

Coming To First Christian Church the “Acts of God” movie Friday, April 17th and on Saturday, April 25th at 7:00pm

After you’ve been in ministry for almost a half a century, you would think you’ve seen it all, contended with every conceivable situation, and developed pat answers for all unfortunate circumstances. I don’t want to disappoint you, but that simply is not the case. There is no template in times of tragedy, but that means it’s all the more important for us to be prepared to reach out and help where we can.

In the movie “Acts of God,” we provide a realistic depiction of human tragedy and its effect on average people. If you are like me you will be emotionally moved by the stories you see.

Most of us understandably shy away from these uncomfortable situations, but as Christians we do not have the option. People are looking for hope. The good news is that we have the Holy Spirit to guide our actions and tell us what to say. It is also comforting that in most cases you don’t have to say anything, you just have to be there and love the people who are suffering.

(excerpts from: “A Message from Bob” by Bob Russell)

Last December, I received a call from Dr. Rives that he had attended a church showing the “Acts of God.” He said, this was a great movie and there was standing room only!

The Evangelism committee gave the go ahead for us to not only show the movie but to also participate in a six week Bible Study follow-up course. The classes will be offered in all of our adult Sunday School classes plus the 6:36 young adult group.

The first showing will be on Friday, April 17th at 7 pm and is by ticket and invitation only. The tickets are free and will be available in the narthex beginning Sunday, March 29th. Only 200 tickets will be available for the showing on April 17th. Therefore, if you take tickets we ask that you please come and invite friends. If you are unable to attend or didn’t give out the tickets you picked up, please return them so they can be redistributed. Following the movie there will be refreshments available along with sign-up sheets for classes. The “Acts of God” program offers a six week follow-up course. The classes will begin Sunday, April 26 during the Sunday School hour and the 6:36 Group will meet on Saturday nights.

Valet parking and child care will be provided. This movie is approved for 12 years olds and older.

We are offering a second advertised showing of the “Acts of God” for the public on Saturday, April 25th at 7 pm. Child care will be provided. Greeters will welcome our guests and I will have a brief prayer and offer our classes after the movie.

This is the first of several invest and invite opportunities we are planning at FCC. If you would like the church to grow please get behind this.

May God Enlarge His Territory,

Pastor Steve

Easter Offering

We will collect the Easter Offering on Sunday, March 29th and April 5th. The offering will be used to send young adults from our church to summer camp at Camp New Hope. Please use the Easter Offering Envelope from your envelope box or clearly mark on your check, Easter Offering.



30 Pieces of Silver



The Youth Ministry would like for you to participate in the annual 30 pieces of Silver campaign. This campaign solely focuses on the events leading up to Jesus’ betrayal from Judas. Since we are All sinners, Saved by Grace, we would like for you to participate with us by gathering 30 Pieces of Silver through Easter and placing it in our student baggies that will be passed out on March 29th. This value can literally be 30 pieces of coins, dollars or checks; however God is leading you. All proceeds and funds will be gathered to help support Youth Ministry Summer Trips.

Once you have received the bag you can start your donation process day by day or all at once. Once you are done you can bring your donation back to the church on Easter, April 5th or Sunday, April 12th. Thank You So Much for your Participation!

*When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the **thirty pieces of silver** to the chief priests and the elders. “I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood. Matt. 27:3-4*

Senior Outing

There will be a Senior Outing to Richard's Farm in Casey on Thursday, March 26th. They will leave from the church at 10 am. Please sign up in the narthex so adequate transportation can be arranged. Why not use this time of fellowship to invite a friend who might be looking for a great church and a wonderful Seniors Group?



Good Friday Service



This year we will be offering a Good Friday Service instead of a Maundy Thursday Service. The Good Friday Service will be on Friday, April 3rd at 7 pm. At this service a representative from the Jews for Jesus

Organization will present the Seder Meal.

Valet parking will be available for this service.

Flowering the Cross

We will "Flower" the Cross on Easter Sunday. Please bring your fresh cut flowers on Easter and place them on the cross before your service starts.



Easter Lilies



Easter Lilies

If you would like to bring an Easter Lily to help decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday please do so. Please have your lily at the church by Thursday, April 2nd by 4:30 pm. If

you want your lily to be in memory or honor of a loved one and announced in the bulletin please call the office by Monday, March 30th.

Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to Marvin Moore and family on the passing of Marie (86) on March 9th.



Board Splinters

The church board meeting was held on Monday, March 9th. Deaconesses: April 14th will be the next meeting at 6 pm and there are still pecans available to sell.

Sr. Pastor: will finish up the "Worship the King" series by Easter, a new Bible 101 class will start April 12, striving for 400 in attendance for Easter, and 275 for weekly attendance

Elementary Pastor: having a "Hunt to Easter" activity for the 4/5 graders with the FUMC, the Kids' Choir will perform on Easter, and will pick the VBS format this month

Youth Pastor: having an average of 25 for FROG and ROCK, need van drivers, and reaching kids at Bridges School

Worship: Easter Sunrise Music Service from 7-7:30 am, Breakfast will be served at 7:30 and 9:30 am as a fundraiser for Youth, adjusted each services' order of service for time reasons, will have a blended worship service on May 31st at 9:30 am with a meal to follow

Outreach: March 29 and April 5 we will collect the Easter Offering for Camp New Hope, and will provide food for the summer Back Pack Program for 50 kids

Evangelism: will present the "Acts of God" movie on April 17th and April 25th with classes offered following the movie for six weeks and will have an "I'll Be There Sunday" on October 4th.

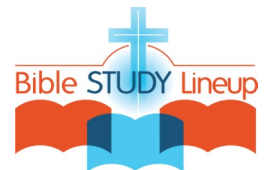
Christian Ed: had a Youth Leaders meeting instead of regular Christian Ed meeting with Ty, will pass out bags for the "30 Pieces of Silver" Offering

Stewardship: income so far in 2015 is good

Trustees: Jacksonville Glass has removed the stain glass from the west sanctuary window, will repair and hopefully have reinstalled by Easter and Kone Elevator Service will install an emergency phone in the elevator per state requirements.

Marriage Class

Pastor Steve would like to start a new Marriage 101 Class during the Sunday School hour. If you are interested in this class contact him.



Bible 101 Class

A new 7 week Bible 101 Class will begin Sunday, April 12th from 5-6 pm. If you are interested in this class sign up on the bulletin board in Campbell Hall. There are only 8 spots open so if you're interested sign up on Sunday.

Thank You Note

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all of your cards, acts of kindness, thoughts and prayers in our time of sorrow. Thank you to Pastor Steve and Richard for reading and prayer said with our father. Thanks to the Elders for providing communion and the Deaconesses for providing a family meal. You will be in our thoughts and prayers forever.



The family of James W. Purcell

Prayer Chain

If you would like to be on the church Prayer Chain please call (234-2928) or email (fcchurch@consolidated.net). We can either call or text you the prayer concern. We have been calling everyone with prayer concerns but want to try and only notify the people who actually want to be on the Prayer Chain. If you email the office please designate either call or text.



Mid-Week Outlet

The Mid-Week Outlet Program will not meet on Wednesday, April 8th to due to Spring Break.



Lake Land Choir

The Lake Land Community Choir will present their Spring Concert on Sunday, March 22 at 3 pm. The concert will take place in the Lake Land Auditorium and Carol Armstrong and Gerry Englund from our church will be in the Community choir.



Church Life

Saturday, March 21

6:36 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Sunday, March 22

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service

2 pm Pre-Pack at the Food Center

5 pm FROG/6 pm Mixer/7 pm ROCK Meetings

Monday, March 23

10 am Staff Meeting

6 pm Evangelism Meeting

Tuesday, March 24

Noon Community Bible Study

6:30 pm Worship Team Practice

Wednesday, March 25

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

5:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

6-7:30 pm Mid-Week Outlet Program

6 pm Chancel Choir in the Sanctuary

Thursday, March 26

10 am Meet at Church for Senior Outing to Richard's Farm

Saturday, March 28

9-10 am Smart Choice Distribution

6:36 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Sunday, March 29

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service

5 pm FROG/6 pm Mixer/7 pm ROCK Meetings

Monday, March 30

10 am Staff Meeting

6:30 pm Personnel Meeting

Tuesday, March 31

Noon Community Bible Study

6:30 pm Worship Team Practice

Wednesday, April 1

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

5:15 pm Bell Choir in the Sanctuary

5:30-7:30 pm Hunt to Easter for 4/5 graders

6-7:30 pm Mid-Week Outlet Program for K-3rd graders/JHH

6 pm Chancel Choir in the Sanctuary

Friday, April 3

7 pm Good Friday Service with Jews for Jesus Organization

Saturday, April 4

NO Men's Breakfast and Fellowship

6:36 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Sunday, April 5

7 am Sunrise Service

7:30 am Breakfast Fundraiser hosted by the Youth Group

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service

9:30 am Breakfast Fundraiser hosted by the Youth Group

10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service

No FROG and ROCK Groups



Wedding

Dave Eyman, Shelley Hunt and their families would like to invite you to join in the Celebration as they exchange vows at the First Christian Church, 401 W.

Jefferson St., Bloomington, IL on Saturday, April 4 at 1:30pm. An Open House will follow immediately at the Normal Community Activity Center, 1110 Douglas Street in One Normal Plaza, Normal, IL. The ceremony is informal. No gifts, please (unless you'd like to take informal pictures during the Celebration that can be shared!). They hope that everyone can join them so that all of their friends and family that they love so much can meet one another and celebrate love and peace with them.



The Building Fund has a balance of: \$213,577.94

Serving Communion

Sunday, March 22

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Denny Booker, Tim Buford, Mike Craig, Tim Cyr, Randy Pierce
10:30 am — Dave Whitley (captain), Randy Albin, Jeff Maninfor, Bob Morgan, Dolo Wishard, Neil Wofford

Sunday, March 29

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Dan Cunningham, Bill Daily, Tom Dickerson, Gerry Englund, Don Inman
10:30 am — Donica Brand (captain), Kyle Carter, Dennis Goings, John Holmes, Amy Maninfor, Nick Maninfor

April Birthdays

- 1 Fred Grissom, Jack Herren, Christine Weaver
- 2 Mary Aleshire, Ed Dowling
- 3 Pat Stuttle
- 7 Linda Janes
- 8 Jason Morgan
- 11 Kathy Newlin
- 12 Destyne Arthur, Denny Booker
- 15 Katrina Fine
- 17 Tad Moore
- 22 Olivia Morgan
- 23 Lisa Ingram
- 25 Hayden Whitley
- 26 Susie Wilson, Mary Roberts
- 28 Doris Ferguson, Scott Hampton
- 29 Bud Miller



- 3 John and Linda Janes
- 5 David and DJ Arthur
- 20 Mark & Shelly Scott
- 26 Ron & Judy Hatfield
- 30 Denny and Jan Booker

Church Attendance

Mar. 8th:	Traditional: 128, Contemporary: 88 = 216
Mar. 15th:	Traditional: 130, Contemporary: 113 = 243

Return Service Requested

Senior Pastor: Pastor Steven Hayes
 Administrative Assistant: Robin Myers
 Elementary Pastor: Stephanie Freeman
 Youth Pastor: Ty Stinson

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