



First Christian Church of Effingham

Issue 216

April 13, 2020

What Manner of Love

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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

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 . . .

If you would have told me a month ago that our country would have been “shut down” by the Corona Virus, I would have not believed you. Who would have thought that businesses would close their doors? Who would have believed that other businesses would be limiting the number of people who can come into their buildings? Who would have thought that many people would be wearing protective face masks? Who would have imagined that we would have canceled church services for an extended period of time? Isn’t it amazing that something so small can cause such a disruption of our schedules and plans?

This is a reminder to us that we are not always in charge of our destiny. Each of us had probably laid out some plans for the spring. We knew what we were going to do for Easter. However, those plans did not work out. The events of these last several weeks certainly verify the truth of God’s Word.

Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” As it is you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. Anyone, then who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.

James 4:13-17

There is an old saying that goes like this: Man proposes, God disposes. What does that mean? Simply put it means people can make plans but whether or not they are successful in carrying them out depends on God. This is a quotation from a devotional work written in Latin by Thomas a Kempis in the 15th century.

One of the greatest generals of all time, Napoleon as he was laying out his plans for the battle of Waterloo commented about this quotation when he was reminded of it by one of his generals. Not appreciating the idea that someone else might have a say so in his plans, the arrogant general replied, “I want you to understand sir, that Napoleon proposes, and Napoleon disposes.” Napoleon’s battle plans failed because of something rather tiny – a raindrop. Multiply that one raindrop by approximately 21 trillion and you have a muddy mess. The history of the world was changed because of the tiny raindrop. The tiny Corona virus has also changed many of our plans and undoubtedly written its way into our history books.

As we make plans for our lives after the Covid 19 lockdown, let’s remember to consider what God’s will is and try to follow His leading.

Looking forward to C-ing U N Church,
David



Serving In April Communion Table : April 19th—Troy Bloemker; April 26th—Delaine Donaldson	
4/5/2020 Attendance & Giving Total: 7,153.95 includes Faith Promise Offering	4/12/2020 Attendance & Giving Total: \$ 1,932.10 includes Faith Promise Offering
Online Giving: \$942.95 Property Ministry (Building) \$45.00	Online Giving: \$182.10 Property Ministry (Building): \$40.00
Faith Promise Missions: \$1,048.00	Faith Promise: \$130.00 Food Pantry Donation: \$50.00

Prayer Tuesdays

Tuesday On Facebook

Join us online on Martin Reyes 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:

Special Needs: 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), Colin Kinkelaar (more surgery), Scott Weiffenbach (exposed to Covid 19), Tori Amburn (RN by St. Louis), Kevin & Kevin (EMTs), Ivon (nurse in TN), Sabrina and Shelley (Nurse & CAN), All essential workers, Ally Spillman and Beth Longwell (medical profession), RJ Teets (Flu symptoms), Anthony Jamison (personal issues), Diane Slone (growth on Kidney), Haele Rubel & Cassi Will (nurses), Dee Musgrave (Extreme Back Pain)

Grieving Families: Sandra McDevitt Family, Gene Moeller Family, John Herring 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

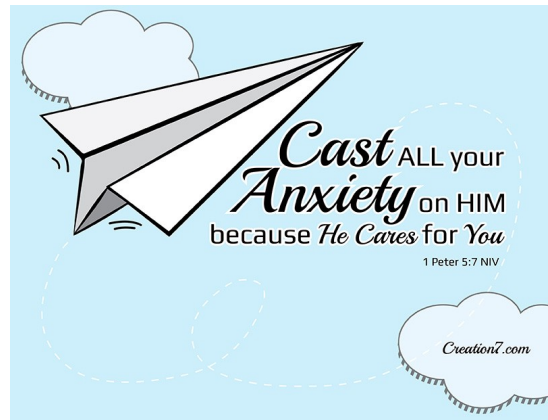
Thursday, April 2nd

What do friends do for their friends? In 1983 the slogan "Friends don't let friends drive drunk" became popular. A popular slogan right now is "Friends don't let friends fight cancer alone." Obviously, there are things that friends won't allow their friends to do (negative and harmful things) but there are things that friends will do for each other (positive and helpful things). Friends listen to one another. Friends are there for one another whether it's good times or bad times. Friends encourage one another.

I am a friend with all of you on Facebook. You and I have sent requests to one another asking each other to be a friend. What can we do as friends to help each other today during this crisis and what can we do to help each other when this crisis is over?

I have been reading the story of David and Jonathan from the Bible. David and Jonathan were best friends. They stood by each other through thick and thin. They were honest with each other. The problem that could have interfered with their friendship was that Jonathan's father Saul was king of Israel and Saul saw David as a threat to his reign as king. Saul was trying to kill David to put an end to that threat. Would David and Jonathan's friendship stand the test? It did and they remained friends until Jonathan was killed in battle. What did Jonathan do for his friend David? Besides being honest with him and defending him before his father, Jonathan encouraged him. The part of the story about their friendship that I want to share with you is found in 1 Samuel.23:16. "And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God."

When I read that, I had to ask myself, "Do I do that for my friends? Do I help them find strength in God?" We live in discouraging times. Much of the news we hear is bad. It's easy to become discouraged. If today, I can help one person, friend or stranger, find some strength in God, then I will have done something good. Let me share one more verse from the Bible with you. It is short but it truly is sweet. "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7). We can share all of our cares, worries, and anxious thoughts with God because He does care for us.



Tuesday, April 7th

A few days ago following the President's daily update on the Covid 19 crisis, a reporter said something like this: For the first time in our nation's history we won't be celebrating Easter. How sad if that were true but praise God it is not!

We may not be gathering in our building for our Easter celebration but that will not prevent us from celebrating the greatest event in the history of the world. I am sure that each of you can probably remember an Easter that stands out in your memory. Some of those memories may be centered on the traditions that we often associate with Easter. Perhaps you might recall some new clothes you received, an Easter basket you received or gave, an egg hunt with family and friends, a family gathering, or going to a church service with family.

I have to admit that most of the memories I have of past Easter Sundays are centered on church worship services and activities. I looked back through my records and discovered that since 1974 I have not missed an Easter Sunday either preaching or presenting the message through first person portrayals. During that time period, I have been privileged to have been able to have shared in 18 sunrise services. Some years, I have preached both the morning and evening services. On four of those Easters, I shared a message at a sunrise service and a message in both the regular and morning and evening services.

Pastor David's Devotional Thoughts

Tuesday, April 7th Continued

It gives me great joy to tell you that the Lord is allowing me to share the story of the resurrection again this year. It will be different than all the others. But despite the cancellation of church services in our building, we are able to share the message with you via the internet. Throughout these 46 years, the message has remained the same. "He is not here; He has risen." I hope and pray that the message on Sunday will be both a blessing and a challenge to you.



Thursday, April 9th

In difficult times, you have to look for silver linings in the clouds. One of the blessings that is a part of this time when we are reluctantly practicing shelter-in-place and social distancing is the unusual peace and quiet that we are experiencing. When I go outside, I don't hear nearly as much traffic noise, the streets are relatively empty, and the dental office next door has closed temporarily. It's kind of nice for a change. We often think that is what peace is all about. We generally would define peace as the absence of noise, conflict, and problems. If that is the kind of peace I am looking for, then I may be having peace in my house and in my neighborhood but there is certainly no peace in our state (Illinois), our country, or our world. Problems persist and conflicts continue. The "world" keeps looking for this kind of peace (no problems, no conflicts, no worries), but it continues to come up empty. Where can I find real peace?

I am reminded of what Jesus said about peace. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27) Jesus told His disciples that He was giving them peace but in just a few hours their entire world would fall apart. He, their leader, would be crucified and they would be afraid that they would experience the same fate. Did Jesus know what He was talking about? Obviously the peace He offered was not freedom from conflict and problems. His peace was of a different kind. His peace does not depend on what is going on around us. His peace brings contentment. His peace allows us to quietly rest in God's care. Our God has everything under control. To many that sounds naïve and rather Pollyannaish. I understand why Paul in Philippians 4:7 said that the peace of God goes beyond all understanding

On that same night in which Jesus spoke the words in John 14, He also said, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) I find peace in those words. I hope you do too Check on First Christian Church's Facebook page for the next devotional thoughts

by Pastor David McConnell





May Birthdays & Anniversaries

May 1—Richard Raber	BD
May 4—Darren Vonderheide	BD
May 5—Anthony Jamison	BD
May 5—Martín Reyes	BD
May 5—Phyllis Mitchell	BD
May 5—Austin Spillman	BD
May 7—Matin Zubiate	BD
May 13—Emil (Shorty) Beals	BD
May 17—Emil & Lee Beals	WA
May 18—Dennis Bushue	BD
May 21—Kevin & Barb Jamison	WA
May 22—Bonnie Vonderheide	BD
May 28—Myah Rae Lewis	BD
May 29—Sharon Caylor	BD



Food Pantry Items

Sunday, May 3rd

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



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:

\$24,234.00



Oil Belt Christian Service Camp



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

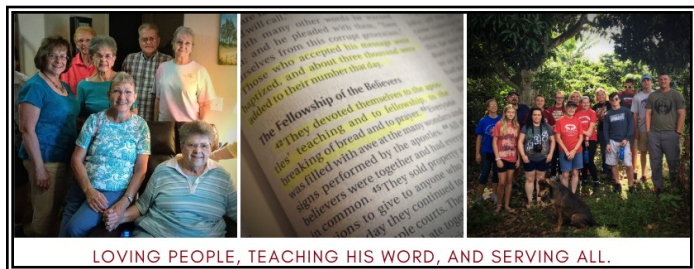
FCCEffingham.com

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

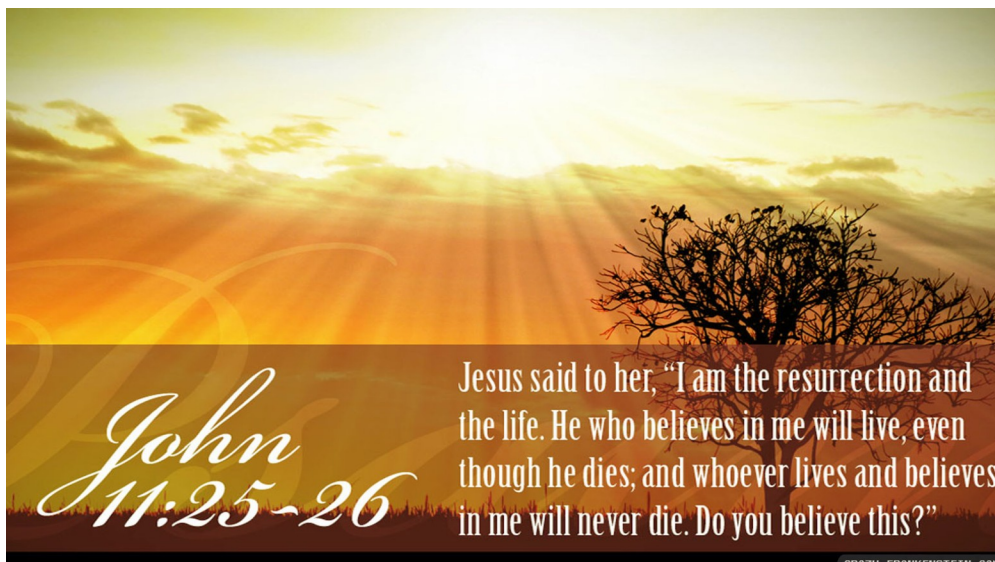
Communion Supplies

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**



*John
11:25-26*

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

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