

## Welcome to First Christian Church!

If this is your first time joining us and/or if you have a prayer request, please complete a Welcome/Prayer Card (located in the pew back) and place it in the offering plate. Thanks!

### WE GATHER TOGETHER

Welcome and Announcements  
Adult Choir Special  
Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

### WE WORSHIP IN SONG

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED: DR. T. J. GENTRY**  
"Prayer Warrior: The Who and How of Warfare Prayer"

### WE COMMUNE AT THE LORD'S TABLE

All baptized Christians are invited to partake of Communion.  
The offering will be received after Communion.

### WE GO FORTH ON MISSION

### This Week @ FCC

Today, Sun., July 3

- Worship: 9 am
- Sunday School: 10 am
- Fellowship Meal Youth Fundraiser: 11:30 am

Mon., July 4 – Independence Day / Church Office Closed

Tue., July 5

- Letter Writers: 9 am

Wed., July 6

- Adult Bible Study, 4:12 Youth, Junction Kids: 6 pm

### Upcoming Events

- Youth Branson VBS (5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade): Mon., July 11 – Wed., July 13
- Young & Rested Canasta and Lunch: Thu., July 21, 9:30 am

The only way to worry  
about nothing is to  
pray about everything.



### Resources include:

- \* Today's Living Word: Daily Bible Teaching
- \* Cherry Street Pulpit: Weekly Sermons
- \* Defenders' Q&A: 3 Minute Apologetics
- \* For the Sake of the Gospel: Weekly Devotion

### God's People Gathered

Worship Last Week: 137 / 2022 Average: 142  
Sunday School Last Week: 105 / 2022 Average: 93

### God's People Gave: June 2022 (Through June 26)

Church Operating Giving	Missions Giving	Total Giving	Budget	Over (Under)
\$ 19,528.70	\$ 2,929.30	\$ 22,458.00	\$ 22,216.00	\$ 242.00

God's Rebuilding Fund	New Covenant Christian School
\$ 651.26	\$ 6,250.00

Text "Give" to 618-248-4481 or visit [www.fccwf.org/giving](http://www.fccwf.org/giving).

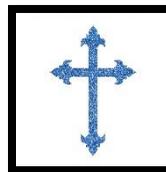
### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY!

*It's time to replace the parking lot at FCC! After resealing and resealing, the day approaches when a new surface will be needed. If you would like to give for the parking lot, please mark it "Parking Lot Fund."*

**Our goal is \$150,000. We can do it!**

Parking Lot Goal	Giving to Date	Remaining
\$ 150,000.00	\$ 495.00	\$ 149,505.00

### Prayer Needs



**Health Concerns:** Joyce Thomas, Mary Alice Fox, Linda Upton, Wanda Finn, Gene Williams, Sloan Brown, Pam Jeralds, Lance Baldwin, Heather Vogel, Nick Stearns, Renee Mifflin, Jim Carter, Tim Williams, Chuck Gunter, Arnita and Jim Parker, Joyce Lucas, Scott Williams, Hudson Pace, Roger Chance, Keith Alsip, Roy

McDaniel, Janet Reeves, Jackson Ogden, Avery Potter, Bob Means, Jerry Wicker, John Shum, Dee Wallace, Donna Bozarth, Terri Stewart, Missy Story, A. J. Farkis, Sue Bellamy, Barbara Wilmore, Virgil Russell, Denny Bush, Mary Wallace, Barbara Winnet, Guy Henry, Charles Martie, Jr., Amanda Brewer, Kelly Burkitt, Nancy Denton, Shirley Williams, Wendy Russell

**Other Concerns:** Youth VBS in July, FCC Staff/Elders/Deacons, FCC Widows/Widowers, NCCS Administration/Teachers/Students, US Armed Forces, Southern Illinois Christian Service Camp, Missionaries, Local/State/Federal Government Officials

### Memory Verse for This Week: Matthew 5:44

*But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.*

### Notes from Today's Message

### **Have You Heard the Good News?**

In a world full of bad news, here's some really good news! There is a God, and He loves you! No matter how far you've wandered, what you've done, or where you are now – God loves you and offers you forgiveness and new life through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. This is the gospel. As Jesus said in John 3:16, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."



Let's be clear, though – God does not love that you've wandered, what you've done, or where you are now if it's away from Him. All of those things are sin, and God hates sin. It separates you from Him and brings ruin to your life and eternal separation from His love, "for the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23a). However, God's love for you is a love that comes to you to change you into what you were created to be – a servant of God – and to give you true, everlasting life, for "the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:23b). And Jesus is the only way to come to God and become who you were created to be. He told us that He is "the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

How does this change happen? How can you come to God and have a new life? It happens when you obey the gospel. How do you obey the gospel? Obedience to the gospel requires faith, repentance, confession, and baptism. Nothing more. Nothing less. These four are the necessary conditions to receive salvation, and God's grace makes each of them possible for everyone so that all can obey the gospel, even you. Consider the words of Peter in Acts 2 regarding these four essential elements of obeying the gospel. Upon hearing Peter preach that "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ," the hearers were "cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the



rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?'" How did Peter respond? He responded by calling them to obey the gospel, saying to those who had come to believe that Jesus was the only Savior, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of

Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the Holy Spirit . . . Be saved from this perverse generation." What was their response? "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized."

It's all there, every step of obedience to the gospel. They had faith and believed when they received the message about Jesus. They repented, changing their minds and committing themselves to a new

relationship with God. They received the commands of the gospel, thereby making their confession, and were baptized, being immersed in water for the remission of their sins. The result? Their "souls were added" to the people of God. They heard the gospel. They obeyed the gospel, responding in faith, repentance, confession, and baptism. They were born again to a new life in God.

You can do the same. You can be born again today, just as those did many generations ago and millions have done since then. That's good news, indeed! To help you, here's a summary of what it's all about. This is what matters most, what matters for eternity. This is what it means to hear and obey the gospel.

#### **Hear the Gospel**

Jesus is the Savior of the world, God's life-giving answer to the death brought about by sin and separation from God. "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:17).

#### **Obey the Gospel**

**Faith:** To have faith is to believe the gospel, believing that Jesus is God's Son who died and rose again as the only payment for your sins. "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation . . . For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Ephesians 1:13; 2:8-9).

**Repentance:** To repent is to change your mind, turning from your selfish thoughts and agreeing with God's truth that Jesus and Jesus alone is the way to a life with God. "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19).

**Confession:** To confess is to call out to God that you believe and repent, openly admitting that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). For "if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved . . . For 'whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved'" (Romans 10:9, 13).

**Baptism:** To be baptized is to be immersed in water, thereby having your sins washed away and being born again. As Jesus said, "unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). When you are baptized, you also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. As Paul explains, "according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior" (Titus 3:5-6).

**God loves you, friend. You can have a new beginning today. Hear the gospel. Obey the gospel. It's up to you.**

# The LORD's Day

Sunday, July 3, A.D. 2022



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