



A Note from the Pastor

Way back in the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, America had an athlete, a distance runner by the name of Dave Wottle. As a youngster he was weak and skinny. His doctor suggested taking up a sport. Dave chose running! He was a 1500 meter runner from Bowling Green College who got progressively better thru college. He loved the 1500 meter run, and hated the 800m. At the 1972 Olympic trials the coaches asked him to run the 800. He ran his least favorite event and tied the world record!

Fast forward to Munich, 1972. Wottle does not qualify for the finals in the 1500m run, but qualifies for the 800m, the run he dislikes. He had no shot to win. He had knee issues and he had just planned his wedding 2 weeks before the Olympics. 2 Kenyans and a Russian were the favorites. If you have never seen this race, you can YouTube it, it is worth the watch! Dave Wottle is the guy who looks like the weekend runner who aimlessly walked in off the street wearing some weird painter's hat. He ran his race!

The initial pace is fast. Dave is some 20 yards behind the pack, getting crushed. By the end of the first 400m, he has worked his way back into the pack. As they near the 200m mark, Dave the Throttle kicks it in, or so it appears. He admits to thinking he can grab the bronze medal. But he has paced himself enough to run the same speed at the end of the race as the start. He wins the gold, with the favored Russian falling at the finish line. Dave Wottle was not the fastest guy, but he knew who he was, and he knew his pace.

As a Christian, you are running a race. The apostle Paul used the Olympic Games during his life as an analogy to our Christian walk or "run". **1 Corinthians 9:24, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever."**

How are you doing in your strict training? Dave Wottle would not have won gold without strict daily training. We are called to train for our heavenly encounter with Christ. How much time have you spent in your spiritual gym? Our training regiment will be taken into account.

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How is your pace? Has Covid-19 caused you to up your spiritual pace? When the pandemic is over, will you slow down your pace to a walk, will you still have enough in the tank to finish strong? We all have different paces we are running at. The key is to keep our pace steady. To continue to train daily, continue to take in the spiritual supplements we need to finish strong: Word, prayer, fellowship, and witness. Then at the end of our race we can proclaim with Paul, **"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."**

Pastor Morgan

Garden Plots

We now have 4 raised beds at the Old State Road church property for the garden planting season! Raised beds are 4ft by 16ft.



If you have any interest in helping plant, care for, or harvesting a crop from our FCC Community Garden, let us know. If you are excited about this new adventure, need more information, would like to help financially, or would like to get your hands dirty, call the church at 234-2928 and let us know! **"There is a time to plant and a time to uproot. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God."**

Paul Icenogle is our very own Master Gardener and will be advising us for maximum crop production! Charlotte Castle will be the site coordinator! Happy planting!



We now have a locked mailbox at the church. The mailbox is located just left of the Narthex doors. Please feel free to drop off your offering in this box if you like and it will be checked daily.

Devo with Stevo

On Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings you can join me on Facebook Live as we go thru a devotion on the book of Jeremiah. John 6:35 Jesus states, "I am the Bread of Life." So, at 6:35 am you can join me as we partake of spiritual bread! He is our stronghold!

Pastor Morgan

Baby Girl

Congratulations to John and Linda Janes on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Lilah Jane Hejna, born to Haley.

Mary Roberts has moved to: 109 Heartland Drive, Neoga, IL 62447 and her new phone number is: 895-0105

May 10th Board Meeting

In lieu of a conventional in person board meeting, we will have a virtual meeting online via Zoom. **This will be an informational meeting only and we will not be voting on any business or action.** If you would like to participate in the meeting please email Mike Brand, mike@indsvcs.com, and he will send you an electronic invitation via email. With the link in the invitation you will be able to join via video if your computer or cell phone device allows; or there will be a telephone number in the invitation whereby you may telephone in and participate with an audio connection. Please send the request prior to 8 pm on Sunday May 10th. Committee chairpersons, elders, and board officers will be invited automatically.

- 9 Mike Bays
- 10 Annetta Kerans
- 11 Laurie Olson
- 12 Vera Hildebrand, David Gergeni
- 13 Sharolyn Kirby
- 14 Gordon Smith
- 16 Mona Bays, Rhett Maninfior
- 17 Rae Christensen
- 18 Kayla Grissom
- 23 Bryce Wofford
- 24 Norma Himes, Rob Newlin
- 25 Eva Maninfior
- 26 Gwen Watts
- 28 Shirley Tomlinson



- 2 Jared and Kelly Armer
- 5 Richard and Joyce Eident
- 6 Larry and Tracy Beason
- 7 Daryn and Lisa Clapp
- 12 Ed and Helen Dowling
- 15 Randy and Dawn Albin, Rod and Linda Fleming, John and Carol Armstrong
- 17 Don and Barb Wisner
- 19 Jack and Barbara Browning
- 23 Michael and Trish Tomlinson
- 26 Robert and Janet Clark
- 27 Steve and Cheryl Ballinger
- 29 Todd and Julie Allen



Thank You Note

Thank you to everyone at First Christian Church for your prayers and cards.

Martha Male