



RE:FCC

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
JANUARY 2018**

I AM A CHURCH MEMBER

Based on our research of 557 churches from 2004 to 2010, nine out of ten churches in America are declining or growing at a pace that is slower than that of their communities. Simply stated, churches are losing ground in their own backyards.

Another way of looking at it is generationally. About two-thirds of the Builder generation, those born before 1946 are Christians. But only 15% of the Millennials are Christians. The Millennials are the largest generation in America's history with almost 80,000,000 members. They were born between 1980 and 2000.

And we have all but lost that generation.

We can blame it on the secular culture. And we often do.

We can blame on the godless politics of our nation. We do that as well.

We can even blame it on the churches, the hypocritical members, and the uncaring pastors. Lots of Christians do that.

But, could it be that congregations across America are weak because many church members have lost the biblical understanding of what it means to be a part of the body of Christ. Do we need to look in the mirror?

Those statistics? They can change. Starting with us. Beginning now.

On January 14, 2018, join us as we begin a journey of discovering or rediscovering the privilege and the joy of church membership. During our services, our sermons will focus on what church membership really is. Our LifeGroups will then take what was taught and discuss how that looks as we live it out here, in Fairfield, Illinois. There are six steps to take carefully and prayerfully and, at the end of each step, we hope you'll be willing to make a commitment, a real commitment to our congregation.

When this journey is over for you, two things will likely take place. First, you should have a new or renewed attitude about your church. You will learn the joy of being last instead of seeking to be first. Instead of being a whiner complaining about what's wrong with your church, you will be a unifier seeking what's best for your church.

Second, our church will begin to change. It will become healthier because one of its members is healthier. And as the church gets healthier, it will have a great impact on its community and the world.

I am a church member.

Well, 2017 is over and we stand at the beginning of 2018. This time of year usually calls for us to do a life check. We consider the past year with all of its decisions and happenings and then turn and look forward with plans for our future. It's a time for us to reflect on everything from regrets and how much we weigh, to plans, and dreams. We consider things that have to be done and things that we hope can be accomplished. We also take the time to think about our priorities in life.

I want to take a moment and challenge you to consider your priorities. There are only so many hours in a day and how we spend those hours is one of the most important decisions we will make. In life, there are a lot of good things and important things that will vie for our time. How we assess what will be a part of our life probably shouldn't be done by default. It should be done intentionally, considering what will produce the greatest rewards and what is the most important. Our kids sang a song during their musical last Sunday night that said "keep the main thing the main thing". I think at times in life we miss the forest for the trees.

So many of us, me included, have, at times, put some thing in front of some one. What is our highest priority? We would probably respond with the people in our lives. My guess is, our top priorities would be relationships between family and friends. And those should be among the priorities that we have and hold, but not the highest. Some of the things that we spend most of our time on are things that only last for a season of life or maybe for our lifetime. I believe that our highest priority should be those things that last for eternity.

I believe eternal things should receive our highest priority as we start 2018. I also know that we have an enemy who wants to push the things of eternity out of the way for "things that are more important". I would like to challenge you to consider how much time you spend on things that last for a season or a lifetime, and how much time you spend on things that last for eternity. How much time do we spend with our families or around the table with our friends speaking and teaching about eternal things? Jesus said it like this; "What good is it for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?" (Matthew 16:26) How about our kids? We teach them many good things and important things but not about the most important priority. Jesus also challenges us that our earthly relationships should be secondary to our relationship with God. In Luke 14:26 Jesus says "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters – yes, even his own life – he cannot be my disciple".

Jesus wants us to consider our priorities. I believe that one of Satan's greatest tools is busyness with things that are good. Satan takes things that are good and what we consider important and makes them appear to be a higher priority than the things that are eternal. Those things begin to squeeze out the time that we spend on eternal things. Eventually, good and important things have encompassed every corner of our lives.

Let me come at this a different way. Scripture teaches us that our relationship with Jesus Christ is ultimately the highest priority. How much time, effort, energy, and money did we spend in 2017 on the relationship that is the highest priority of our life? How much time did we spend teaching our children that this is the highest priority? Truthfully, that is a sobering question for me. It takes time to build and maintain a relationship with Jesus Christ. It cannot be done flippantly or quickly. Real relationships are not like a tweet or a Facebook post, they take time. There is a passage of Scripture in Matthew that challenges us specifically to have a relationship with Jesus. "Many will say on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'" (Matthew 7: 22 – 23)

"I never knew you" Jesus said to many people who were doing a lot of good things. Having a relationship with Jesus Christ needs to become our highest priority in 2018. I hope that you will make decisions that intentionally develop a relationship with Jesus Christ. That relationship will bring blessings for all eternity. Paul stated it this way in 1st Timothy 4:8; "for physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come". Let us together strive for godliness and knowing Jesus Christ more every day in 2018.

Your brother in Christ,

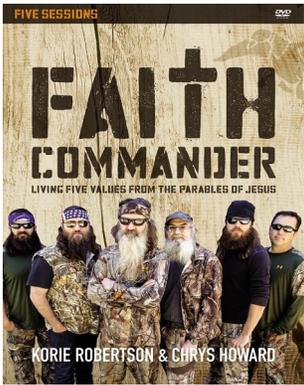
Craig



FAMILY NIGHT a night where there's something for everyone!

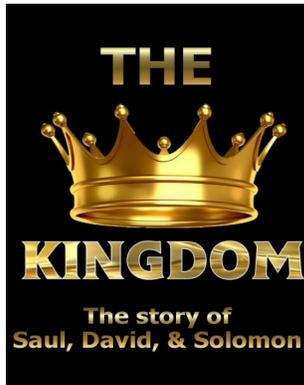
Wednesday nights: Family style meal @ 5:45, Classes start @ 6:30

STARTING JANUARY 3



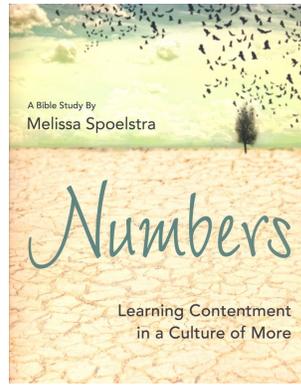
**Faith Commander:
Men Only
Cam Simpson**

Join the Robertson men of the hit television show, Duck Dynasty, as they tell stories and discuss some of the Bible's most-loved parables.



**The Kingdom
Craig Scott**

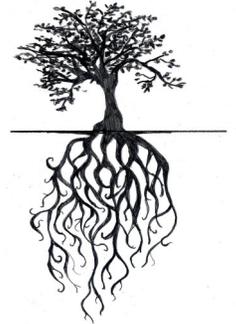
The Kingdom covers an intriguing period of Old Testament history. It begins with Israel wanting a king like all the other nations, and concludes with the death of Solomon, Israel's third king. As we trace the lives of Samuel, Saul, David and Solomon, we learn how to handle our own crises and how to serve the Lord.



**Numbers:
Ladies Only
Debbie Legg**

By exploring Numbers we can learn contentment while being authentic about the difficulties of life, recognize the relationship between complaining and worry, and discover how to realign with God's character and promises.

Our Roots Run Deep
A History of the Restoration Movement and our church



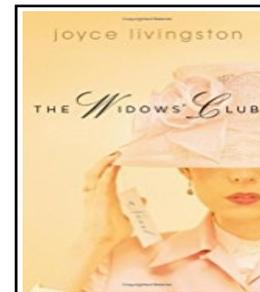
**Our Roots Run Deep
Jeff Lyon**

Through writings of men like Barton Stone and the Campbell brothers, and the slogans of the period, we learn, not only the history of our movement, but discover more about our beliefs and traditions.



*NO EVENING SERVICES:
DECEMBER 31*

**OFFICE CLOSED
Monday, JANUARY 1**



**LADIES BOOK
CLUB
THURSDAY
JANUARY 4
6:00 PM
CHURCH LIBRARY**

**ANNUAL
MEETING**
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 @ 6:00 PM

**MINISTRY LEADERS MEETING
JANUARY 29 6-8 PM
EAST BASEMENT**
Ministry Leaders, we are requesting your attendance for a meeting (meal included) to review information ahead of the upcoming Ministry Fair.



January 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 	2	3 5:45 pm Family Night	4 6:00 pm Ladies Book Club	5 9:00 am Bulletin 6:30 pm-8:00 am Grades 4 - 6 Lock-In	6 2:00-4:00 pm E Basement in use 8:00 am pick up from Grades 4 - 6 Lock-In
7 4:30 pm Elder's Meeting 6:00 pm Business Meeting / Elders Affirmation	8	9 11:05 am Taco Tuesday	10 5:45 pm Family Night	11 5:00 pm Ladies Quilting	12 8:00 am Volunteers to WVC 9:00 am Bulletin H.S. Ski Trip	13 E Basement in use
14 LifeGroups begin	15 H.S. returns	16 11:05 Taco Tuesday	17 5:45 pm Family Night	18	19 9:00 am Bulletin Grades 1-5 "Escape"	20
21 Blood Pressure Readings 4:30 pm Mission Meeting	22 5:30 pm East basement in use	23 11:05 Taco Tuesday	24 5:45 pm Family Night	25 5:00 pm Ladies Quilting	26 9:00 am Bulletin	27
28 11:30 - 1:30 H.S. Haiti Fundraiser	29 6:00-8:00 pm Ministry Leaders meeting	30 11:05 Taco Tuesday	31 5:45 pm Family Night			

Elder & Deacon Schedule

8:00	Max Dee Green	1 - Chuck Coget	2 - Jim Gruner	3 - Rick Doty	4 - Bruce Reeves
10:15	Max Dee Green	1 - Doug Aman 5 - Jim Meritt 9 - Alan Kemp	2 - Ryan Duckworth 6 - Steve Bruce 10 - Bob Hall	3 - Carl Hayes 7 - Herb Fenton 11 - Doyle Hucker	4 - Jess Duckworth 8 - Steve Long 12 - Jerry Carter
Jr. Worship	Phil Hall	Dennis Mitchell			
Hospital	Joe Holman	Dan Coomer			
Homes	Steve Liston	John Basnett			

November 2017

Fund	Beginning Balance	Income	Expense	Ending Balance
01 General	\$167,389	47,006	52,174	\$162,221
02 Mission	\$66,453	22,057	25,886	\$62,624
Totals	\$233,842	\$69,063	\$78,060	\$224,845

Average Attendance

December 2017

Sunday School	153
Morning Worship	315
Evening Worship	176

NURSERY SCHEDULE				
	8:00	9:00	10:00	6:00
Week 1				
0-1 year	Matta Gray Volunteer Needed	Cristy Pearce Barbara Bozarth	Amy & Ryan Duckworth,	Young Married Small Group
1-2 years		Jodi Poole	Cam & Melissa Simpson	
2-3 years		Carol Jackson & Sonja Hall	Jeff & Tara Billington	
Week 2				
0-1 year	Toby Hucker Volunteer Needed	Frances Carter Volunteer Needed	Stephen & Terry Prizer	Terri Shreve
1-2 years		Jodi Poole	Kelly Basnett	
2-3 years		Carol Jackson & Sonja Hall	Jeremy & Hillary Vaughan	
Week 3				
0-1 year	Drew Vaupel Volunteer Needed	Pam Holman Sonja Hall	Jackie & Cindy Gre pares	Sonja Hall Julie Aman
1-2 years		Jodi Poole	Jodi & McKenna Poole	
2-3 years		Carol Jackson & Sonja Hall	Volunteer Needed	
Week 4				
0-1 year	Carol Jackson Toby Hucker	Connie Mitchell Shirley Miller	Judy Griswold Volunteer Needed	Connie Reid Jean Duckworth
1-2 years		Jodi Poole	Cheryl Basnett Lori Kovacich	
2-3 years		Carol Jackson & Sonja Hall	Bob & Dena Hall	

Communion
Bruce & Linda Reeves Gary & Mary Gain

Baptism
Clinton & Debbie Legg Doug & Julie Aman

Junior Church
<u>Pre-K – 5yrs</u> Ruby Green Linda Reeves Jennifer Barbre

Child Check-in Assistants
Foyer 9 & 10 am Shirley Miller Callie Carter

Nursery Laundry
Melissa Simpson

Chair Team
Bruce Reeves

Bus Driver
Steven Bruce

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

If your birthday is not listed please call the office with month, day & year of birth so we can update our records

January 1 Darlene Bruce	January 9 Wilma Aman Steve Bruce	January 14 Lydia Griffith	January 19 Kylee Dawkins Dale Trimmer	January 28 Rhiannon Basnett Steve Long
January 2 Callista Willett	Carrie Halbert Sherrye Tullis	January 15 Kathryn Curd	January 21 Ashli Legg	January 29 Bob Hall Amanda Kakac
January 3 Shirley Dalton	Howard Wood	January 16 Amanda Meriwether	January 23 Savanna Neuman	January 30 David Boldt Nikki Carter Cade Carter Callie Carter
January 4 Samantha Coomer Cindy Grimes	January 11 Mildred Gain	January 17 Kay Baker Pam Kemp James Musgrave	January 24 Donna Bliss Kathy Grimmer Debbie Kinney	
January 5 Claire Koker	January 12 Kim Heisner	January 18 Braelynn Hall Doyle Hucker Kevin Kakac		
January 6 Jessica Rinard	January 13 Reagan Basnett Nicole Schoenborn Billy Simpson			



Looking for a fun way to spend Friday night? We've got the perfect thing for you! Friday, January 5 we will be having a Lock-In for all kids from 4th-6th Grade! It will be a night packed with games, movies, music, food, fun, and fellowship! The last day to register is Wednesday, January 3! Be sure to invite your friends! You can register online at <http://bit.ly/2ytJXzy>. Cost is \$5 per person.

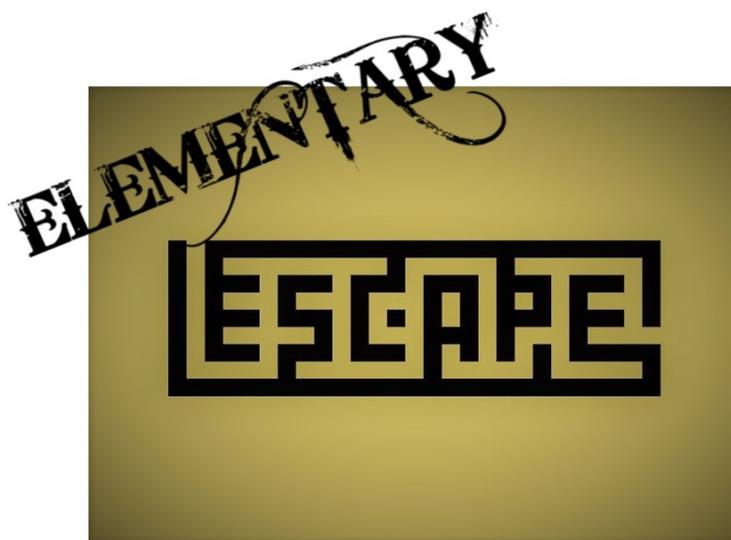
Date: January 5 & 6
Time: 6:30 pm-8:00 am

2017 is over and 2018 is here and that's hard to believe. 2017 saw some big changes and some awesome growth, but I know that God is going to use 2018 to help us grow closer to Him in some mighty and awesome ways! In January, we start talking about what it means to be a church member, and in the children's ministry we want you to know what that means for your kids! There are some awesome ways that your kids can get involved at church and grow closer to God.

January 7th we are kicking off the "Bible Reading Challenge." This 6 month challenge is a guided booklet that will help kids learn how to read the Bible and the importance of it. For every part of the challenge they complete (including family reading, memorization, and personal readings) they will get points, and the person with the most points at the end of the challenge will win a trip for their family to a Cardinals game! There is one reading per week. The hope of this challenge is to help kid's fall in love with reading the Bible and know God more deeply.

Also, this year we are providing more spots for your kids to learn to serve. We know that service is a learned trait and believe that we can help provide the opportunity to learn it. We will take more service trips this year to local spots, and help the children understand the importance of service as Christians. Also, the kids in third grade and up have the opportunity to be a part of a children's worship team and lead worship for the other kids Sunday mornings at 10:15. We believe that kids are a part of the Church and that learning to serve from such a young age will have a tremendous impact on their eternity! We are excited to watch the kids grow as the learn to serve God alongside their families, at Church, and learn to give God glory.

Something was stolen from you, will you be able to get it back? Elementary Escape is a night of games and challenges to figure out what's been taken from us! The only way to get it back is by working together and completing all of the challenges! What was taken and why does it matter? You'll have to come January 19 from 6:00-8:00 and see! Elementary Escape is jam packed with fun and games for all kids from 1st-5th grade and is free to attend. It will be an unforgettable night that will bring the Bible to life. Register by January 17th so we know that you're coming. See you there!





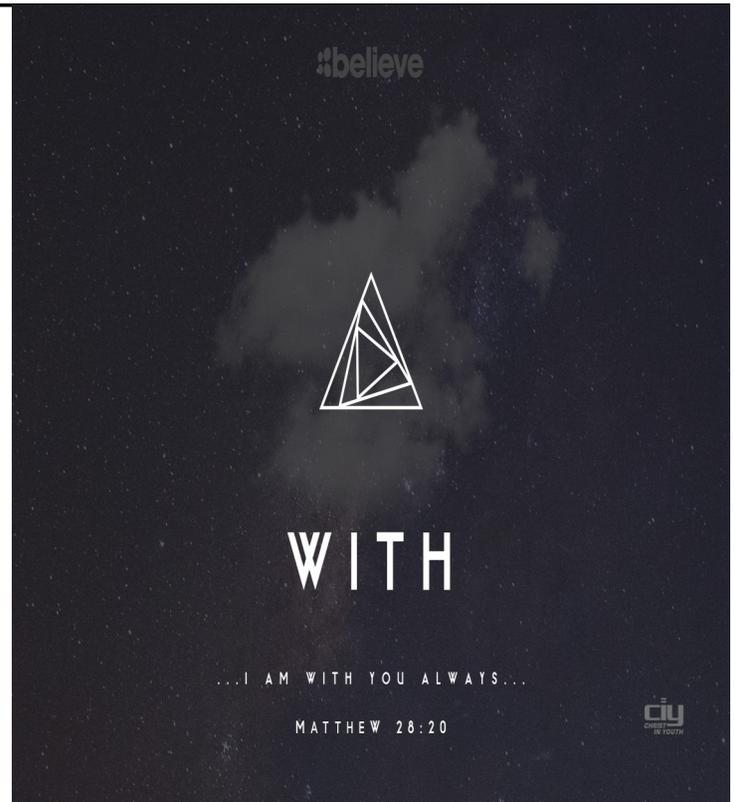
YOUTH HAITI FUNDRAISER
JANUARY 28
11:30 - 1:30
EAST BASEMENT

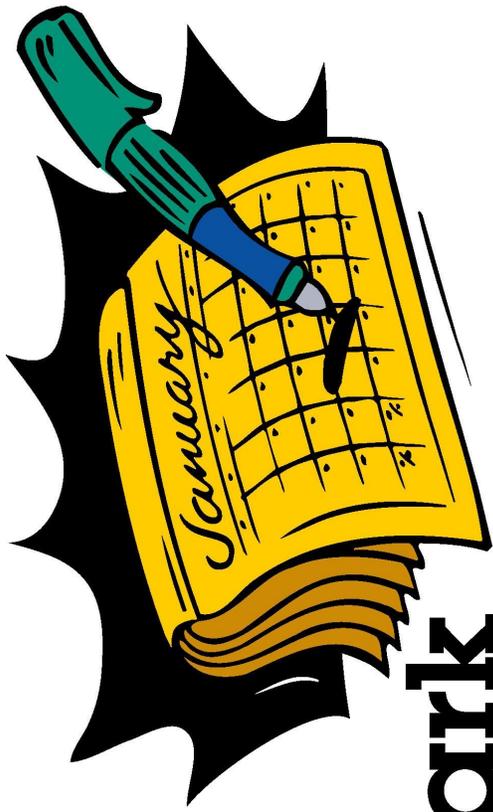
I am excited for our next fundraiser. Our team is going to be serving a meal in the East Basement on January 28. After the 10:15 service, come relax and enjoy a home cooked meal prepared by our team. We will be serving beef manhattans with homemade coleslaw and dessert. We will also pair the meal with a silent auction for your bidding pleasure. The meal is donation based and all proceeds go to send our students to Haiti to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

It is hard to imagine but Believe is just around the corner and I cannot wait! Just in case you have never heard of Believe, it is an action packed weekend of worship, teaching and games specifically tailored for junior high students. This entire weekend takes place in a large auditorium where they will worship with thousands of students their age.

This year the theme will focus on our relationship WITH Jesus. Students will be able to learn how real life comes from a right relationship with Jesus Christ. Through that relationship, the bonds of anxiety, depression, loneliness, rejection and abandonment are broken. This conference will provide small group time for them to process all that they are learning. Your child will come away with a better understanding of what it means to follow Christ and how to have a full relationship with Him.

Believe will be held in Springfield, IL on March 2-3. It is only \$39 to go if you sign up by Jan. 31. Talk to your teen today so we can make room for them on this incredible weekend. Believe is always a weekend our students remember and look forward to! If you have any questions, you can contact me at (618) 842-4311 or jake@fccfairfield.com





Mark Your Calendar!

- 1.01 Office Closed
 - 1.03 Family Night begins
 - 1.04 Ladies Book Club
 - 1.05 Grades 4-6 Lock-In
 - 1.07 Elder's Meeting
Annual Business Meeting
 - 1.12 Volunteers To Wabash Christian Village
High School Ski Trip
 - 1.14 LifeGroups Begin
 - 1.19 Grades 1-5 "Escape"
 - 1.21 Blood Pressure Readings
Mission Meeting
 - 1.28 Youth Haiti Fundraiser
- Prepare bulletins every Friday at 8:30 am
Taco every Tuesday - H.S. lunch hours
Ladies Quilting - 2nd & 4th Thursdays

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
100 W. CENTER ST.
FAIRFIELD, IL 62837

618-842-4311
WWW.FCCFAIRFIELD.COM

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

US POSTAGE
PAID
FAIRFIELD IL
PERMIT NO. 25
NON-PROFIT ORG
BULKMAIL