



# First Christian Church 2025 JULY NEWSLETTER

100 W Center St. Fairfield, IL  
618-842-4311  
fcc@fccfairfield.com  
fccfairfield.com  
follow us on:  



July, a month full of cookouts, family reunions, pool parties, vacations, VBS, and maybe (if we're lucky) home-made ice cream. It's also the month we celebrate Independence Day. During this time of the year my mind always goes back to the founding of our country and the men, although imperfect, who made it happen. I am reminded of the things they said regarding our country and their relationship with God. This country has never been a perfect place with perfect people. Still, I believe I live in the best country in the world, due to individuals who have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

I also love our flag. Kelly and I just put our flag back up after fixing the flag holder. I think "Old Glory" is the most beautiful flag in the world. And I love what it stands for: freedom and brave men and women who are willing to fight against tyranny for just and right causes. Many years ago when I was in college we used to go visit the nursing home every week. We would take hymnals and sing in the hallways and also stop in the patient's rooms. One older lady who had a heavy German accent would always ask us to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner". The interesting thing was she didn't want us only to sing the first verse she wanted us to sing all the verses. Most of us never knew there were other verses other than the first one. Those verses were important to her and so became important to me. I believe she, like me, loved the last verse the best. She thought it was too important to leave out and made us sing it every week.

**"O thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand  
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation.  
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n rescued land  
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!"**

**Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto: 'In God is our trust.'  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!"**

"The Star-Spangled Banner" started out originally as a poem called "Defense of Fort M'Henry". The poem was written on September 14, 1814 by Francis Scott Key. The story behind why he wrote the poem involves the battle for Fort McHenry during the war of 1812. I believe the song and the fourth verse give us some insight into the mindset our country's relationship to God. Notice Francis Scott Key felt like victory and peace were blessings and this country had been rescued by heaven. Notice his belief that "conquer we must" and "the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave", were potentially a part of our future and achievable under certain conditions. "When our cause it is just." "And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."" Our founding fathers believed this country had a God-given purpose to play in world events. I also believe this to be true.

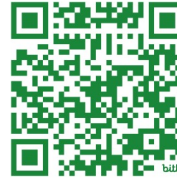
I believe Scripture is clear that nations and leaders rise and fall by the hand of God. And because of this I don't believe it is accidental the United States holds such a prominent place in world events. Whether we continue in this way or not I suppose it depends on God's purpose. I think to it would be important we hold fast to the ideas of, our cause should be just, and we should place our trust in God, to strive to walk faithfully in God's purpose in our time. The reality is that countries are made up of individuals. As individuals, how will we choose to live?

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

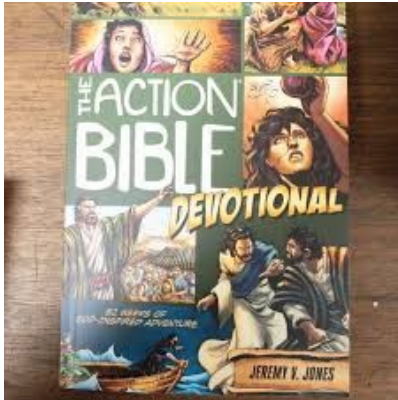
CALEB@FCCFAIRFIELD.COM

At True North, kids from 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 INCREDIBLE, EXCITING, and MEMORABLE time for kids to make new friends and have fun with old ones!

Register now at: [bit.ly/truenorth-vbs](https://bit.ly/truenorth-vbs)  
Dates: July 13-18 5:30-8:00 pm

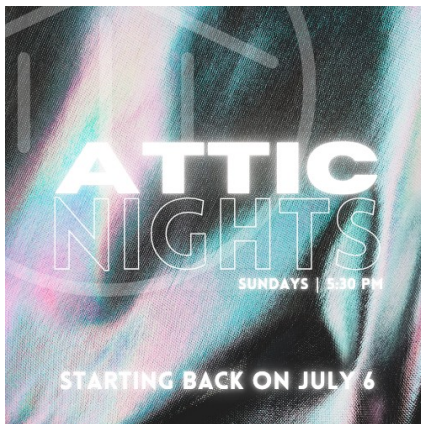


If you're anything like me, one of your main prayers isn't just that your children would get baptized, but that they would fall in love with Jesus. Yes, I pray daily they get baptized, but more I want them to *pursue* Jesus wildly and with their whole heart! Part of wildly pursuing Jesus is spending time with Him by reading scripture. If we're being honest, a lot of us adults struggle spending regular time in scripture. It's a difficult and scary reality. How can we fight this for our kids? First, by spending time in God's word when they see us. If they know it's a part of our lives then it's more likely to be a part of theirs. Second, we can start them young. I want to share with you a resource just for this: The Action Bible Devotional! It makes spending time in scripture fun and understandable *at their level!* This really is a great tool and I know some of you already use it with great success! If this is a resource that interests you I will have it out for the remainder of the summer!



# STUDENT MINISTRY

KYLE@FCCFAIRFIELD.COM



During the month of June, we had a great time with Swim Nights and student-led devotions. Starting July 6th, we are back to our normal Attic Nights at the church with games and a youth service. Invite a friend and bring your Bible as we get back to our routine programming.



PARENTS! You are invited to join us on July 20 for our Attic Nights! Come with your child to FCC at 5:30 on Sunday Night and join us for games, worship, and teaching. Along with this, you will get some information about the rest of 2025 for the attic and be able to ask any questions you may have.



The Attic is having its annual Cardinals trip again this year! Incoming 6th-12th grades are welcome to join us on August 9. For more information or to get signed up: Scan the QR code above or type this link into your browser:

[bit.ly/atticcardinals25](https://bit.ly/atticcardinals25)

# PRAYER MINISTRY

PALS is our program pairing an adult with each PreK through High School age person for prayer and relationship building. We held signups during the month of June but it's not too late to become a part of this program.

To register or if you have questions, see Kyle, Caleb or Cindy.



We will now begin reviewing and assigning PALS. Please pray that God directs the pairings. **Our PALS kick off will be August 15<sup>th</sup>**, be watching for details.

## CHURCH PRAYER CORNER

The Prayer Corner is located east of the Welcome Desk in the foyer.

Supplies and reference materials have been refreshed, be sure to stop by and utilize this space.

We would like to encourage you to reach out to those who have limited ability to attend church regularly. A list of addresses is provided on the prayer board if you feel led to send a card to encourage them and let them know you are thinking about them.



## 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
July 6	<i>volunteer needed</i>	Terri Shreve
July 13	<i>volunteer needed</i>	Jacob Butcher
July 20	Archie & Jean Duckworth	<i>volunteer needed</i>
July 27	Kelly Scott	Connie Mitchell

## During 2025 the Prayer Ministry wants to challenge you to pray for your FCC Family

### Select a family in the church

A single person, a couple,  
or as multiple individuals/couples

A family not on your prayer list

Use the same family all year

or change monthly, quarterly,  
or however you feel led

### Commit to pray for that family regularly

Seek God in guiding your prayers

Assign times to pray

Pray as a group daily

Post the name in your home and  
pray every time you see the name

### During the month of June, pray for the family's spiritual growth:

#### Pray for:

Reflection on God's Promises

Renewed passion for the Word

Safety in travels/activities

Bonding and memory making



# BRADY VANHYNING

BRADY@FCCFAIRFIELD.COM



It is my second month here at FCC, and so many cool things are happening, and God is working in so many amazing ways. I have spent my time getting to know the people within the church, learning processes of what a full-time minister does day to day, and drinking lots of coffee! Growing up I never knew hymns, because I attend a church with more contemporary songs. I have enjoyed the opportunity to plan and learn a lot of hymns.

In June, the song “The Lord Will Provide” was introduced to our 10:15 contemporary service. I absolutely love this song. I believe it is a firm reminder that no matter the circumstances we face, God will indeed provide for us. Genesis 22:14 says, “So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.” This song gives us hope that even in the midst of hard times, God is in control and will always provide. Our hope remains in Jesus, and through His death on the cross, we have received the ultimate gift of grace, which is eternal life! If you have not heard this song, I encourage you to give it a listen. We will continue singing it throughout the summer!

**Brady’s last day with us is on August 10th. We will plan on doing a “Love Offering” in both services the week before to thank him for his hard work and to encourage him on in his studies this fall at Johnson University.**

## MISSION SPOTLIGHT



### Home American Missions Supported by Faith Promise Giving 2025

Jesus said, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” -Acts 1:8

Start local. As we focus on reaching the lost in our local mission field and throughout the U.S.A., may our lights shine and may revival begin in our hearts and spread. God bless America!

Feed My Sheep—Fairfield

Compassion Pregnancy Center

Not Your Ordinary Church (NYOC)

Oil Belt Christian Service Center

New Life Radio WYVN

F.A.M.E. (Home & Abroad Missions)

Ignite Church Planting—Chicago

Orchard Group—New England

International Conference on Mission

Shiloh Christian Children’s Ranch

Pinehaven Children’s Ranch

Feeding Kids of Wayne County

Flights for Christ—Mt. Vernon

Jireh’s Closet—Fairfield

Christian Campus House—EIU

Ozark Christian College &  
Lincoln Seminary

Johnson University

Central Christian College of the Bible

# JULY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	30 Student's to CIY	1	2 FCC Kid's Zoo Trip	3	4 4th of July! Office Closed!	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 VBS	14	15	16	17	18	19 Free Swim at the Public Pool 1-5pm
20 New Carpet installation MPR/Foyer	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## NURSERY SCHEDULE

	SUNDAY SCHOOL	10:15 SERVICE
<b>JULY 6</b>	Elizabeth Long	Jordan Atwood/Diana Higginbotham
<b>JULY 13</b>	Sidney Eckleberry	Morgan Griffith / Macie Edwards
<b>JULY 20</b>	Alex Vaupel / Jackie O'Daniel	Jackie Gre pares
<b>JULY 27</b>	Mason & Marissa Spitzner	Bob & Dena Hall

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

**July 1**  
Sharon Keener  
June Reeves

**July 3**  
Trent Bliss  
Glenn Jackson  
Axel Read  
Xylinn Sierra

**July 4**  
Lorraine Pottorff

**July 5**  
Phil Hall  
Mary Jo Tribe

**July 10**  
Tony Oliver

**July 6**  
Cheryl Basnett  
Amber Legg  
Kelly Scott  
Beth Strange

**July 7**  
Jessica Mitchell

**July 8**  
Sharmila Kakac

**July 9**  
Craig Scott  
Olivia Smith  
Adam Vandergraph  
Ray Xanders

**July 11**  
Warren Newby

**July 12**  
Jaxon Basnett

**July 13**  
Jill Andrews  
Cayley Barton  
Macie Edwards  
Carol Jackson

**July 14**  
Austin Lyon

**July 15**  
Rick Doty

**July 16**  
Chad D. Curd  
Savanna Vandergraph

**July 17**  
Daisy Buchanan  
Matt Rush

**July 18**  
Brynlee Musgrave  
Todd St. Ledger

**July 19**  
Thea Gain

**July 20**  
Zach Meritt  
Pam Robbins

**July 21**  
Carolyn Legg

**July 22**  
Claudia Long  
Melissa Simpson

**July 23**  
Todd Barnard  
Claire Kakac  
Nathan Legg  
Mary Morris  
Will Wood

**July 24**  
Carroll Kakac

**July 25**  
Lauren Brake  
Katie Hobson

**July 26**  
Dave Bliss

**July 27**  
Ron Bowles

**July 28**  
Carson Black  
Katelyn Bozarth  
Jacob Britt  
Dianne Taylor

**July 29**  
Stephen Brake

**July 30**  
Kaia Smith

**July 31**  
Eden Duckworth  
Lela Duckworth  
Michael Molt II  
Heather Oldendorf

## MAY 2025

Fund	Beginning Balance	Income	Expense	Ending Balance
General	\$553,238	\$52,966	\$56,215	\$549,989
Mission	\$217,092	\$20,235	\$29,110	\$208,217
Totals	\$770,330	\$73,201	\$85,325	\$758,206



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FAIRFIELD, IL 62837  
  
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[WWW.FCCFAIRFIELD.COM](http://WWW.FCCFAIRFIELD.COM)

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