



First Christian Church of Effingham

Issue 281 January 3 2023 In God's hands

Martín Reyes-Lead Minister
217.317.3800
pastormartinfcc@gmail.com

Cleone Bloemker-Secretary
217.342.6797
fcccffingham@gmail.com
Website: www.fcccffingham.com

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, January 10th Young @
Heart meets @ 9:00 a.m. the church
for snack, prayer & fellowship

Tuesdays Online Prayer Time Starts
@ noon on the First Christian Church
Effingham Facebook [https://
www.facebook.com/FCCEffingham](https://www.facebook.com/FCCEffingham)
and You Tube [First Christian Church
of Effingham - YouTube](#)

Wednesday, January 11th W.O.W.
resumes with a light supper @ 5:30
p.m. and Bible study to follow

Saturday, January 21st Men's
Breakfast meets @ 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 21st Children &
Junior High meet @ 10:00 a.m. Belly
Laugh Event (Comedy)

Serving & Giving

Serving In January

Communion Table : January 8th –Troy Bloemker; January 15th–Jon Zerkel

12/25/2022 Attendance & Giving

Total: \$4,929.00

includes Faith Promise & Online Giving

Attendance: Sunday–40
Property Ministries:\$65.00
Christmas Dinner:\$100.00

Faith Promise 2022/2023: \$1,509.00

1/1/2023 Attendance & Giving

Total: \$7,298.00

includes Faith Promise & Online Giving

Attendance:50
Property Ministry (Building): \$40.00
Quilt Guild donation:\$155.00
In Memory of Bob Gregory:\$25.00

Faith Promise 2022/2023: \$1,397.00

Prayer List

Special Needs: Hurricane Ian (Florida & East Coast),
Ukraine & Russia Standoff, Pastor Martin, Gary & Darlene
Elliott (health issues), Elaine Hartman (Oral Cancer
Surgery), John Donathan (surgery postponed), Paula Nettles
(double mastectomy), Winona (double Mastectomy in
January), Nelson Duncel (broken ribs), Dee Musgrave
(more testing), Nancy Harper (Covid), George & Marcie
Shouse (Covid)



Missions: Faith Promise 2022/2023, Salvation Army Bellringers, Operation
Christmas Child

Pray For These Families: Larry Lenz Family, Marla Chapman Family, Silas
Shirley Family, John Scarpone Family



2022 Recap

Happy New Year!

2022 was a year filled with change and challenges, but God continued to show His faithfulness. One of my goals as your pastor is to be as open and honest as I can be, so I would like to share with you a recap for 2022, and a couple of goals we have for 2023.

In 2022, our average attendance on Sunday's was 63.6 worshipers; an increase from 2021's average of 60.5. Also, in 2022, we had 7 baptisms (8 in 2021), and 4 membership transfer-ins (0 in 2021). In 2022, our total giving, excluding Faith Promises, was \$146,510.39; a decrease of 13.57% from 2021 total giving of \$169,508.32, and our total faith promises for 2022-23 is \$31,084.00, a decrease of 27.14% from 2021-22 total giving of 42,662.00.

In 2023, I would like you to focus on 5 things:

1. Daily prayer and Bible reading.
2. Be consistent in your Sunday worship attendance.
3. Be faithful in your giving.
4. Join, start, or continue to be part of a small group.
5. Lead one person to Christ or to join our church.

These five simple goals will make a great impact in your life, our congregation and the lives of others around you.

In 2023, our church leadership want to focus on:

1. Train and empower church members to do the work God has called them to do.
2. Find and develop leaders in our congregation, specially addressing the need for Deacons.
3. Complete the update of our Constitution and Bylaws, which are 2 years over due from their required 10 years review.
4. Finalize a decision about the parsonage.

These are the main goals and points of emphasis for this year. If you have any questions or concerns, or if you want help in implementing these focuses, please let us know.

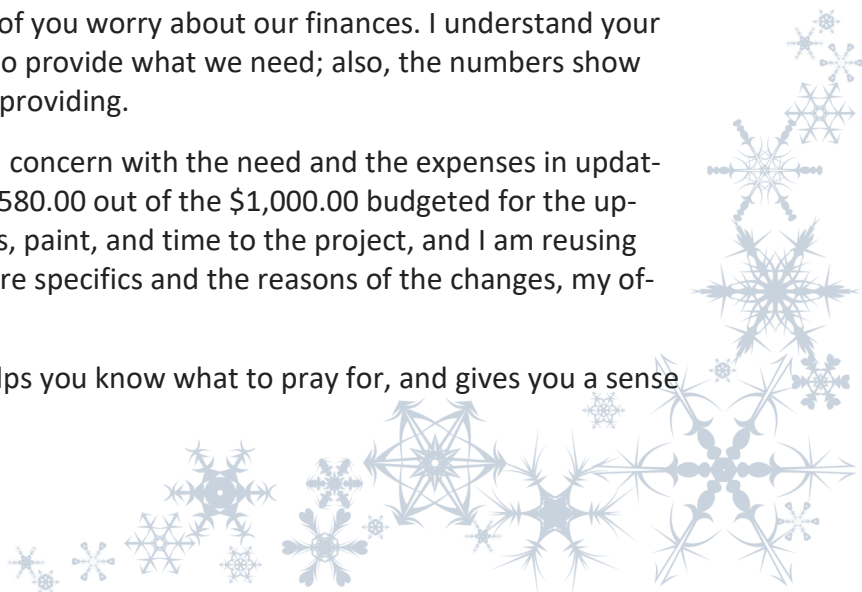
Two more things: first, I have heard some of you worry about our finances. I understand your fears, but remember that our God is able to provide what we need; also, the numbers show that we are good stewards of what God is providing.

Second thing, some of you have expressed concern with the need and the expenses in updating my new office. So far, we have spent \$580.00 out of the \$1,000.00 budgeted for the update, church members have donated items, paint, and time to the project, and I am reusing many things. If you would like to know more specifics and the reasons of the changes, my office door is always open to chat.

I hope that this article encourages you, helps you know what to pray for, and gives you a sense of where God is leading us this year.

At His service,

Pastor Martin Reyes





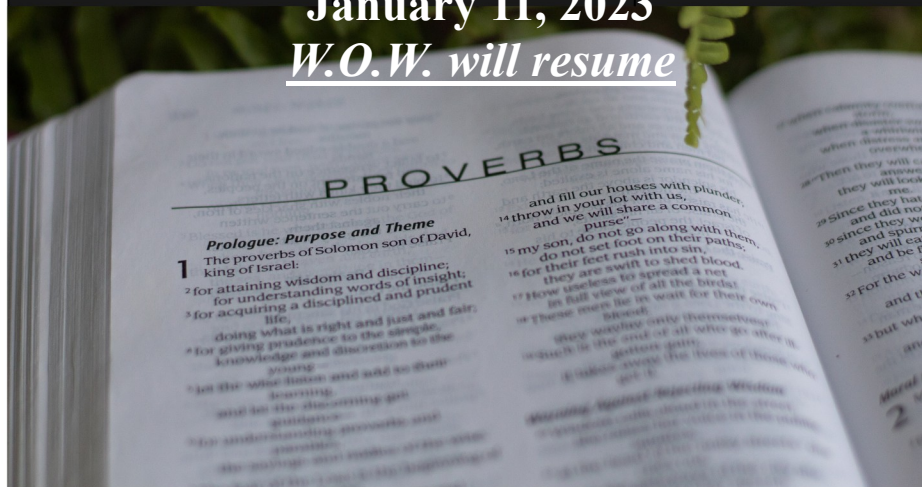
Young @ Heart

9:00 A.M.

Tuesday, January 10th
For Coffee, Prayer & Fellowship

W.O.W. WEDNESDAY

January 11, 2023
W.O.W. will resume



5:30 P.M. To	7:30 P.M.	Bible Study
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***Come To First Christian Church
901 N. Henrietta St.
Effingham, IL
Begins @ 10:00 a.m.***



Belly Laugh Day

Saturday, January 21st

All Children Junior High and Under



FOOD PANTRY ITEMS FOR 2023

Bring to the Fellowship Hall on the First Sunday of Each Month

1/1/2023	Soup, Crackers, Cereal Or Your Choice
2/5/2023	Canned Fruit, Jell-O, Pudding Or Your Choice
3/5/2023	Peanut Butter, Jelly, Cereal Or Your Choice
4/2/2023	Tuna, Tuna Helper, Or Your Choice
5/7/2023	Rice, Mac & Cheese, Cereal Or Your Choice
6/4/2023	Canned Meat, Dessert Mixes Or Your Choice
7/2/2023	Pancake Mix, Cereal, Oatmeal Or Your Choice
8/6/2023	Pasta, Spaghetti Sauce Or Your Choice
9/3/2023	Canned Vegetables, Cereal Or Your Choice
10/1/2023	Pizza Crust, Pizza Sauce Or Your Choice
11/5/2023	Canned Pumpkin, Pie Fillings, Cereal Or Your Choice
12/3/2023	Flour, Sugar, Cereal Or Your Choice
<u>Do Not Bring Pancake Syrup: They have a company that donates the syrup</u>	

Faith Promise 2022/2023



Promises Made: \$31,084.00

Received: \$9,914.00



**901 N. Henrietta St.
Effingham, IL 62401**

Sunday Times
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
9:40 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday Morning
9:00 a.m. Young @ Heart Coffee & Prayer Time

Wednesday Evening
5:30 p.m. Bible Study & Worship Time