



First Saturday of the month: Disciples Men meet at The Old Dairy at 8:00 am. Please join us for a morning of fun fellowship.

First Monday of the month: Spirit Sisters, which is one of our church social groups, will meet at 7:00 pm. We meet at Diamond Dave's for refreshments and chips, and you are welcome to eat dinner there as well. We chat about a given topic in a safe environment, share our experiences, and learn a bit more about each other. You are always welcome to bring a friend! Come join us!

First Thursday of the month: FCC Book Club will meet at 12:00 pm. Please come join us for a morning of fun.

Second Tuesday of the month: Prayer Shawl will meet at 1:00 pm. Come join us for a lovely social hour.

Third Thursday of the month: Men's Group will meet at Rocky's at 7:30 pm.

Fourth Tuesday of the month: Disciples Clergy will meet at 9:30 am.

Last Tuesday of the month: Martha Shemwell group meeting will meet at 1:30 pm, Itoko Maeda dinner will meet at 6:00 pm at Chubby's followed by a meeting at 7:15 pm.

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Kelly Ingersoll,
Minister

Debra Abernathy,
Administrative Assistant

Sarah Anderson,
Children/Youth Choir Director

Bill Froom,
Chancel Choir Director

Tad Goldner,
Children's Minister

Hannah Goodman,
Nursery Supervisor

Carol Harmon,
Organist

Paul Huff,
Custodian

Natasha Shallenberger,
Nursery Assistant



The season of Lent is one of the two most known seasons of the Church (liturgical) year. Whereas Advent leads up to the birth of Christ, Lent marks the final days of Jesus' life and ministry. The season lasts for forty days, from Ash Wednesday until Holy Saturday (the day before Easter) excluding Sundays.

Lent is known for visual or conspicuous expressions of penitence, humility, or sorrow. This is because of the association made between the crucifixion of Christ and human sinfulness. One example of such expression is the placing of ashes on the foreheads of believers on Ash Wednesday. Throughout the time of Lent, sacrificial choices are emphasized. Such choices may include dietary changes (temporary or permanent), giving to the poor, or relinquishing personal luxuries. With the coming of Easter, which is technically beyond Lent, there is a shift from remorse to joy. Jesus, who died for our sins, is triumphant over sin. God's people are granted a reprieve and a new covenant. Easter is as colorful and full of life as the Lenten season is careful to avoid such celebratory signs.
(Disciples of Christ website)



Ash Wednesday Service
March 1 at 7 pm.

Kelly's Korner

At the State of the Church address held February 12, we celebrated the many good things of 2016—financial health, Summer Fun Days success, creation of Spirit Sisters, and increased numbers of youth and adults to church camp. We also discussed the focus of the elders during their retreat and the college of elders meeting. The theme was story. In these elder events we discovered the power of story—how important it is to find and share our own stories. (I believe it is time for all of us to begin this process of discovering and sharing our stories, but more about that later.) I challenged those present to think of their favorite stories of our church and asked if anyone would be brave enough to share. Goodness. What powerful testimony to the work of God through the ministries and members of First Christian Church. Story will be a theme for us throughout all of 2017.

With this in mind, our Lenten theme will be Living Stories. We will look at powerful, life-giving passages summarized into one-word sermon titles. With all the highs and lows that we will experience, our journey through Lent will lead us to the ultimate living story of Easter. These questions can help shape the Lenten journey: *What feeds your soul? What energizes you? What excites you? What matters to you? What gives you life?*

Try this: from the questions above, change the word *What* to *Who*.

I'd love to hear your answers/reactions/stories. And I'm not alone. Especially in these difficult times, people are looking for authentic, significant, welcoming people. And places. And experiences. We have what others desire. It's time to share our stories so others can know what we know, can feel what we feel, can have faith like we have faith. Happy Lent my fellow storytellers!

Peace,



Scriptures and Sermons
Living Stories
Lent 2017

March 1, Ash Wednesday	Confession	Joel 2:1-2
March 5	Acceptance	2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:2
March 12	Rebirth	John 3:4-5
March 19	Nourishment	John 4:27-34
March 26	Seeing	John 9:13-17

DISCIPLES MEN
Dean Hansen

Disciples men will meet at The Old Dairy March 4, at 8:00 am.

Third Thursday Men's Group meets at Rocky's March 16, at 7:30 pm.

Like FCC Macomb? and a Member of Facebook? Write a review!

We have noticed in recent months that our Facebook account seems to be getting some attention. So, why not add to it!? If you are a member on Facebook, visit the FCCMacomb page and write a review. You will see a menu on the left hand margin. Once you click "Reviews", you will be prompted to rate FCC on a five star scale and then asked to comment. Wouldn't it be nice to share with others in the community what you think about our church?

A LOOK AHEAD AT March:

1. 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
- 12:00 pm FCC Book Club
- 8:00 am Disciples Men at Old Dairy
- 7:00 pm Spirit Sisters
- 7:00 pm DW Executive Board Meeting
- 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
- Daylight Savings Time Begins (spring forward)
- 5:00 pm Property
- 13-16 Intergenerational Mission Trip
- 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl
- 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Third Thursday Men's Group @ Rocky's
- 3:00 pm Christian Education Fellowship Hall
- 5:30 pm Trustees
- 7:00 pm Church Board
- 5:00 pm Pastoral Support
- 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Lenten Study
- 6-8 pm Family Clay Experience
- Samaritan Well Blue Dress Gala
- 5:00 pm Evangelism
- 6:00 pm Worship
- 7:00 pm Elders
- 9:30 am Disciples Clergy
- 1:30 pm Martha Shemwell
- 6:00 pm Itoko Maeda Dinner @ Chubby's
- 7:15 pm Itoko Maeda Group Meeting
- 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Lenten Study

TRUSTEES
Donna Bainter

Trustees meeting is March 20 at 5:30 pm.

Church Board meeting is at 7:00pm.

St. Patrick's Day - March 17



Birthdays and Anniversaries

3. Sue Cangro
6. Donna Bainter
- Kathryn Weghorst
12. Luan Barry
17. Kimberly Sparks
18. Elizabeth Bailey
- Jim & Jonelle Schauble - Anniversary
21. Samantha Adams
25. Dean Hansen

March 12, 2017



WORSHIP
Anne Ingersoll

You may have noticed the past few months we have been running the weekly announcements on the screen prior to service on Sundays. Although the worship leaders will highlight upcoming events for that week, the rest can be seen on the screen, newsletter, and in the back of the bulletin. This change helps our service run on time and more efficiently. If you have an announcement for Sunday mornings, you can continue to send those to Debbie in the office (debra@fccmacomb.org) and she will forward those to the tech team as needed.

If you would like to be involved in designing new banners to be used during special worship services throughout the year (Pentecost, Easter, etc.), see Anne Ingersoll.

PROPERTY
Larry Loop

We have two major projects in the works. The first being the replacement of one of the four air conditioning units for the sanctuary. The second is a lighting project for the education building that for which Ameren is providing approximately two thirds of the funding. This involves retrofitting smaller more efficient bulbs in the existing fixtures on all floors of the education building, the parlor kitchen, and the fellowship hall kitchen and replacing the exit signs with LED signs with battery back-up power.

We are considering adding three to four more handicapped parking spaces to the parking lot. At this time, we are working on the best places to add them and considering the logistics of the parking lot traffic flow.

ELDERS
Jan Rockwell

Perhaps you've wondered what our elders do at FCC. Not only does an elder help serve communion on Sunday morning, and make hospital visits, they conduct monthly Vesper Services at Grand Prairie and The Everly House. The role of elder at FCC, as stated in our church constitution, is to "address the spiritual health and well-being of the congregation and strive to welcome, encourage, and nurture all members."

One of the ways we address the church's spiritual health is by trying to strengthen our own. Monthly at our meetings, we have meditations and prayer. We discuss our needs, and the needs of church members and friends. We discuss answered prayers and concerns. As a group of people seeking to grow in our relationship to Christ, we seem to grow in our friendship with each other. If you would like to seek out an elder to request prayer, encouragement, or answer questions about our church, the following are serving this year: Tim Adams, Nita Burg, Char Carden, John Carden, Patti Jones, Eric Reed, Grant Reed, Jan Rockwell, Janet Shank, Mary Stipanowich, Jean Vaughn and Jeff Young.

THANK YOU

The past month has been both heartbreaking and overwhelming. Heartbreaking to experience the death of my dad and overwhelming because of all of the love my church community has shown to me and my family. "Thank you" doesn't even seem to be adequate enough to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for all of your prayers, cards, text messages, Facebook messages, phone calls, meals, and donations in honor of my sweet dad. The deep feeling of appreciation still seems to overwhelm me daily, weeks after his passing. I don't know how people make it through such difficult circumstances without a church family and faith. Thank you for being such wonderful examples of God's love. Anne Ingersoll



STEPHEN MINISTRY
Jean Vaughn

I believe First Christian is always looking for ways to move past the boundary between church and community and help our people reflect Christ in their everyday lives. Stephen Ministry is an excellent way to do just that.

Stephen Ministers do a great job of walking alongside people going through difficult times. They bring Christ's healing love to people in such situations, so it's a perfect fit as we move toward a more missional focus in our church.

We've seen that even people who find it difficult to accept the church appreciate being comforted when they are hurting. They welcome relationship. So we connect our Stephen Ministers to people in the community who are hurting, and our Stephen Ministers meet with them, care for them, build a relationship, and introduce them to God's love.

Wouldn't you like to be part of the ministry that cares not only for our church family but reaches out beyond our walls into the community? You can by joining Stephen Ministry. A training class for new Stephen Ministers will begin the first of July. Please give this your serious consideration and prayer.

EVANGELISM
Norma Kentner

Sharing God's Love is continuing to be seen on Sunday mornings at FCC and throughout the weeks of February. We delivered goodies to 3 visitors this month. Plans are being made for publicity for our upcoming Easter celebrations. Look for a new and exciting event...THE EGG GLOW, a community-wide, glow-in-the-dark Easter egg hunt at Glenwood Park, will be held Saturday night before Easter Sunday!!!! I have seen many congregation members continuing to warmly greet new friends and "old" friends before and after church. We are truly **SHARING GOD'S LOVE** and THANK YOU from your Evangelism Committee.

Prayer Shawl

Members meet on the second Tuesday at 1pm in the FCC Library to share knitting/crocheting ideas, have fellowship, and have Pastor Kelly bless our shawls. This month we had four new shawls to be blessed, with many shawls near completion. If you or a friend is in need of a shawl, please contact a member of the Prayer Shawl group and we will gladly deliver one to you. Please come to our meeting if you are at all interested in learning how to crochet or knit. Many of us have commented on how relaxing and spiritually worthwhile knitting or crocheting for someone can be! Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 14th at 1pm.

FCC Book Club

In February, we enjoyed seeing the DVD version of Cold Sassy Tree, our latest book read. On Tuesday, March 2nd, in the Fellowship Hall, we will gather again to read James Herriot's All Creatures Great and Small and to watch several of the PBS stories from the book. Many book club members have mentioned how they are really enjoying the humor in James Herriot's stories. We always appreciate new members!

Blanket Sunday - March 19

Disciples Women is once again sponsoring Blanket Sunday: Comfort In Times Of Crisis On Sunday, March 19. Please support this worthy Church World Service program.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Jonelle Schauble

Here it is March already. Where have the last two months gone. There has been many prayers going up for different members of our flock during these months.

Saturday, February 18, Christian Education hosted a family Bowling/Pizza party at Diggers' College City Bowl with 22 members present. It was so much fun to watch the littlest members of our church family bowl and for the older ones to have the fellowship.

On Friday March 24 from 6pm to 8pm, Christian Education will be hosting a Clay Night. We will be making Spring Flower Pots. Families will be able to design their own pot. The cost is \$10 per family or \$5 per individual. We are asking that you please bring a snack to share. Sign up sheet for this event will be on the parlor bulletin board starting March 12th. Transportation will be available.

The Christian Education committee will be finalizing plans for a new and different type of Easter Egg hunt. Details will be in next months newsletter and in the bulletin.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Tad Goldner

Wow! This has been a good start to the year! Between Midwinter Retreat, our Super Bowl party, the bowling party, the cluster youth event, and everything else we've had going on, there's been no end to the fun! A big thank you to all of the volunteers that have made everything possible. You are really what makes these events what they are.

Another "thank you" goes out to everyone that participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring collection that we hosted on Super Bowl Sunday. As of the writing of this article, over \$7 million worth of donations has been collected nation-wide to donate to local charities and food banks, and we did our part to help with that.

Looking ahead, we've got yet more events to look forward to! In March, our intergenerational mission trip is heading up to Camp Wonderland in the Lake of the Ozarks. If you'd like to come, let us know! It's one of my favorite mission opportunities that we have here, and we would love to be able to share it with everyone.

Another event to keep on your radar is this year's church camp at Pilgrim Park. We will be going July 2-8. All youth are invited, and we encourage all of our youth to go. Summer camp is a life-changing experience that brings you closer to others and closer in faith, and I would love to bring as many youth as we can this year! Forms are available from Tad Goldner or on the regional website.

Again, thank you to everyone that helps make these programs and events possible. Our church community really is wonderful, and I am constantly reminded of how blessed we are to have a church that cares so deeply about its youth.

FCC FAMILY

Our deepest thanks for the many cards, phone calls, flowers and food given during our time of bereavement. Your outpouring of love will never be forgotten. To Rev. Kelly - Thank you for taking our memories and creating a beautiful service. To the Disciples Women - Thank you for the wonderful meal. In Christian Love, Faye Rea, Shannon, Eric, Grant & Collin Reed, Jimmy, Lori & Milissa Rea



OUTREACH AND ACTION

Jan Rockwell

Rod Burg has agreed to chair the active Outreach Committee for the 2017 year. He is counting on the help of his committee and church members to make the church's missions and community support efforts successful. Feel free to volunteer for any of the upcoming events planned for this year.

The **SouperBowl** event shared with the youth collected 5 grocery bags of food and raised \$116 to be added to the national count. Thanks to all who contributed!

Thank you to all who stepped up as well Sunday Feb 5th to help the Elders & Outreach Committee cook & serve the **Super Bowl Spaghetti Dinner** to the jail, police, firefighters and our shut-ins! There were 77 meals delivered and 20 eaten by the "help". The delicious meals were economically prepared, serving a total of 97 for \$144. Move over fast food – we've got cheap and delicious down! Thank you **Nita Burg** for getting this organized.

The next event looking for great helpers will be the **Intergenerational Mission Trip March 12 – 16 to Camp Wildwood** at the lovely Lake of the Ozarks. The outing is 4 nights, and 5 days, with laughing, eating, working, worshiping, and just general good people & fun. If you haven't had a tenderloin bigger than Kelly's head, an omelet made to order by Dave Kentner, painted a gazebo, ground tree roots with a power grinder, hiked Ozarks hills, or tried Central Dairy sundaes, CONSIDER COMING. It's not too late to join the crew. See Jan Rockwell, Dave Kentner, Rod Burg or Pastor Kelly by Sunday, March 5th. The entire cost per person is \$35 for food, transportation and lodging. (It costs more than that to stay home!)

Samaritan Well's first ever **BLUE DRESS GALA will be held Sat. March 25**. The evening will include dinner, karaoke, dancing, and a silent auction to raise money to help complete renovations and repairs at the men's shelter. Individual tickets are \$15 or a table of 8 for \$100.

Loaves & Fishes may be offering classes through the **U of I Home Extension** on how to nutritionally utilize the various foods available at the food bank.

Call to those who Knit or Crochet: Our bank of **prayer shawls** is getting low. If you have need for yarn – Norma Kentner can offer you lots of choices from the recently donated fibers.

Mark your calendar for May 4th – **Interdenominational Day of Prayer Breakfast** (Kelly will be the community keynote speaker!) The theme is "One WORLD, Many VIEWS". Seating will be limited and we'll want to fill several tables to show community support. More will come later about tickets.

Jeff Young recently won the regional acting competition in Indianapolis, and was named one of 16 nationally to have the opportunity to compete at the Kennedy Center. Later this spring Jeff will be in Washington D.C. for the final competition for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship, (considered the "Academy Award" of the Kennedy Center American College Festival.) Quoted in WIU's Western Courier, Jeff said, "My plans for the future are thus: to continue to follow the Lord, to continue to love and cherish my wife and to hopefully make this world a better place. I would love to continue my work in theater as an actor, playwright and teacher."

FCC is PROUD of you, Jeff Young!!