a Christian? How do they know?

"Well I frequently attend church. I support the church financially. I don't hang out in bars unless it's with a meal, I don't smoke, or drink too much. I don't cheat on my taxes, and I am a Cardinals fan."

Those are certainly good things, but none of those things will demonstrate the love of God to the lost? What does? *The fruit of the Holy Spirit demonstrated in your daily life as witnessed by people who are without Jesus Christ.* The fruit (joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control) are all built upon love.

Without the love for people, and the love of God, as demonstrated by the fruit we are simply noisemakers. As I have said many times before: *"People don't care what you say or know, until they know how much you care."*

We are entering the most significant season of our Christian faith, Easter. It all begins this Sunday, Palm Sunday. I am preaching a message entitled: "Why I Believe in Jesus." This message needs to be heard by you and someone the Lord will put on your heart if you will pray and ask Him. Tell and show others how much you care by inviting and bringing them to church. Invest and invite the missing or under church.

Another opportunity is on Good Friday, March 25th. We are offering a communion and worship service during the noon hour. It is scheduled from 12:05 to 12:50 pm. It will be advertised in the newspaper and radio, but the best advertising is you!

Please come, invest, invite and bring other Christians and the missing. This is a community service for all, people need the Lord.

May God Enlarge His Territory,

Pastor Steve

Baby Back Ribs



The Haiti Mission Team is selling Baby Back Rib tickets for pick-up on Tuesday, March 29th and Wednesday, March 30th from 10 am—6 pm. The youth and the sponsors will be selling tickets for \$18 each in the narthex before and after church on Sunday. You can also purchase tickets from the following youth: Kierstyn Albin, Sarah Goings, Cheyenne Jones, Dakota

Arthur, Matt Etchinson or from a youth sponsor: Dawn Albin, Donica Brand, Angela Freeman, Dolo Wishard.

Hot Ribs will also be available to purchase on Monday the 28th from 10 am—6 pm without a ticket.

Easter Offering



We will collect the Easter Offering on Sunday, March 20th and 27th. The offering will be used to send young adults to Camp New Hope this summer. Please use the Easter Offering Envelope from your envelope box or clearly mark on your check, Easter Offering.



EASTER SCHEDULE

Friday, March 25th

Good Friday Service 12:05-12:50 pm

Sunday, March 27th—Easter Sunday

7:00 am Sunrise Service

7:30 am Continental Breakfast

8:30 am Traditional Worship

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship

Seniors' Outing



On March 24th the Seniors' Group will go to Chesterville to enjoy a meal at the Korner Café. They will leave from the church at 10:45 am. Please sign up so transportation can be arranged. How about inviting someone to go with you on this event?

Branson Conferences

The 19th Annual Branson Conference "A Study of Romans" for adults 55+ will be hosted by the Ozark Bible College June 13-16. The cost of the conference is \$300 per person. This covers: 3 nights lodging in the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, 8 delicious meals in the dining room and the conference fee. For an additional \$100 per person the transportation could be covered to and from Branson, a show on the 14th—"The Entertainer" starring Dino and on the 15th—the "Pierce Arrow Show". The only other expense would be meals incurred on the road.

They are looking for a total of 8 people. If you are interested please contact Richard Eident at 254-3917 or 234-4316.

Peace Meals



First Christian needs to deliver Peace Meals April 4th-8th. Please call Deb McNeely at 259-1842 if you are interested in helping any of the days.

Heartland Christian



Heartland Christian Village is holding their March "Circle of Friends" Fundraiser. If you would like to donate to this please write your check to the HCV Auxiliary and place in the offering plate.

Singles @ First

Singles @ First Ministry is open to all singles...never married, widowed or divorced. Below is a list of the activities they have planned:



Fast Food Sunday, March 20th 11:45 pm

Meet at Subway on Lake Land Blvd for lunch and fellowship

Movie Night Friday, April 1st 6-8 pm

Movie in Campbell Hall, bring drinks and popcorn provided
Child care provided for grade school aged children

Easter Lilies

If you would like to bring an Easter Lily to help decorate the sanctuary on Easter please do so. Please have your lily to the church by 4:30 pm on Thursday, March 24th. If you want your lily to be in memory or honor of a loved one please contact the church office by Monday, March 21st.



Pre-Packing

The monthly Pre-Packing at the Mattoon Food Center has been changed to Saturday, March 26th at 9:30 am due to Easter Sunday.



St. Louis Symphony

The Mattoon Arts Council will sponsor a "A Trip to the Symphony" on Sunday, April 24, to hear a performance of "Dvorak 7." The event will be hosted by well-known Mattoon violinist Thomas LeVeck.

"Dvorak 7" will be led by guest conductor Jakub Hrusa. The program will include performances of Leos Janacek's "Jealousy"; Jean Sibelius' "Violin Concerto," featuring violinist Karen Gomyo; and Antonin Dvorak's "Symphony No. 7."

Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-reserved basis. The group will leave at noon April 24 from the Depot on a charter bus to St. Louis, where they will attend the symphony performance and then enjoy dinner at LoRusso's Cucina on The Hill before returning home.

The cost is \$75 per person and includes transportation, symphony ticket and light snacks. Patrons will purchase their own dinner and are encouraged to bring binoculars or opera glasses.

To reserve a seat, contact Mattoon Arts Coordinator Susan Cole at coles@mattoonillinois.org, stop by the arts and tourism office at The Depot, or call 258-6286. Tickets must be reserved by April 8. Advance payment is required; cash, check or debit/credit card payments will be accepted. A registration form and more information can be found at the Mattoon Arts Council website, www.mattoonartscouncil.org.

Church Life

Sunday, March 20

8 am Prayer with Elders in the Sanctuary
8:30 am Traditional Worship Service
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service
11:45 am Singles eat Lunch at Subway on Lake Land Blvd.
5-6:30 FROG and 5:30-7 pm ROCK Meetings

Monday, March 21

10 am Staff Meeting
No Christian Ed. Meeting

Tuesday, March 22

7 am Prayer Time in the Pastor's Office

Wednesday, March 23

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group
5:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
6 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
6 pm Mid-Week Outlet Program

Thursday, March 24

10:45 am Seniors' Outing
6 pm Praise Team Rehearsal

Friday, March 25 (office closed)

12:05-12:50 pm Good Friday Service

Saturday, March 26

9:30 am Pre-Pack at the Food Center

Sunday, March 27 Easter Sunday

7 am Sunrise Service
7:30 am Continental Breakfast
8 am Prayer with the Elders in the sanctuary
8:30 am Traditional Worship Service
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service
5-6:30 pm FROG and 5:30-7 pm ROCK Meetings

Monday, March 28

No Staff Meeting
10 am-6 pm Rib Sales
6 pm Evangelism Meeting

Tuesday, March 29

No Prayer Time in the Pastor's Office
10 am—6 pm Rib Sales

Wednesday, March 30

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group
5:15 pm Bell Choir Practice
6 pm Chancel Choir Practice
No Mid-Week Outlet Program, Break Week

Thursday, March 31

6 pm Praise Team Rehearsal



Relay for Life

Everyone mark your calendars for Relay for Life on August 20th from noon to midnight, please note the time change.

News from Paul

Hey FCC,

I hope this finds you doing well. The time change sure is a nice welcome to the season! Why can we not just leave it this way?

Miss Evelyn and I had a good time Saturday night at the Wabash Fire Department's annual chili supper fundraiser. Since they are our fire department, we figure it is a good thing to support them each year for the supper and hope they never have to support us in the way of making a house call.

A lot of people have been commenting to me about the pictures Miss Evelyn is putting on Facebook showing the remodel work on our house. What a mess we have, but it will be worth it once it is done. Why is it wives do not understand the necessity to save a fan off of an old range hood (yes, out of our house)? This was the case the other day with you know who. I even plugged it in and showed her how much air it put out. I assured her it would be used in the garage but it made no difference. Oh well, it's not a great-looking fan but it's my fan...and I will use it.

I have noticed several new faces at FCC lately and before long we will see the snowbirds coming back with their sun-tanned smiling faces. We have a lot going on at FCC and there is something for everyone. If you see a new face please introduce yourself and help make them feel welcome. We can also do this outside of the church building. Tell them about FCC and what we have to offer. There are a lot of people in Coles County and the surrounding community who want more out of life with honest answers. We can lighten up their world when we "speak the truth..." Ephesians 4:25, ESV. Pastor Steve speaks the truth each Sunday with very practical lessons of everyday life. Ephesians 4:17-32 talks about how when we learn to live right, we need to be careful not to fall back into our old patterns we once lived in, but rather live as Christ would have us live. Well friends, I gotta go for now. Until we meet again, take care and take it easy (I never really knew what it meant to take it easy, it was just something the older men would always tell me when I was younger). See ya!

In His service,
Paul

Little Galilee Camp



Check out the Little Galilee Camp Brochure on the bulletin board across from the church office. The church will pay 1/2 of the price for one camp for any child who attends FCC. The deadline to turn in your form and money to the office is May 26th.

Thank You Notes

☞ Thank you for the lovely Easter and Valentine cards. I appreciate them. Wishing you all many Easter blessings.

Lois Carlyle

Serving Communion

Sunday, March 20

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Denny Booker, Jack Little, Gene Swearingen

10:30 am — Jeff and Amy Maninfior, Nick Maninfior, Bob Morgan

Sunday, March 27—Easter

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Denny Booker, Tim Buford, Tim Cyr, Dan Cunningham

10:30 am — Donica Brand, Max Betty, Chanon Fine, Dennis Goings

Church Attendance

March 6th: Traditional: 102, Contemporary: 85 = 187
March 13th: Traditional: 87, Contemporary: 61 = 148

Board Splinters

The March Board Meeting was held on the 14th.

Informational Reports:

Deaconess: served desserts at one funeral dinner.

Senior Minister: will resume the sermon series "The Quiet Life" after Easter, preparing for the rib cook for the youth, resuming the Saturday Night Service starting June 4th.

Elementary Minister: Sunday morning continues the same with 10-15 kids per week, Mid-Week has its ups and downs — new format in April with April 27th being the last one for this school year.

Worship: Good Friday Service at 12:05 pm and 2nd service serving communion from the back of the sanctuary.

Outreach: will collect the Easter Offering on April 20 and 27 for Camp New Hope Summer Camp.

Evangelism: donated \$100 to the MHS Project Graduation; the website has increased by \$200 per year and we will not sponsor the youth t-ball, baseball and softball teams this year.

Christian Ed: discussed responsibilities for youth leaders, having K-5 group on Saturday nights starting June 4th, purchased the airfare for the Haiti trip and holding the 30 Pieces of Silver fundraiser.

Stewardship: the February income was down.

Trustees: we received the crop money from the land on Old State Road and will get new knobs and burners for the stove in the fall.

World Missions: The Philippine trip organization is going well and will order airfare this month, the church supports a Bible College student and will pick them out when in the Philippines and the Haiti trip is fundraising is going well.

New Business: will stop the Valet Service and MJ Brand will lead the music at the Saturday night service.



Building Fund balance:
\$225,330.30