



Chalice Tidings

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
120 North McArthur Street, Macomb, IL 61455-2101

Volume XXIX, Issue 4

April 1, 2025

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A/V Intern

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Nursery Attendant

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Nursery Attendant

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Organist

Join Us For

EGG GLOW

 Photo Booth  Candy

 Glow-in-the-Dark
Egg Hunt

April 19th - 7:30 pm
Glenwood Park

Volunteers arrive @ 6:00 pm

 Sponsored by Mt. Calvary Church of God in Christ
and First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 

EASTER LOOK FOR THE LIVING

Sunday, April 20th

Easter Breakfast: 8:30 am

Children's Party: 9:15 am

Traditional Service: 10:30 am

Xperience Service: 6:30 pm



Kelly's Korner

So...how has Lent been? Are you growing some? Does God feel a bit closer? Have you in some way, great or less great, better understood the ways of Jesus? In a few weeks, we will conclude Lent and begin Easter. Resurrection. New Life. Joy. Hope.

Our Easter theme is Look For The Living (or L4TL). In the Gospel of Luke, the women go to the tomb which is empty except for two men in dazzling clothes. One of the men says to the terrified and perplexed women, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" Of course the man, which we presume to be an angel, is correct. Jesus is no longer dead. He is resurrected. This is good news. Joy. Hope.

Ironically, isn't that what resurrection is...finding the living among the dead? Jesus is not in the tomb. Death does not have the last word. We are not left in the dust.

I am a big believer that we are to experience God and God's ways and God's life inasmuch as possible...even in the here and now. We cannot fully experience God in this world. But, to some degree, when we are most connected to and most aware of God, we are blessed to catch a glimpse. And in those holy moments, we know peace and hope in indescribable ways...we see beauty beyond compare.

Such moments are intensely personal. And try as we might to share them with others, our attempts often fail. "You had to be there." is so true. We have to be in the moment. We have to be in the place.

And when we are, we experience new life and joy and hope. We experience resurrection—not fully, but in part. Not physically, but spiritually.

In these days and times which seem so full of gloom and doom, may we be most intentional about seeking God and God's ways...that we might look for the living.

Hope to see you soon!

Peace,

April Sermons: From Lent to Easter

As we journey through the final weeks of Lent and prepare our hearts for Easter, our April worship will carry us from reflection to resurrection.

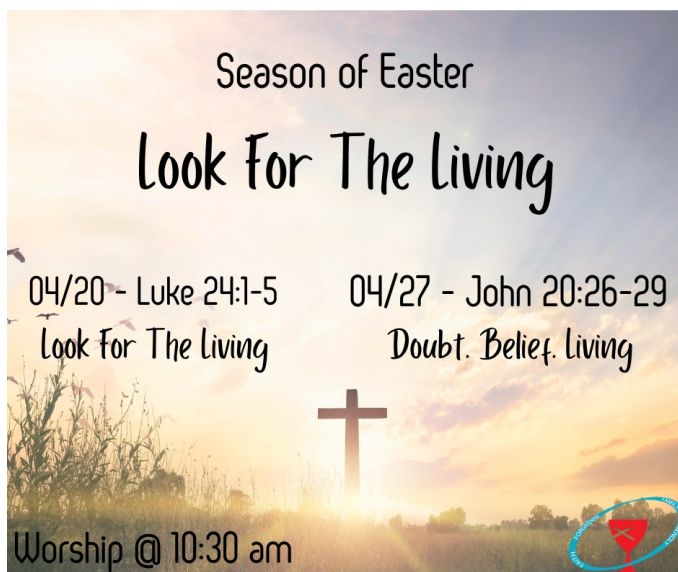
In the morning service, our Lenten series *Journey With Jesus* continues, drawing us into the stories that lead to the cross. On April 6, we'll hear how *The House Was Filled* (John 12:1-8), and on April 13, we'll move *Joyfully* into Holy Week (Luke 19:29-38).



Our evening service continues with the series *Jesus Is...*, helping us reflect on the character of Christ. On April 6, we'll see Jesus as *Attentive* (Luke 21:1-4), and on April 12, as *Popular* (Luke 19:29-38) during His entry into Jerusalem.

Then, as enter the Season of Easter, we begin our new series: *Look For The Living*—a celebration of resurrection, hope, and the presence of Jesus in our lives today.

Easter Sunday - April 20th is going to be extra special! We'll begin the morning with a church-wide breakfast at 8:30 am, followed by a children's Easter party at 9:00 am, and then gather for joyful worship in both services.



Disciples Women Char Carden, President

"God sent His Son to take
the punishment
for all the thoughtless,
sinful things we do.
Jesus gave His life
because He loves us.
On Easter morn He
showed He is our Savior.
His resurrection proves
He is our Lord.
That is why we tell you,
Happy Easter!
He secured our heavenly
reward!"
-By Joanna Fuchs



Happy Easter!

The Disciples Women Executive Board met on March 4th to review activities and topics discussed since our last meeting in December. During this time, we explored suggestions for upcoming events, and we will share more details as those dates approach.

One important update—our **First DW General Meeting** of the year will take place **after** the Ladies' Luncheon on **Tuesday, April 22nd** at the **Old Dairy**.

Mark Your Calendars!

- **Ladies' Luncheon:** Tuesday, April 22nd, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
- **DW General Meeting:** Tuesday, April 22nd 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm (*The meeting length will depend on our discussions*).

Whether we focus on an upcoming event or engage in meaningful conversation about our devotion lesson, it will be a time of fellowship and connection. We encourage you to join us for the luncheon—come enjoy the fun and laughter! If you'd like to stay for the meeting, you are WELCOME, but if you prefer to leave after lunch, that is perfectly okay too.

We look forward to seeing YOU—because **ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!**

Wishing everyone a wonderful Easter!

Disciples Women Spring Gathering

Join us for the Michigan, Illinois & Wisconsin Disciples Women Spring Gathering on April 26, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM at Mosaic Christian Church in Peoria, IL. This year's theme, "Tending Our Inner Gardens: Sowing Seeds for Spiritual Growth," invites us to explore various spiritual disciplines, connect with friends, and share in worship. Cost is \$50, and registration is available at cciwdisciples.org/events. We hope to see you there for a day of growth, reflection, and fellowship!



MICHIGAN, ILLINOIS & WISCONSIN SPRING GATHERING

**Tending Our Inner Gardens:
Sowing Seeds for Spiritual Growth**

APRIL 26, 2025

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Save the date

Mosaic Christian Church
2507 West Newman Parkway
Peoria, Illinois 61604

Find more info and register
cciwdisciples.org/events



KEY NOTE SPEAKER
AMY SUE JOHNSON

Evangelism

Anne Ingersoll, Chair

We have an opportunity to share good news everyday. You may not have noticed in recent weeks, but it appears the algorithms of social media have changed. One of the things our church has always done well is promoting our services and different events on social media and our members have done a great job by sharing or liking this information. But our social media interaction has dropped off considerably in recent months so this is just a friendly reminder to like and share what you see posted from FCC. You can also “check in” every time you’re at church.

Of course, we can’t forget the good old-fashioned inviting friends face-to-face when you see them or writing a handwritten note. Personal invitation is always more effective than social media!

And if you haven’t noticed our website has been refreshed (thank you Bri!) and includes helpful information about FCC. Tell more people about it or share the site on social media. fccmacomb.org

As always, thank you for sharing God’s love.

Environmental Stewardship

Kathy Fischer and Jack McKinnon

The Best Food Storage Bags for Environmental Stability



The average household uses upwards of 500 plastic storage bags a year! That’s a lot of plastic waste that contributes to the pollution of our land, waterways, and even our bodies. So the organization **One 5 C** tried out a number of products that are reusable. They come in two forms: floppy models that are useful for dry snacks and things like fruit slices; and container-style models that are more suited for leftovers and “soupier” foods. Note that most of them do contain plastic (at least in part), but the fact that they are reusable make them more environmentally friendly.

Out of the many products that were tested, the winner was **Ziploc Endurables** (available at Amazon.com). The runner ups were: **Stasher** (available at Stasher.com) and **(Re) Zip bags** (available at rezip.com). The product recommendations were based on two parallel assessment tracks: performance and sustainability.

For more information about these products, visit the website www.One5C.com. You can also sign up for their free newsletter.

Christian Action & Outreach

Jan Rockwell, Chair

Samaritan Well has engaged the U of IL Extension to give monthly training to residents on nutrition & how to prepare some of the food subsidies available. They partnered with the Macomb Police, Genesis Gardens & the Center for Youth & Family to offer a community Pasta Bar on Wednesday March 19th in our Fellowship Hall.

Emergency Cupboard has a new weekly volunteer, Grace Furer, who responded to our WIU Volunteer Link posting.

Operation Gratitude month is over but cards are still available and its always the right time to say thank you.

Community News Brief and Interfaith Alliance of Macomb jointly are sponsoring a writing campaign, "Kindness Counts". People are encouraged to share an experience they had where someone showed them kindness. A template can be found at church & left in the office or send an email directly to communitybrief@gmail.com. These shared experiences encourage us to see the goodness in each other.

MACMA will host a National Day of Prayer Walk on Thursday, May 1. More information will be coming.

Chili Cook Off

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in our Chili Cook Off! It was an evening full of delicious competition, and we're so grateful for everyone who entered, tasted, and voted.

Congratulations to Our Winners!

John Vigezzi – 2024 Chili Cook-Off Champion

Brian Andrews – Chef's Choice Award



A Special Thank You to All Our Participants:

Brian Andrews, Ava Andrews, Karen Chatterton, Emmitt Fink, Judy Graves, Kelly Ingersoll, Chris & Eleana Jenkins, Jack McKinnon, Dan Meyer, Tim Adams, Holly Runner, and John Vigezzi.

Your incredible recipes and enthusiasm made this event a success! We appreciate your time, effort, and culinary creativity. Thank you for making this a fun and flavorful evening—we can't wait to do it again next year!

April Event Calendar

April 5th: Disciples Men - 8:00 am @ *The Old Dairy*

April 6th: Emergency Cupboard Collection

April 14th: Second Monday Women's Group - 6:00 pm @ *Los Charros East*

April 17th

- Meditation - 12:15 pm @ *Church Parlor*
- Maundy Thursday Service - 7:00 pm @ *Mt. Calvary COGIC*

April 18th: Good Friday Service - 7:30 pm

April 19th: Egg Glow - 7:30 pm @ *Glenwood Park*

- Volunteers arrive at 6:00 pm

April 20th: Easter Sunday

April 21st

- Board Meeting - 7:00 pm

April 22nd:

- Ladies Luncheon - 11:00 am @ *The Old Dairy*
- Disciples Women General Meeting - 12:30 pm @ *The Old Dairy*

Ways to Connect This Spring

Thinking About Singing?

It's never too late to join the choir! If you've been on the fence or just waiting for a sign—this is it. Come sing with us! Rehearsals are on Monday's at 4:30 pm. For more information or questions, contact the church office.

Library Update!

Our church library is open to members of all ages, and you're welcome to check out books anytime. We've just added some great new middle grade titles so be sure to stop by and take a look!

Coffee Fellowship & Easter Breakfast

We're always looking for folks to host Coffee Fellowship on Sundays—if you'd like to help out, the sign-up sheet is in the Church Parlor! There's also a sign-up sheet in the parlor to bring food for our Easter Breakfast!





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Chalice Tidings



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Chalice Tidings (USPS #324-120) is published monthly by the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 120 North McArthur Street Macomb, IL 61455-2101 Periodicals Postage Paid at: Macomb, IL Post Office

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to:
Chalice Tidings,
120 N. McArthur,
Macomb, IL 61455-2101

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