

From the Pastor

Will 2020 ever end? I don't know of a year that has lasted this long! I saw a Trip Advisor post that read: "2020: one star out of five. Very bad rating, would not recommend." Someone joked: "2020 is like looking both ways before crossing the street and getting hit by a plane."

It has not been a pleasant year. The pandemic, the racial discord, the civil unrest have created a spirit of uncertainty in this country. The icing on the cake is that we are in an election year. After watching the majority of the first presidential debate, I was relieved to hear my wife, Shawnc, remind me it was my time to read a bedtime story to Saylor. I gained more wisdom from reading the Sponge Bob book to Saylor, than what I had just witnessed on the TV. Lord let there be light in 2021.

Bob Russell writes a blog I frequently read. He writes a story of a teenage girl who despised being in school and looked to the future as her only hope. She couldn't wait to graduate and get on with her life. Her life goal was to get married and have children. She knew that's when her life would be fulfilling. So school was a bore. She grudgingly tolerated her classes and classmates, longing to get her education behind her.

Not long after graduation, she got married and quickly had three children. However, she was surprised at how demanding the little ones were—changing dirty diapers, cleaning up messes, wiping runny noses, fixing another meal, and dealing with constant interruptions. She found herself saying, "I can't wait 'til all three of these kids are in school so I can relax a little and enjoy myself."

Finally, the last child was in first grade, and she was about to unwind and enjoy life for the first time when her husband said, "Honey, I think you need to go to work so we can afford to send these kids to college one day." Well, she certainly didn't want to get a job. But she had to admit it would be expensive to send the kids to college, so she reluctantly went to work.

She hated her job. She found herself saying, "I can't wait until the kids are finished with college and the bills are paid so I can quit work and enjoy life. Finally, the last bill was paid, and she marched into the boss' office and said, "I quit!" "Oh, no! You don't want to quit now," the boss insisted. "If you work another seven years, you'll get a much better retirement package!" She had to agree it would be nice to have all that extra money. So, she stayed on.

She marked "RETIREMENT!" on the future calendar and yearned for that day to come.

At last, she and her husband retired together. They moved to Florida and spent the rest of their years sitting on the front porch of their cottage leafing through the family album, reminiscing about the good old days. The problem was the "good old days" in the past were not good while she lived them. She never understood the truth that we can live our "good days" in the present. **Psalm 118:24, "This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it." Do not waste a day!**

2021 is not guaranteed to be a better year. What if this current situation lingers? Then what? You might as well take up the mantra that I am going to live my best day today. Let me give you a ray of hope. **Romans 8:38, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

Pastor Morgan

Thank You Note

How do I thank you for the ongoing love I have received from you over the years. And now you did it again through the beautiful flowers you sent for Janet's funeral. Please know I am grateful from the bottom of my heart.

Rev. Clark and Family

Operation Christmas Child 2020 has officially kicked off at FCC! Operation Christmas Child demonstrates God's love to hurting children in a tangible way by partnering with churches worldwide to deliver gift-filled shoeboxes and the Good News of Jesus Christ. FCC Mission is to be the hands and feet of God and actively participate in spreading the Good News of our Lord and Savior. We will accomplish this by joining in this international relief effort and filling shoeboxes with basic hygiene items, school supplies, and small toys. There will be a table set up in the narthex with more information. If you have any questions please contact Angela at 217-246-7452.

Church Service

We will continue to have one service at 9:30 am at least through the month of November.



Important News!!

The Education Building at the church is having some major tuck-pointing done. To complete this work the power will have to be shut-off for an extended time. If you have an emergency please call Robin at 217-273-5005 or Beau Scott at 217-254-3577. The church will be closed to ALL activities on the dates listed below:

Tuesday, October 20th thru Friday, October 23rd
Tuesday, October 27 thru Thursday, October 29th

Pastor Appreciation

As most of you know, October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Here at First Christian we are so blessed to have such a dedicated staff and we would like to honor not only our pastor but all the staff who are dedicated to doing the Lord's work. On the last Sunday in October containers will be placed in the narthex so that the congregation can place appreciation cards in them. Since we know several members may not be able to make it that Sunday we are including the names and addresses of each staff member for your convenience in sending them a card if you would like to do so. Thank you for showing your appreciation to all of our FCC Staff.

Marilyn Purcell, Personnel Chair

Pastor Morgan—1100 N 2nd St, Gays IL 61928
Michael Tomlinson — 408 Oklahoma Ave, Mattoon
Adam O'Dell — 2308 Marion Ave, Mattoon
Robin Myers — 3413 Richmond Ave, Mattoon
Jan Kepley — 3138 N CR 150E, Mattoon
Dolo Wishard—3213 Marion Ave, Mattoon
Carolina Maninfior—1859 Scenic Ln, Mattoon (nursery)

Church Life

Saturday, October 10th

11-3 pm Coats 4 Kids

Sunday, October 11th

9:30 am Worship Service

Monday, October 12th

10 am Staff Meeting

6 pm Trustees Meeting

7 pm Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 13th

7 am Prayer Meeting

6 pm Bible Journaling

Wednesday, October 14th

No Bells Practice

6 pm Choir Practice Group A

Thursday, October 15th

6 pm Praise Team Practice

Sunday, October 18th

9:30 am Worship Service

Monday, October 19th

10 am Staff Meeting

6 pm Deaconess Meeting

THIS WEEK ^{at} GLANCE



Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the Jeanne Siford family upon her death on September 21. Pastor Morgan officiated her funeral on October 5th.

Deaconess Information

There will be a Deaconess Meeting on MONDAY, October 19th at 6 pm in Campbell Hall. Please note the date change.

We are cancelling the Thanksgiving Dinner and Ladies Night Out. We hope to have the Ladies Night Out in July.

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Mattoon IL 61938
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