



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

2026 JULY NEWSLETTER

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Our country is turning 250 years old this year. It has been interesting and fun to watch all of the Europeans here for the FIFA World Cup remind us what an incredible place in which we live, from their fascination with Buc-ees and all you can eat buffets, to trying to smuggle ranch bottles through TSA. Beyond these funny little things, we have also been reminded we have the privilege of living in the best country on the planet. Even with all of its flaws and imperfections there is no other place on earth like the United States. I also happen to believe this is true because our founders, who were imperfect men, considered God and what he would want in the founding of the United States.

"The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity. I will avow that I then believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God." – John Adams

"In the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior. The Declaration of Independence laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity." – John Quincy Adams

"As to Jesus of Nazareth, my opinion of whom you particularly desire, I think the system of morals and His religion as He left them to us, the best the world ever saw or is likely to see." – Benjamin Franklin

"The great pillars of all government and of social life [are] virtue, morality, and religion. This is the armor, my friend, and this alone, that renders us invincible." – Patrick Henry

"The blessing and protection of Heaven are at all times necessary but especially so in times of public distress and danger. The General hopes and trusts that every officer and man will endeavor to live and act as becomes a Christian soldier, defending the dearest rights and liberties of his country." – George Washington

My belief is our founders asked for God's blessing and protection and I still believe it is important for us to do the same. I do however think it becomes a problem when we begin to worship that which is created instead of the Creator. We should never have a worship for the United States but only for the Creator God who has blessed us so intensely.

I also believe it is imperative we thank God for all that he is done for us. This includes not only what he's done for us in our country, but our communities and our families as well. Truly we have been blessed and a recognition of where blessing comes from, I believe, is important. We are told in Scripture, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights," and so all we have received has come from His hand. It should never be a problem for us to say thank you to the one who is given the blessing.

As we celebrate 250 years as a country, let us focus more on the Creator who has brought incredible blessing and be thankful for all we have. Consider how through your blessings you might be able to share the gospel with those around the world. Remember with these blessings, there is a great responsibility to God to use them the way he would like for us to use them. I hope you have a wonderful time celebrating together. Always remember to be safe always remember to be thankful.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CALEB@FCCFAIRFIELD.COM



COLOR WARS

JULY 17 - 5:30pm - 8:00pm

This event was great last year and the kids have been asking to do it again! This will be a fun summer evening creating fun and fellowship for our FCC Kids! **Incoming Kindergarten through 5th graders** and their friends will have a night filled with relay races, obstacle courses, and lots of fun challenges. Be sure to wear white clothes as we will be getting COVERED in different colored and safe paint powder! Supper will be provided. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Register by scanning the QR code
or type this link into your browser

<https://fccfairfield.breezechms.com/form/128fb9>



OIL BELT CHRISTIAN SERVICE CAMP

July Summer Camp Highlights

Pathfinders 2: July 30-August 1 Grades: 4th-5th

I am the dean and we have several church volunteers working at this year! It's slam packed with fun, including mud pit tug-of-war, makeshift boat races, and plenty of games. Most importantly, we'll be learning all about heaven and the hope we have in Jesus!



Father/Child Camp: July 10-11 Grades: K-4th graders

Spend the weekend with dad! You have the option of bringing your own tent, RV/camper, or staying in the dorms, Dads and daughters will stay in one wing of the Boys' Dorm. Dads and sons will stay in the other wing.

NURSERY SCHEDULE

	SUNDAY SCHOOL	10:15 SERVICE
July 5	Elizabeth Long	Jordan Atwood / Diana Higginbotham
July 12	Volunteer Needed	Morgan Griffith / Macie Edwards
July 19	Jacque O'Daniel / Alex Vaupel	Jackie Grepares
July 26	Mason & Marissa Spitzner	Bob & Dena Hall

STUDENT MINISTRY

KYLE@FCCFAIRFIELD.COM



All incoming 6th & 7th graders are encouraged to sign up for Oil Belt's Jr. High 2 Camp. This will be a fun and faith filled week with Kyle will be the assistant dean! This camp is July 19-24. Sign up using Oil Belt's website or scan the QR code. Contact Kyle for the FCC discount code!



It's sad to think about the summer ending and school is quickly approaching. To end the summer, we are throwing an "End of Summer Bash" at the McCulley household from 6:00pm-9:00pm on July 31! Reach out to Kyle if you need the address.



Our June was full of fun and swimming for the Attic students, but now it's time to get back to our regular programming. On July 5, we will be back to Attic Nights at the church. This is for students entering 6th grade to graduated seniors. We start at 5:15pm and end at 7:15pm.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

DREW@FCCFAIRFIELD.COM

I want to begin my first official newsletter entry with a sense of genuine gratitude. I am so thankful to God for leading my family and me to FCC here in Fairfield. From the very first time walking through the doors of this church, we have felt loved, welcomed, and cared for. We already love this church and community and we are looking forward to serving here at FCC. As we begin this new chapter together, I wanted to share a little of my heart for worship ministry.

What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word "worship"? For many, (myself included at one point), they may view worship as just music. For some, it could mean the songs in the hymnal, songs on Spotify, or the hits on Christian radio. They view worship as "God-themed music" which leaves us feeling emotionally connected to the divine in some way or another. I love most of these expressions of worship music! However, as Christians, we must understand the BIBLICAL view of true congregational worship and not reduce it to mere music.

One of my favorite descriptions of corporate worship is in Colossians 3:16: *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."* Worship is NOT something we watch, consume, or download. According to scripture, worshipping through song is something the body of Christ participates in together. When we sing together as a church we are praising God AND encouraging one another in the truth of the Gospel. When we meet on Sundays, I pray we do not watch as spectators, but we engage in singing gospel truths that allow God's word to dwell within us richly, stir our affections towards God, and stir our affections towards one another in the Church. I challenge you to keep this scripture in mind as you enter our next worship service.

PRAYER MINISTRY



2026 marks the 250th year of the founding of our country, but it also marks for some interesting times. While we, as Christians, should be putting our trust in God; God directs us, through his word, to show respect and responsibility to our country and its leadership. Government is a creation of God. In God's perfect design, the role of government is to restrain evil, promote justice and preserve peace. Our role as citizens is to submit to authority, pay taxes and show respect to our leaders. Paul tells us we are to pray for our leaders. *"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and all those in authority". -1 Timothy 2:1*

This is important. He says if we pray, we can intercede in the workings of our government. Because who created government? God did. Who controls government? God does. He also says we should pray for "all those in authority" this includes those you don't agree with. Why? Paul goes on to tell us in verses 3 and 4, "This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." When we, as Christians, pray for our country and our leadership, we are to pray for wisdom, discernment, protection and for leaders to come to the knowledge of the truth. Believers are urged to pray for these things so that we will have stability, protection and peace in our country.

To learn more about praying for our country, check out the church prayer page "First Christian Prayer" on Facebook as we explore this topic during the month of July.

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 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
July 5	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Terri Shreve
July 12	Marlene Rogers	June Reeves
July 19	Archie & Jean Duckworth	Jacob Butcher
July 26	Kelly Scott	Connie Mitchell

Stitched In Prayer On-Going Projects



CROCHET PROJECTS

- Preschooler Sized Hats to Distribute to FCC Pre-K this fall
- 50+ hats & no specific pattern needed

SEWING PROJECTS

- Pocket Prayer Quilts to be shared with anyone needing an extra reminder of God's Presence
- Pattern provided or feel free to create something unique
- Future Baby Dedication Quilts
- Pick up a pattern in the prayer corner of the FCC Foyer
- Materials to be added in the future

MISSION SPOTLIGHT

Home Missions Supported by Faith Promise Giving 2026



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

In this 250th year celebrating America, we recommit ourselves to the mission Jesus gave His church—beginning in our own "Jerusalem" and reaching to the ends of the earth. May we shine Christ's light across our everyday mission field and step out in faith, in our testimony and continued support of missions.

Feed My Sheep - Fairfield, IL	Compassion Pregnancy Center	Not Your Ordinary Church
Il Belt Christian Service Camp	New Life Rado WYVN	F.A.M.E.
Ignite Church Planting - Chicago	Orchard Group (New England)	International Conference on Missions
Shiloh Christian children's Ranch	Pinehaven Children's Ranch	Youth Mission Trips
Flights for Christ, Mt. Vernon	Jireh's Closet, Fairfield	Christian Campus House, EIU
Ozark Christian College	Central Christian College	Johnson University
Restore Network, Southern Illinois	Hope Center - Albion, IL	

JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 1 June Reeves Sharon Keener Ben Owen	July 7 Jessica Mitchell	July 14 Austin Lyon	July 21 Carolyn Legg	July 27 Ron Bowles
July 3 Glenn Jackson Trent Bliss Axel Read Xylynn Sierra	July 8 Sharmila Kakac	July 15 Rick Doty	July 22 Melissa Simpson Claudia Long	July 28 Dianne Taylor Katelyn Bozarth Jacob Britt Carson Black
July 4 Lorraine Pottorff	July 9 Ray Xanders Craig Scott Adam Vandergraph	July 16 Savanna Vandergraph	July 23 Mary Morris Todd Barnard Will Wood Claire Kakac Nathan Legg	July 29 Stephen Brake Nelson Snidle
July 5 Phil Hall Mary Jo Tribe	July 10 Tony Oliver	July 17 Matt Rush Daisy Buchanan	July 25 Lauren Brake	July 30 Kaia Smith
July 6 Cheryl Basnett Kelly Scott Beth Strange Amber Legg	July 11 Carolyn Richardson Warren Newby	July 18 Todd St. Ledger Brynlee Musgrave	July 26 Dave Bliss	July 31 Heather Oldendorf Michael Molt II Eden Duckworth Lela Duckworth
	July 12 Jaxon Basnett	July 19 Thea Gain		
	July 13 Carol Jackson Jill Andrews Macie Edwards Cayley Barton	July 20 Pam Robbins Zach Meritt		

MAY FINANCIALS

Fund	Beginning Balance	Income	Expense	Ending Balance
General	\$520,536	\$74,702	\$54,850	\$540,388
Mission	\$188,366	\$34,173	\$35,879	\$186,660
Totals	\$708,902	\$108,875	\$90,729	\$727,048



JULY 13

**3RD - 5TH GRADERS
5:00 - 8:00 PM**

JULY 14

**6TH - 8TH GRADERS
5:00 - 8:00 PM**

OTHER DETAILS:

- Boys and Girls welcome to join
- Kids are welcome to bring their own basketballs, but not required
- Snacks & light refreshments provided
- Parents welcome to stay and watch

FREE EVENT

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH FAIRFIELD, IL

REGISTER HERE



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