

This will be the first year I celebrate Mother's Day without my mom. I think sometimes moms wonder what kind of impact they really have on their children and the people around them. My cousin came to mind while thinking about my mom. When he was two he came to stay with us for awhile due to some difficult family circumstances. I have two older brothers but we count this cousin as one of the "Scott Boys". He is a year older than I am and fits in between my next older brother and myself. When he joined us, my mom ended up with four boys five and under. When he heard my mom was fading from this life, he contacted my older brother with a beautiful tribute to her, which I would like to share with you:

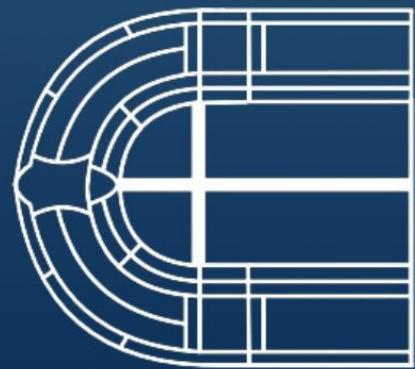
"... Your mom was always so kind to me. She treated me as if I was one of you when we were together and made me feel welcomed and loved. She had a beauty, grace and strength that presented as the intangibles calm and confident personalities seem to exhibit with ease. I will always associate your mother with beauty, warmth, laughter and love. She was so forgiving of all my faults and youthful indiscretions. She was my role model for how to love a child and I see her in my children's eyes when they are happy and smiling. I am heartbroken today. My advocate and Guardian Angel is fading and my heart is full of love and appreciation for her and all the love and kindness she brought into my life. Please whisper in her ear that I will always love and cherish her. And tell her I said thank you from the depths of my heart where she will always reside. Take care brother. I love you all and am grateful to have all of you in my life."

When I asked him if I could use his words at my her funeral, He responded with a quick yes and continued with this concerning my mom:

"... She was my emotional North Star and had a profound impact on my life. Her patience seemed infinite and her attitude and response to my unpredictable behavior was admirable and an example of tolerance that I never experienced with any other adults. She was a remarkable person and she gave me a confidence to believe in myself and that I was worthy of love and could possibly be more than what I saw of myself. She helped me become a better person and eventually a better husband, father and friend. I will forever be grateful that she was a presence in my life. I will mourn our loss and miss her for as long as my heart beats. You and your brothers are in my thoughts and I hope you can celebrate her life and the positive impact she had as you mourn her loss."

My point in sharing these things with you is not to brag on my mom...okay, maybe it is, because she was so great! May these words also be an encouragement to our mothers to know your impact when you share your love, compassion, strength, understanding, beauty, laughter, and warmth. You may not be able to see it and some days you may wonder if you are making any difference at all. I can assure you, from someone who misses his mom everyday, your influence can make a profound impact on your children, your extended family, friends, and those around you.

Please don't ever stop loving, caring, and sharing. Thank you moms for all you do and the influence you have. God designed you to do incredible things for your families and those around you, keep up the good work. We are truly blessed to have you.



PRAYER MINISTRY



Did you know First Christian Church has a private prayer page on Facebook?

The page allows you to:

- Post prayer requests so we can help carry your burdens
- Post praises so we can celebrate how God is moving in your life
- Find encouragement
- Explore ways to increase your prayer life
- Pray for others requests and praises

If you would like to join, you can call the office or talk to Sheri Lavine or Cindy Hayes

Intercessory Prayer for Our Services

This ministry was formed to invite the Holy Spirit to move greatly in our services. Volunteers pray for the service while it is happening. We provide everything you need for this time. You can pray at the church, your home or anywhere!

Please contact Cindy Hayes (618-599-1251) or the church office (618-842-4311) to fill one of the open spaces.

	8am	10:15am
May 4	CIT Class	CIT Class
May 11	<i>volunteer needed</i>	June Reeves
May 18	<i>volunteer needed</i>	Carolyn Griffith
May 25	Jack Tribe	FCC Youth

**During 2025 the Prayer Ministry will use this space to challenge you to pray for your First Christian family
As we watch flowers come to life during May, we can use them as reminders to pray**

STEP 1:

SELECT A FAMILY IN OUR CHURCH

- A family can be a single person, a couple or a family unit
- Choose a family not normally on your prayer list
- Use the same family all year or change monthly, quarterly, however you feel led

STEP 2:

COMMIT TO PRAY FOR THIS FAMILY REGULARLY

- Seek God in guiding your prayers
- Assign days or times to pray to each family member
- pray as a group daily or
- post the name in your home and pray every time you see the name
- Get creative and share what is working for your family so others can be inspired!

STEP 3:

WHEN YOU SEE FLOWERS, PRAY THE FAMILY WOULD...

- See the beauty and peace in nature and offer thanks to God
- Ask for the perseverance to bloom where God has planted them
- Keep their lives pruned of things that distract from God
- Not neglect their "soil": the foundation of their faith
- Keep their faith "hydrated" by spending time with God daily

MISSION SPOTLIGHT

Please lift up our people headed to Poland with Polish Christian Ministries, working at Ostróda Camp.



Mike & Katelyn Bozarth, Mike Harvey, Jack Tribe,
Steve Crawford, Mary Gain, Mike Schuh, Amy & Rick Doty.

The group departs May 16 and returns May 25

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, So that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

-2 Corinthians 5:20 - 21,

Heart for Central Africa missionary **Brenda Buell** requests our prayers. M23 rebels have taken control of Bukavu. The Congolese military and people are dispersing, with 1.3 million people living in Bukavu alone. The Congolese people are starving. **Brenda** and local supporters are distributing food to starving people in neighborhoods. The need is great. Please pray for the mission, their safety, the ability to make food deliveries, the government, and the proper restoration of order and control that allows its people to be safe and healthy. Our special needs mission fund sent \$5,000 for food supplies in this effort.

Jireh's Closet is an employee assistance program at **Fairfield Memorial Hospital (FMH)**. Chaplain Robert Hunt shared with the mission team how this program began at FMH. It has grown from employees donating gently used clothing or household items to non-perishable food items to meat and eggs, with contributions funding the food expansion. **Jireh's Closet** has seen needs met and employees struggling blessed by the program. FCC gifted \$500 along with 24 Study Bibles that quickly went into homes.

Bill DeLaughter returned to minister in **Tanzania** and **Uganda**. He was able to connect, teach and plan for the future regarding the Discipleship movement. A minicomputer powered by solar panels became the way he could print more discipleship kits, which are in high demand – over 2,000 requested. After two and a half weeks in Tanzania, Bill flew to Uganda and spent two weeks in Mbale. During his time in Uganda, he taught at the Church of Christ's Minister Training Institute about ministering to Muslims and preached at Mbale Christian Church. Bill reported, "It went incredibly well, and I left extremely encouraged that the Spirit was working well among them."

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CALEB@FCCFAIRFIELD.COM

I am a believer in the use of "Holy Moments" in personal life and in the discipleship of children. Let's define what I mean by "Holy Moments." I mean any ordinary, mundane activity you do, and using it as an opportunity to pray and reorient yourself back to God. For me, any time I wash dishes I use that time to pray for my family, thanking God for His many blessings (the dirty dishes are a reminder to me of full stomachs, a happy home, and a loving family). I ask God to help me be a better servant of my family. With this in mind, and as summer break is rapidly approaching, I want to give you a few ideas/examples of ways to cultivate these "Holy Moments" to disciple your families!

- Go on a walk and pray for your neighbors together
- At a ball game discuss with your children what it means to "run your race in such a way as to win the prize ." (1 Corinth 9:24-27)
- Have your children help you with yardwork/household chores and discuss that even Christ came to serve others (Mark 10:45)
- Invite neighbors over to grill out and discuss how Christ tells us to feed others, especially those who can't repay it. (Luke 14:15-24)
- When you go on vacation remind your kids how true rest and relief from burden is found only in Jesus (there are many verses for this but your kids will know John 3:16, so use a verse they know!)



FCC VBS July 13-18 5:30-8:00 pm

VBS will be here before you know it! At True North, kids ages Preschool - 5th Grade will explore and discover what it means to have Jesus as your guide! True North is filled with AWESOME hands-on science experiments, team-building GAMES, unforgettable songs, and FREE food! True North is an EXCITING and MEMORABLE time for kids to make new friends and have fun with old ones!

STUDENT MINISTRY

KYLE@FCCFAIRFIELD.COM

We just finished the "Life of Jesus" series here in the Student Ministries. What does the life of Jesus call you to? Death to yourself so you can have life with Jesus. Like Him, we are called from death to life. We will be starting a new series on Attic Nights called "Death to Life." This will encourage baptized students to look at their salvation with more thankfulness while encouraging non-baptized students to give their life to Jesus and be baptized into Him.



We will be having small groups meeting over the summer. We will be going through the Bible Study *Think Biblically* by Sean McDowell which encourages us to think about a variety of topics such as social media, homosexuality, suicide, bullying, being a good person, discernment, and so much more through a biblical lens. Students will have until May 18th to sign up for these groups.

The Attic Student Ministries will be busy this summer visiting, swimming, and enjoying time together. We will have a kick-off party at the McCulley's home for all 6-12th grade students. This will be on Friday May 30th at 5:00 PM. There will be food, swimming, games, and more! Summer Sunday Schedule (starting on June 1st) will be posted in the Attic, at the parent resource space, and on our social media pages.



MAY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Ladies Day!
4	5	6 Taco Tuesday	7 Devo & Donuts	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day!	12 W.O.W. Lunch	13	14	15	16	17
18 Grad Breakfast Blood Pressure Readings	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Attic Summer Kick-Off	31

NURSERY SCHEDULE

	SUNDAY SCHOOL	10AM SERVICE
Week 1	Elizabeth Long	Jordan Atwood / Diana Higginbotham
Week 2	Sidney Eckleberry	Shelby Livesay / Macie Edwards
Week 3	Alex Vaupel / Jackie O'Daniel	Jackie Gre pares
Week 4	Mason & Marissa Spitzner	Bob & Dena Hall
Week 5	Heather Newman / Sidney Eckleberry	Anthony & Mariah Vaughan

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1 Maddelynn Hall Jeremiah Rockett	May 7 Eli Gray	May 12 Jackie Gre pares	May 17 Bob Gain	May 22 Ron Gain	May 26 Mary Gain	May 31 Lydia Duckworth
May 4 Richard Smith	May 8 Reed Duckworth	May 13 Janice Gubbins	May 18 Sawyer Neuman	Landon Smith	Lacie Willett	Jaelynn Edwards
May 5 Dennis Brant	Brayden Leeds	May 14 Kendyn Basnett	Sharon Fenton	Lincoln Vaupel	Laura Willett	Jacob Hall
Kim Liston	Bill Taylor	Cohen Richards	Caleb Higginbotham	May 23 Nancy Jones	May 27 Trevor Edwards	Duane Parrent
Jerry Vaughan	May 9 Karoline Book	May 15 Steve Prizer	May 19 Brielle Curd	May 24 Alicen Buchanan	Michael Molt	Shelbi Smith
May 6 Mike Dinsmore	May 10 Drew Vaupel	May 16 Sophia Baker	Brenda Helm	Keith Wilson	Selena Musgrave	
Derek Smith	May 11 Chris Simpson	Brenda Overbee	Richard McCracken	May 25 Amy Fleener	May 29 Zef Archer	
			May 20 Justin Braddock		Jamie Buchanan	
					Victoria Higginbotham	
					Jimmie Musgrave	

MARCH 2025

Fund	Beginning Balance	Income	Expense	Ending Balance
General	\$543,533	\$69,155	\$50,373	\$562,315
Mission	\$202,423	\$49,503	\$34,927	\$216,999
Totals	\$745,956	\$118,658	\$85,300	\$779,314



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY FROM
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
100 W. CENTER ST.
FAIRFIELD, IL 62837
618-842-4311
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