


Follow us at:  [YouVersion Bible App](#)

 [Mattoon First Christian Church](#)

Web: [mattoonfcc.com](http://mattoonfcc.com)

## From the Pastor's Heart

### Choices

Deuteronomy 30:19

Many Americans today have lost hope of any return to normalcy in our society.

I disagree. **Common sense is just one wise choice at a time.** Common sense, truth, trust, discretion, responsibility, and reason is still within our grasp.

Many think that life is just a set of circumstances: You can't help what happens, just try to adapt and hope for better luck next time -- which explains the greatest excuse of all time: I'm just a victim of circumstance. "It's just the way it is!"

The Bible teaches something different. Your life is not the result of random circumstances, **it's the result of the choices you make.**

Moses and Joshua both highlighted this simple truth.

"I have set before you life and death, blessing and curses.

Now choose life, so that you and your children may live..." (Deuteronomy 30:19)

"Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

Life is a series of choices. Success depends on making the same right choices again and again, day after day -- at the dinner table, in conversations with families and friends, with your paycheck, in what you read or don't read, at the office, when you're online. These choices determine who you are and what your life becomes.

Every minute of every day we have the privilege of choice, to make life more rewarding or more disappointing. What choices are you willing to make?

Choose wisely, chose to love God and love people.

*Pastor Steve*



We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Thelma Whetsell (94) who passed away on February 3rd. Thelma attended First Christian Church her entire life and was a great servant to the Lord.

## A Night In Italy

The FROG and ROCK Youth Groups will host A Night In Italy Fundraiser Dinner on Friday, February 15th from 5:30—7 pm. They will serve baked spaghetti or chicken tetrazzini with a salad, garlic bread, dessert and a drink.

Each ticket will cost \$8.00 and can be purchased in the narthex. Please purchase your tickets by Sunday, February 10th so they know how much food to prepare.



## Grandparenting Group

### Legacy Coalition-Grandparenting Matters

Are you ready to "Grandparent on Purpose?" This Group will help you become an intentional Christian grandparent! Our desire is that you go away with new inspiration, encouragement, and tools to help you meet your Biblical mandate to Grandparent purposefully.

The first meeting will be at the home of Gary and Marcella Cardinal, 421 Briar Lane, and starts Thursday, March 7 from 6:30-8 pm. Snacks will be provided. Additional dates will be March 21, April 4, May 2, May 9, and May 23.

The study will include a video each week with discussion questions to follow.

Potential Video Topics include:

- Why Establish a Grandparenting ministry?
- What is the Biblical Role of a Grandparent?
- How do I pass Faith to Future Generations?
- How to I Pray and Read the Bible with Grandchildren.
- The Art of Single Grandparenting.

## 90th Birthday Party

Everyone is invited to come and celebrate Harold Easton's 90th Birthday. The celebration will be held in the church fellowship hall on Saturday, March 2nd from 2-4 pm.



Building Fund balance:  
\$354,604.08

## Church Life

### Sunday, February 10

8:30 am Traditional Worship  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Contemporary Worship  
5 pm F/R Group Meeting

### Monday, February 11

10 am Staff Meeting  
5:30 pm Worship Meeting in the Bride's Rm  
6 pm Trustees' Meeting in the Library  
6 pm Christian Ed. Meeting  
7 pm Board Meeting

### Tuesday, February 12

7 am Prayer Group  
6 pm Bible Journaling

### Wednesday, February 13

9 am Crafts R Us Group  
5 pm Bell Choir Practice  
6 pm Mid-Week Outlet Program  
6 pm Choir Practice

### Thursday, February 14

6 pm Praise Team Practice

### Friday, February 15

5:30—7 pm A Night in Italy Fundraiser

### Sunday, February 17

8:30 am Traditional Worship  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Contemporary Worship  
5 pm F/R Group Meeting

Monday, February 18—Office Closed, Presidents' Day

### Tuesday, February 19

7 am Prayer Group  
6 pm Bible Journaling

### Wednesday, February 20

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group  
5 pm Bell Choir Practice  
6 pm Mid-Week Outlet Program  
6 pm Choir Practice



## Thank You Note

A big thank you to Pastor Steve for giving us a great service for my husband, Jack. I am sure he enjoyed it from Heaven. Thank you ladies (or gentlemen) for the great desserts, everyone enjoyed them. Lots of Love and Sincere Thank You.

Bonnie James

## Scholarship

The Laura Catherine Young Van Gundy Memorial Scholarship is now open for the 2019-20 school year. At the request of the donor the scholarships will be awarded to members of FCC who are pursuing higher education in Christian Ministry only. If you would like to apply for this scholarship, please contact Robin in the church office by March 31st.

### Giving and Expense Totals

January 27th General Giving: \$6,125.53  
February 3rd General Giving: \$4,773.00  
Income Needed Weekly to Meet Budget: \$6,234.23  
Year to Date Income verses Budget Expenses: \$-4,419.31

## Serving Communion

### Sunday, February 10

**8:30 am:** John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Don Inman, Denny Booker, Jack Little, Gene Swearingen, Colin VanDeventer  
**10:30 am:** Amy Maninfior, Nick Maninfior, Bob Morgan, Dolo Wishard

### Sunday, February 17

**8:30 am:** John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Don Inman, Jack Browning, Tim Buford, Dan Cunningham, Tom Dickerson  
**10:30 am:** Max Betty, Donica Brand, Dennis Goings, Jeff Maninfior

### Church Attendance

Jan. 27th — Traditional: 74, Contemporary: 99 = 173  
Feb. 3rd — Traditional: 110, Contemporary: 84 = 194