

Announcements

- **New Covenant Christian School is now enrolling Pre-K through 12th grade for 2024-25!** As a vital ministry of First Christian Church, NCCS is grateful and hopeful in looking to its fourth year of providing an academically strong, biblically based, and budget friendly educational option for Christian families. Pray for NCCS. Promote NCCS. Pursue God's best with NCCS. Visit wfnccs.com for more information. The world needs well-educated Christian leaders for today and tomorrow. **NCCS is here to help!**
- Please see the list on the door of the Helping Hands Pantry for items needed at this time. An updated list of specialty items is also posted! If you have questions, see Debbie Petkas. Thank you!
- If you want to receive One Call prayer alerts, text Alert to 22300.

To better serve the spiritual needs of our church family, 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 @ FCC

- Today, Apr 14
- Worship: 9 am (Nursery and Junction Kids available; Sunday school follows)
 - Good Shepherd Ministry Training Academy: 4 pm (Today's meeting will conclude the Responding to Mormonism course, and next week begins the Responding to "Woke" Christianity course.)
 - Evening Worship: 6 pm (Nursery, Junction Kids, and 4:12 Youth available)
- Mon, Apr 15 – Letter Writers: 9:30 am
Wed, Apr 17 – Junction Kids, 4:12 Youth, Adult Bible Study: 6 pm

FCC Gathered

Service	Last Week	2024 Average	2023 Average
Morning Worship:	148	148	150
Sunday School:	88	85	95
Evening Worship:	44	37	37
Midweek:	34	40	45

FCC Gave

April 2024 (through April 7)

Regular Giving	Other Giving
Church Operating: \$4,440.87	God's Rebuilding Fund: \$
Missions: \$666.13	Extra NCCS Offering: \$
Total: \$5,107.00	
Monthly Need: \$30,515.00	
Over (Under): \$(25,408.00)	

Year to Date 2024 (through March)

Regular Giving	Other Giving
Total Received: \$81,971.00	God's Rebuilding Fund: \$437.00
2024 Budget: \$317,340.00	Extra NCCS Offering: \$1,124.00
Over (Under): \$(235,369.00)	

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

Daily Bible Readings for This Week

(Taking you through the OT once and the NT twice in two years.)

4/14 – Eccl 1; 1 Tim 3	4/15 – Eccl 2; 1 Tim 4
4/16 – Eccl 3; 1 Tim 5	4/17 – Eccl 4; 1 Tim 6
4/18 – Eccl 5; 2 Tim 1	4/19 – Eccl 6; 2 Tim 2
4/20 – Eccl 7; 2 Tim 3	

Upcoming Ministry Opportunities

Ladies' Bible Study, Gospel of John (led by Diana Follmer):

Evening Group: 4/22, 5/6, 5/20, 6 pm at Gambit Coffee Bar

Morning Group: 4/26, 5/10, 5/24, 9 am at FCC



Good Shepherd Spring 2024

Theme: Truth and Error

Course II: Responding to "Woke" Christianity

Sun, Apr 14, Apr 21, Apr 28, May 5

4-5:30 pm, Right Track Classroom

Registration: fccwf.org/goodshepherd

Tuition: \$20 per person, per course

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

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

Health: Jean Smiley, Gerald Barton, Wanda Gentry, Cindy Carner, Lori Watts, Gilbert Martin, David Price, Aaron Greenlee, Wanda Johns, Dottie Bartoni, Samantha Tretter, Landon Adkins, Ryan Buckingham, Patricia Uhls, Virgil Zachary, 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, 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, Ashton Gentry, Bill Bradley, Vivian Tottleben, Robert Tottleben, 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, Charlie Bartoni, 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, Avery Potter, Bob Means, 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; Trevor Henshaw; FCC's evangelistic efforts; those in prison; those without sufficient food; 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; West Frankfort Ministerial Association

**Would you or someone you know like a pastoral visit from T. J.?
If so, please contact him at 618-967-0222.**



Class

Nursery
Preschool/1st-2nd
3rd-4th
5th-6th
7th-High School
Friendship/Ladies
Right Track
Kum Join Us
Defenders

Location

First room on right in office hallway
Room on left going into cafeteria
First room, second floor, north gym
Second room, second floor, north gym
Room above the stage, east gym
Room on right, cafeteria
Room in north hallway off sanctuary
Room in south hallway off sanctuary
Chapel

Teacher

Rotating
Analisa Woods
Ruth Wicker
Susan Hood
Tim Woods
Rena Reilly
Bryan Lawrence
Tim Grider
T. J. Gentry

Message Notes

Verse by Verse through Mark's Gospel

Fault Finder Beware

Mark 7:1-13

Your heart is _____, and your focus is _____.

Your worship is _____, and your teaching is _____.

Your religion is _____, and your effect is _____.

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 and through the FCC Facebook page. You can also access all FCC messages at Sermon Audio with this QR code.



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)

Sun, Apr 14: Freely Given

“Let us, therefore, come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb 4:16)
What is grace? One definition states that grace is “God’s favor towards the unworthy.” Grace cannot be earned; it is freely given. Jesus understands our weaknesses; He understands our struggles and temptations. Christ was tempted and remained sinless. Because of His grace, He forgives and continues to bless us even when we fail. Grace is the reassurance that He will offer us mercy and compassion. (TW)
Prayer Guide: Pray FCC trusts in God’s unfailing grace.

Mon, Apr 15: A Life Worthy of Him

“So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.” (Rom 14:12)
The Bible teaches us that we will be held accountable before God for every aspect of our lives. However, most of us want to present ourselves in a way that others won’t find offensive. We aren’t held accountable to our critics nor by their standards for our lives. We need to stop focusing on what we do that offends others and focus on living our lives in a way that doesn’t offend God. Live a life worthy of Him. (TW)
Prayer Guide: Pray FCC walks worthy of their calling in Christ.

Tue, Apr 16: The Power of Prayer

“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” (Jas 5:16)
Have you ever told someone that you would keep them in your prayers? This could be for a spiritual or physical need. The prayers of a righteous person are very powerful because God hears them. Not only does He hear, but He also acts. So, the real question is this, when you told someone that you would pray for them, did you? Prayers work and are effective if you just practice what you preach. (TW)
Prayer Guide: Pray FCC effectively and fervently prays for one another.

Wed, Apr 17: God Can Change the Scale

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” (2 Cor 4:17)
Look at the words “weight of glory” and picture the ancient pan-scale blindfolded lady of justice. Holding a pan scale: two pans with one on each side of the needle. The weight of the purchase is determined by placing weights on one side and the purchases on the other side. God does the same with our struggles. He stacks our burdens on one side. Picture how the pan scale dips. Watch God’s response. Does He remove them? No, He cancels them out. He places an eternal weight of glory on the other side. Endless joy, measureless peace, an eternity of Him. Picture what happens as He sets eternity on your scale. Everything changes, the burdens lift, and the heavy becomes light when weighed against eternity. (RR)
Prayer Guide: Pray FCC rejoices in God’s work amid their trials.

Thu, Apr 18: A Glorious Future

“But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.” (1 Pet 5:10)
God, the source of all grace, has a divine purpose for our lives. Despite the hardships we endure, God is at work, perfecting and strengthening us. Through the refining process, He establishes our faith and settles our hearts in His peace. We must trust in His faithfulness, knowing that our temporary sufferings will lead to the eternal glory that far outweighs them all. Even when we face temporary hardships, God promises to bring restoration and strength. Let us hold on to this assurance, knowing that through our challenges, God is shaping us, preparing us for a glorious future in His presence. (AW)
Prayer Guide: Pray FCC endures trials by the power of God’s grace.

Fri, Apr 19: With Grace and Wisdom

“He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, but he who is impulsive exalts folly.” (Prov 14:29)
Self-control and wisdom are important in managing our anger. Instead of giving in to quick-tempered reactions, we are called to exercise patience and understanding. By doing so, we demonstrate wisdom and discernment. Let us strive to cultivate a spirit of calmness and restraint, allowing God’s guidance to govern our responses. Through measured and thoughtful actions, we can avoid unnecessary strife and navigate life’s challenges with grace and wisdom. (AW)
Prayer Guide: Pray FCC is wise and discerning.

Sat, Apr 20: Wait on Him

“Wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him.” (Ps 62:5)
What a wonderful reminder to anchor our trust and hope solely in God. In a world filled with distractions and uncertainties, we can find peace by quieting our souls and directing our gaze toward Him. God is the source of our confidence and fulfillment. As we wait in patient expectation, we can rest assured that He is faithful and will provide for us. Let us surrender our worries, placing our complete trust in Him, knowing that He will never disappoint and will exceed our greatest expectations. (AW)
Prayer Guide: Pray FCC chooses to wait on God and rest in Him alone.

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)



THE LORD’S DAY

APRIL 14, 2024



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@wfnccs.com

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

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