

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thank you for giving an extra \$219 to FCC missions in November!
- **Junction Kids Christmas Party: Dec 13, 6-7 pm**
- Coat donations are needed. See Jim Bayless. Thank you!
- Upward Basketball registration is now open! Register online at registration.upward.org/UPW85217. The fee is \$70 by Dec 9, then \$72.
- Volunteers needed for Junction Kids and Nursery. See Tim Woods.
- If you want to receive One Call prayer alerts, text Alert to 22300.

THIS WEEK @ FCC

Today, Dec 3

- Morning Worship: 9 am (Sunday School following)
- Christmas Choir Practice: After Sunday School
- Evening Worship: 6 pm

Mon, Dec 4 – Letter Writers: 9:30 am

Wed, Dec 6 – Junction Kids, 4:12 Youth, and Adult Bible Study: 6 pm

Thu, Dec 7 – Sacred Warrior Martial Arts: 4:15 pm (K-4th), 5 pm (5th-Adult)

Sat, Dec 9 – 4:12 Youth Christmas Party: 6-8 pm

FCC GATHERED

Service	Last Week	2023 Average	2022 Average
Morning Worship:	106	151	148
Sunday School:	67	95	96
Evening Worship:	17	34	n/a
Midweek:	33	45	n/a

FCC GAVE

November 2023 (through November 26)

Regular Giving	Other Giving
Church Operating: \$16,754.09	God's Rebuilding Fund: \$324.00
Missions: \$2,513.11	Extra Missions Offering: \$219.00
Total: \$19,267.20	
Monthly Need: \$21,768.00	
Over (Under): (\$2,500.80)	

Year to Date 2023 (through November)

Regular Giving	Other Giving
Total Received: \$225,535.07	God's Rebuilding Fund: \$6,842.24
Total Need: \$237,369.00	Extra Missions Offering: \$4,147.52
Over (Under): (\$11,833.93)	

To give online, text Give to 618-248-4481 or visit fccwf.org/give.

FCC IS GROWING DEEPER AND REACHING WIDER IN 2023!

Baptisms	New Members	Online Message Plays	States/Countries Reached
8	10	2,128 (November)	26/14 (November)

Through the Bible in Two Years Readings for This Week

(This schedule takes you through the OT once and the NT twice in two years.)

12/3 – 2 Chr 2; 1 Jn 2	12/4 – 2 Chr 3-4; 1 Jn 3
12/5 – 2 Chr 5:1-6:11; 1 Jn 4	12/6 – 2 Chr 6:12-42; 1 Jn 5
12/7 – 2 Chr 7; 2 Jn	12/8 – 2 Chr 8; 3 Jn
12/9 – 2 Chr 9; Jude	

Ladies' Holiday Cookie Bake & Fellowship Sun, Dec 10 / Noon until we are done baking!

Ladies, let's get together in the FCC kitchen to fellowship and bake some yummy Holiday cookies! See the sign-up sheet in the foyer for items needed for donations and to let us know you'll attend. We'll make a few varieties of Christmas cookies to take home and enjoy or pass along to friends. See me for questions. Hope to see you there! ~Bobbi Martin



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 4 pm – Plan now to join us!

Helping Hands Pantry Update from Debbie Petkas: Thank you for your contributions to the pantry! At this time, we really need canned chicken, crackers, and sugar. We could also use jelly, canned chicken or beef broth, canned tomatoes, apple sauce, deodorant, laundry soap and dish soap. Other items that we have less than 10 of are chilli or beef stew, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, pasta, cereal, corn muffin mix, salt and pepper set, and toilet tissue. Finally, I just want to remind everyone that we can't give out expired food. Please, check expiration dates on donations. Thank you!

Prayer Needs – “Pray for one another.” (Jas 5:16)

(Please let T. J. know if names should be removed from the list.)

Health: Paula Riva, Leah Hughes, Sheldon Smith, Danny Uhls, Timi McMillin, Penny Mueller, Jerry Wicker, Laura Siedel, Pam Ford, Darrel Presley, Betty Uhls, Tom Smith, Yula Gunn, Jack Woolard, Wanda Gentry, Doug Cordts, Carolyn Place, Jason Coleman, Lois Golio, Rodney Johnson, Rachel Pollack, Jetta Barton, Tammy Wiggins, Mark Carpenter, Carolee Means, Jill Lindhorst, Wayne Webb, Donnie Turner, Bill Bradley, Vivian Tottleben, Robert Tottleben, Dalton Husch, Patty Roland, Jerry Mumbower, Ashton Gentry, Rusty Bryant, Maverick Belview, Ryan Mondino, Kyle Britton, Lisa Uhls Bishop, Sharron West, Drake Short, Justin Settles, Shirley Ward, Piper Castellano, Rita Allois, Brenda Flowers, Wayne and Sandy Ellis, Carolyn Jones, Charlie Barton, LaDonna Bryce, Misty Painter, Danny Rodgers, Bob and Joyce Thomas, Linda Upton, Wanda Finn, Pam Jeralds, Renee Mifflin, Jim Carter, Tim Williams, Jim Parker, Gene Williams, Janet Reeves, Avery Potter, Bob Means, Terri Stewart, Missy Story, Barbara Wilmore, Denny Bush, Mary Wallace, Barbara Winnet, Amanda Brewer, Nancy Denton, Shirley Williams, Wendy Russell **Other:** peace in Israel and Ukraine; New Covenant Christian School; Shalee, Slade, and Evvy Rich; Trevor Henshaw; FCC's evangelistic efforts; those in prison; those without sufficient food; the homeless; those struggling with addiction; the grieving and afflicted; FCC Staff, Elders, and Deacons; FCC widows and widowers; US Armed Forces; Southern Illinois Christian Service Camp; missionaries; President Biden; Governor Pritzker; Mayor Arview

WOULD YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW LIKE A PASTORAL VISIT FROM T. J.? IF SO, PLEASE CONTACT HIM AT 618-967-0222.

Join Us for Sunday School!

Class

Nursery

Preschool

1st-2nd

3rd-4th

5th-6th

7th-High School

Friendship/Ladies

Right Track/Adult

Kum Join Us/Adult

Defenders/Adult

Location

First room on the right in the office hallway

Second room on the right in the office hallway

Room on the left going into the cafeteria

First room, second floor, north gymnasium

Second room, second floor, north gymnasium

Room above the stage, gymnasium

Room on the right in the cafeteria

Room in the north hallway off the sanctuary

Room in the south hallway off the sanctuary

Chapel off the gymnasium

**Don't miss the Journey to Bethlehem Christmas
Drive Thru at Southern Illinois Christian Service
Camp, now through December 31!**

Today's Message

Advent Reflections

Part One: Let Hope Arise

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

Reflection: We _____ the _____ of _____.

Reflection: We are _____ by the _____ of _____.

Reflection: Our _____ brings _____, _____, and _____.

Reflect: What is God saying to me?

Apply: Is there something I need to believe, change, or do?

Why Communion Every Week @ FCC?

At Communion, Christians meditate upon the sacrifice of Jesus for their salvation. They examine themselves to ascertain if they have grown in the grace and knowledge of Christ during the past week.

They reaffirm their covenant with God: to love Him with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. Communion is the only way Jesus Himself asked to be remembered. Let us come together on this Lord's Day – every Lord's Day – to remember and celebrate His mercy in the Lord's Supper as we commune together.

“The Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ In the same manner, He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.”
(1 Cor 11:23-26)

Together We Grow – FCC’s Daily Devotion and Prayer Guide

(Written by the FCC/NCCS team. Author initials are at the end of each entry.)

During Advent, we remember Christ’s first coming and anticipate His return. It is a holy time of reflection and longing as we journey from promise to fulfillment. Accordingly, our devotions for this season highlight the themes of Hope (Dec 3-9), Joy (Dec 10-16), and Peace (Dec 17-23). Enjoy the journey!

Sun, Dec 3 – Our Advent Hope Is Borne of Faith

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Heb 11:1)

As Christians, our Advent hope is borne of our faith in God. God makes and keeps promises – every single one. God promised to send Israel’s Messiah and the Savior of the world. He kept His promise. God promised to send the Holy Spirit to empower and lead His people. He kept His promise. God promises that Jesus will return and put the world to right. He will keep His promise. Have faith in God and let Advent hope arise. Meditate on God’s promises and know that He will keep them. (TJG)
Prayer Guide: Pray FCC is filled with a hope borne of faith.

Mon, Dec 4 – Our Advent Hope Sees the Unseen

“For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.” (Rom 8:24-25)

Advent hope sees beyond the natural and into the supernatural. Advent hope knows that there is more to come, more to be seen, more to expect from God. Persevere in Advent hope, Christian. Israel of old waited in hope, and God gave them the reward of their hope-filled waiting. Our Savior calls us to wait in hope, knowing that He is working all things for our good and His glory. Persevere in hope and wait on God. He is the Lord of what is seen and unseen, and He is faithful. (TJG)
Prayer Guide: Pray FCC remains hopeful of what is unseen.

Tue, Dec 5 – Our Advent Hope Depends on God’s Mercy

“The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy.” (Ps 147:11)

God’s mercy is the reason for our Advent hope. He is merciful – always has been and always will be. Mercy is the language of God’s love and justice, and He delights in us when we delight in His unfailing mercy. His mercy is not too good to be true. No. His mercy is true and good, and our hearts can rest in it. Let mercy motivate our Advent hope, now and always. Mercy triumphs over judgment, pursuing us all the days of our lives. Our Advent hope depends on God’s mercy. (TJG)
Prayer Guide: Pray FCC’s hope always draws upon God’s mercy.

Wed, Dec 6 – Our Advent Hope Inspires Faithfulness

“For to this end we labor and strive,

because we have our hope set on the living God.” (1 Tim 4:10)

Advent hope inspires and sustains our faithfulness to God. Though the path is hard, the days are long, and suffering may linger, we can and must labor and strive in grace-filled Advent hope. Look beyond the present moment in the race of faith and see the finish line. See Jesus there, greeting us with His kindness and love and welcoming us home. This is our Advent hope. Let us rise with courage and meet each moment with hopeful expectation and faithful service. (TJG)

Prayer Guide: Pray FCC works faithfully, with our hope set on God.

Thu, Dec 7 – Our Advent Hope Is Wise

“So shall the knowledge of wisdom be to your soul; if you have found it, there is a prospect, and your hope will not be cut off.” (Prov 24:14)

In a world that tells us hope in God is the foolish stuff of children’s stories and weak souls, we can believe that Advent hope reflects true wisdom. Our hope is that God’s wisdom will be made known and lead to peace. Our hope cannot be separated from God’s wisdom, and Advent hope never is. Rather, Advent hope knows that what the world sees as foolishness – a baby in a manger, a King on a cross, an empty tomb, and a promised return – these events are the true wisdom of God. Our hope will never be cut off as we live in God’s wisdom. Our Advent hope is wise – truly wise. (TJG)

Prayer Guide: Pray FCC speaks and acts with the wisdom of hope.

Fri, Dec 8 – Our Advent Hope Is a Cause of Rejoicing

“Rejoicing in hope.” (Rom 12:12)

Christians whose hearts are filled with Advent hope lead lives marked by true joy. Hope is a cause of rejoicing, and those who rejoice in God always have hope. Abraham had Advent hope and he rejoiced. David had Advent hope and he rejoiced. Mary had Advent hope and she rejoiced. Believers of all ages have had Advent hope and their hearts rejoiced. Let our hearts rejoice – the King has come and will come again! This hope – our Advent hope – is a true cause for rejoicing. (TJG)
Prayer Guide: Pray FCC chooses to rejoice in hope.

Sat, Dec 9 – Our Advent Hope Is the Indwelling Christ

“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Col 1:27)

Christ indwells every believer, and He desires to indwell every unbeliever if they will only receive the Savior. His indwelling is a cause for hope, the hope of glory now and glory to come. Now, every believer is filled with the glorious presence and power of God’s Spirit. One day soon, every believer will be received into eternal glory to live forever in and with the One who lives within them. This is our Advent hope, the indwelling Christ. He is the hope of glory. (TJG)

Prayer Guide: Pray FCC reveals the indwelling Christ, the hope of glory.

Do you want to be right with God and have a fresh start in grace?

A: Acknowledge the Gospel, God’s good news of salvation for all.

“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

B: Believe the Gospel that God’s only Son, Jesus, died to pay for your sins and rose from the dead so that you can have a relationship with God and spend eternity in Heaven. Repent and turn to Jesus, the only Savior.

“Repent and believe in the gospel.” (Mark 1:15)

C: Confess your faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and obey His command to be baptized.

“Confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus.” (Rom. 10:9) “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 gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)

First Christian Church

West Frankfort, IL

fccwf.org



The LORD’s Day

December 3, 2023



Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

Welcome to First Christian Church!

Here’s what to expect as we worship together...

- * Most importantly, know that you are loved. You are a person of infinite worth and dignity. Also, know that God never leaves us as we are. He knows that we are made for a relationship with Him. Because God loves us, He will challenge and graciously speak to us. He offers to heal our brokenness and forgive our rebellion. His love is for all of us, even you!
- * As we gather for worship, we will hear God’s call to us to lift our hearts and voices in song and prayer. Sing to the Lord! He delights in our praise.
- * God’s Word will be proclaimed in what we hope is a clear and practical way so that we can better know and serve Him. Let God speak to you!
- * We commune at God’s Table, sharing in the emblems of the precious body and blood of Jesus. All baptized Christians are invited to partake.
- * We will worship God in giving, and we know He loves a cheerful giver!
- * We are sent forth on a mission to love and serve God and others.

1001 S. Cherry St. ~ West Frankfort, IL 62896

Website: fccwf.org ~ Facebook: @fccwf03

Church Phone: 618-932-6360

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 am – 4 pm

Dr. T. J. Gentry: Sr. Pastor & NCCS Supt. – tgentry@fccwf.org

Mrs. Analisa Woods: NCCS Principal – awoods@wfncs.com

Mr. Tim Woods: Director of Student Ministries – twoods@fccwf.org

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