

THE DISCIPLE

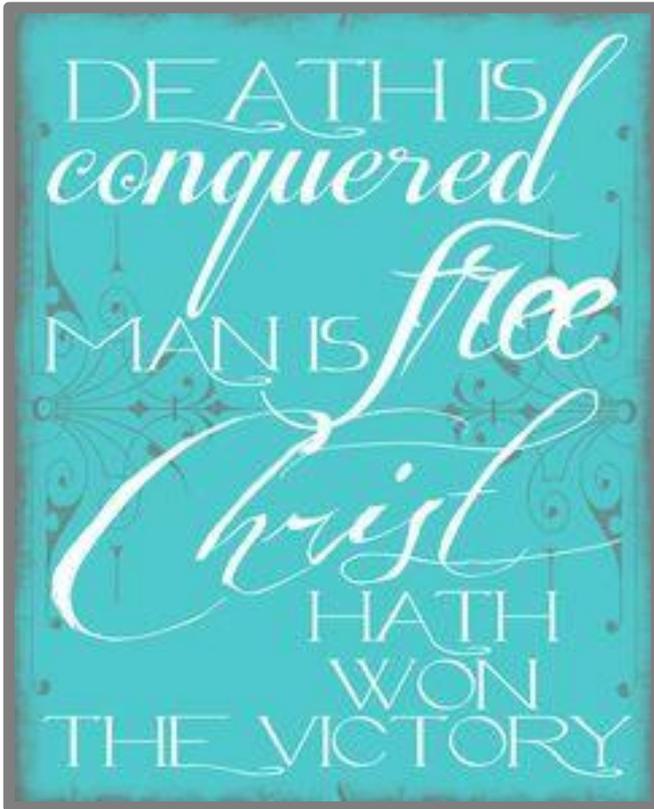


First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
801 63rd St., Downers Grove, IL 60516
630-968-7818 Fax: 630-968-6384
Email: firstccdg@gmail.com Web: fccdg.org

April 2019

Rev. Rick Hamilton, Minister

Carol Clifford, Editor



*“Called to be the presence of
Christ in our community”*



April is a great month to focus on your Spiritual Journey. While it is possible for Easter to fall in March, it is incredibly rare. Easter usually falls in April, this year, the third Sunday in April. School spring breaks have come and gone, and then the focus can be on Holy Week and its lead up (well, and baseball season will start, but that's a minor distraction).

Holy Week is a chance to once again tell the whole story of glory and honor to God not only for the recognition of the Messiah, but also His suffering for the wages of Sin and Death; and of course His triumph and victory. Holy Week is a great time to not just hear the story but feel the feelings.

If you asked me: "Rick, what is the one thing I don't want to miss during April?" I would not answer the season opener between the Cubs and the Rangers. I would say without hesitation Maundy Thursday. As I wrote last month, this year it will be a little different from the last few, but I think you are going to have a really good experience.

So please make your Spiritual Journey a priority this month. Walk where Jesus walked. Set a goal to be in church EVERY Sunday during April (even that one AFTER Easter). And whatever you do, don't miss the opportunity to celebrate Holy Week. I look forward to seeing YOU around our Lord's Table,

Rick



“The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt within the heart.”
Helen Keller

REFLECTIONS AND IDEAS



Jim and I just returned from a wonderful and relaxing vacation filled with warm weather and sunshine. Spring is here on the calendar, but I believe we are ready to see more of the signs of spring in our area which would include the flowers and warmer temperatures. We could definitely see more buds and flowers to the south of us so we know that spring will soon come here.

God certainly designed a wondrous earth! It is awe inspiring to see the changes that take place every year.

Going into Easter the meaning of Christ's resurrection is a truth upon which we have built the fundamental values of our lives. Following the teachings of Jesus and living a Christian life means so much to so many. The golden rule of doing unto others should be a steady influence in our lives.

Enjoy the changes we will be seeing as spring continues to bloom around us and continue to try to live as Jesus taught us.

Hope to see you all in church!

Your Chairman, Joy Claffey



NO APRIL LUNCH BUNCH



With Easter falling on the 3rd Sunday of April we will not have lunch bunch this month.

Lunch bunch will resume next month.

So, mark your calendar for May 19th and watch for the sign-up sheet.

CARDS, CARDS, CARDS...



Besides sending birthday and anniversary cards, I am also sending get well, thinking of you, congratulations, wedding, baby, and sympathy cards to our members or their families. In order to do this, I need your help in letting me know when there is someone in our church family who needs to receive one of those cards.

Ways to get this information to me:

- *Tell me in person
- *call me at (630) 369-9378 (leave a message if I don't answer)
- *email me at bdean443@gmail.com
- *leave a note in my church mailbox

Thank you for your help.

Bobbie Dean
Recording Secretary



The Naperville Men's Glee Club presents Voices of Hope - a choir united with hope.



Sunday, April 28, 2019 - 3:00 pm

**Wentz Concert Hall,
North Central College, Naperville**

As in the past, we invite men and women touched by cancer in some way, whether as a survivor, patient, caregiver, or family member, to join us in song and experience the healing benefits of music in a communal endeavor.

Tickets at www.napervillemensgleeclub.org questions, see Marve

PROPERTY REPORT

COM ED ELECTRIC BILL – CHURCH

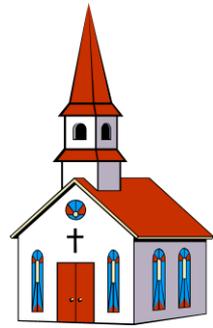
1/24 to 2/22/19 \$210.79

NI-COR GAS BILL – CHURCH

1/29 TO 2/27/19 \$415.24

NI-COR GAS BILL – ANNEX

1/29 TO 2/28/19 \$159.16



We were billed for two snow plowings in February bringing the total as of 03/17/19 to seven snow plowings (total 29 inches of snow).

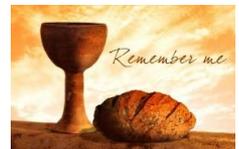
Bill Martina and his son-in-law installed the new LED light bulbs in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall on March 1, 2019.

The Downers Grove Fire Prevention Bureau performed their annual inspection on March 12, 2019. There were no violations.

Cintas will be inspecting our fire extinguishers and exit lights in April



Maundy Thursday



Our Maundy Thursday Agape dinner and worship service will be held at 6:30 pm on April 18th.

Setup will take place on Wed. evening, April 17th at 6 pm.

Feed the Body and Soul will not be held that evening, but the choir will rehearse following the Agape dinner setup.



Christian Education

The One with the Lord (OWL) group (Kindergarten – 5th grade) is taking a break from Jesus' wonderful miracles for our Lenten study through Easter. We are studying Lent and the Stations of the Cross summarized into 4 types of steps. The OWLs are also looking at how to please God during Lent with our Cross Chain. The middle school group is keeping Rev. Rick on his toes as they continue studying his sermon with Tammy and Angela, and then discussing it the following Sunday.

For Lent, we are also planning on our usual Palm processional with the children for Palm Sunday. We hope all the children can join us! Easter will also bring our Easter Egg hunt hosted by Tammy and Angela Reese, and Sue Huizinga.

Adult Sunday school is taking a break from our "Jesus and the Gospels" study for a Lenten study of the important people associated with the passion story. Amy Jill Levine is providing information on a different person each week. Please join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 am to take a closer look at Jesus last days.

Feed the Body and Soul is also working on a Lenten study led by Reverend Rick Hamilton. He is presenting a study on the Stages of the Cross. This includes the biblical account and also the beliefs within the Catholic Stages of the Cross. Join us Wednesday night at 6:00 pm for this important study and also enjoy a light dinner and great fellowship. A sign-up sheet for dinners is in Fellowship Hall.

The Nursery needs volunteers! The little ones are enjoying our play area, but sometimes need the nursery during Sunday school. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall, if you can help!

Karen, Beth, Gail, Anka, Alice, Tammy and Angela



Join Us for Monday Intercessory Prayer (MIP)!

Prayers are being answered! Please join us Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary or dial in to join us from the comforts of your own home!

The **conference-calling** feature makes it easy to join from anywhere you are. Dial in to join us for the entire session or just to ask for your own prayer concerns. We welcome all prayer concerns!

We document our prayer concerns each week and if you provide us with your email we can send a copy to you each week.

Join us for a spiritually-enriching hour with God! You are free to join in silently or add prayers as you like!

Our Monday night sessions include:

- A brief gathering of any additional prayers and prayer priorities
- A prayer devotion
- Prayers for our joys and concerns:
 - Personal
 - Church
 - Community
 - Country
 - World
- A brief closing prayer

To Join by Conference Call:

1. Call (641) 552-9242
2. Enter the access code: 390193

For more information email Karen Johns:

johns.karen@gmail.com

TENTH ANNUAL WOMEN'S TEA



Hard to believe we are celebrating the tenth anniversary of our Women's Tea. To help us celebrate, we have invited Leslie Goddard to present a living history portrayal of Louisa May Alcott. Miss Alcott will be sharing stories of her

poverty-filled childhood, her struggles to succeed as a writer and how her novel *Little Women* came to be published 151 years ago (she had the 150th anniversary of the publication last year).



Tickets are \$15 each and go on sale Sunday, **March 31**. With a seating capacity of 100, tickets will go quickly. Mark the ticket sale date and the event date on your calendar and invite your friends.

This year we will not be asking for donations of empty gift baskets as we have an ample supply. However, items are needed to fill those baskets – movies, bath and/or relaxation items, books, or perhaps you might like to create a theme basket. Theme ideas might include *Little Women*, Italian, French, high tea, etc. Sue Huizinga will again employ her creative/decorating skills to create gift baskets filled with your donated items. Sue has asked that all donations be brought in no later than **Sunday, April 7**.

Volunteers are what make our teas successful. We need volunteers for the following jobs: **Assistance needed for Set-Up Thurs, May 2 at 4 p.m., Coordinator of Tea Food donations-set-up morning of the Tea and, of course, our all-important WAITERS.**

Over the years, proceeds from each successful tea ticket sales and gift basket raffle has greatly supported our Back To School Fair which will also be celebrating a 10th anniversary.

Did you know...?

By: Bobbie Dean



National identity for Bosnians inextricably tied to ethnic and religious identity. The majority of Bosnians are Muslim, and their culture bears many traces of the Turkish civilization that predominated in the region for centuries. Bosnian Muslims tend to identify themselves in opposition to Serbia and its long-standing domination of the region. Bosnian Serbs, who are primarily Eastern Orthodox and share a culture with their Serb neighbors to the south, identify less as Bosnians and primarily as Serbs. Croats, who are mostly Roman Catholic, distinguish themselves from both Serbs and Bosnians. Before the civil war forced them into separate camps, all three groups also identified strongly as Bosnians. The entire Balkan region had historically been called the powder keg of Europe because of volatile relations both among local groups and with outside forces. Bosnia, however, has a long history of relatively peaceful coexistence among its three main ethnic groups. Before the 1990s, intermarriage was common, as were mixed communities. When Milosevic rose to power in Yugoslavia in 1991, his extremist politics stirred latent distrust among the ethnic groups. When Bosnia declared independence in 1992, his government began a campaign of "ethnic cleansing" that has left millions dead, wounded, or homeless. While it is the Serbs, with the backing of Milosevic, who have been responsible for most of the atrocities, Croats also have persecuted Bosnian Muslims.



Because of Easter

"The joyful news that [Christ] is risen does not change the contemporary world. Still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice. But the fact of Easter gives us the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline and make the sacrifice."

-Henry Knox Sherrill-

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY...



This is your gentle reminder that one time in the Bible Elijah was like “God, I’m so mad! I want to die!”

So God said “Here’s some food. Why don’t you have a nap?”

So Elijah slept, ate, and decided things weren’t so bad.

Never underestimate the spiritual power of a nap and a snack.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday



Apr. 2	Joy Claffey
Apr. 5	Rawl Thurman
Apr. 5	Megan Sullivan
Apr. 5	Patrick Sullivan
Apr. 26	Richard Sladek
Apr. 26	Ethel Hayes

SERVING SCHEDULE



ELDERS Bread /Cup

Apr. 7	Karen Johns	Barb Bates
Apr. 14	Bob Reese	Daphne Hayes
Apr. 21	Sue Huizinga	Joy Claffey
Apr. 28	Becky Daigle	Martha Anderson

DEACONS Prep and Serve Serve

Apr. 7	Galilee Flores	Dan Johns
Apr. 14	Gail Reese	Don Peterson, Suellen Cook, Marve Huizinga
Apr. 21	Sandy Allen	Mac Flores, Jim Claffey, Galilee Flores
Apr. 28	Ron Smith	Dan Johns, Jeff Igel, Mac Flores

POWER POINT

Apr. 7	Marve Huizinga
Apr. 14	Don Peterson
Apr. 21	Barb Bates
Apr. 28	Dan Johns

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Apr. 7	
Apr. 14	
Apr. 21	
Apr. 28	

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Apr. 7	Beth Smith, Angela Reese, Tammy Reese
Apr. 14	Gail Reese, Angela Reese, Tammy Reese
Apr. 21	Karen Johns, Angela Reese, Tammy Reese
Apr. 28	Beth Smith, Angela Reese, Tammy Reese

COUNTERS

Apr. 7	Marve Huizinga and Dick Anderson
Apr. 14	Barb Bates and Martha Anderson
Apr. 21	Dick Anderson and Bob Reese
Apr. 28	Bobbie Dean and Martha Anderson

Because

He lives...

our hearts are filled

with *hope.*

our lives are filled

with *love.*

Because I live, ye shall live also.

John 14:19