



THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, SULLIVAN, ILLINOIS

March 28, 2011

THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER...

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

Easter Events

Sunday, April 17 Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship
Gathering
Parade of Palms by Children
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
Classes for all ages

Friday, April 22

6:00 a.m. ~6:00 p.m. Prayer
Vigil
Sign up to pray at church or
home

7:00 p.m. Community Good
Friday Service
First Christian Church
FCC Choir sings selections
from
Alone at the Alter
Offering to benefit local
needs through Sullivan Area
Ministerial Association

Sunday, April 24 Easter Sunday

6:30 a.m. Community
Sunrise Service
Mason Point
9:00 a.m. Worship
Gathering
Baptisms
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
Classes for all ages



U-Night

6:00 ~ 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 6
Fellowship Hall

Light Supper is served at 6:00 at
the church. We will then go to
Courtyard Estates in Sullivan to
play games with the residents.

Sign up on the Worship
attendance slip, through the
Church Secretary or on
Facebook.



Why Do We Do That? by Sharon White

I'm fairly certain that I am not the only Christian who wonders why the date for the celebration of Easter moves around so much. The research I have done to answer this question really added to the confusion for me.

Easter is one of the holidays known as a *moveable feast*. This means that the date is not fixed on a calendar date such as Christmas which we can always count on as being celebrated each year on December 25th.

In the first few centuries of the Christian church the celebration of Easter moved around even more that it does today. In those days Easter often replaced Pagan Spring Festivals which changed from one locale to another.

Prior to 325 AD, Easter was variously celebrated even on different days of the week including Friday and Saturday, as well as Sunday. In that year, the Council of Nicaea was convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine. It issued the rule which states that Easter shall be celebrated on the first Sunday that occurs after the first full moon on or after the Vernal Equinox. The "full moon" in this rule is the "ecclesiastical full moon," which is defined as the 14th day of a tabular lunation where Day One corresponds to the Ecclesiastical New Moon. It does not always occur on the same date as the astronomical full moon. The Ecclesiastical Vernal Equinox is always on March 21st. Therefore, Easter must be celebrated on a Sunday between the dates of March 22nd and April 25th.

Does that make it clear for you? I'm just glad that I'm not the one who has to do the computations to arrive at a date for Easter. I'll just continue to consult a reliable calendar and rejoice in the fact that Jesus Christ was resurrected on the third day after his crucifixion.

Remember in Prayer

Dorothy Craig, Susie Parks, Lisa Morse, Helen Parker, Daisy Keown, Marilyn Wood, Harold Hamilton, Connie Lance, Mike Wilson, Wayne Gillenwater, Vera Myers, Edna Raines, Bob Harris, Andrea Klingel, Tara Sparrow, Tracy Hudson, Nancy Davis, Carol Bolsen, Melba Bales, John Daily, Seth Koons, Rodney Maxwell, Gavin Wright, Father John Sohm, Grant & Erin Wade, Fran Dudley, Randy Righter, Mary Bragg, Ellen Ann Little VandenBrink, Sean Little, Russell Wiley, Bob Dudley, Robert Yaw, Don Stratman, Gary Kirkwood, 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, Ina Buxton, Dorothy Cook, Ruth Florini, Warren Hall, Archie Lowe, Dick Mills, Alice Ray, Paul Hutchcraft

Our military serving our country

Help for Japan

We receive several special denominational offerings throughout the year, and one is for Week of Compassion. Your contributions to Week of Compassion are currently helping those in need after the disasters in Japan. Thank you for your generosity.

Dear Ladies,

I was so surprised when Debbie brought your gift to me the other day. How very thoughtful it was of you to remember me with this beautiful prayer shawl.

How true, there are many times the pain makes you feel that you are, indeed, alone and that no one really understands or, maybe even cares. And, yes, there are those, like you, that do care.

So, now when I feel bad I'll wrap myself in the loving folds of the shawl and know that God is still there, and that all of you are there and praying that my pain might be lessened, too.

Thank you so very much for caring and may God bless you all.

Love, in Christ,

Marge Gaule (Debbie Seelhofer's mother)



April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am S. School 4-6:00 pm High School Youth Group	4 Property Meeting 6:30 p.m.	5 Bible Study 9 am Girl Scout 4:00 pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting 6:30 pm Christian Ed 6:30	6 U-Night 6 p.m. 6:30 U-Night goes to Courtyard Estates Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	7 Elder's Meeting 7:00 p.m.	8	9
10 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am S. School 4-6:00 pm High School Youth Group	11 Articles for the newsletter are due	12 Bible Study 9:00 a.m.	13 Headstart 10 am Jr. High Youth Group 6-8:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	14 Vision Team Meeting 6:30 p.m.	15	16
17 9:00 am Worship Palm Sunday 10:15 am S. School 4-6:00 pm High School Youth Group	18 Adah/Naomi 1:30 p.m.	19 Girl Scout 4-5:15 p.m.	20 U-Night 6 pm 10 am Coffee & Chat At Courtyard Estates Choir Practice 7 pm	21 Board Reports are due	22 Prayer Vigil 6:00 am—6:00 pm Community Good Friday Service at FCC 7:00 p.m.	23
24 6:00 Sunrise Service Mason Point 9:00 am Worship Easter Sunday 10:15 am S. School	25 Articles for the newsletter are due	26	27 Jr. High Youth Group 6-8:00 p.m. Board Meeting 6 pm Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	28 PSST 6:30 p.m.	29	30



April Bible Readings

- 1 Esther 2:5-23
- 2 Esther 3:1-15
- 3 Esther 4:1-17
- 4 Esther 5:1-14
- 5 Esther 6:1-7:10
- 6 Esther 8:1-17
- 7 Daniel 3:1-30
- 8 Daniel 6:1-28
- 9 John 5:1-18
- 10 John 5:19-47
- 11 John 6:1-24
- 12 John 6:25-59
- 13 John 6:60-7:24
- 14 John 7:25-52
- 15 John 11:1-44
- 16 John 11:45-12:11
- 17 Matthew 21:1-17
- 18 Matthew 21:18-46
- 19 Matthew 26:1-35
- 20 Matthew 26:36-75
- 21 Matthew 27:1-26
- 22 Matthew 27:27-56
- 23 Matthew 27:57-66
- 24 Matthew 28:1-20
- 25 John 20:1-31
- 26 John 21:1-25
- 27 Hebrews 4:14-5:14
- 28 Hebrews 6:1-12
- 29 Hebrews 7:1-28
- 30 Hebrews 8:1-13

April Anniversaries

- 9 Gerald & Norma Dolan
- 12 Duane & Kim Voegel
Luke & Melanie Byers
- 15 Paul & Anna Jane Sager
- 19 Steve & Marcia Epperson
- 24 Glen & Jan Dust



April Serving Schedule

Elders

- Cheri Rich
- Kathy Thomas

Deacons

- Mike Shasteen, Checker
- Ruth Shasteen
- Candy Monroe
- Lindsay Ray
- Pam Jesse
- Kim Warren
- Venessa Marshall, Alt.
- Mike Marshall, Alt.

Communion Prep

- Candy Monroe

Serve Shut-ins

- Cheri Rich
- Kathy Thomas
- Charles Bragg
- Mike Shasteen
- Ruth Shasteen
- Candy Monroe

Worship Leaders

- April 3 Bob Elder
- April 10 Andrew Sparrow
- April 17 Luella Hughes
- April 24 Betty Wilson

Greeters

- April 3 Luella Hughes
- April 10
- April 17
- April 24

Flowers

- April 3
- April 10
- April 17
- April 24 Tom & Nancy Parks

April Birthdays

- 1 Martin Harbaugh
- 2 Sarah Emel
Jane Geiling
David Horsman
- 3 James Ellerbrook
- 4 Jacob Florey
Joyce Shriver
- 5 Mike Bauman
Marvin Kenney
Mike Lane
Blake Sims
- 8 Mack Farley
- 9 Amanda Bennett
Christina Farley
Don Jesse
April Reedy
- 10 Brett Cordell
Margaret Dudley
- 12 Marilyn Rogers
- 13 Lake Atchison
Brad Burcham
- 14 Audra Dust
Kathy Thomas
- 15 Marilyn Wood
- 16 Connie Ryherd
- 18 David Cole
- 19 Larry Stenger
- 21 Ron White
- 22 Leona Mae Reedy
- 23 Kim Warren
- 24 Connie England
- 25 Joyce Edmonds
Tanner Typer
- 26 Meghan Sental
- 27 Betty Donnell
Margi Gaither
- 29 LeRoy Seelhofer
- 30 Shannon Phillips





Attendance Report

"We count people-because people count!"

Mar 20 Worship Service.....	167
Mar 27 Worship Service.....	130

Stewardship Report

Mar 20 Offering.....	\$7,022.00
Mar 27 Offering.....	\$2,269.00
Weekly Budget for 2011.....	\$5,000.00

Messages and Scriptures

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

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

April 24—Easter Sunday— "A Letter from Judas Iscariot"—Matthew 27:1-10 & Luke 24:1-12

Visit our website at www.fccsullivan.org for highlights from our Sunday Worship Services and pictures from church events.

Community Calendar

Hospice Volunteer Training Class
Saturday, April 2
9 a.m. ~ 5p.m.

Aspen Creek Assisted Living Facility, Sullivan

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

I read an interesting article the other day that I would like to share with you. The tone of the article was rather blunt, so I am going to hopefully share it with you in a softer tone.

The title of the article was, "5 Ways to Make Your Kids Hate Church". It is certainly one of those titles that catches your attention and makes you want to read more. This article carried with it a lot of sarcasm because the author used that to frame each main idea. The following are 4 of the author's (sarcastic) main ideas and my commentary on each.

1) Make sure your faith is something you only live out in public

As parents, it is vitally important that we live out our faith in our homes on a day to day basis. We must not go to church and assume that our time spent in the building on Sunday mornings is all that our family needs. We need to challenge our children, to interact with them, and to encourage them so that they develop their faith in the context of a faithful family.

2) Pray only in front of people

We've got to make sure that prayer is not something that only takes place during special times. We shouldn't just pray over holiday meals, or when family is over or when we want something. We need to make prayer the daily standard in our families. Sure, praying at meal time is great, but we can't let it end there.

3) Focus on your morals

We want our kids to be honest. We want them to develop good moral behavior. If this is the case, then we have to set the moral standard. We cannot just instruct our children how they should behave, and then not behave that way ourselves. Make sure that you are 'practicing what you preach'.

4) Make church community a priority... as long as there is nothing else you want to do

This is a big one. It's not always easy to get up and get everyone ready in time to get to church. Often there are other things that are pleading for our attention. Whether it be a late Saturday night or simply the allure of sleeping in, we have to set the standard high for our children. Church attendance is important, I believe it, and if you do as well, then you've got to make sure that you make it a top priority for your family.

These are only 4 things out of many that make being a parent difficult. No one ever said it would be easy. But God has blessed us with children, and it is our privilege to help them develop spiritually. I think that Deuteronomy 6:4-9 really provides a great framework for our responsibility as the spiritual leaders of our children. Investing in your child's spiritual development is something that needs to happen no matter where you are, no matter who you're with, and no matter what you're doing.

I'm looking forward to developing our ministries for children, youth, and families so that FCC can partner with you in the spiritual development of your children.

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 Email: 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)
1357 CR 1200 E
Sullivan, IL 61951

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March 28, 2011

Becky's By-Line

What is going on? That is a very relevant question in today's ? It takes EVERY ONE of us to accomplish what God desires for us to accomplish in this community. Don't miss the opportunity to have fun.fast-paced world! Here are some answers from our world at First Christian Church:

We're going digital. Beginning April 14 the newsletter will be distributed via email. Be sure to give you email address to the Church Secretary **OR** you need to contact her if you still want to receive it via mail.

Going digital also gives us the capability to send out mid-week emails to update you regarding hospital stays and other prayer requests.

FCC is going to the SCED's Business Expo on April 16! When I heard that at a previous Expo a local funeral home had helped people with pre-planning *because people didn't want to go into a funeral home*, I thought, people don't want to go into churches, either. So we're going to have a booth where, hopefully, we can informally chat with people, hand out info about the church, take prayer requests—whatever is needed.

U-Night is going to Courtyard Estates! At the April 6 U-Night we will share supper at 6:00 p.m. at the church then travel to Courtyard Estates where we (adults and young people) will play games with the assisted living residents.

The Alternative Worship Service Task Force is about ready to make a recommendation to the Board about the additional worship service—what it should look like, when it should begin, etc. More details to come.

The Vision Team is hammering out details for the Three-Year Ministry Plan. More on that later, too.

I'd say there is a lot happening at First Christian! Where would you like to serve? What area of interest do you have

“Serving Christ together,”

Rev. Rebecca S. Ingram, Pastor