

**Announcements**

- **Thank you for giving \$473 to NCCS in August for a total of \$3,188 in 2024!**
- **Today is the final day for nominations for 2025. Forms available in lobby.**
- **Upward Volleyball registration is now open for 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Practices begin the week of Sep 16; the first games are Sat, Oct 5. Register online at [registration.upward.org/UPW86890](http://registration.upward.org/UPW86890). Volunteers needed! See Tim Grider.**
- **If you want to receive One Call prayer alerts, text Alert to 22300.**
- **NCCS Eagle Club Donors: Thank you for making your September donation in the offering with notation or online at [wfncs.com/make-donation](http://wfncs.com/make-donation). The August Eagle Club Update is available on the table in the foyer.**
- **Would you like to become a regular donor to Christian education at FCC? Visit [wfncs.com/eagle-club](http://wfncs.com/eagle-club) for more information.**
- **The Helping Hands Pantry needs donations. Most of the needed items may be purchased at Dollar Tree. If you have questions, see Debbie Petkas.**

Those who miss the opportunity to partake of the Lord's Supper during Sunday morning worship or who wish to partake more frequently are encouraged to take advantage of individual communion provided in the chapel at the conclusion of Sunday school and on Sunday and Wednesday evenings following services.

**This Week**

- Today, Sep 1 – No Evening Services
- Worship: 9 am (Nursery and Junction Kids available; Sunday School follows)
- Mon, Sep 2 – Labor Day (NCCS and Church Office closed)
- Wed, Sep 4
- NCCS Martial Arts: 3:30 pm (Prek-4<sup>th</sup>) and 4:15 pm (5<sup>th</sup>-Adult)
  - Adult Bible Study, Junction Kids, and 4:12 Youth: 6 pm
- Thu, Sep 5
- NCCS Lego Club: 3:15 to 3:45 pm
- Sat, Sep 7
- GSMTA Show & Tell: Evangelism for Everyone: 10 am to 3 pm

**Coming Soon**

- **Ladies' Bible Study: Mon, Sep 9, 6 pm at Gambit Coffee Bar or Thu, Sep 12, 9 am at FCC. See Diana Follmer.**
- **Game On! Seniors' Gather: Tue, Sep 10, 10 am to 2 pm**
- **Men's Bible Study: Sat, Sep 21, 8 am**
- **Ministry Alliance Joint Worship: Sun, Sep 29, 6pm, First Church of God**
- **Plan now to attend the FCC Women's "Falling Together with Sisters in Spirit Brunch" on Saturday, Oct 19, 10 am to noon. Signup lists available in Sunday school. See Paula Riva or Sheila Grider for more information.**

**FCC Gathered**

Service	Last Week	2024 Average	2023 Average
Morning Worship:	145	143	150
Sunday School:	79	85	95
Evening Worship:	26	35	37
Midweek:	39	36	45

**FCC Gave**

**August 2024 (through August 25)**

Regular Giving	Other Giving
Church Operating: \$18,161.75	God's Rebuilding Fund: \$20.00
Missions: <u>\$2,724.25</u>	NCCS Mission Offering: \$473.00
Total: \$20,886.00	NCCS Eagle Club Donations: \$2,200.00
Monthly Need: <u>\$24,412.00</u>	<b>Give unto the LORD. (Ps. 29:1)</b>
Over (Under): \$(3,526.00)	

**Year to Date 2024**

Regular Giving	Other Giving
Total Received: \$211,058.73	God's Rebuilding Fund: \$699.84
2024 Need: <u>\$317,340.00</u>	NCCS Mission Offering: \$3,188.00
Over (Under): \$(106,281.63)	NCCS Eagle Club Donations: \$5,930.63

To give online, text Give to 618-248-4481 or visit [fccwf.org/give](http://fccwf.org/give).



**Fall 2024 Courses**

**Show & Tell: Evangelism for Everyone**

Sat, Sep 7, 10 am to 3 pm

**Helper: The Holy Spirit & You**

Sat, Oct 26, 10 am to 3 pm

Details and Registration @ [fccwf.org](http://fccwf.org)



Class	Location	Teacher
Nursery	First room on right in office hallway	Rotating
PreK/1st-2nd	Room on left going into cafeteria	Analisa Woods
3rd-4th	First room, second floor, north gym	Ruth Wicker
5th-6th	Second room, second floor, north gym	Susan Hood
7th-High School	Room above the stage, east gym	Tim Woods
Friendship	Room on right, cafeteria	Cynthia Dutton
Right Track	Room in north hallway off sanctuary	Bryan Lawrence
Kum Join Us	Room in south hallway off sanctuary	Tim Grider
Defenders	Chapel	T. J. Gentry

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

**If you or someone you know would like a pastoral visit, let T. J. know.**

**Health:** Betty Uhls, Judy and Terry Campbell, Sloan Brown, Kristen Eldridge, Wilma McCurdy, Heather and Lexi Arden, Sherry Sandage, April Richey, Ashlee Miller and baby, Jack Hogg, Charles and Amber Reed, Shirley Gayer, Ed and Lisa Smothers, Bobby Blondi, Winnie Kinnison, Isaiah Williams, Scott Williams, Dottie and Charlie Bartoni, Kay Levanti, Jodi Jeralds, Jean Smiley, Cindy Carner, Lori Watts, Samantha Tretter, Landon Adkins, Ryan Buckingham, Patricia Uhls, Virgil Zachary, Leah Hughes, Sheldon Smith, Danny Uhls, Jerry Wicker, Laura Siedel, Pam Ford, Tom Smith, Yula Gunn, Jack Woolard, Carolyn Place, Jason Coleman, Lois Golio, Rodney Johnson, Rachel Pollack, Jetta Barton, Tammy Wiggins, Mark Carpenter, Jill Lindhorst, Wayne Webb, Ashton Gentry, Bill Bradley, Dalton Husch, Patty Roland, Rusty Bryant, Maverick Belview, Ryan Mondino, Kyle Britton, Lisa Uhls Bishop, Sharron West, Drake Short, Shirley Ward, Piper Castellano, Rita Allois, Brenda Flowers, Sandy Ellis, Carolyn Jones, LaDonna Bryce, Misty Painter, Danny Rodgers, Linda Upton, Wanda Finn, Pam Jeralds, Renee Mifflin, Jim Carter, Tim Williams, Jim Parker, Gene Williams, Avery Potter, Terri Stewart, Missy Story, Barbara Wilmore, Denny Bush, Barbara Winnet, Amanda Brewer, Nancy Denton, Wendy Russell **Other:** the 2024 elections; peace in Israel and Ukraine; New Covenant Christian School; FCC's evangelistic efforts; prisoners; the hungry; the homeless; those struggling with addiction; the grieving and afflicted; FCC elders, deacons, and staff; FCC widows and widowers; US Armed Forces; Southern Illinois Christian Service Camp; missionaries; President Biden; Governor Pritzker; Mayor Arview; local, state, and federal government representatives



T. J.'s verse-by-verse Bible study, *Today's Living Word* (7-10 minutes) and his devotional thought, *Daily 180: 3 Minutes in God's Word* are available Mon-Fri at [fccwf.org](http://fccwf.org) and through the FCC Facebook page. You can also access all FCC messages at Sermon Audio through the QR code to the left.

**So far this year, messages have been heard 13,150 times in 41 states and 47 countries! Please listen and share on social media!**

**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 and 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: September 1-7

### Weekly Memory Verses

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matthew 11:28-29)

### Daily Devotion, Prayer Guide, and Bible Reading

#### **Sunday, September 1: His Invitation**

“Come to Me.” (Matthew 11:28)

“Invite Only” is what the sign read. Behind it was a beautifully decorated dining area and a buffet loaded with salad, dinner, and dessert. It looked great, but I didn’t have an invitation. I wasn’t invited, so there was no feast for me. However, I am invited to come to the Lord and find all a famished soul could ever need or want. Everyone is invited. (TJG)

Prayer Guide: Pray to always choose to come to the Lord.

Bible Reading: Ezekiel 4; Psalm 40-41

#### **Monday, September 2: Your Labor**

“All you who labor.” (Matthew 11:28)

All labor in life will eventually wear us down, especially when it comes to spiritual concerns. It’s not a matter of whether we spiritually labor or not but whether we realize no amount of effort on our own makes us right with God. Only His grace saves anyone. When our souls are tired, the spiritual exhaustion we feel is a reminder we need Jesus. (TJG)

Prayer Guide: Pray for grace to turn from self-sufficiency.

Bible Reading: Ezekiel 5; Psalm 42-43

#### **Tuesday, September 3: Your Burden**

“And are heavy laden.” (Matthew 11:28)

In the Army I saw Soldiers prank each other when marching with packs. Unknown to the one in front, the one behind would get close enough to add weight to his buddy’s pack. Usually, it only took a moment to realize the reason the pack was heavier. Jesus knows we are walking with the weight of sin. He invites us to come to Him. He’ll lighten the load. (TJG)

Prayer Guide: Pray for grace to admit weakness.

Bible Reading: Ezekiel 6; Psalm 44

#### **Wednesday, September 4: His Gift**

“And I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

Hotels offer the promise of rest to weary travelers. However, some travelers insist on driving without rest. Adrenaline and caffeine help for a time, but eventually rest is needed to travel safely. Jesus offers the gift of rest to those who are tired and weighed down. Though He won’t force anyone to stop traveling without Him, the only rest is with Him. (TJG)

Prayer Guide: Pray to receive God’s gift of rest.

Bible Reading: Ezekiel 7; Psalm 45

#### **Thursday, September 5: His Commands**

“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me.” (Matthew 11:29)

Like oxen yoked together, we all work alongside someone in our spiritual lives. As students in a class, we all have someone teaching our souls. Jesus invites us to yoke with Him and labor, to sit at His feet and learn. He reminds us that grace is not opposed to effort. It requires effort to take His yoke and learn at His feet, but the effort is enabled by His grace. (TJG)

Prayer Guide: Pray for resolve to labor with and learn from Jesus.

Bible Reading: Ezekiel 8; Psalm 46-47

#### **Friday, September 6: His Method**

“For I am gentle and lowly in heart.” (Matthew 11:29)

There are many words to describe Jesus. He’s the Savior, the King, the Lord. He’s also gentle and lowly. His gentleness is most obvious when compared to the harsh master that sin becomes. His lowliness is on display when contrasted with the wickedness of pride. Coming to Him means coming to the gentle Savior, the lowly King, the humble Lord. (TJG)

Prayer Guide: Pray for awareness of the gentleness of God.

Bible Reading: Ezekiel 9; Psalm 48

#### **Saturday, September 7: His Promise**

“And you will find rest for your souls.” (Matthew 11:29)

Following Christ is not a gamble, it’s a sure thing. When we come to Him, ceasing from the labor and burden of trying to save ourselves and taking His yoke and learning from Him, we find His gentle and lowly hand leading us to rest for our souls. This is His promise, and Jesus never makes a promise He doesn’t keep. In Him we find rest for our souls. (TJG)

Prayer Guide: Rejoice in the Lord’s promise of rest.

Bible Reading: Ezekiel 10; Psalm 49

#### ***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 SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

**COME  
TO ME, ALL  
YOU WHO LABOR AND ARE  
heavy laden, and  
I WILL GIVE YOU  
REST**  
Matthew 11:28

#### **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 profound worth and dignity. Like everyone, you need a Savior from sin. The good news is that God never leaves us hopeless. 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 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 is 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 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@wfnccs.com

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

Ms. Ashton Gentry: Director of Worship – agentry@fccwf.org