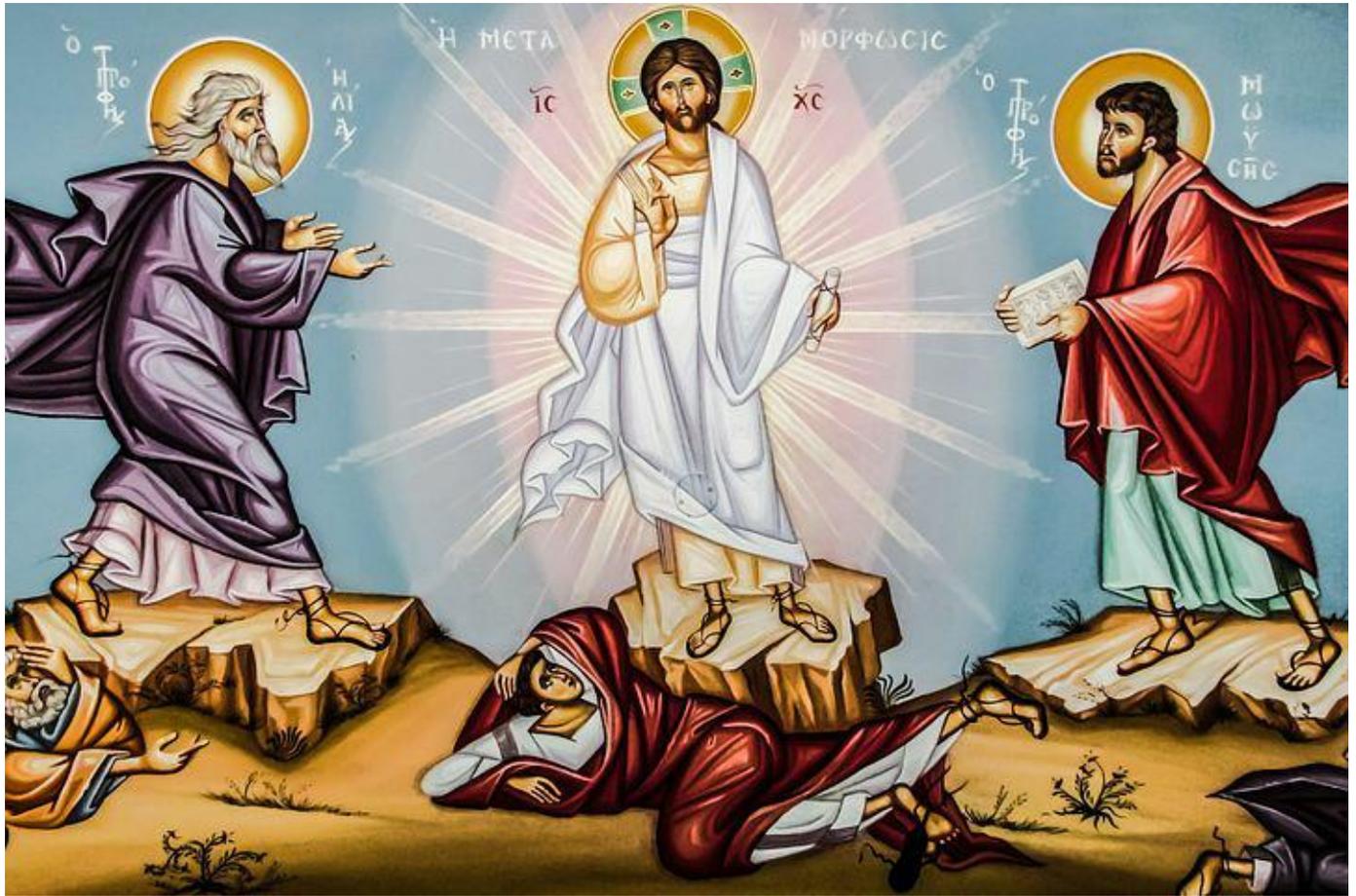


March Communicator



- Zoom Adult Bible Study Every Sunday after Worship
 - Third Sunday in Lent 3/7
 - Fourth Sunday in Lent 3/14
 - Fifth Sunday in Lent 3/21
- Annunciation of the Lord 3/25
 - Passion Sunday 3/28

The Pastor's Desk

Dear First Christian Church of Janesville Friends and Family,

It is hard to believe that we have been in this pandemic for a whole year...and yet I think we as a congregation have faced it admirably. While many of us know those who have died, we have had remarkably few deaths in our congregation and none of those deaths trace back to our church. We as a congregation have faced this crisis incredibly well. I would however like to go back to some of the statements that I had about it before we really knew what we were up against.

I wrote: "Lent is a time of consideration, inner searching, penance and acceptance of our mortality. Please then, during this time of Lent which has coincided with this time of global pandemic, do not let fear catch hold of you."

I still feel that cautioning against panic during a pandemic is good advice. Panic leads to people acting irresponsibly, such as buying all of the toilet rolls and leaving none for others. I am however, entirely surprised that our Lent of 2020 became a year long Lenten practice of keeping distance, inner searching, and perhaps discovery. I am curious what you may have learned about yourself during this time and I am happy that many of you were able to find joy in smaller circles while keeping connected to the larger community. I think fear is understandable, but I am glad that a panicked fear has been in low degree.

A panicked fear would not have allowed us to continue meeting virtually, in calling each other, in being in community in creative ways. A panicked fear would have hampered our ability to continue and instead in some ways we have grown. In addition to meeting for worship we have had times of bible study and book studies, we have added new members some distant and some nearby, we have even added new ministers to our fold.

Yes, this year of pandemic which I believe we are finally seeing an end to with the rolling out of the vaccines and the new guidelines for those who have been vaccinated, has been difficult. Lent continues to be a time of inner reflection and consideration, and so too even as we are nearing the end of the Pandemic we should approach with the wisdom that this season has taught us. Most of all, we should approach this with the love that we have held for one another, to do things in a manner that is kind, patient, and listening to the heartbeat of God.

With the deep love of Christ,

Rev. Colin A. Douglas

- Pastor of First Christian Church of Janesville

Church News

Easter Fundraiser

On Palm Sunday weekend, there will be Easter M&M cookies and chocolate eggs packaged and available for pick up at First Christian Church 1909 Highland Ave,

Janesville. The cookies can be purchased at 1 dozen for \$6.00 or ½ dozen for \$3.00. More information is forthcoming on the chocolate eggs. Please check the First Christian Church of Janesville's Facebook account for more information. Orders must be placed in advance no later than March 19, 2021. Contact Kathy Pastore at kpastore@charter.net or at 608-295-6779 to order. Pick-up times will be posted soon. Local delivery can be arranged as needed. Please indicate at time of order. This is a great opportunity to give sweet treats to friends and family to celebrate the Easter season and support our church!

Votes on Budget and Church Board

Budget:

31 voted yes

0 voted no

Church officers:

22 voted yes

3 voted no

What's New With ...You?

The hardest thing about this pandemic is the isolation, and not being able to see or interact with family and friends like we use to. At First Christian, our church family is important to us. So that is why we have "What's new with...you?" in our newsletter. Perhaps it will change to something else when we are able to worship in person. Right now, it is a way of connection for our church family. Remember, not everyone is on social media or feels comfortable calling or writing to someone. Hearing about people we care about in the newsletter; I hope it helps. So, if you are interested in being a part of this section, please let me know. You do not need to say a lot. Saying hi to everyone is good. My number is 608-774-2648. You can call or text. Thank you, Diana Huckstep.

Kay and Neil Deupree: To our friends at First Christian Church: Life is certainly different as we stay home a lot.. We do go out almost daily to check on the birds along the river in Monterey Park. The eagle is sitting on a nest by Marling Lumber, there are many golden eye ducks and mergansers as well as the geese on the river. The two pelicans we continued to see through January are hiding out or finally decided it was too cold and headed south. Our other pass-time has been jig-saw puzzles. The 1000 piece ones take over a month to put together, not that we work at them continually. If we each get 3 pieces added, we say we have had a good day. We remain active in our neighborhood community group. February was "A Heart on Every Home" month. There were 79

homes that had hearts visible from the street. Five were winners of bags of candy and a heart door hanger. And speaking of hearts – our love and prayers to all. We get our second covid shot the end of February so will feel a little more confident to interact with folks. Our prayer is that you stay well and continue to find ways to connect with and support each other.

Larry and Tina Pfaff: We are doing fine. We have been spending a lot of time at our camper. We also want to move up north soon by Adams and The Dells.

Marie Jackson: Marie fell, had surgery, and would like continued prayers for healing.

Ericka Stageman: Would like prayers for healing of her foot.

Marus, Kirstin, and Senna Reevey: Say hi from Madison, WI.

Summer Huckstep: Got a great report card from her band teacher on doing great in learning the trumpet. God blessed her with a strong set of lungs, and an ear for music.

Michael Piette: Says hi, and he might be getting a dog in April!

The ladies of our church created a recipe book featuring some of their favorite recipes. Hope you enjoy these ones!

SPREAD-A-BURGERS

[6 servings]

Beef spread-a-burger
6 frank or burger buns
1 ½ lbs. ground beef
(hamburger)
1 can tomato soup
½ c. finely chopped onion
1 T. prepared mustard
1 T. Worcestershire
1 t. prepared horseradish
1 t. salt & pepper (dash)

Lorraine Homan, Nancy Lentz

Chicken spread-a-burger
4 frank or burger buns
1 can cream of chicken soup
1 c. diced cooked chicken
¼ c. finely chopped celery
2 T. finely chopped onion
2 T. finely chopped pimiento
dash pepper
Follow direction below. Broil 7
minutes. Serves 4

Broil split frank or burger buns until brown. Thoroughly mix all the ingredients together. Spread mixture evenly over bun halves; cover edges completely. Broil about 4 inches from heat, 12 to 15 minutes. Serve open face.

PIZZA HOT DISH

Char Behling

1 lb. ground beef
6 oz. noodles
2 cans tomato soup
½ t. garlic & onion salt
¼ t. pepper

½ t. oregano
¼ c. cheddar cheese, be
generous
¼ c. Parmesan cheese, be
generous

Cook noodles, drain and put in 9 x 13 inch pan. Sauté onion and green pepper (optional). Add meat and brown. Add soup and spices. Simmer 15 minutes. Pour over noodles. Top with cheese. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes with foil covering. Remove foil and cook 10 minutes.

PIZZA BURGER

Cathy Edwards

2 lbs. hamburger
½ t. sage
½ t. garlic salt
½ t. oregano

15 oz. can tomato sauce
salt & pepper to taste
½ t. onion salt

Brown hamburger and mix in all other ingredients.
Put on half bun.
Top with grated American cheese and mozzarella cheese.
Put into oven until cheese melts, 475°.
Note: Watch carefully.



Inspiration Corner

COVID – THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS May 19, 2020

Be kind –

Everyone is carrying a heavy load.

Be thoughtful -

Think about other people's feelings.

Be respectful -

We are all God's children – worth listening to.

Be truthful -

To ourselves, to others...

Wishful thinking is not helpful.

Be diligent -

What can we do to help someone?

Staying at home is not a reason for procrastination.

Be creative -

New ways of doing things...

New ways of seeing things.

Be aware –

Listen to the birds.

Appreciate the flowers.

Notice people.

Be flexible -

Enjoyment and answers can come from unexpected places.

Embrace serendipity.

Be inclusive -

"He drew a circle that shut me out -
heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.

But love and I had the wit to win:

We drew a circle and took him in." - Edwin Markham

Be careful –

Be safe.

Be care-full for the least, the lost and the lonely,

Be joyful -

Say "thank you."

Look for beauty.

Sing a song (with social distance).

Whistle a tune (see above).

Make this day worth living.

What else can you add?

Can this be a message from God to us on how to bring hope to the world?

Neil Deupree

Prayer Concerns

Pray for our new president, administration, and our nation

Pray for those needing a job, and those who need enough money to pay for necessities

Pray for all those mourning the loss of loved ones

Pray for a rapid distribution of the vaccine particularly to the poor and unhoused