



# First Christian Church of Effingham

Issue 224

August 4, 2020

*The Way, The Truth & The Life*

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## **Mark Your Calendar**

**Worship Services for Sundays** The services will stream live to watch on You Tube First Christian Church Effingham accounts for the 10:00 a.m. service each Sunday

**Thursday, August 6th** Elders' meeting at 9:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, August 11th** Young @ Heart meets @ 9:00 a.m.

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

**Wednesday, August 12th** Youth & Young Adults meet @ 5:30 p. m.

**Sunday, September 6th** Canned Vegetables, cereal or your choice is due in Beebe Hall

**Sunday, September 6th** Family Life Center baby bottles are due back



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

Yesterday, I shared a message entitled "The Prayer That Saved A Nation." The sermon was based on the prayer that King Hezekiah offered up to the Lord at a critical time in Judah's history. Things looked hopeless as powerful Assyria threatened the existence of his nation. I did not mention how God answered that prayer. An angel from God struck down 185,000 soldiers in King Sennacherib's army and the Assyrian king withdrew in disgrace. Judah was saved temporarily. But then Hezekiah's son, Manasseh, led Judah into sin again—to the point of no return (2 Kings 21:10-16). Judah eventually fell to the Babylonians being punished for their sins.

I had mentioned the article from *The Christian Standard* written by Bob Russell. I made copies of that article available but I am afraid that they may not have been very legible. I apologize for that. If you want a better copy, please contact me and I can either email it to you or send a hard copy through the mail to you. I do encourage you to read it.

Delaine Donaldson informed me that Mr. Russell had also published a prayer for America this past Independence Day. You will find that prayer printed elsewhere in this newsletter. Please read it and please continue to pray for America!

This coming Sunday I plan to share a message with you dealing with the great revival that King Josiah led the nation of Judah in. You can read about that in 2 Kings 23:1-30 and 2 Chronicles 34-35. Please be praying for me as I prepare that message.

I am so thankful for those who are faithfully attending our services and also for those who are continuing to watch our services online.

C U N Church,  
David



<i>Serving In July &amp; August</i> <b>Communion Table :</b> August 9th—Troy Bloemker; August 16th—Delaine Donaldson	
<b>7/26/2020 Attendance &amp; Giving</b> <b>Total: \$2,989.00</b> <i>includes Faith Promise &amp; Online Offering</i>	<b>8/2/2020 Attendance &amp; Giving</b> <b>Total: \$3,351.00</b> <i>includes Faith Promise &amp; Online Offering</i>
Attendance: 47 Property Ministry (Building)\$40.00	Attendance: 53 Property Ministry (Building)\$40.00
<b>Faith Promise: \$231.00</b>	<b>Faith Promise \$1,581.00</b>

## *Prayer Tuesdays*

### **Tuesday Prayer On Facebook**

Join us online on First Christian Church Effingham 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.

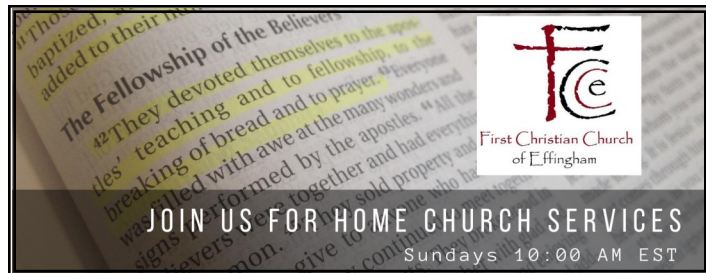


Find us on:  
**facebook®**

## *Worship Service*

### **10:00 A.M.**

We will continue to follow CDC guidelines for social distancing and wearing face masks  
 The 10:00 a.m. service will be streamed to FCC's You Tube Channel  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzvbjDnqiiSgRwsjlorIJhA>  
 For technical difficulties call or text Pastor Martin @ (217) 317-3800.



## *Young @ Heart*

### **Tuesday, August 11th**

All over 50 meet @ 9:00 a.m. Coffee will be available along with a snack cake. Come for the conversation and prayer time.





## *Prayer List*

**Cancer:** Betty Griffin (brain tumor)



**Special Needs:** Sharon Caylor (health issues) U.S.A., Police, 1st Responders, Church, Soccer, Baby Bottle Project, Brent Owen (hip surgery Aug. 6th), Schools, Larry Harvey and his wife (Covid 19), Brenda Phelps (catheterization), Chloe Spracklen (growth on Sternum), Sharon Barclay (Covid 19), America, Children (Mental health issues)

**Missions:** Missionary in Uganda shut down for Covid 19, Columbia (Covid 19 shutdown)

**Bereavement:** Marsha Smith Family, Darlene Moriearty Family, Jim Angel Family

## *Youth & Young Adults*

**Wednesday, August 12th**

All youth and young adults meet @ 5:30 p.m. for worship, prayer and Bible study



## *Food Pantry Items*

**Sunday, September 6th**

Please bring Vegetables, cereal or your choice for the Calvary Baptist Food Pantry.



## ***A Prayer of Desperation for America** by Bob Russell*

**July 4, 2020**

### **A Prayer of Desperation for America**

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, we bow before you on this 4th of July weekend because, honestly, we have no place else to go. For over 200 years, you blessed our nation beyond compare. The United States of America has been the freest, wealthiest, and most opportunistic nation in the history of the world.



But no longer. Lord, we don't feel blessed today. Frankly, we feel we are under a curse. Maybe we are. In the past six months, we've experienced the impeachment of the president, the quarantine, and the economic consequences of a pandemic. Now we are divided down the middle by race, ideology, and politics. Family and church members bite and devour one another. There's so much incivility and downright hatred for each other that we tremble at Jesus' words, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

Heavenly Father, it seems no political leader, no media consultant, no Ivy League educator, no nationally-known religious leader has a practical solution for the ominous problems our nation faces right now. We are like sheep without a shepherd. We are lost and in need of a dramatic rescue. We implore You, our Gentle Shepherd, to come to our aid in this desperate hour. We have nowhere else to turn. Lord, we really need you!

We thank you that you are a God of mercy and grace because we certainly don't deserve your goodness. We deserve wrath and judgment for our rebellious, arrogant spirits. We confess we've failed to be grateful for this favored land. We've taken credit ourselves. We've been apathetic. We've focused on our nation's flaws. We've failed to pass along any sense of stewardship to our children. We've been greedy and prideful. We've demanded our rights instead of gladly accepting our responsibilities. We've desecrated the family, killed our unborn, discriminated by race and class, and attempted to excommunicate You from our land. We've trusted in political parties instead of trusting in You.

Your word says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" but also, "The wicked shall be cast into hell and all nations that forget God." So why should we be surprised that a national malaise has swept over our land? We scratch our heads in disbelief that our leaders not only lack Godly wisdom but seem to have lost all common sense. Looters are not prosecuted, and people who make innocent statements lose their jobs. We're stunned at how quickly our precious right to freedom of speech has been stripped away and our churches closed! Our nation is in turmoil. We all know something is drastically wrong, but honestly don't know what to do about it.

## *Prayer Continued* by Bob Russell

That's why we come to you, Lord. We have no place else to go. Would you hear the prayers of an unworthy remnant of Your people who are together crying out to You? Humble us! Heal us! Unite us! Revive us! We plead for a dramatic movement of your Spirit. Like that mighty wind that parted the Red Sea and liberated the Israelites from certain death, would you once again provide a miraculous way out? We are so limited in our understanding that we can't imagine what needs to happen. But you, O Sovereign Lord, are omniscient and omnipotent. Nothing is impossible with you! You alone have the words of eternal life. So we cry out to you to for the sake of our children and our children's children, to once again make us one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

*O God, our help in ages past*

*Our hope for years to come*

*Our shelter from the stormy blast*

*And our eternal home*

*Under the shadow of thy throne*

*Thy saints have dwelt secure*

*Sufficient is Thine arm alone*

*And our defense is sure*

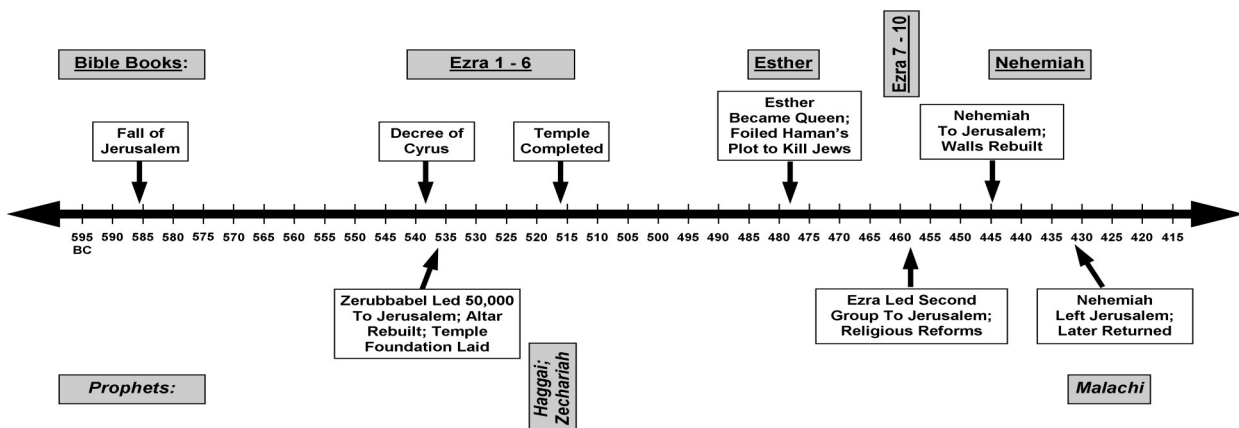
*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21).*

## *Book Of The Month*

### August Bible Study

Begin to read the Old Testament books of Ezra, Nehemiah & Esther. Study guides are coming.

#### Timeline of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther







## *Family Life Center*

### **Baby Bottle Project**

Because of Covid 19 shelter in place, the baby bottle project will begin on Sunday, July 26th and all bottles are to be returned on Sunday, September 6th (Labor Day weekend).



Bottles are in the foyer for you to pick up on Sunday. Fill with coins, cash or check and return to the foyer by Labor Day weekend.

## *Faith Promise 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:**

\$33,267.00

## *Online 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.

FCCEffingham.com

GIVE NOW SIGN IN

My Donation

FUND: Choose a Fund AMOUNT: \$

+ ADD DONATION

☐ MAKE THIS GIFT RECURRING

SUBMIT

*thank you!*

### **Queen Anne's Lace**

Richard Raber provided a beautiful and unique flower arrangement in the month of July. Richard does a special arrangement with Queen Anne's Lace in honor of his late wife, Karen. Thanks to Richard for making the church look beautiful

—Cheryl Bloemker  
Decoration Committee





# *FCC Soccer Camp 2020*



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



First Christian Church  
of Effingham

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Effingham, IL 62401