



# FIRST CHRISTIAN FAIRFIELD, IL

Encounter Grow Serve

JANUARY 2021

## CRAIG'S COLUMN

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Let's be honest, I am glad to see 2020 come to an end. If you're like me we have just come through the season of things being drastically different. Extended families who normally had met together for Thanksgiving and for Christmas change their routines for sake of keeping our families safe. Who knew at the beginning of this year we would be doing church completely online. Then we had in-person services, although many of our families were still missing. I want you to know, whether you have been quarantined or whether you are choosing to remain at home for the sake of social distancing, we have missed you.

This is also an election year which always makes things crazy. We have seen many injustices committed. We have seen peaceful protests and the wonderful practice of the right of free speech. We have seen rioters in the streets and our police officers assaulted and killed. We have seen very different ideas on display about right to life and abortion, gender, history, economics, religion, justice, the rule of law and the Constitution, government involvement in everyday life, and ultimately the direction of the country. We have seen love and compassion along with hatred and apathy. I believe we have seen the best and the worst of people. I believe the quote from *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens is very relevant.

*"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it is the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair."*

I do however want to encourage you. God is still on the throne. He still reigns over the affairs of men. And as Scripture reminds us and the old hymn tells us, His eye is on the sparrow.

*"Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."* (Luke 12:6 – 7)

God is aware of the times. He is not apathetic about the affairs of men. His wisdom is vast and deeper than all the wisdom and knowledge of men. Please remember He is constant and consistent, right and righteous, just and upright, courageous and powerful, loving and compassionate. He is sovereign over all things.

*"The decision is announced by messengers, but holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know of the most high is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowest of people."* (Daniel 4:17)

We are also reminded Jesus never changes and expects us to follow Him no matter what the circumstances. We are to be light in the world of darkness no matter how dark, difficult, or distressing. In Hebrews Chapter 13 there are some great reminders and challenges as we walk in the world set before us.

*"Because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "the Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"* (Hebrews 13:5b – 6)

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace,"* (Hebrews 13:8 – 9a)

Let us follow Him, honor Him, and bring glory to His name by being light in the world in which we live. Let us shine brightly in 2021.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CALEB@FCCFAIRFIELD.COM

## Big Overnighter:

Being a preteen is hard, but it's also an important time in life. The habits set in place now, will likely carry with them for the rest of their lives. Because of this fact we are taking the 3rd to 5th grade students on a retreat designed specifically for them and what they need!

**Who:** 3rd-5th Grade

**What:** A retreat for 3rd-5th graders

**Where:** Oil Belt

**When:** March 28

**Cost:** \$20

## The Big Search

March 28th  
3-6pm



In January the kids will be starting a new series that is truly awesome! Because we tend to look at Bible heroes as these untouchable, larger than life people, we're going to look at the life of Peter and learn he really isn't different than us and we can have a similar connection to God through Christ! You won't want your kids to miss out on this awesome series!

### Big Ideas:

- 01/03 God calls us to follow Him and leave our old life behind
- 01/10 God provides for our needs
- 01/17 When life is hard, focus on Jesus
- 01/24 We must forgive others, always

# STUDENT MINISTRY

JAKE@FCCFAIRFIELD.COM

It is hard to believe 2020 is coming to a close. What an eventful year it has been! Our student ministry has had to make some big adjustments and as a result we were not able to attend our normal retreats, gather in large groups, have pool parties or attend conferences.

I am happy to announce that Oil Belt is organizing a retreat for 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students on February 21. It will function a little differently because of COVID, but we can gather together at last. Lincoln Christian University will have a team leading worship and they will even provide a meal that evening.

There are going to be a few changes this year. Students will register through the church, instead of individually. All you have to do is call the office and let us know you are attending, and we will take care of the rest. The deadline to call the church about attending is February 9<sup>th</sup>. We will leave the church parking lot at 2:00 pm and should be back at the church at 8:45 pm.

We are incredibly excited for this opportunity and are hopeful you will talk to your son/daughter about attending this event. This is a great way for us to be together to encourage and challenge one other in our walk with Christ. If you have any questions you can email me at [jake@fccfairfield.com](mailto:jake@fccfairfield.com) or you can call the church at 618-842-4311.

## Thank You

This has been a challenging year in many ways, as we have had to adjust our way of life and have lost people close to us. I want to say thank you for your prayers and flexibility as we have made drastic adjustments to our ministry. Our mission has never changed but our means of accomplishing that mission have had to change and I know it has been difficult. It is my hope God has used this time to challenge your relationship with Him to draw you even closer to His heart. I am so thankful I get the privilege of working with your teenagers to help them live and love like Jesus. I am not sure what 2021 will hold but I know with supreme confidence God is in complete control. I know we will face it together. Thank you for continuing to train your teenagers to live and love like Jesus. Let us strive this next year to grow closer to God and help others do the same.

## MISSION EMPHASIS—CASAS POR CRISTO



Missionary Keturah Richison (originally from Mt. Carmel, IL) shared God's timing changed a family in Juarez, Mexico. Mother, father, five children and two grandchildren lived together. Through the local church in Juarez, working with Casas por Cristo, Lorena and her large family's application for a home was accepted.

Casas por Cristo missionaries interviewed Lorena telling her there is a typical two-year wait. Except God had other plans and two months later a volunteer team built their home in October!

The team has been praying for this family. One week before the build, Lorena accepted Christ as her Savior. The missionaries shared the gospel with the family and asked if any other family members wanted to follow Christ. Five children (ages from 14 – 24) raised their hands! Their local pastor prayed with them. With a church connection, the family will continue to learn and grow in their faith.

### Prayers:

Lorena's husband will accept Christ

Missionaries with Casas - the Coronavirus impacts are taking a toll

Keturah will have additional individuals/groups contribute to her monthly financial support needs

New teams to build houses will continue despite the pandemic

More about this ministry we support monthly through Faith Promise: <https://casasporcristo.org/>

## NURSERY SCHEDULE

	9:00 am	10:30 am
<b>Week 1</b>	Barbara Bozarth / Elizabeth Long	Cindy Hayes / Diana Higginbotham
<b>Week 2</b>	Amy Doty	Laura Simpson / Kelly Scott
<b>Week 3</b>	Matta Gray / Drew Vaupel	Jackie Grepares / Jodi Poole
<b>Week 4</b>	Connie Mitchell / Toby Hucker	Bob & Dena Hall
<b>Week 5</b>	Diana Higginbotham / Toby Hucker	Heather Neuman / Caleb Higginbotham

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

<b>January 1</b> Darlene Bruce	<b>January 9</b> Wilma Aman Steve Bruce Sherrye Tullis	<b>January 13</b> Reagan Basnett Quinton Butcher	<b>January 21</b> Ashli Legg	<b>January 28</b> Rhiannon Basnett Steve Long
<b>January 2</b> Rhonda Owen Callista Willett	<b>January 10</b> Cole Richards	<b>January 17</b> Pam Kemp James Musgrave	<b>January 23</b> Savanna Neuman	<b>January 29</b> Bob Hall
<b>January 3</b> Shirley Dalton	<b>January 11</b> Mildred Gain	<b>January 18</b> Braelynn Hall Doyle Hucker	<b>January 24</b> Donna Bliss Carly Fleener	<b>January 30</b> David Boldt Callie Carter Leighton Read
<b>January 4</b> Samantha Coomer Paisley Wright			<b>January 25</b> Avery McCulley	

## NOVEMBER 2020

Fund	Beginning Balance	Income	Expense	Ending Balance
General	231,427	53,309	82,214	202,522
Mission	110,724	23,672	22,649	111,747
<b>Totals</b>	<b>342,151</b>	<b>76,981</b>	<b>104,863</b>	<b>314,269</b>



**COMING SOON.....**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES  
WILL BEGIN MEETING AGAIN  
JANUARY 10th!  
WE ARE WORKING OUT DETAILS  
FOR CLASS LOCATIONS  
TO FOLLOW SOCIAL DISTANCING  
GUIDELINES.**

**WE WILL GO BACK TO  
8:00 AM TRADITIONAL  
9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10:15 AM CONTEMPORARY**

**STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS!**

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