Evangelical Covenant Church ~ Princeton, IL

Covenant Focus

Volume 60—Issue 8 *May 2023*

The FOCUS is the monthly publication of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Princeton, IL.

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Sunday Worship Service:
9:00 AM
(Facebook & YouTube)
Tape Delay on
WZOE 1490 AM Radio at 10:30 AM

Our service is broadcast on local radio station WZOE 1490 AM at 10:30 AM
Broadcasting since 1961

Join Us for Worship

Confirmation Sunday May 14, 2023

Confirmation Sunday is a rite of passage for our young people. It means that they have completed a serious two-year course of study in which they have immersed themselves in the Bible and the doctrines of Christian faith.

Confirmation is not Graduation, it's not the end of a journey. Confirmation is a springboard to faith that presents each student with an opportunity to evaluate the role that God will play in their lives as they head into the tumultuous teenage years.

The students have taken notes during worship services, memorized all 66 books of the Bible as well as other building blocks of Christian faith, completed weekly homework assignments, made projects, written papers, interacted with Mentors, and had interviews with our pastors.

Our Class of 2023 Confirmand:

Payton Frueh
Garrett Gross
Jack Heaton
Jadeyn Klingenberg
Tricia Kloepping
Natalie Meyer
Alexandra Waca
Philip Whited

1st Year Confirmands

Andrew Giaquinto
Lydia Gross
Caleb Johnson
Travis Johnson
Frank Miller
Jameson Morse
Alice Scruggs
Izzy Simmering
Joselyn Strouss
Tia Voight

Please come and celebrate with our confirmands the hard work that they have done in this course. Please join these young people and their families as they commit to their faith in God.

Following the 9:00 service, the Confirmation projects will be on display in the Fellowship Hall, and there will be a reception honoring of our 2023 Confirmation Class!

~ Please Join Us ~

May Member Birthdays

1. Jim Rapp
4. Tammi Lanxon
8. Arnold Faber
9. Lorita Hellman
10. Kristina Mular
    Debra Schafer
11 Randy Swift
12. Marcia Burress
13. Joan Ward
    Norman Wessel
14. Nancy Sawyer
24. Deb Russell
25. Bob Roseberg
26. Ryan Crouch
28. Tad Smith
30. Sydney Markham
    Scott Wallis

REFRESHMENT SERVERS

May 7	Camp Fundraiser
May 14	Confirmation Reception
May 21	Keryl Reeverts & Bea Mylander
May 28	Ken & Cindy Musselman

ATTENDANCE:	9:00	
March 26	198	
April 2	246 (Palm Sunday)	
April 9 Easter	248	136 (10:30)
April 16	187	
April 23	221	

***1st Sunday of the Month*—**The Emergency Fund offering will be taken. The Emergency Fund is used for special needs as they arise—especially for members and friends within our church family and community.

All donations for the Food Pantry may be left in the basket located at the back door.

May Schedules

USHERS
Jared & Jill Frueh and Ron & Deb Schafer

SCRIPTURE READERS
May 7 Mary Wallis
May 14 Confirmands
May 21 Chris Yepsen
May 28 Laurie Quanstrom

AUDIO / VISUAL
Tim Harris (Audio), Peter Campbell (Computer), Greg Wenzel (Camera)

GREETERS
May 7 Front: Cammie Conkling
Back: Phil Conkling
May 14 Front: Maria House
Back: Harvey House
May 21 Front: Rick Fandel
Back: Sue Fandel
May 28 Front: Joyce Johnson
Back: Sandy Rieker

General Fund Update
Through 1st Quarter 2023 (March 31)

Giving: $ 102,258
Expenses: $ 109,684
Deficit: - $ 7,426

2023 Budget: $500,536

Missionary Birthdays:

5/10 Claire Dao (#19)
c/o Serve Globally
Attn: Brandi Sanders
8303 W. Higgins Rd.
Chicago, IL 60631

5/9 Andy Larson
8316 Stone Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103

5/28 Melanie Viana
c/o Serve Globally
8303 W. Higgins Rd
Chicago IL 60631

Pastor Derek's Message

God Guides Us through Grief

I have been thinking about the subject of grief quite a bit lately. It has been on my mind due to the number of deaths that visited families in our church just before Easter. Also, every Monday, I see people from our church and community walking into our building for our Griefshare support group. I have had a chance to talk to a number of these folks about their losses. Because of all this, I have been reflecting on the Christian approach to grieving. The truth is that the Bible has a lot to say about these topics.

Loss and grief show up very early in scripture—in Gen. 3. Prior to that, we find that God's created world is a very good one. Everything and everyone in creation functions beautifully, according to God's design and plan. But in Gen. 3, evil invades this world; humans rebel against God; and sin, pain, brokenness, and death enter the picture. We live in a world that still contains beauty and goodness, yet because of the fall, dysfunction, pain, losses of various kinds, and death are now part of our world. And none of us get through life unscathed by these realities.

So how do we respond? The Psalms of Israel give us the key to grief. Over 1/3 of the 150 psalms in the Old Testament are expressions of sorrow, grief, and anger over painful and unjust circumstances that have befallen their writers. In his Word, God has given us these literary expressions as a tool to process our grief. The key is *to process it!* The psalms of lament help us to stare straight into the face of evil, pain, and loss and cry out in sorrow! We are invited to lay out before God—to messy cry, if you will—all of the brokenness that we feel in this mixed-up world. This is not just an indulgence in sentimentality. God knows that part of what makes us human is a rich experience of emotional responses to various moments in life. God has given us the emotional response of sorrow and grief as a gift to help us process the pain of life lived in a fallen world. God invites us not to deny, minimize, or run away from the hard parts of life, but to feel them deeply and express our feelings right in his presence.

And that is the next point of a biblical approach to grief. We express our grief *in God's presence.* These psalms of lament are not simply personal expressions of sorrow. They are prayers and songs sung *to God*. We are invited to come before God without putting on a happy face first. Using the language of psalms of lament, we can lay it all out it in front of him, as in Psalm 6:2,3: "Have mercy on me, LORD, for I am faint; heal me, LORD, for my bones are in agony. My soul is in deep anguish. How long, LORD, how long?" The path to healing involves processing our pain and grief in the presence of a God who cares, who heals, who is filled with mercy and compassion. Lamenting before God is not just a tool that we *may* use, but a gift that we *must* use if we are to move in a healthy way through our grief. Only as we bring our sufferings before God can God enter in with healing and show us the way forward into new possibilities.

Psalms of Lament invite us to express our grief honestly, to invite God into the journey of grief, and finally, to connect us more deeply with Christ. The Gospels show us that, like all devout Jewish folks of his day, Jesus knew the book of Psalms well. In his hour of greatest pain, Jesus prayed psalms of lament. As he hung on the cross, Jesus cried, "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?" This is a direct quotation of Psalm 22, a psalm of lament. The Gospel writers intend to show us, not that Jesus quoted this one verse from Psalm 22, but more likely, that he was praying the entire psalm and others like it as he felt the absence of his father. Isn't this amazing, that One who was God—Jesus Christ—felt the deep sense of loss that we often feel in life? He showed us how to grieve: make use of God's word and bring it directly to God. Yet in his suffering, Jesus also showed us how pain and loss can be redemptive and open up doorways into new possibilities through God's resurrection power. Because he suffered and grieved, we are freed and forgiven and have new life. But now, we not only have the prayers that Jesus prayed from the book of Psalms, we also have the One who prayed those prayers himself—alive and with us and giving us strength by his Holy Spirit when we come to him in need.

So if you or someone you know is grieving, let us help each other to find these biblical gifts of psalms of lament, along with Jesus—the unique pray-er of those psalms--who helps us in all of our afflictions.

Pastor Derek

~ Students & NextGen News ~

ECC Princeton Students exists to be a ***safe*** place for believing and nonbelieving youth to ***connect*** with other Christians to help them ***grow*** in their faith, and to challenge them along the way to see how God has gifted them to ***serve***, and to ***worship*** God with their whole lives.

MAY Calendar

May 7th – Games and Grace Night, 6 – 7 PM
May 14th – Confirmation Sunday, No After Church Youth Activities
May 21st – No Youth Activities
May 28th– Graduation Sunday. Jr High Youth Group, 5:30-6 PM

NextGen Save the Date

Sunday, June 25th at 5pm
Cookout (food), Fellowship, & Games
All NextGeners are Invited
More details coming | See you there!!

May Youth Birthdays

High School
7 Sophia Carlson
10 Caitlin Meyer

Jr High School (5-8)
22 Natalie Meyer

Birth to Elementary
9 Connor McVay
14 Lance Monier
15 Jayce Ellberg
19 Mason McVay
22 Judah Smith

NextGen Adults
4 Katie Bauer
9 Calina Durey
11 Peter Campbell
22 Trace Erickson
27 Drew Grey

Stay Connected
@ECCPrinceton Students

~ Thank You's & Announcements ~

Dear Evangelical Covenant Church,

Thank you so much for writing a check to help with my rent when I had COVID. Your Christian charity is greatly appreciated and I hope all your members have a great Holy Week!

Kathy Bridgewater

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the many cards and prayers for both Gary's step-mom's passing in December and then Gary's dad passing in March. It has been a crazy first quarter for our family and your kind words and expressions of care were felt by all of us. Special thanks to Sandy Roseberg for stepping in to cover the church office on very little notice.

Gary, Linnea, Mitchell, & Peter Campbell

Thank you to ALL who helped with the all-church clean up on April 22nd. Weather was a bit chilly (even saw snow flakes) but crews managed to clean up around the church and tend to the courtyard. Light bulbs were changed, air filters replaced, ceiling fans cleaned, stained ceiling tiles replaced, pews polished, and other tasks (see pictures below). Many hands get the jobs done!!

Facilities & Maintenance Team

Congratulations to Tyler & Mallory Wood on the birth of their daughter, ***Louise Joy Wood***. Louise was born on March 24th. She weighed 7 lbs, 8oz; and was 22 inches in length. She is welcomed home by BIG brother Doyle. Proud grandparents are Robert & Nicole Wheeler.

Congratulations to Kolton & Janina Reeverts on the birth of their 1st child, ***Holden Alan Reeverts.*** Holden was born on March 29th and he weighed 2 lbs, 6 oz. In the words of his dad, "he is tiny but strong!" Proud grandparents Alan & Keryl Reeverts.

We rejoice in God's promises for Holden & Louise & their families.

In Memoriam:

~ Ralph Eugene Barker ~

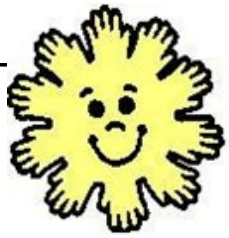
February 19, 1933 - April 4, 2023

A Memorial Service was held on April 11th at the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Memorials may be directed to ECC Emergency Fund.

May the peace of God and the hope of his gospel rest upon Ralph's family and friends.

HAPPY HANDS PRESCHOOL NEWS



May 2023

As of Friday, May19, this school year will come to an end! As we send many preschoolers off to Kindergarten, we pray that they have learned some valuable skills that will equip them to be successful in their educational future as well as in their relationships with others.

ENROLLMENT FOR FALL 2023-2024

All of our classes are full for the coming school year! However, if you know of anyone who is looking for a preschool, please encourage them to call me at the church (815-875-2124) so they can be placed on a waiting list if they are interested in our program. There are scholarships available for those who may need financial assistance. We are blessed to have financial resources from the Kay Wessel Scholarship Fund as well as money that has been donated for this purpose.

Thank you…

- to our teachers, **Paula Ellberg, Marla Schultz, Diane Smith, Sheena Johnson and Melissa Ackerman** for sharing their skills, love and patience with all of the children whose lives they have touched. God's love is evident in the lives of these gifted teachers!
- to **Linnea Campbell** for taking phone calls, delivering messages and answering the doorbell when a parent needs to enter the building after the back door is locked.
- to the **Happy Hands Board members** for their continued support in carrying out their responsibilities to keep the ministry of Happy Hands running smoothly.
- to **Pastor Derek, Pastor Jessica and Pastor Alex** for their prayers and support in various areas of the ministry such as classroom visits, website updates and encouraging words!
- to **members and friends of our congregation** who have made sizeable donations in memory of loved ones. In addition, we received a portion of the Harvest Festival offering and other contributions from members throughout the year. This financial support has been extremely helpful and appreciated!
- to **Kent Johnson** for fixing broken toys and some other equipment throughout the school year.

God has blessed Happy Hands in so many ways. The prayers of God's people have had a significant effect on what has been accomplished this past year. Thank you!

Joyce Johnson, Director

Senior Social Club

The Senior Social Club is a fellowship group for seniors that will meet monthly for a meal on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Please join us!!

Tuesday, May 23rd at 4:30 PM
Tony's Butt Shack
601 US Hwy 6 | Hollowayville

Seniors interested in gathering for supper *(RSVP by Sunday, May 21st)* or have questions should contact:
Karen Newton at 309-368-5307 or **Teresa Bowen at 815-202-3466**.

TONY'S BUTT SHACK
BBQ & CATERING

~ Camp Reflections (part 2) & Camp Fundraiser ~

"I didn't want to leave camp. I really enjoyed the high ropes course, the giant swing, and the sessions. The lesson that stood out to me was the story of the burning bush and the power of God." – Kambelle Cook (elementary)

"This was my second time going to Harbor to chaperone the elementary kids. It's such a great time to leave the normal worries and obligations behind and just have fun and learn more about God in a beautiful place. I loved the group activities and my time with the girls, and I saw some sweet friendships grow among our group. I also enjoyed sharing this adventure with Eli (and I learned that he's ok with wearing the same clothes for 3 days straight ." – Lauren Smith (elementary)

"The fun part of camp was hanging out with friends and being able to share my love for God with them. I learned how God created us to be able to love others even if we are different." – Tricia Kloepping (jr high)

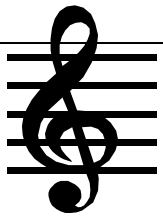
"I really enjoyed the activities we did like cross country skiing and broomball. I also learned a lot about peace and God's justice at camp." – Lydia Johnson (high school)

"My overall camp experience was amazing, I am not going to lie, seeing all of these strangers at first was a little scary, but the camp counselors at meet and greet helped and the butterflies and nerves go right away. We got to pick our specials and that is what we got to do for most of the day. The food was amazing!!! I love how each of the worship leaders have different personalities and together they host the best worship services. As much fun and games as it is, I learned so much about the Christian life and I got much closer to God. Camp was the best and I highly recommend." – Alice Scruggs (jr high)

Help send kids to Summer Camp! Join us on Sunday, May 7th following the worship service for breakfast tacos, baked oatmeal, and other coffee cakes and goodies. A free-will donation will be accepted.

PALM SUNDAY KIDS' CHOIR:

Children led us in praising King Jesus with their songs "I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy" and "Sing Hosanna" on April 2.



And Can It Be That I Should Gain

Charles Wesley 1707 – 1788
Thomas Campbell 1777 – 1844

A FICTIONAL SHORT STORY

By Roy Swanberg

A hymn may sometimes be a strong affirmation of faith, such as *A Mighty Fortress is Our God.* A hymn could also be a question, *Why Should I Be Anxious?* Or a story hymn, *The Ninety and Nine.* It could be a plea for help, *O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee* or a testimony, *Now I Belong to Jesus.* Today, we'll look at a hymn in a fictional story that could be someone's real story.

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain? For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be that thou my God shouldst die for me?
He left his Father's throne above so free, so infinite his grace!
Emptied himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race!
'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O my God it found out me.
Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye defused a quickening ray; I woke the dungeon flamed with light!
My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed thee.
No condemnation now I dread: Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteous divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

"My early life was dark and crazy. I thought I was having fun, but people in town didn't care a wit for me and I was lonely most of the time. The only one I knew who cared for me was Granny. She often told me she prayed for me, but my answer was usually, 'Yeah, whatever.' When she did get me to church, I counted the people in the choir, looked at the construction of the ceiling, or tried to sleep.

"Somehow, I graduated from High School and went to the local Junior College and took up welding and some other lame courses. While I was there, I met a cute little girl, Emily. I thought she would make a good girlfriend. Trouble was, she was a Christian and talked like Granny. In a weak moment, I agreed to go to church with her -- just once. It was a different church, and I was in all my glory with a new choir to count and ceiling to look at. But while singing a hymn after the sermon, my mind and heart were turned up-side-down. Now I say, right-side-up.

"It started with, how it can be that I should benefit from the Savior's blood. He pursued death for me, yet I was the one who caused His pain. It must have been some kind of amazing love because why would God die for the likes of me? From one of those lame courses I took, *Religions of the World,* I never read where a god died for his followers.

"The song said, He left the greatness of heaven where all was grace and love, and emptied Himself of all that except love. He found me in all my sins and set me free. I'll bet Granny was in on this.

"I know what a crummy jail looks like, but I suddenly realized what a prison I had made for myself. While singing this hymn, I saw a dim flash of light and my heart and mind woke up as my prison flooded with light. Only some kind of mercy, enormous and free, could break into my debauched life and pull me out. I felt chains fall from me. Now, things are different in my life. I don't fear the condemnation, as it says, or the problems of my sins. I feel a friendliness with Jesus and I feel more alive. I feel clean, because I can come right to Jesus in prayer, probably like Granny was trying to get me to. More importantly, I feel a part of Christ.

"Well, that's my story, friends. From singing a hymn written way back in 1738, old JB is a new person."

VBS SUPPLIES NEEDED (as of 4/20/2023)
***Items with an asterisk are only to borrow; please label so we can return!**

¾ in PVC 90-degree coupler (2)
¾ in PVC pipe (5 ½ ft)
¾ in PVC T-joint
1 empty (20 or 23.7 oz) water bottle
12 inch plastic flowerpot
16 large river rocks
17 black-light keychains*
2 hinges (2 inches long)
2 rolls iridescent, transparent cellophane gift wrap (26 in by 8 yd)
2 sheets 2" thick foam board (4 ft. x 8 ft.)
2 sheets of PolyWall (4 ft. x 8 ft.)
2 strings battery-operated fairy lights*
20 handheld mirrors*
20 small flashlights
3 empty water bottles (16 oz)
3 laser pointers*
4 plastic plant saucers (12 x 4 in)
4 x 4 ft. sheet ¾ in foam board
4-inch zip ties (10-12)
5 regular flashlights
Aerosol can of hair spray
Alka-Seltzer (8 tablets)
Baking soda
Black fabric dye
Black landscaping plastic
Black light*
Can light with a bulb that doesn't get hot*
Canvas drop cloths (large)
Cotton balls (1 bag)
Duct tape (silver)
Electric tea lights (25)
Lots of plastic rectangular tablecloths (black, green, and blue; the 97 cent type)
One 25-ft roll bendable wire (16-gauge galvanized steel would work)
Paper Lanterns (round, any colors)
Plastic wading pools (2)*
Salt packets (18)
Snow saucer or round trash can lid
Spray paint – 1 can black, 1 can metallic silver
Tonic water containing quinine
True Lemon single-serve packets (20 total)
Twinkies (2)
White painter's coveralls

Vacation Bible School
June 12-16, 2023
| 9:00—11:30 AM

Decorating Days: June 7, 8, & 10
Volunteers Needed: Decorators, A/V techs, prayer team members (from home)

Email jessica@eccprinceton.org to volunteer or request more information.

A (Global) Mission Condition Proposition

One of our jobs as the Global Outreach Team is to keep everyone informed about all that God is doing on the mission field through the missionaries we support financially. How do we know what God is doing among those we support? We have asked to receive their newsletter mailings. When there are needs for prayer or when there are things to celebrate, we hear it directly from the "horses mouth." Their newsletters provide the information we need to pray for them and provide encouraging feedback to them. These newsletters are posted on the Missionary bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall.

These same missionaries are thrilled to have people within a church sign up to be on the receiving end of what God is doing in their part of the world. So here is the "mission condition proposition"… You too can receive their newsletter! All you have to do is email them and request to be put on their mailing list. Below are their email addresses.

Zac and Brooke Marquis: zac.marquis@cru.org; brooke.marquis@cru.org
David and Julia Stickel: David.stickel@cru.org; Julia.stickel@cru.org
Alex and Melanie Viana: alex.viana@covchurch.org; melanie.viana@covchurch.org
Minh and Jennifer Dao: Jen.dao@covchurch.org; minh.dao@covchurch.org
Andrew Larsen and Cari Conklin: Andrew.larsen@covchurch.org; cari.conklin@outlook.org
Eugenio and Pia Restrepo: eugenio-pia.restrepo@covchurch.org
Esau and Heather Vega Caraway: heather.caraway@covchurch.org; esau.vega@covchurch.org
KICY, Patty Burchell: generalmanager@kicy.org
Christian Radio for Russia: crfroffice@gmail.com

Take the mission condition proposition! Engage! And thank you!
The Global Mission Team

~ IF Table | 2023 Graduates ~

Women's *If Table* Connecting Group
Tuesday, May 9
6:00—7:30 PM
ROOM B / C

This connecting group is open to all women and is a time to dive deep with people over life stories and Christ centered conversations. If you have NOT attended before, it does not matter...JOIN US! Bring a brown bag meal for yourself!

~ Class of 2023 ~

Bureau Valley Jr High:
Garrett Gross

Logan Junior High:

Payton Frueh	Natalie Meyer
Jack Heaton	Izzy Simmering
Jadeyn Klingenberg	Alexandra Waca
Tricia Kloepping	Philip Whited

Bureau Valley High School:
Lilly Allicks

Princeton High School:
Lexi Bohms
William Bryant
Jarrett Carr
Claire Grey
Christian Rosario
Isabella Whitfield
Emma Wyatt

Brookville High School
(State of Ohio)
Khadyn Jacobs
(son of Blake & Brandie Jacobs)

Members & Friends of the Church are invited to Graduation Open Houses honoring:

Lilly Allicks (daughter of Jim & Cathie Allicks)
Saturday, May 20 ~ 1:00—4:00 PM ~ Wyanet Park

Isabella Whitfield (daughter of Jeremy & Victoria Whitfield)
Saturday, May 20 ~ 4:00—7:00 PM ~ 504 N. Vernon St.

Claire Grey (daughter of Buc & Carmen Grey)
Sunday, May 28 ~ 1:00—4:00 PM ~ 910 Sherwood Glen

College & University Graduates:

Horry Georgetown Technical College—***Isabella Gross***, Assoc. of Applied Science, Physical Therapy Assistant
Illinois Central College—***Peter Campbell***, Assoc. of Applied Science, Diesel Powered Equipment Technology

Aurora University—***Elijah Grundman***, Bachelor of Science, Psychology/Criminology
Illinois State University—***Allison Blocki***, Bachelor of Science, Molecular & Cellular Biology
University of Illinois—***Lauren McMillan***, Bachelor of Science, Agriculture Organization & Community Leadership / double minor in Agriculture Business & Media
University of Illinois—***Daniel Naffziger***, Bachelor of Science, Marketing Major/International Business Minor
University of Northern Iowa—***Jessica Carlson***, Bachelor of Music, Instrumental Music/General Music Educ.

Graduation Recognition Sunday is scheduled for May 28th.
Logan Jr High graduation ceremony is May 25th at 7:00 PM
Bureau Valley High School: May 13th at 1:30 PM | Princeton High School: May 20th at 10:00 AM

If we missed your graduate, please contact the church office.

Congratulations to our Graduates! We are proud of you!!

Evangelical Covenant Church
24 N. Main St.
Princeton, IL 61356

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Senior Pastor: **Derek Boggs**
derek@eccprinceton.org

Pastor of Faith Formation:
Jessica Boggs
jessica@eccprinceton.org

Pastor of Students & Outreach
Alex Taylor
alex@eccprinceton.org

Happy Hands Preschool Director:
Joyce Johnson
happyhands@eccprinceton.org

Office Administrator: **Linnea Campbell**
linnea@eccprinceton.org

Church Office Phone: **(815)875-2124**
Web Page: www.eccprinceton.org
Covenant Denomination Web Site:
www.covchurch.org

FOCUS deadline: May 20th
e-mail: **campbell9592@comcast.net**

Address Service Requested

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

On April 2 the congregation met to review the building addition proposal, discuss estimated cost projections and financing options. The congregation voted to go forward with development of construction drawings in order to get specific bids for the project and city approval, firming up cost estimates. Once that step is complete, the congregation will meet again in June to make a final decision on moving ahead with the building addition.

At the same time, the Finance Team is working to put a financial plan in place on how the project will be funded. With existing savings, receipt of many pledges from the capital campaign, and interest generated from investments, we have approximately $1.7 million to work with. However, at this time the project is estimated to cost around $2.5 million, leaving a significant shortfall. There are 4 ways we plan to address this shortfall:

- **Reduce Costs.** Once construction drawings are complete, the Building Team can get specific quotes that may reduce the total project. There are options for delaying some finishings or choosing less costly options until funds are later available to enhance the building.
- **Additional gifts and pledges.** Our Growing the Mission capital campaign is still in progress - new pledges or additional giving to existing pledges are gladly accepted! Pledge cards are available on the display in the Narthex or at eccprinceton.org. Even if you cannot give until a future date, let us know what you're thinking so we can include that in our plans.
- **IOU's from our ECC family.** Plans are being finalized to accept IOU funds from members and friends of ECC Princeton. This will save on interest costs for the project while paying rates comparable to current CD's. Contact Randy Quanstrom at 815-303-1957 or fill out a pledge card and note "IOU" and he will contact you with details.
- **Mortgage with National Covenant Properties (NCP).** This is our denomination's organization that lends funds to Covenant churches. This would be a 20 year note with an adjustable interest rate every 3 years. While the interest rate is comparable to local banks, we don't want to borrow any more than necessary, after the first 3 options are maximized.

The Finance Team will complete the funding plan by late May to stay on schedule, so if you are able to make a new or additional pledge, or have interest in doing an IOU, please fill out a pledge card or contact Randy Quanstrom soon!

ECC PRINCETON LOCAL OUTREACH

Newsletter

https://eccprinceton.org/local-outreach/

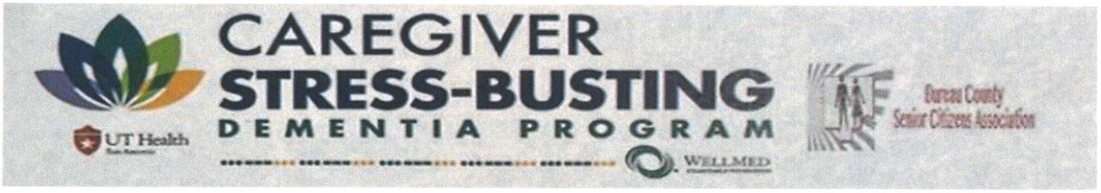
May 2023

Upcoming Events

Working to become Dementia Friendly

ECC is taking steps to become a **Dementia Friendly** facility. Denise Ihrig, Director of the Bureau County Senior Center, will be our guest speaker providing awareness and dementia friendly training on Sunday, **May 21, 2023**. If you have an interest in learning more about dementia or how to assist caregivers and families caring for people with dementia, please consider joining us immediately following the church service in the Fellowship Hall.

Do you provide care for a loved one with memory loss or dementia?
Caregiving is rewarding but can be stressful!



WHO:

- Family caregivers of a loved one with memory loss or dementia;
- Caregivers coping with the stress of caring;
- Caregivers looking to care for themselves.

WHAT:

- Learn stress management techniques, relaxation & coping strategies;
- Workbook & materials for take home study and practice;
- Holistic program focused on the caregiver.
- Meets 90 minutes weekly for 9 weeks.
- Small group size.

WHERE: The Bureau County Senior Center, 16 W Marion Street, Princeton, IL
WHEN: Starts Tuesday, May 2nd 1:00-2:30 pm
COST: FREE

For more information or to register for the program, contact Celia Kerran at 815-879-3981.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:

Our next outreach opportunity is to serve at the PADS homeless shelter in Peru on **Monday, May 22nd**. You will help serve the meal starting at 6 pm (arrival at 5:45 pm). Seeking 5-6 volunteers willing to serve and fellowship with the residents. If interested, please contact Alex at the church office.

Z-Tour

The annual Z-Tour bicycle tour is June 24th. Our church is sponsoring a rest stop (location yet to be determined). Eight (8) Workers for the rest stop are needed for handing out supplies. Four (4) people to serve from 8am-10am, and four (4) people to serve from 10am-12pm. Contact Tad Smith at (815)878-5473 if you are interested in volunteering.

2023 Freedom Color Run -

We have an opportunity to support the Arukah Institute of Healing. On July 4th, they will be holding a **Freedom Color Run** fundraiser at Soldiers and Sailors Park in Princeton to splash the red, white & blue in the family fun color run! You can register at www.arukahinstitute.org to run/walk the event or contact Tammi Lanxon at 815-866-9557 if you would like to volunteer your time to help with the event. Come celebrate our freedom, honor our military, & enjoy some fun for the whole family.

The mission of our local outreach is to put our faith in Christ into action through prayerful identification of needs within the local community and empowering Christians within our congregation to meet those needs through service.