

Announcements

- If you want to receive One Call alerts, text Alert to 22300.

This Week @ FCC

- Today, Sun, May 21
- Morning Worship: 9 am (Sunday School following)
 - No Evening Worship today.
- Mon, May 22
- Letter Writers: 1 pm
- Wed, May 24
- Junction Kids, 4:12 Youth, Adult Bible Study: 6 pm
 - Elders' Meeting: 6:45 pm
- Thu, May 25 – NCCS Kindergarten and 8th Grade Promotion: 6 pm

God's People Gathered

Morning Worship Last Week: 186 / 2023 Average: 162
 Sunday School Last Week: n/a / 2023 Average: 102
 Evening Worship Last Week: n/a / 2023 Average: 37
 Midweek Services Last Week: 18 / 2023 Average: 50

God's People Gave: May 2023 (through May 14)

Budget Giving	Other Giving/Receipts
Church Operating: \$12,132.18	God's Rebuilding Fund: \$245.00
Missions: \$1,819.82	Extra Missions Giving: \$
Total Giving: \$13,952.00	NCCS Donations: \$100.00
Monthly Budget: \$21,768.00	NCCS Payments: \$3,119.52
Over (Under): (\$7,816.00)	NCCS Fundraising: \$

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

3-Year Lectionary Bible Readings for This Week

Sun, May 21: Acts 1:6-14; Ps 68; 1 Pet 4:12-14; 5:6-11; Jn 17:1-11
 Mon, May 22: Ps 99; Lev 9:1-11, 22-24; 1 Pet 4:1-6
 Tue, May 23: Ps 99; Num 16:41-50; 1 Pet 4:7-11
 Wed, May 24: Ps 99; 1 Ki 8:54-65; Jn 3:31-36
 Thu, May 25: Ps 33:12-22; Ex 19:1-9a; Acts 2:1-11
 Fri, May 26: Ps 33:12-22; Ex 19:16-25; Rom 8:14-17
 Sat, May 27: Ps 33:12-22; Ex 20:1-21; Matt 5:1-12

What Are You Thankful For?

FCC Is Growing Deeper and Reaching Wider in 2023!

Our verse for 2023 is "Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Col 1:27)
 How will we grow deeper and reach wider this year?
 1+2+3+4+5=15

1 Daily FCC Devotion and Prayer Guide: Together We Grow
 Let's get everyone on the same page every day. It's all in your bulletin!

2 Daily Focused Prayer Requests

"God, make my faith stronger and use me."
 "God, bless FCC and cause us to grow."

3 People You Invite Each Week

Invite your Jerusalem People – those you know well.
 Invite your Judea People – your acquaintances.
 Invite your Samaria People – those different from you.

4 Commitments to Gather

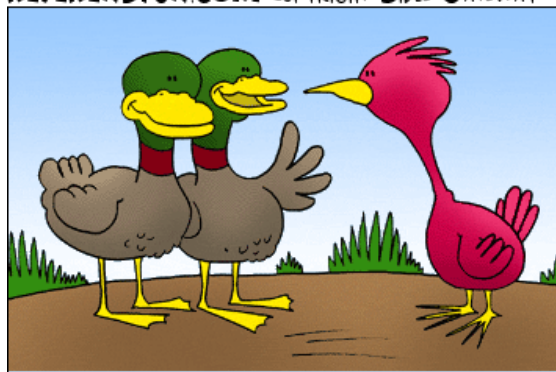
Morning Worship, Sunday School, Evening Worship, Midweek Service
 5 Sacrificial Dollars to Missions per Month

Place an extra \$5 in the dedicated Missions Offering Box by the last Sunday of each month. Let's grow FCC's Missions Giving by 20% plus!
 On Sun, Dec 17, we will celebrate the "Top 15 Blessings of 2023"!

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

Health: Spenser Lancaster, Jetta Barton, Tammy Wiggins, Mark Carpenter, Carolee Means, Jill Lindhorst, Wayne Webb, Donnie Turner, Bill Bradley, Vivian Tottleben, Robert Tottleben, Dalton Husch, Sylvie Clark, Patty Roland, Melody Turner, Brooke Gossett, Jerry Mumbower, Ashton Gentry, Ed Poole, Rusty Bryant, Maverick Belview, Ryan Mondino, Bob Johnston, Kyle Britton, Lisa Uhls Bishop, Sharron West, Drake Short, Justin Settles, Shirley Ward, Piper Castellano, Jim Wangler, Rita Allois, Brenda Flowers, Wayne and Sandy Ellis, Carolyn Jones, Charlie Bartoni, LaDonna Bryce, Misty Painter, Danny Rodgers, Joyce Thomas, Linda Upton, Wanda Finn, Pam Jeralds, Lance Baldwin, Renee Mifflin, Jim Carter, Tim Williams, Arnita and Jim Parker, Joyce Lucas, Gene Williams, Keith Alsip, Janet Reeves, Avery Potter, Bob Means, John Shum, Donna Bozarth, Terri Stewart, Missy Story, Sue Bellamy, Barbara Wilmore, Denny Bush, Mary Wallace, Barbara Winnet, Amanda Brewer, Kelly Burkitt, Nancy Denton, Shirley Williams, Wendy Russell
Other: 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; **NCCS:** for a solid finish for the 22-23 year and growth to 70 or more in 23-24

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(See Genesis 2:18-25) 05-27-2003

SO ADAM NAMES ME "DUCK", NAMES MY BUDDY HERE "DUCK", THEN NAMES THIS OTHER DUDE "GOOSE" AND RUNS AWAY



Enrollment for 2023-2024 is now open!
 NCCS will offer pre-K through 12th grade,
 and we pray to see enrollment increase
 to 70 students.

Yes, God can do this! Pray with us!
 Visit wfnccs.com for more information.

3-2-1 Message Journal

Series: Verse-By-Verse Through Mark's Gospel

Message: Follow Me (Mark 1:16-20)

What are 3 things I learned from this message?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What are 2 ways I will apply this message to my life?

- 1.
- 2.

What is 1 prayer request I will make based on this message?

- 1.

Why Communion Every Week @ FCC?

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

Sun, May 21: What Now?

“I am with you always.” (Matt. 28:20)

Ever had so many things happen that you stop and ask, “What now?” You know the feeling, as if everything is falling apart, and you begin to expect that any news is bad news. Sometimes this is our lot in life. Many difficulties all at once. Frustration. Pain. Heartache. However, when you are in that “What now?” moment, just remember that what is always true of your “now” is that God is with you. He never has and never will forsake you, so let the challenges come. No matter what happens, your “now” is not on your own. God is with you. What now? God’s presence, that’s what. (TJG)

Prayer Guide: Pray FCC continuously senses God’s presence.

Mon, May 22: The First Step

“Follow Me.” (Mark 1:17)

Every journey begins with a step. You’ve probably heard that before, but it’s still true. To begin, you must start. Have you heard that one? I thought so. What do all those types of sayings communicate to us? One simple thing – you must start somewhere. That’s why it doesn’t matter where you find yourself in your walk with the Lord – the invitation is always the same. Jesus is always inviting us to follow Him. Have you been walking with Him for a long time? Take the next step. Are you just starting on your journey? Take the next step. Not sure if you are ready to follow Him? Take the first step. (TJG)

Prayer Guide: Pray FCC takes whatever steps are needed to follow Jesus.

Tue, May 23: No Distractions

“Looking unto Jesus.” (Heb. 12:2)

Sometimes I need one of the cones the vet puts on a dog to keep it from seeing anything except what is right in front of it. Why? Because I get distracted. I see this, then that, then something else. Pretty soon, I look like a dog chasing its tail. Maybe you can relate. You keep your focus for a bit and then lose it. You want to focus on the Lord’s call but get distracted. Don’t beat yourself up but do reassess your priorities. We all must, now and again. If you’re distracted, look to Jesus, and refocus. Once you see Him, you’ll realize nothing else matters. (TJG)

Prayer Guide: Pray FCC eliminates the distractions in their walk with God.

Wed, May 24: But When?

“Humble yourselves...that He may exalt you in due time.” (1 Pet. 5:6)

Impatient with God? Wondering when He’s going to finally answer that prayer, open that door, heal that hurt? Waiting for the Lord can be frustrating, and we may be tempted to take matters into our own hands. Before doing that, take a moment and remember what happened last time. You know, when impatience won, and we reacted and tried to force an outcome. How about something different this time? How about waiting in humility and allowing God’s timing to guide you? Learning to wait is not about being passive as much as it is about being prayerfully patient. But when? When God decides, that’s when. (TJG)

Prayer Guide: Pray FCC learns the humility of patience.

Thu, May 25: Just Pray

“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying.” (Acts 16:25)

I can think of many things I might want to do if I were stuck in jail at midnight, but would I pray? Would you? I guess I might pray for deliverance, but what else might I pray for at that moment? Perhaps for my captors? Maybe for the grace to see my circumstances as an opportunity to grow closer to God? What about praying for wisdom to be a faithful witness, even in jail? The point is this: prayer is always the best choice, no matter the circumstances. Pray. Pray some more. Then pray again. Just pray. (TJG)

Prayer Guide: Pray FCC makes prayer a true and lasting priority.

Fri, May 26: Not So Fast

“You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.” (Gen. 50:20)

Something terrible happens, and we immediately think the worst. God must be mad at us. The whole world is out to get us. The devil won again. But what if we looked at each circumstance and decided to believe that God really is working all things for our good and His glory? What if the temptation to only see the bad was met with a holy “Not so fast!” and we decided to frame things from the eternal perspective of grace? Sound like a pipe dream? A denial of reality? It’s neither. Nothing is more real than the promise of God to use all things for our good. (TJG)

Prayer Guide: Pray FCC sees the goodness of God in all things.

Sat, May 27: So What?

“I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.” (Phil. 4:11)

Money tight? So what? Are friends turning their backs on you? And? Do you feel abandoned? Really? Let’s take a timeout and think of what is true – I mean true, no matter what. Here it is... God is for us. His grace is sufficient. When we have Jesus, we have all we’ll ever need. The secret of contentment is not having no wants. Quite the contrary is true. The secret of contentment is wanting only one thing. True contentment is knowing that all we actually want and need is Jesus. Let the challenges and seemingly empty days come. So what? We’ve got Jesus. (TJG)

Prayer Guide: Pray FCC is fully content in Jesus.

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 be baptized into the grace of Christ for the remission of your sins. “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
May 21, A.D. 2023



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](https://www.facebook.com/fccwf03)

Church Phone: 618-932-6360

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

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

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