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## From the Pastor's Heart

### Praying In The Rain

Former baseball great Satchel Paige once said, "Don't pray when it rains if you don't pray when the sun shines." This sounds like good old salt-of-the-earth wisdom, but it's actually terrible advice. (For future reference, wise counsel never begins with the phrase, "Don't pray.")

Everyone knows that it's a mistake not to pray when the sun is shining. But it's foolish to compound the mistake by refusing to pray when the rain starts pouring down.

Even if you haven't prayed enough in the past, **this is the time to start praying more than ever.**

Often, when trouble strikes, our first reaction is panic. Our first emotion is fear. We need to move past that impulse and start moving in the direction of prayer.

This is what happened when King Jeshophat heard that three armies were aligned against him, preparing to attack. The Bible says...*Jehoshaphat was terrified by this news and begged the Lord for guidance. (2 Chronicles 20:3)*

First came fear, a normal reaction.

Then came prayer, a much better response.

Then came God's guidance.

Then came provision.

Then came victory.

God's work in your life often begins from a place of need, or hurt, or fear. Many who walk close to Christ today can tell you that it was pain that led them to pursue a deeper relationship with God.

**Despair can be a catalyst to experiencing God's power.**

There's a reason for this. When confronted with trouble, we're more likely to shed the religious façade and get real with God. We have a hurting world out there. Invest some time, prayer, and energy in another. **Invest, Develop a Relationship. Pray, and Invite.**

May God Enlarge His Territory  
Pastor Steve

## World Vision News

"... I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."  
John 10:10 (NIV)

Fullness of life requires a full solution to the complex issues that trap generations in poverty and injustice—and that's what World Vision child sponsorship can help provide. The need is great. Every day, about 16,000 children under the age of 5 die – most from preventable causes, and nearly half of them from causes related to hunger. Approximately 385 million of the world's children are deprived of essentials they need for survival and development – things like clean water, adequate food, healthcare, and education. Because of World Vision's approach to changing the world in which a sponsored child lives, your \$39 monthly contribution not only changes your sponsored child's life, but also the lives of many other vulnerable children living in the same community.

Andy Foster will be at both service this Sunday to talk more about World Vision.

All Deaconesses are encouraged to attend a meeting on Tuesday, April 17th at 6pm in Campbell Hall.



Deaconesses

## Potluck with the Woods



Gary and Judy Woods will be retiring from the mission field in the fall. They will be in town and we are having a Celebration Potluck Dinner in their honor on Tuesday, April 24th at 6 pm. The drinks and table service will be provided. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend.

We will also collect a love offering for them on Sunday, April 22nd. Please place your donation in the "little church" at the back of the sanctuary that day.

## SALT Luncheon



All Seniors are invited to a SALT Luncheon on Monday, April 23rd. They will eat at Jo's Country Diner in Chesterville. They will leave from the church at 10:50 am and please sign-up in the narthex if you plan to attend. The buffet is \$9.50 plus drink and tip or you can order from the menu.

## Outreach News

The Outreach Committee recently made a \$500 donation to help with Sponsoring Day Program Classes at PADS. The donation will pay for everything a class would need: a teacher, books or workbooks and other materials for up to 16 students for the course of 9 weeks. Dana Tell, Shelter Services Coordinator, said the classes were required for PADS guests. The classes include Dave Ramsey's Total Money Makeover, anger management, Tai Chi, Mental Health Awareness by LLC nursing students, Eating Smart and Staying Active by the U of I Extension office, Health Clinic, RU Addictions class and discussion based classes. Some classes meet once a week, others meet once a month. Guests will also do community service as part of the Day Program. The Outreach Committee felt this is a very worthwhile monetary commitment to the community.

## Singles Game Night

The Singles @ First Group will meet for a Domino Game Night on Friday, April 20th from 6-8 pm. Please bring a snack and drink to share.



## Picture Directory



We will be getting a new Church Picture Directory. Lifetouch will be here June 4th-9th to take pictures. Sign-ups will begin April 29th in the narthex. We hope you will get your picture taken, as we want everyone included! Please check out the insert in the newsletter for more information.

## Board Splinters

**Elders:** met March 26, passing around a set of CDs from the Leadership Conference at LCU, discussed Sexual Harassment Training, and next meeting will be April 30, 7 pm.

**Deaconesses:** deaconesses took balloons and cookies to shut-ins and the FUMC invited our ladies to a meeting and catered dinner on October 5th.

**Minister:** we had a small increase in attendance in March and picked up 6.9% overall. The Good Friday service with the Methodist was well attended by our church. My current series is a follow-up to the Easter Resurrection message. What's Next? -- Therefore Go.

**Associate Minister:** finished a youth group series on the Seven Mile Miracle. Organized youth/family outing to see the movie, *I Can Only Imagine* and had over 60 people from FCC attend the movie. Preached on Palm Sunday. Made 2 home visits and 2 visits to Mattoon High School. Shawnc and I attend the Fellowship of Christian Athletes banquet to support Guthrie Gardener, leader for the area including MMS/MHS.

**Elementary Minister:** July 22-26 from 6-8 pm will be VBS, Parade on July 21st to advertise VBS, had 8 in Sunday School and 9 in Jr. Church this past Sunday. Summer Calendar of events will be out soon.

**Worship:** Next meeting will be May 7th.

**Outreach:** collected \$895 for Camp New Hope. Sent \$500 to PADS for Day Program Classes. Baby Bottle Blessings will be May 13-June 17.

**Evangelism:** Paid for an Easter newspaper ad, planning Ministry Fair in October and providing candy for Bagelfest Parade.

**Christian Ed:** donated \$500 to FCA during a banquet. FCA provides middle and high school Bible Studies and a weekly breakfast.

**Stewardship:** review the statements.

**Personnel:** met March 21 and working on job descriptions.

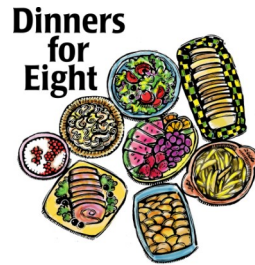
**Trustees:** approved \$290 for Terminix contract renewal. Industrial Roofing looked at leak in cross tower approximately \$7,500 cost repair. Also looked at the south wall leak near the sound system.

**Seniors Minister:** made 18 nursing home visits, volunteered 5 hours at the Food Pantry, made 4 home visits, 5 hospital visits, preached on Easter Sunday at the 8:30 am service, helped at the communion table, attended the men's breakfast, and help count the offering each week as the assistant treasurer.


**New Business:** Discussed a Love Offering for the Woods' Retirement to be collected on April 22nd. Steve Huckaba asked about Pastor Steve's retirement and about getting a Pastoral Committee organized. Pastor Steve would like to retire June 1, 2019.

## Dinner for Eight


We now have Hostesses for our Dinner for Eight Program. If you want to attend a dinner please sign-up in the narthex. Don't miss out on good food and fellowship!




## Thank You Notes

 Helen and I wish to thank the "Three Musketeer Pastors" who immediately responded to our recent setbacks. They arrived in mass one day in particular and with frequent follow up visits. Many of our fellow parishioners were gracious with card well wishes, that cheered us along the way. A particular card made me feel rather "SHEEPISH" and appreciated. Thank you all.

*Ed & Helen Dowling*

 A special thanks for the balloon and cookies and for the visit from the ladies.

*Phyllis Hurst*

 I want to thank everyone who came to see me in the nursing home, brought me candy and treats and gave me communion. I am at home now, but still recovering. God Bless.

*Carolyn Sego*

## Scholarship Awardees



The Laura Catherine Van Gundy Young Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to: MJ Brand, Machel Morgan and Steve Morgan for the 2018-19 school year. They all attend Lincoln Christian University, congratulations!

## IRA Distributions

Avoid Taxes on IRA Distributions...

If you are 70 ½ or older and don't need all of your required distribution from your IRA; Money that you have to take and pay income tax on. You can gift all or a portion of your Minimum Required Distribution TAX -FREE to First Christian Church. Subject to overall limitations.



## Preaching Schedule

Pastor Steve Hayes will be on vacation April 22nd and 29th. On April 22nd Richard Eident will preach at the 8:30 am service and Steve Morgan will preach at the 10:30 am service. On April 29th Steve Morgan will preach at both services.

- 1 Arlene Betty
- 3 Kamdyn Dunn
- 8 Jean Bergfeld
- 11 Bob Clark, Gretta Kearney, Dianne Porter
- 13 Bob Morgan, Michelle Mathews, Adeline Kimery
- 14 Sally Dickerson
- 17 Tom Dickerson
- 18 Steve Lane, Ernie Webb
- 22 Joey Dickerson
- 28 Kierstyn Albin
- 29 Julie Nichols



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- 6 Fred and Kayla Grissom
  - 14 Ron and Annetta Kerans
  - 27 Jack and Jan Little
  - 31 Phil and Marilyn Purcell



## Church Life

### **Friday, April 13**

F/R 30 Hour Famine

### **Sunday, April 15**

8:30 am Traditional Worship

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship

NO F/R Group

### **Monday, April 16**

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting

7 pm Christian Ed Meeting

### **Tuesday, April 17**

7 am Prayer Time

6 pm Deaconess Meeting

7 pm Bible 101 Class

### **Wednesday, April 18**

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

5:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

6 pm Mid-Week Program

6 pm Choir Practice

### **Thursday, April 19**

6 pm Praise Team Practice

### **Sunday, April 22**

8:30 am Traditional Worship with Richard Eident preaching

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship with Steve Morgan preaching

5-7 pm F/R Youth Group Meeting

### **Monday, April 23**

10 am Staff Meeting

6 pm Evangelism Meeting

### **Tuesday, April 24**

7 am Prayer Time

6 pm Potluck with Gary and Judy Woods

### **Wednesday, April 25**

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

5:15 pm Bell Practice

6 pm Choir Practice

6 pm Mid-Week Program

### **Thursday, April 26**

6 pm Praise Team Practice



Building Fund balance:  
\$262,556.68

## Serving Communion

### **Sunday, April 15**

**8:30 am** — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Don Inman, Tim Buford, Dan Cunningham, Tom Dickerson, Steve Lane

**10:30 am** — Herb Ault, Max Betty, Donica Brand, Jeff Maninfor

### **Sunday, April 22**

**8:30 am** — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Don Inman, Denny Booker, Jack Little, Gene Swearingen, Colin VanDeventer

**10:30 am** — Dennis Goings, Amy Maninfor, Nick Maninfor, Bob Morgan

### **Church Attendance**

April 1st — Sunrise: 54, Traditional: 139,

Contemporary: 106 = 299

April 8th — Traditional: 120, Contemporary: 79 = 199