

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. Thank you!

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Welcome, Announcements, Call to Worship, Opening Prayer

WE WORSHIP IN SONG

Majesty; Great Things; Build My Life; What A Friend We Have in Jesus

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED: DR. T. J. GENTRY

Prayer Warriors: Complain and Lament to the Lord

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 31

- Worship: 9 am
- Sunday School: 10:15 am
- Deacons' Meeting: After Sunday School
- Dessert and Bible Q&A with T. J.: 6 pm

Tue., Aug. 2

- Letter Writers: 9:30 am

Wed., Aug. 3

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

Announcements

- 2023 Officer Nomination Forms are in the foyer. Nominations are open until Sun., Aug. 21.
- Joel and Gwyneth Watson's Baby Shower (T. J. and Amy's grandbaby!): Sat., Aug. 6, 1-3 pm in the FCC Life Center (registered at Amazon as Gwyneth Watson's Baby Registry)
- NCCS Back-to-School Orientation: Wed., Aug. 17, 6 pm
- "Joyful Noise" Worship Night: Sat., Aug. 20, 6 pm

Prayer is not a preparation for the battle, it is the battle.

Leonard Ravenhill

God's People Gathered

Worship Last Week: 131 / 2022 Average: 142
Sunday School Last Week: 104 / 2022 Average: 93

God's People Gave: July 2022 (through July 24)

Church Operating Giving	Missions Giving	Total Giving	Budget	Over (Under)
\$ 24,816.53	\$ 3,722.47	\$ 28,539.00	\$ 27,770.00	\$ 769.00

God's Rebuilding Fund	New Covenant Christian School
\$ 205.00	\$ 10,335.00

Text "Give" to 618-248-4481 or visit www.fccwf.org/giving.

Prayer Needs

Health Concerns: Danny Rodgers, Vivian Tottleben, Gilbert Martin, Kristen Eldridge, Ann Vogel, Alice Campbell, Joyce Thomas, Linda Upton, Wanda Finn, Gene Williams, Sloan Brown, Pam Jeralds, Lance Baldwin, Heather Vogel, 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, Avery Potter, Bob Means, Jerry Wicker, John Shum, 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: 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

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	\$ 685.00	\$ 149,315.00

Sunday Evening Services begin Sep. 11, 6 pm, in the chapel! If you



are interested in serving as an Evening Service Prayer Counselor, let T. J. know, and you will be included in the prayer counselor training session offered later in August. **Please begin praying now for these services!**

Memory Verse for This Week: 1 Corinthians 6:20

You were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

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 those things are sin, and God hates sin. It separates you from Him, 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 31, A.D. 2022



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

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