



Pastor: Adam Carlson  
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Facebook: First Christian Church

**First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
205 S. Elm, 618/532-7383  
Centralia, Illinois 62801

**Connecting people to Christ  
through worship, study, and relationships,  
magnifying God's love and grace for all.**

Volume LXXIX NO. 3

March 28, 2026

## From the Pastor's Desk

Hello, Disciples!

We're rounding the corner on our wilderness journey through Lent. Following in the footsteps of so many faithful people before us, we ventured into the wilderness to learn, grow, and find new direction. For the Israelites leaving Egypt, there was a long way to go to get to the promised land. Many miles to cover and a lot of lessons to learn.

Often in Lent, we who do not feel like we're in the wilderness pretend as though we are so that we can learn alongside the people in our sacred stories. But our church doesn't need to pretend to walk in the wilderness. If the wilderness is that place between where and who we once were and where God is leading us, we are absolutely in the wilderness. And that's okay! As Terence Fretheim writes, "deliverance in the wilderness is not deliverance from the wilderness." We're here to learn. Learn to listen for God's voice. Learn to follow God's instruction. Learn to trust that wherever God is leading is a place of blessing, a land flowing with milk and honey.

On Ash Wednesday, we committed ourselves to the work of repentance - realigning ourselves with God. In Lent, we wander in the wilderness, re-learning how to be God's People. And now, we see Easter on the horizon. New life awaits. Resurrection awaits. Transformation awaits.

So let us continue to seek out God's direction in diligent prayer and dialogue. Continue learning the lessons of the wilderness. Because we already know that new life lies on the other side. All we have to do is walk in faith. God is not done with us.

Blessings,

*Pastor Adam*

## Daily Devotionals Available

Daily Devotional books are available in the narthex, west entrance and south entrance for anyone who wishes them. We receive free of charge "Our Daily Bread."

You can now get the daily devotionals from The Upper Room by daily email. To do this go to [UpperRoom.org](http://UpperRoom.org), click on Publishing, then The Upper Room, then other ways to Receive. You have your choice between email, apps for Android & Apple or a Digital Magazine.

## Ecumenical Lenten Services

**March 29—6:00 pm**

**First Baptist Church**

**Fr. Matthew Kemp (St. John/Redeemer)  
Preaching**

**April 2—Maundy Thursday—7:00 PM**

**First Christian Church**

**April 3-Good Friday-7:00 PM**

**First United Methodist Church**

## Easter at First Christian Church

*Join us Easter Sunday, April 5*

8:45 - Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

9:30 - Worship and baptism in the Sanctuary

## Baptism of Ivan Rinderer

In addition to celebrating the resurrection of Jesus on Easter, we are thrilled to celebrate Ivan Rinderer, who has participated in the membership class and will be baptized on Easter Sunday during the service.



## Disciples Ladies Lunch—April 7

Please mark your calendar for *Tuesday, April 7*. We plan to meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. at the Lantern Pub in Ashley. If you would like to carpool, please meet on the church parking lot by 11 a.m. All ladies are welcome. Good food and wonderful fellowship. Please join us. Contact Dottie for more information.

## May Courier Deadline—April 22

Deadline for the **May Courier** is **Wednesday, April 22**. Please submit all information & calendar items to the church office by **noon**. Articles, images and information must be sent to the church email address: [centraliafirstchristian@gmail.com](mailto:centraliafirstchristian@gmail.com) to be included in the Courier.

## Hospitality Team

A hospitality team is being formed. We need volunteers to assist with hosting coffee fellowship, checking supplies for coffee fellowship to see what needs to be reordered, and general kitchen clean up when needed. Please contact Nina Scattergood or the church office for more information.

## Building Usage & Reservations

If you would like to use any area of our building for meetings, family gatherings, showers, weddings or any other purpose, **please contact Randy Fark (920-0285, call or text)**. This includes church functions as well as personal or community use of our facility. We have several recurring events on the calendar each month. Your event will be confirmed once it has been cleared on the master calendar.

## Forever Bronze Handbell Concert

*Sunday, April 19*

*Centralia First United Methodist Fellowship Hall*

*Handbell*

*Pops*

*Concert*

*6:30 pm*

*Tickets \$10*

*Advanced sales or at the door*

*Bring Snacks—Drinks Available*

*Casual Dress—(favorite music t-shirt)*



~ Thank you to Fleming Cleaners, and Virgilia and David Detering, for always cleaning and pressing our linens. We appreciate you!

**Board Meeting—April 19  
10:45 am**

### PLEASE NOTE

*All doors are locked at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday morning as a safety precaution. An attendant will be available to welcome anyone arriving after 9:45 a.m.*

## Prayer Requests

### Joys & Thanksgiving

Grandchildren in church  
Family & friends  
My church family  
My family  
This faith family  
Church  
The bells  
Beautiful weather  
Spring weather  
Camp Walter Scott  
A home  
Flowers blooming  
I'm working  
Still have both parents  
Close to my cousins  
Jesus

### Guidance & Vision

Family of Maria Valencia  
My mental health  
Issues with work  
Our divided country  
Government shutdown  
Prayers for this day in history, December 7, 1941  
Caregivers—all those caring for others  
All in war zones, growing conflicts around the world

### Health & Healing Concerns

Micki Kennedy  
Suzi Grubb  
Terri Rogers  
Glen Burkett  
Sam Wilkinson  
Lora Timmons  
Steve & Ellen Stein  
Sandy Rolf  
Rolf family  
Sherry  
John Metcalf & Sharon Smith  
Dorothy McCormick  
Huff's  
Tom & Judy Tyndall  
Dad's cancer  
Cousin may have cancer  
Prayers for my mom, that she gets some peace  
Ron Miller  
Greg Beasley  
Leslie Beasley  
Jason Beasley  
Beasley family  
Lisa Franz  
Fox family  
Neff family  
Khaeli Neff  
Jeri  
Beau  
Mary & Jim  
Troy  
Kathleen  
Kelsey  
Mary  
Laverne  
Ruth  
Cousin LaVon—fighting brain cancer  
Allen Boettcher  
Jim & Martha  
Lisa Franz  
Greg  
Theresa Ullman  
Barb Rinderer  
Erwin  
Kenny  
Peyton  
Michelle Brown  
Aubrey & baby  
Jeff—Terri's brother-in-law  
Pandy Minor  
Emerald & gage  
Toby & baby  
Those in chronic pain, cancer and declining abilities  
Those who are lonely, grieving, homebound (shut-ins)  
All who are sick or in a hospital, nursing home, etc.

### Members & Friends at Home or Long Term Care Facilities:

Micki Kennedy  
John Metcalf  
Steve & Ellen Stein  
Joyce Beasley  
Glen Burkett  
Sam Wilkinson



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# April 2026

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1  CCBA Food Pantry 9a-12p/1p-4p	2 Maundy Thursday  7-Maundy Thursday Service at FCC	3 Good Friday  7-Good Friday Service at 1st United Methodist	4
5 Easter 8:45 Easter breakfast 9:30Worship Sanctuary 	6  4:30-Bells of Praise	7  11:30-Disciples Ladies lunch at Lantern Pub  5:30-Forever Bronze	8  CCBA Food Pantry 9a-12p/1p-4p	9	10	11
12 9:30Worship Sanctuary 10:15-Elders 1:30 Coin Club	13  4:30-Bells of Praise	14  5:30-Forever Bronze	15  CCBA Food Pantry 9a-12p/1p-4p	16	17	18
19 9:30Worship Sanctuary 10:45 Board Mtg.  6:30 Forever Bronze Handbell Concert 1st United Methodist Church Centralia	20  4:30-Bells of Praise	21  5:30-Forever Bronze	22  CCBA Food Pantry 9a-12p/1p-4p  <b>12-COURIER ARTICLES DUE</b>	23  6:30-Thyme to Garden	24	25
26 9:30Worship Sanctuary	27  4:30-Bells of Praise	29  5:30-Forever Bronze	29  CCBA Food Pantry 9a-12p/1p-4p	30		



# APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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## April Anniversaries

- 11 Dan & Heather Rinderer  
 25 Tom & Rhonda Lurkins  
 26 James & Lila Williams

## Youth Birthdays

- April 14 Alyza Rolf  
 17 Oscar Rinderer  
 18 Bryar Ohley  
 Meredith Wilkinson

## *April Birthdays*

- 4 Mary Kennedy  
 8 Hunter Lurkins  
 14 Jacob Brooks  
 15 Raelan Gold  
 23 Sam Wilkinson  
 25 Caroline Hargis  
 26 Craig Detering  
 28 Jim Beasley  
 30 Diana Bassett

## April Elders

- Communion Calling: Peggy Amason  
 5 Malinda Claybourn  
 12 Nona Scattergood  
 19 Clint Burgess  
 26 Margie Burgess

## April Liturgists

- 5 Clint Burgess  
 12 Sandy Rolf  
 19 Malinda Claybourn  
 26 Heather Rinderer

## April Deacons

- 5 Sherry Brooks & Debi Herrell  
 12 David Detering & Oscar Rinderer  
 19 Deb Packman & Vanessa Burgess  
 26 Gayla Gibson & Evia Stephenson

## April Greeters

- 5 Paul & Kathy Branch  
 12 Sherry Brooks & Debi Herrell  
 19 David Detering & Oscar Rinderer  
 26 Deb Packman & Vanessa Burgess

## April Coffee Fellowship Hosts

- 5 Easter Breakfast  
 12 Leslie Beasley  
 19  
 26

## April Sound Techs

- 5 David Detering  
 12 Beau McCormick  
 19 David Detering  
 26 Beau McCormick