



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

2026 AUGUST NEWSLETTER

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It doesn't seem right for us to speak about summer coming to an end. It won't be long and we will begin to experience my favorite time of the year. A time when the mornings are crisp, the breeze has a hint of a chill, and the skies become an incredible blue hue. It is also a time when our days return back to a familiar pace and routine. School starts and our schedules become more defined. As this transition happens I want to remind you to make sure your routine includes worship, study, and service. Vacations, weekend trips, family reunions and summer activities can get us out of the habit of making Sunday morning worship a priority. As we begin the fall it is my prayer we will make a commitment to being in worship and study on Sunday. Not just when it's convenient because after all He is worthy every day. I believe corporate worship is imperative to followers of Jesus.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more is you see the day approaching"
(Hebrews 10:24 – 25)

Gathering together in corporate worship reminds us who we follow, why we are His disciples, and the mission we have to share the good news of Jesus Christ to those around us. It can be a great time of encouragement and learning for a believer.

As we get settled into our fall routines I think it is important to pray for our students as they head back to school. There are so many areas we can pray about for our kids. I've always prayed in four ways for my kids and for the kids of our church these come from Luke 2:52.

*"And Jesus grew in **wisdom** and **stature**, and in **favor with God and men.**"*

First, I pray for wisdom, which I think includes intellect, knowledge, learning, and decision-making. So I pray our kids might be sharp, study hard and know how to use the information they have received. I pray they might do their best in school whatever that may be for them. I pray they might grow in **wisdom**.

Secondly, I pray for physical growth. For them to grow as they should, be safe from harm and injury, and develop healthy habits. It is up to us to help them learn what these healthy habits might be. I pray for them to grow in **stature**.

Thirdly, I pray for their spiritual growth. I pray they might continue to mature in their walk with God or if they haven't made a decision for Christ, they would choose to follow him with all of their heart. I pray they would develop a quiet time where they pray, read God's Word, and incorporated into their daily life. I pray they would grow in **favor with God**.

Finally, I pray they might mature emotionally. I pray they would develop great friendships, a good reputation, good dating relationships, and I pray for their future spouse. In praying for their emotional maturity I pray they would develop healthy relationships in all areas of life. I pray they would grow in **favor with men**.

Let's remember to pray for our kids as they start back to school. Some of our students will be away from home for the first time and prayer for them would be especially important as they start their school year. I would also encourage you to remember our teachers, coaches, administration, faculty and staff in each of our schools and colleges. Pray that our students and our adults involved with the schools would let their light shine brightly.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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Ready or not, the school year is here! It seems like summer break just started, and somehow we're already at the end of it. It has been an incredible summer here for FCC Kids. Community has been built, kids have grown spiritually and physically, and so many memories have been made. As we look forward to school we pray our kids continue growing and being disciplined not only here at church, but also within your family!

There are many aspects of helping our kids grow, but one of the most important pieces is praying for them. I found this article incredibly helpful when it comes to praying for your children. It gives 5 ways to pray for and over our kids as they head into another school year. This article will help guide you through some prayers such as courage, kindness, and joy.

To read the full article, scan the QR code!



We have kid's programming on Sunday mornings during the 10:15am service. We want to encourage you to have your kids bring their Bibles to church with them so they can learn how to read and study for themselves at home! If your child does not have a Bible of their own and needs one, reach out to Caleb and we can get a Bible for you. Each Sunday they bring their Bible, they have a chance to earn a prize to encourage them to get into the habit of bringing it!

As our Summer comes to an end, so do our Summer Swim Nights for the FCC Kids Ministry. Our normal Sunday night programming will return back here at the church on **August 16**. Sunday nights consist of snacks, games, and learning practical things about being a Christian in today's world. We meet from **5:30pm-7:00pm** in the Kidz Klubhouse (located on the 3rd floor of the church). Friends are always welcome to join your child as well. If you have any questions about Sunday Nights, please do not hesitate to reach out.



NURSERY SCHEDULE

	SUNDAY SCHOOL	10:15 SERVICE
Aug 2	Elizabeth Long	Jordan Atwood / Diana Higginbotham
Aug 9	Volunteer Needed	Morgan Griffith / Macie Edwards
Aug 16	Jacque O'Daniel / Alex Vaupel	Jackie Gre pares
Aug 23	Mason & Marissa Spitzner	Bob & Dena Hall
Aug 29	Mariah & Anthony Vaughan	Shane & Heather Neuman

STUDENT MINISTRY

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This year, our baptized students will be challenged to share their faith 10 times in the first month of school. We will give bracelets with 10 beads. Each bead representing a Gospel conversation they have with their friends and peers. Once the Student shares the Gospel, the bead will be placed into a jar in the Attic to see how many times the Gospel is shared!



Do you have a heart to serve and lead Jr. High & High School students? Our ministry is growing and we are looking to add more volunteers! We have a few different areas, like Sunday School or Sunday nights. If you are interested in getting involved or want to know more about what might fit you and your schedule best, please reach out to Kyle.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

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One of the privileges of ministering through music is the opportunity to discern and evaluate our musical "diet" as a congregation. In the midst of the craziness and stress of life, it is vital that we sing songs that remind us of the truths and assurances of the Gospel. When we sing songs that are full of Scripture, we are arming ourselves with the truths of God's Word. These are the truths that will sustain us through every season of life.

Last week, we began singing a new song called "One" in our 10:15am contemporary service. It's message comes straight from Ephesians:

"There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call... one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

Ephesians 4:4, 6

As we sing this song over the coming months, I pray that you will internalize these words and be reminded that Jesus is our one hope. As one body of believers, we are called to pursue Him together, in one Spirit. What wonderful song full of truth to have stuck in your head!

**Check out the song wherever you listen to music and worship as you learn it.
Search "One by Brooke Ligertwood & Bethel Music"**

PRAYER MINISTRY



As the new school year approaches, our thoughts turn to our children and what they will encounter in the coming year. Our children are bombarded from all sides with what to think, what to say and how to feel. It can be overwhelming to think about the torrent of information and the steps, as parents, which must be taken to counteract all of the undesirable ideology, hurtful comments and temptations our kids must face. Our first line of defense must be to pray for our children. I believe God gives a very attentive ear to a parents' heartfelt prayer. When parents pray for their children, it is selfless and from a place of unconditional love and devotion. Parents prayers tend to be relentless, faithful and persistent. God hears your prayers. It is also comforting to know, just like Esther, your children were created "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). God raised Esther, God raised Daniel, God raised David, God raised twelve men to walk with Jesus. Take comfort in the knowledge through our children, God will raise a generation of warriors just as he has done in every other generation before us.

To learn more about praying for our children, check out the church prayer page on Facebook as we explore this topic during the month of August

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 from anywhere!

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

	8:00am Service	10:15am Service
Aug 2	CIT Class	CIT Class
Aug 9	Marlene Rogers	June Reeves
Aug 16	Volunteer Needed	Carolyn Griffith
Aug 23	Jack Tribe	FCC Youth
Aug 30	Cindy Hayes	Debbie McKibben

BRADY VANHYNING
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I want to start by saying thank you to each and every person who welcomed me into FCC through the last year. When I first heard of this church, I had it in my mind I would only be here for a brief summer to learn, and things quickly changed and I had the great privilege of being able to stay for more than a year. It's bittersweet to announce I am at my last Sunday here. While I am very sad to be leaving everyone I have grown to care deeply about, I am excited to share some fun news! I will be headed to a small congregation near Dix, Illinois to become their youth minister part-time. I am excited to be able to go to a new congregation and share the love of Jesus. While I will miss everyone here, I know God has big plans where I am going. I want to thank everyone again, for being so welcoming, and I will be here to visit often!

We have loved watching Brady grow in faith and in leadership over the past year!
Please be in prayer as he makes this transition into a new leadership role!

MISSION SPOTLIGHT

The International Conference On Missions is coming to St. Louis at America's Center, **November 12–14**. Our mission team is thrilled to have ICOM so close this year as it makes its rotation around the U.S.

ICOM brings together mission organizations, missionaries, churches, students, and individuals with one purpose: to encourage, equip, and enlist workers for the Great Commission. It's an incredible opportunity to meet representatives from many of the missions we support through Faith Promise—all in one place.

Several people from FCC will be attending, and we'd love you and your family to be part of the experience. We're encouraging a one-day experience, **Saturday, November 14**. Watch for a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center for a bus option, approximately 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM that includes a quick dinner stop on the way home.

What to Expect: Dynamic worship, missionary encounters, 300 exhibitors/mission organizations, handcrafted items from global mission programs, your choice of workshops, testimonials & messages, connections with others who living out the Great Commission, and a great day with your FCC family

FCC has paid for church registration, allowing adults to register at a reduced rate of \$20 per person using access code **2026STLFAMILY**. College students: \$10; Students with a parent: Free

Registration includes access to main sessions, exhibit hall, and workshops.

Register at: <https://www.theicom.org/attendees> → click "Register Here."

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 2 Jed Jones Jason McCulley	August 8 Nikki Basnett Nora Pippin	August 14 Anita Newcomb	August 21 Brenda Newby	August 28 Joe Holman
August 3 Jennifer Barbre Pat Pollard	August 9 Ryan Duckworth Mason Spitzner	August 15 Jerry Cathey	August 23 Shane Neuman	August 29 Brenden Price Miller Simpson
August 4 Nora Oliver Ben Pope	August 10 Susan Phelps	August 17 Jessica Oliver Kiersten Vaughan	August 24 Terri Shreve	August 30 Jordyn Basnett Leo Braddock Carl Hayes Terry Prizer
August 5 Archie Duckworth	August 11 Matthew Barbre Janet Brant	August 18 Jeremy Gray Jean Weedman	August 25 Cinnamon Willett	August 31 Aubrey Obrecht Alexandria Vaupel
August 6 Bentley Borah Matthew Mitchell	August 12 Reid Basnett Connie Reid David Vaughan	August 19 John Basnett Cindy Beckman	August 26 Sharon Gualdoni	
August 7 Allissa Keoughan	August 13 Kate Vaughan	August 20 Fred Blessing	August 27 Jeremy Vaughan	

JUNE FINANCIALS

Fund	Beginning Balance	Income	Expense	Ending Balance
General	\$520,388	\$43,792	\$59,389	\$504,791
Mission	\$186,660	\$29,475	\$51,510	\$164,625
Totals	\$707,048	\$73,267	\$110,899	\$669,416



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