

Christian Courier



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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. 4

April 27, 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

Hello, Disciples!


April has brought us many wonderful things: the Easter season and all its joyful celebrations of resurrection, a baptism into the family of God, more consistent warm weather, and the stirrings of change that come from new classes, fresh ideas, and a spirit of curiosity and imagination. As we move into May and its even warmer weather, we will continue to walk toward abundant life, asking, guessing, praying, and discerning what that might look like for us, our church, and our community.

Of course, we cannot properly talk about new life without acknowledging the tragedy of death. April also brought Centralia a mass shooting. In an era where we've numbed ourselves to the sting of gun violence, inundated as we are with story after story of them in the news, few things shock us more than for those stories to become our own reality. But even in the midst of grief and horror, even when it stands in stark contrast to what we see around us, the Church must continue to witness to our resurrection hope. Jesus is alive, and that changes everything. Nothing that hate or death have destroyed will remain unnoticed, untouched, or unaffected by the God who "so loved the world." So let us proclaim with our voices that resurrection power is still at work here. But more importantly, let us witness with our hands and feet that new, abundant life can grow even in the midst of tragedy. Get involved somewhere, anywhere where there are folks working to alleviate suffering and meet people's needs. With our senses attuned to the world around us, our hearts and minds attuned to the Gospel, in partnership with God's Spirit, we will see this Earth look more like heaven.

Blessings,

Pastor Adam

Mother's Day Recognition



On Sunday, May 10, we will honor mothers, grandmothers, mother figures and all women who continue to be a significant influence in our church family. All women in attendance will receive a gift from the church. We will have a special fellowship time after worship. Invite the significant women in your life.

Bible Study—Wednesday Evenings

Every Wednesday at 6:00pm, we explore the Bible! Using several perspectives, we'll learn about how people of faith read, engage, and apply the words of scripture. Each week, Pastor Adam will teach about a new aspect to approach scripture. Together we will test the approaches and discuss how the way we read the Bible translates to how we live the life of faith.

Sunday School Starting in May Sunday Mornings—10:45am

During the board meeting, Pastor Adam presented a plan for an adult Sunday school class (youth are also welcome) on the book of Acts. **Starting on May 17**, we will gather at 10:45, after some coffee and fellowship, studying Acts for Everyone by legendary New Testament scholar, N.T. Wright. This study will take us chapter by chapter through the book of Acts, in concert with morning worship, where we will also be diving into Acts and the accounts of the early church.

National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 7—1:00pm First Presbyterian Church 102 South Hickory Centralia

The Happiness & Light Adult Sunday school class of First Presbyterian Church would like to invite and encourage you to attend the National Day of Prayer commemoration in the sanctuary of our church.

The theme for National Day of Prayer is *Glorify God Seeking Him in all Generations*. This theme is based on 1 Chronicles 16:24. We as Christian have the ability and responsibility to be a source of HOPE in a world that sometimes seems to be overcome by darkness.

This year, the National Day of Prayer is being held in conjunction with the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. This makes it even more special. Please join us on May 7.

**Worship in Fellowship Hall
Worship with Flavor!
Sunday, May 3
Breakfast 9:15 a.m. / Worship 9:30 a.m.**

Disciples Ladies Lunch—May 5

Please mark your calendar for *Tuesday, May 5*. We will meet at the Locust Street Pub in Centralia for lunch at 11:30. I have been informed that the food is good and prices are reasonable! All ladies are welcome. Join us for a new experience. See you there! Contact Dottie for more information.

June Courier Deadline—May 20

Deadline for the **June Courier** is **Wednesday, May 20**. 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** to be included in the Courier.

Outreach News

~ We donated \$250 again this year to the Dreams Come True prom for individuals with special needs. Our church logo will be on the back of the t-shirt that attendees received in their swag bag. The event, held at Castle Ridge, is expected to include over 400 attendees, support staff and volunteers.

~ Outreach replenished the gift cards for individuals/families in need. Gift cards include \$50 Aldi's cards and \$25 Casey's gas cards.

~ The next laundry assistance date has been set for July 8, from 9:00-11:30am, at Westside Laundry on Broadway.

~ Outreach donated \$100 as a t-shirt sponsor to the Centralia Community Youth Center, for their summer program.

~ Outreach will distribute 20 baby bottles for the Pregnancy Care Clinic annual fundraiser. Bottles will be distributed on Mother's Day (May 10) and will be collected on Father's Day (June 21). Additional information and details will be handed out with the bottles.

Prayer Requests

Joys & Thanksgiving

Children and grandchildren are here with me
Chloe Ann
Ellen in church
Ivan being baptized
Family in church today
Alyza in church and lit candles
Seeing my sister
Beautiful season
Ivan's baptism
This faith family
Camp Walter Scott
Church camp for kids
Married for 17 years
Gotten a handle on my depression
My church friends
Celebrating Oscar's 16th birthday
Potential new job
Evia travel
Great family & friends
Sunshine
Birthdays
Beautiful flowers

Guidance & Vision

Mary Auxier family
My mental health
Our church
Safe travels
Those not in church
Caregivers—all those caring for others
All in war zones, growing conflicts around the world

Health & Healing Concerns

Virgilia Detering
Micki Kennedy
Suzy Grubb
Terri Rogers
Glen Burkett
Sam Wilkinson
Lora Timmons
Steve & Ellen Stein
Sandy Rolf
John Metcalf & Sharon Smith
Sandy Wehking
Tom & Judy Tyndall
Cooper Loll
Maria Valencia's grandbaby girl
Greg
Ron Marshall
Beasley family
Jeannie Winegarner
Jazzy
Khaeli Neff
My anxiety
Mary & Jim
Joyce
Kathleen
Kelsey
Roy Steinkamp
Allen Boettcher
Jim & Martha
Lisa Franz
Greg
Theresa Ullman
Barb Rinderer
Erwin
Kenny
Steve Bradley, Sr.
Tim Durham
Gerald White
Aubrey & baby
My students
My boss
Marlin Starr
Jeff—Terri's brother-in-law
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



~ All of us at Loaves for Love wish to thank your Parishioners for their kind donation of fruit cups. Our clients express their appreciation. Thank you, Kym Brown

**Board Meeting—Monday, May 18
6 pm**

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.

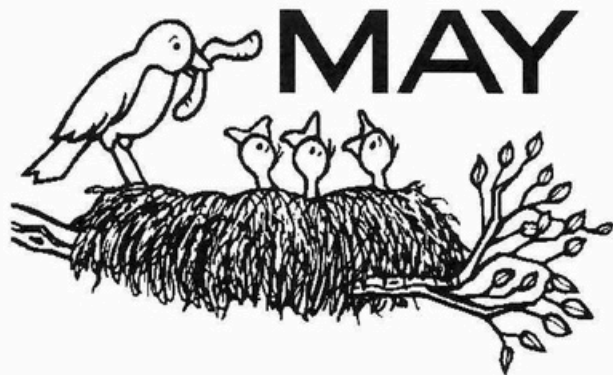


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May 2026

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 9:30 Worship w/ Flavor Fellowship Hall	4 4:30-Bells of Praise	5 11:30-Disciples Ladies lunch at <i>Locust Street Pub in Centralia</i>	6 CCBA Food Pantry 9a-12p/1p-4p 6 Bible Study	7 5:30 Prayer time in the chapel	8	9
<i>10 Mother's Day</i> <i>Baby Bottle Campaign</i> <i>Pregnancy Care Clinic</i> 9:30 Worship 10:15-Elders 1:30-Coin Club in FH	11 4:30-Bells of Praise	12	13 CCBA Food Pantry 9a-12p/1p-4p 6 Bible Study	14	15	16
17 8:30-Outreach Mtg. 9:30Worship 10:45 All Church Sunday School	18 4:30-Bells of Praise 6-Board Meeting	19	20 CCBA Food Pantry 9a-12p/1p-4p 12-Courier Articles Due in Office 6 Bible Study	21	22	23
<i>24 Pentecost Sunday</i> 9:30Worship 10:45 All Church Sunday School 31 9:30 Worship 10:45All Church Sunday School	25 Memorial Day Office Closed	26	27 CCBA Food Pantry 9a-12p/1p-4p 6 Bible Study	28 6:30-Thyme to Garden Club	29	30



May	6	Sharon Smith	18	Eric Wilkinson
	9	Penny Brooks	19	Bob Gansauer
	10	Scott Whittenburg		Sue McClain
	11	Lindsey Miller	21	Barbara Simmons
		Cary Hatfield		Emma Caldwell
	12	Alexandra Brooks	24	Scott Roberts
	15	Brian Huff	25	Sandra Davis
	16	Rhonda Lurkins	26	Elizabeth Hopkins
		Adam Rolf	28	Zack Keller



Youth Birthdays

May 30 Breanna Davis

Anniversaries

May 1 Mike & Vicki Edwards
 4 Bill & Jeanne Ann Sprehe
 20 David & Angie Campbell

May Elders

Communion Calling: Malinda Claybourn
 3 Heather Rinderer
 10 Peggy Amason
 17 Malinda Claybourn
 24 Nina Scattergood
 31 Clint Burgess

May Liturgists

3 Peggy Amason
 10 Deb Packman
 17 Vanessa Burgess
 24 Margie Burgess
 31 Paul Branch

May Deacons

3 Jaiden Detering & Mitchell Miller
 10 Sherry Brooks & Debi Herrell
 17 David Detering & Oscar Rinderer
 24 Deb Packman & Vanessa Burgess
 31 Gayla Gibson & Evia Stephenson

May Greeters

3 Gayla Gibson & Evia Stephenson
 10 Mitchell Miller & Jaiden Detering
 17 Sherry Brooks & Debi Herrell
 24 David Detering & Oscar Rinderer
 31 Deb Packman & Vanessa Burgess

May Coffee Fellowship Hosts

3 Worship with Flavor
 10
 17
 24
 31

May Sound Engineers

3 Fellowship Hall
 10 Beau McCormick
 17 David Detering
 24 Beau McCormick
 31 David Detering