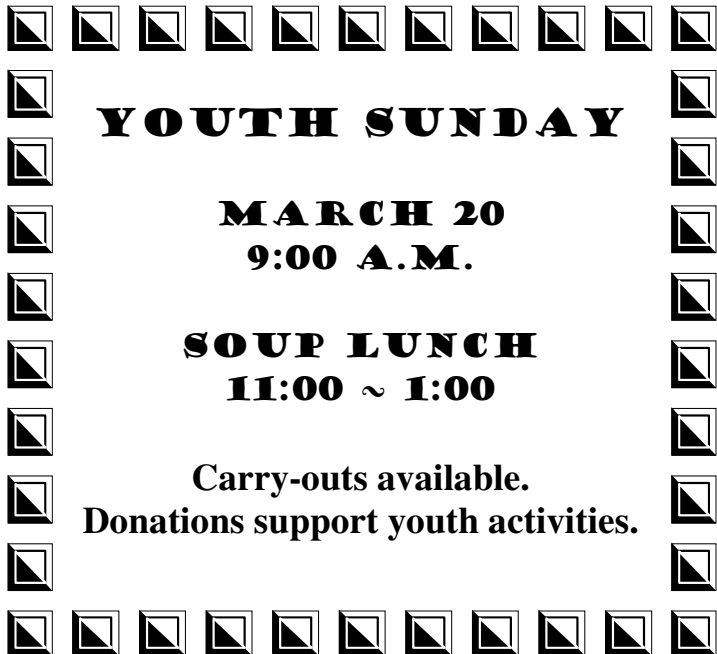




# THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, SULLIVAN, ILLINOIS

March 18, 2011



## YOUTH SUNDAY

**MARCH 20  
9:00 A.M.**

**SOUP LUNCH  
11:00 ~ 1:00**

**Carry-outs available.  
Donations support youth activities.**

***THE TIME IS APPROACHING !!  
You MUST notify us...***

We are upgrading our newsletter to a digital format which means you will be able to receive it via email. Please do one of the following:

- Give your email address to our Church Secretary at: [fcc5@mchsi.com](mailto:fcc5@mchsi.com).

*-OR-*

- Let our Church Secretary know you want to receive it by mail (217.728.7351).



**VISIT THE PARLOR  
AND  
PLACE YOUR  
CONCERNS IN THE  
CHALICE... AND GIVE  
THEM TO THE LORD**

**THE MIDDLE  
SCHOOL CLASS**



**U-Night**

6:00 ~ 8:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, April 6  
Fellowship Hall  
Light Supper served at 6:00

Activities for adults and children of all ages.

Sign up on the Worship attendance slip, through the Church Secretary, or become a fan of U-Night on Facebook.

**Lunch Bunch**

**Sunday, March 27**

**TNT Pizzeria**

**LENTEN SEASON**  
**A Season of Preparation**

*“Beneath the Cross: Letters from a Good Friday World” Sermon Series*

**Sundays, March 27— April 24 at 9:00 a.m.**

*Good Friday Community Service*  
**April 22 at 7:00 p.m.**

*Community Easter Sunrise Service*  
**Mason Point**  
**April 24 at 6:30 a.m.**

*Easter Service*  
**April 14 at 9:00 a.m.**

**Remember in Prayer**

Ruth Florini, Marilyn Wood, Harold Hamiton, Connie Lance, Mike Wilson, Vera Myers, Edna Raines, Bob Harris, Andrea Klingel, Kelsey & Branden Doyle, Tara Sparrow, Tracy Hudson, Erma Short, Nancy Davis, Vic Tessman, Carol Bolsen, Jim Abderhalden, Lavonne Graven, Melbe Bales, John Daily, Seth Koons, Rodney Maxwell, Gavin Wright, Carol & Dale Piper, Charles Hutchcraft, Bev Alwerdt, Dave Dolan, Evelyn Hale, Marge Gaule, Father John Sohm, Grant & Erin Wade, Fran Dudley, Randy Righter, Wayne Gillenwater, Mary Bragg, Mike Culp, Shera Byers, Bob Lamendola, Ellen Ann Little VandenBrink, Sean Little, Russell Wiley, Bob Dudley, Robert Yaw, Bob, Don Stratman, Gary Kirkwood, Barb Vail, Bob Davis, Thomas Culp, Nancie Taylor, Jane Geiling, Rev. Darrell Statzer, Toby Shafer, Pat Burcham, Don Bragg, Marvene Walton, Mardelle Bolin, Celia Buesking, Bill Wood, LaVerne Braden, Dorothy Cook, Warren Hall, Archie Lowe, Dick Mills, Paul Hutchcraft

Our military serving our country

**VISITATION  
REMINDER**

Please call our Church Secretary when you or a loved one is admitted to the hospital. Because of confidentiality laws we are no longer automatically notified. Also call when you or a loved one would like a visit from the Pastor or an Elder. We want to be helpful in your times of need.

**Winter Jam**  
**Saturday, March 26**

We'll meet at the church at 3pm and caravan to Champaign. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

Doors open at 5pm and our goal is to be there when they do! We'll eat dinner first thing when we get to Champaign and then head to Assembly Hall right after that.

The concert starts at 6pm and will probably last until between 9p-10p. I'm hoping we'll be home no later than 11p!



## Attendance Report

**"We count people-because people count!"**

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Mar 6 Worship Service.....  | 130 |
| Mar 13 Worship Service..... | 137 |

## Stewardship Report

|                             |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Mar 6 Offering.....         | \$4,999.97 |
| Mar 10 Offering.....        | \$3,644.00 |
| Weekly Budget for 2010..... | \$5,000.00 |

## Messages and Scriptures

Mar 20—Second Sunday of Lent— Youth Sunday

Mar 26—Third Sunday of Lent— "A Letter from Joseph of Arimathea"—John 19:38-42

April 3—Fourth Sunday of Lent— "A Letter from Simon Peter"—Luke 22:47-62

April 10—Fifth Sunday of Lent— "A Letter from the Centurion"—Matthew 27:45-54

April 17—Palm Sunday— "A Letter from Mary Magdalene"—Luke 7:44-8:3

Visit our website at [www.fccsullivan.org](http://www.fccsullivan.org) for a highlights from our Sunday Worship Services and pictures from church events.

## Community Calendar

Coles County Chorus  
Lenten Benefit Concert  
Sunday, March 20  
4:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church  
1804 S. 9th Street, Mattoon

2011 Legacy Tournament Trail  
Lake Shelbyville  
April 16, 2011

5:00 a.m. Registration & Check-in at  
Wolf Creek State Park Ramp

See office bulletin board for more information

## Family Matters

It never ceases to amaze me the ways in which God provides. Often over the past few months I've found myself praying to God as the One who provides. Certainly Psalm 111 is evidence of this (as well as a number of Psalms and other scriptures).

Part of our transition to Sullivan has been to try to sell our house in Springfield. During the course of our time here, it has yet to sell. However, I have heard of a number of others in the Springfield area that have sold a house in the time that we've tried. In fact, one person I know even exclaimed something to the effect of, "Praise God! The house sold! God is Good". Now, correct me if I am wrong, but shouldn't we always praise God, and isn't he always good - no matter what?!

For the past 5 months, Erin has been commuting daily to her job as a high school math teacher in Riverton (next to Springfield). She has done this with very little complaint. We've both known that once this school year is over, she won't be making the commute any longer. While we made that decision, we did not know how God was at work. At some point in the past few months we found out that there would be an opening for a math teacher here at SHS. Certainly this seemed as though it could only have been God's plan. Erin applied, went through the interview process, and was offered the job! In fact, she has been hired to be a math teacher at SHS.

Now, as I reflect on this, it truly is amazing to me how God works. At this time in life it is easy for me to say, our God is a God who provides! I only hope that if a position had not opened up or had she not been hired, that I would still be able to say that our God provides.

Remember, *God is good no matter what happens*. Through the good times and the bad, our God is a God who provides. How has God been the provider in your life?

Pastor Grant

**SUNDAY SERVICES**

9:00 AM Morning Worship  
10:15 AM Church School  
Church Phone 217-728-7351  
Church Fax 217-728-7352  
Church e-mail: fcc5@mchsi.com  
Pastor's e-mail: rsi@mchsi.com  
Family Pastor's e-mail: grant@fccsullivan.org  
Pastor's Cell Phone 217-273-9766  
Family Pastor's Cell Phone 217-454-9090  
Office Hours: M-F 9:00—12:00  
1:00— 4:00  
Rev. Rebecca S. Ingram, Pastor  
Rev. Grant Wade, Family Pastor  
Michelle Liddiard, Secretary  
<http://www.fccsullivan.org/>



**First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)**  
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**March 18, 2011**

**Becky's By-Line**

Another great event in the life of our church is taking place. We are making history!

Our Vision Event was a fantastic experience as we, as the First Christian Church in Sullivan, Illinois, search for the direction in which God is leading us. Great strides were made at the Event—brainstorming was all around, voices were heard, opinions were expressed—all through the expert guidance of Rev. Scott Woolridge. The voices came from people of all generations who are active in the life of the church.

This is the second Vision Event held here at FCC, and I have been through the process several other times in other places. It always amazes me that from so many different voices with differing viewpoints there are themes which occur. The themes are different for each church because God calls each to their unique purpose. But within each church there bubbles forth a commonality. From that commonality and through those themes, we can determine the direction God is calling us to go over the next three years.

The Vision Team has already identified those themes and is diligently working to draft a Three-Year Ministry Plan which will encompass them. Once that Plan is hammered out, then it is presented to the Church Board then on to the Congregation for approval.

My thanks go out to the Vision Team, Ron White for putting together that great Team, Nancy Elder for feeding us all that day, and to you who attended—thank you for letting God speak through you.

Our job now—each and every one of us—is to continue to enfold the entire process in prayer. God's blessings abound!

Serving Christ together,

Rebecca S. Ingram, Pastor