



# First Christian Church of Effingham

Issue 215

March 31, 2020

*What Manner of Love*

David McConnell-Minister

217.690.4243

[pastordavefcc@gmail.com](mailto:pastordavefcc@gmail.com)

Martín Reyes-Youth Minister

217.317.3800

[pastormartinfcc@gmail.com](mailto:pastormartinfcc@gmail.com)

Cleone Bloemker-Secretary

217.342.6797

[fcceffingham@gmail.com](mailto:fcceffingham@gmail.com)

Website: [www.fcceffingham.com](http://www.fcceffingham.com)

## **Mark Your Calendar**

**Tuesdays Online Prayer Time** Starts  
@ noon on the First Christian Church  
Facebook (See page 2)

**Worship Services** Start @ 10:00 a.m.  
On Facebook and You Tube First  
Christian Church accounts

**Friday, April 10th** Good Friday  
Chain of Prayer-(Explained in this  
newsletter on page # 6)

**Sunday, May 3rd** Rice, Mac N  
Cheese, Cereal or your choice is due  
in Beebe Hall

**Thursday, May 7th** Elders meet @  
9:00 a.m.



## **Ponderings of the Preacher . . .**

“I have never seen anything like this.” How many of you have said this or have heard it said by someone else in the last few days? These are interesting and unusual times aren’t they? I have certainly missed being able to be together for worship and fellowship with my church family during these last couple of weeks and I know you have too. Sundays just aren’t quite the same. I would remind you that this too shall pass. Have you ever noticed how many times in the King James Version of the Bible the phrase “It came to pass” appears? (According to Biblegateway.com the phrase appears 463 times.) Please notice “it came to pass”, it did not come to stay. We will get through this.

One of the things we all need to do is to keep looking to God for strength and help. As God’s people we can remain optimistic because we know that God is in charge. I have just recently started posting devotional thoughts on Facebook. I have been on Facebook more in these 10 days than I had been on that site in the last 10 years. The reason for my renewed activity on Facebook is that I feel Christians need to be leading the way in bringing encouragement to our friends and neighbors. Some of you have seen my postings. Some of you who do not have access to the internet have not. For your benefit, we will reprint those postings here in the newsletter. I hope that they will be an encouragement to you.

Our newsletter will look a little different this time because of all our activities and services being canceled until after the Covid 19 crisis is past. This does not mean that the church has been shut down. As I have seen on Facebook and I agree – the church is not empty, the church has been deployed. If all we are known for is that we meet at 901 N. Henrietta Street in Effingham, then we are not fulfilling our mission. Look around. See who you might be able to assist and encourage whether it is by phone, text, email, delivery, mail, prayer, etc. We are the body of Christ – His hands and feet. Let’s be active in serving Him!

C U N Church after Covid 19,  
David



### ***Serving In April***

***Communion Table : April 3rd—Jon Zerkel; April 12th—Dennis Bushue***

<b><i>3/22/2020 Attendance &amp; Giving</i></b>	<b><i>3/29/2020 Attendance &amp; Giving</i></b>
<b><i>Total: \$1,851.37 includes Faith Promise Offering</i></b>	<b><i>Total: \$ 3,664.00 includes Faith Promise Offering</i></b>
<i>Online Giving: \$218.05</i>	<i>Online Giving: \$380.00</i> <i>Property Ministry (Building): \$40.00</i>
<b><i>Faith Promise Missions: \$275.00</i></b>	<b><i>Faith Promise: \$1,111.00</i></b>

## ***Prayer Tuesdays***

### **Tuesday On Facebook**

Join us online on First Christian Church Facebook account to pray together. Text, call or message and let us know if you have prayer concerns you want added to the list on Tuesdays.



## ***Church Online***

### **Sunday Mornings**


Tune in at 10:00 a.m. online at First Christian Church Facebook or You Tube pages. There will be a time of worship, communion and a message video taped each week.

For technical difficulties call or text Pastor Martin @ (217) 317-3800. He will be here from 9:30 a.m. till the church service finishes airing.



## ***Prayer List***

**Cancer:** Robert Mattingly (hospice called in), Angie Thomason (starting treatments for breast cancer 2nd time), Darlene Murphy (On Hospice), Adelaide Robertson,

 **Special Needs:** Cassidy Bradshaw (5 yr. old diagnosed with diabetes), Jeremy Bradshaw and Annie (both home from the hospital), Clinton Smith (health Issues), Emily & Hunter Long (Natalie Riner Long born 3/10/2020), Julie Aline Brandseth (halfway house in Gillman, Il), Steve Thomason (rupture behind his eye), Judy Ludwig (surgery on shoulder), Alicia (possible brain tumor), Trudy Grant (surgery on colon and bladder), Trey and Ashley (pregnant and due in April) and daughter Amzie Ralston (she's 18 mo. And very ill), Shannon Smith's Uncle & Aunt (Uncle-hospital with severe pain and swelling of legs; Aunt can't go to the hospital to visit)

**Grieving Families:** Lester Duckwitz Family, Robert "Bob" McDonough Family, Shirley Barry Family, Ron Buening Family, Robert Kremer Family, Sandra McDevitt Family, Gene Moeller Family

## *Easter Bible Reading Plan*



Easter is the day we are especially reminded of Jesus' resurrection. You are invited to prepare for that great celebration by participating in the following Bible reading plan.

This plan begins with the account of Jesus' last days of ministry and ends with His ascension into heaven. You can read all of the passages for the assigned day or if you choose or you can select just one of the accounts from the Gospel records. By reading these Bible passages, you can follow Jesus from the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the Mount of Olives where He ascended to heaven along with experiencing everything in between.



When you see this plan, you may already be a few days behind. Don't let that stop you from participating. For your convenience, this will be **posted on First Christian Church Facebook** page.

April 1 – Jesus anointed at Bethany: Matthew 26:6-16; Mark 14:1-11; John 12:1-11

April 2 – Triumphal Entry: Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19

April 3 – Cleansing of the Temple: Matthew 21:12-19; Mark 11:12-19; Luke 19:45-48

April 4 – Questions and Answers: Matthew 21:23-27; 22:15-46; Mark 11:27-33; 12:13-37;  
Luke 20:1-8; 20-47

April 5 – The Last Supper: Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-38; John 13:1-30

April 6 – Peter's denial predicted: Matthew 26:31-35; Mark 14:27-31; Luke 22:31-34; John 13:31-38

April 7 – In the Garden: Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-52; Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-11

April 8 – Before the Sanhedrin: Matthew 26:57-75; Mark 14:53-72; Luke 22:54-71; John 18:12-27

April 9 – Before Pilate and Herod: Matthew 27:11-26; Mark 15:1-15; Luke 23:1-23; John 18:28-19:16

April 10 – The crucifixion: Matthew 27:57-56; Mark 15:16-41; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:16-37

April 11 – The burial: Matthew 27:57-66; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42

April 12 – The resurrection: Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-9

April 13 – Appearances to the women: Matthew 28:8-10; Mark 16:9-11; John 20:10-18

April 14 – Appearance to the two on the road to Emmaus: Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-35

April 15 – First and second appearances to the apostles: Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-31

April 16 – Appearances in Galilee: Matthew 28:16-20; John 21:1-25

April 17 – Ascension: Mark 16:19-21; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:3-11

April 18 – Summary of resurrection appearances: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

April 19 – The significance of the resurrection: 1 Corinthians 15:9-58

## *Pastor David's Devotional Thoughts*

### **Thursday, March 19**

Sometimes in life, I am faced with problems I don't know how to solve, decisions I don't know how to make, and obstacles I don't have the power to overcome. In the face of this crisis, we may all feel a little like that. It reminds me of an Israelite king named Jehoshaphat that we read about in the Old Testament. There were three neighboring nations coming against him in war and he was alarmed. The king decided to ask for God's help and he proclaimed a fast for his entire nation. The people came together to ask for God's help. Jehoshaphat led the nation in prayer. The last words of that prayer stand out in my mind. "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you." I certainly don't have all the answers for solving this crisis but I will try to keep my eyes upon God. You can read the whole story in 2 Chronicles 20:1-30. Hope you all have a great day!

### **Monday, March 23**

I know that many of you have been praying passionately during these last several days for a variety of issues involving the Corona Virus crisis. Perhaps, you have prayed for family, neighbors, friends, leaders, caregivers, researchers, workers, the sick, a cure, an end to this crisis.etc. I want to say a personal "thanks" to you for your prayers. I also want to encourage you to keep praying for these people and issues. Prayer is not the only thing we can do but it is the best thing we can do. Let's also remember that we are in a marathon not a sprint. So don't quit praying.

There is a very short verse found in 1 Thessalonians 5:17. In the *Message* version of the Bible, it simply says, "Pray all the time." Some of you feel like you have been doing that in recent days. Keep it up! Don't become discouraged! Your prayers are effective. God is listening to you.

I also think we need to be reminded of what is said immediately before and after this command to "Pray all the time." These words are also taken from *The Message*. "Be cheerful no matter what ... Thank God no matter what happens." God's message to us is "Keep praying but also be cheerful and be thankful!" In spite of the crisis, we can still be cheerful and be grateful for our blessings.

### **Thursday, March 26**

During these last few mornings, I have had a song on my mind that brings me a lot of comfort and reassurance. Maybe, it can be helpful to you as well.

I don't know about tomorrow, I just live from day to day.  
I don't borrow from its sunshine, For its skies may turn to gray.  
I don't worry o'er the future, For I know what Jesus said,  
And today I'll walk beside Him, For He knows what is ahead.

I don't know about tomorrow, It may bring me poverty;  
But the one who feeds the sparrow, Is the one who stands by me.  
And the path that be my portion, May be through the flame or flood,  
But His presence goes before me. And I'm covered with his blood.

Many things about tomorrow, I don't seem to understand;  
But I know who holds tomorrow, And I know who holds my hand.

Those words were written almost 70 years ago but it almost seems like they were written for me today. Lord, please help me to remember 2 Corinthians 4:17-18. (The Message) "Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever."





## *Pastor David's Devotional Thoughts*

### **Monday, March 30**

Whenever we are faced with bad times, we respond in different ways. Sometimes we feel sorry for ourselves and ask, "Why me?" Other times we feel angry at the situation and lash out with angry words. And of course there are the times we blame others for the problems and say, "You could have prevented all of this and it's your fault that we are in the shape we are in." In the Covid 19 crisis, I have to admit I have done all those.



In an obscure passage in the Old Testament, I see at least one way I need to be responding as far as my attitude is concerned. Just before David became king of Israel, he was living in exile from his native land hiding from King Saul who was seeking to kill him. He and the 600 men who were his followers along with their families were living in a little town of Ziklag. First Samuel 30 tells us that David and his men were gone from home for three days and during their absence a neighboring group of people, the Amalekites, attacked Ziklag, captured all their families and possessions and burned down the town. When David and his men discovered what had happened, the Bible says they cried until they didn't have any strength left to cry. David and his men were feeling sorry for themselves. I understand that. We probably have all felt like that sometime in our life. After crying, the men began to get angry. They weren't just mad at the Amalekites but they were mad at David. They were so angry at their leader that they even talked about stoning him. They began pointing fingers of blame at him. I am sure they were probably saying, "It's your fault. If you hadn't taken us away from our families, then this never would have happened." How did David respond to all of this? Verse 6 tells us that "David found strength in the Lord his God." The rest of the story tells us that David and his men pursued the Amalekites and rescued their families. It was a happy ending to a sad story.

But I believe that happy ending started with David's attitude at the peak of the crisis. In our present crisis we can feel sorry for ourselves; we can point fingers of blame at governments, hoarders, researchers, medical professionals, and lots of others. But what I really need to do is the same as what David did. Help me, O God to find strength in you during these hard times!

### **Monday, April 6**

Check on First Christian Church's Facebook page for the next devotional thoughts by Pastor David McConnell





## *Faith Promise Rally 2019/2020*

### **Promises Made**

\$53,492.00 for 2019/2020

**Theme:** Take God At His Word

**Bible Verse:** "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33

### **Received So Far:**

\$23,056.00



**Take God At His Word**

## *Chain of Prayer*

### **Good Friday, April 10th**

For many years First Christian Church has had a chain of prayer that has occurred on Good Friday. Just because we are not meeting together in our building does not mean we cannot continue this practice. You are invited to participate in our Chain of Prayer on April 10 from 6 am to 6 pm. If there is ever a time that we need to be praying, it is now! You do not have to leave your home to come to the church building. If you do choose to come to the building to pray, we will provide hand cleanser and disinfecting wipes. We are asking you to volunteer to pray for 20 minute increments this year. Please call the office to reserve your time.



## *Food Pantry Items*

### **Sunday, May 3rd**

Please bring Rice, Mac N Cheese, Cereal or your choice for the Calvary Baptist Food Pantry.



# *Oil Belt Christian Service Camp*



## Upcoming Events

### 2020 Summer Camp

Online Registration opens March 2nd  
27 Camps for K—College Age!



### Now Hiring Summer Staff

Apply for a life-changing summer at [oilbelt.com/serve](http://oilbelt.com/serve) (must be a graduating senior or college age student)

### 2020 Prayer

**PRAY THAT SUMMER CAMPS WILL BE HELD AS SCHEDULED**

### Four Kitchen Helpers From First Christian Church

**When: Tuesday, June 2nd only the 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. slot-Let Cleone know by Thursday, April 23rd if you can work on June 2nd.**

## *On Line Giving*

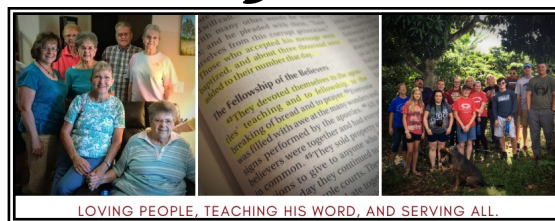
### FCCEffingham.com

Go to first Christian Church web site and click on the Giving and the page will go to the Kindrid giving page for FCC. You will have to put in your information and bank routing number to make a donation.

## *New Facebook Group*

### FCC of Effingham Group

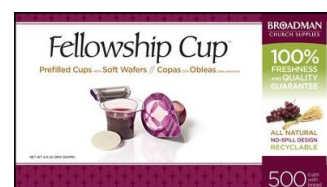
A new Facebook group is out for anyone who wishes to get online and chat. Go to First Christian Church Group on the search box on Facebook. Click join and like.



## *Communion Available*

### Communion Supplies

There are communion supplies here at the church. Just come in the church office between 8:00 a.m. and Noon Monday through Wednesday to pick up the communion.





First Christian church  
901 N. Henrietta  
Effingham, IL 62401  
SERVICE REQUESTED



They took  
went out to

palm branches and  
meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!”

John 12:13 (NIV)