



Cornerstone Community Church
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Cornerstone
Community
Church

May 2026 Newsletter

109 S First St

Fairfield, IL 62837

www.ccchurchoffairfield.com



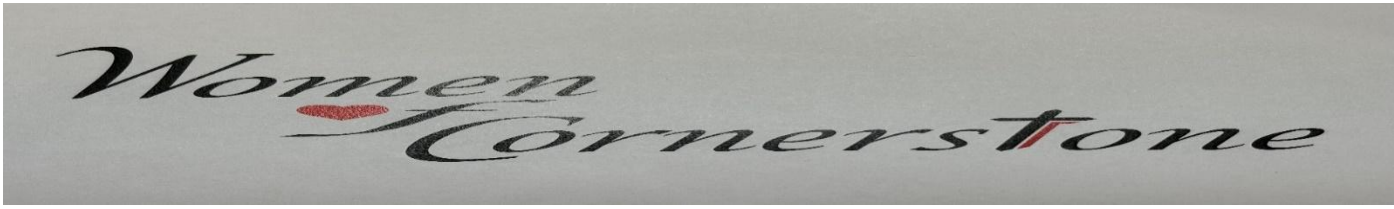
Leader: Ginny Reynolds

Song Leader: Tom Tucker/Bill Book

Ushers: Allison Parrish, Terry Werner, Susan Werner, and
Jonathan Paul

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<https://ccchurchoffairfield.breezechms.com/give/online>



WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

The Women of Cornerstone met Saturday morning on April 12th. Hostesses Ginny Reynolds and Myra Parrott served fruit trays with cream cheese and caramel dips, Little Debbie Spring Cakes, and tea. The theme for the morning was "Showers of Blessings".

Myra Parrott presented the program featuring the hymns, "There Shall Be Showers of Blessings" and "Count Your Blessings". "Showers of Blessings" was written by Daniel Webster Whittle. His conversion was in a Civil War hospital while recovering from wounds. He found a testament his mother had packed in his haversack. After reading it through, he started reading it again. A nurse refused to pray for a young patient. The young man begged Whittle to pray for him. In a few broken words, he confessed his sins and asked for forgiveness. Then, he prayed earnestly for the young man. When he arose from his knees, the young man had passed. Whittle knew God had used this young man to bring him to Christ and lead the young man to trust Jesus to find pardon.

"Count Your Blessings" was written by Johnson Oatman, Jr. It was first published in a songbook, "Songs for Young People," in 1897. Oatman's father was considered to be the "best singer in town" but his son did not possess his talent. He would travel to various churches but was never considered a great preacher - only a fill-in. At the age of 36, he discovered a hidden talent of writing hymns. He wrote almost daily, with an average of 200 hymns a year and over 5,000 hymns to his credit. When forced to set a price for his hymns, he refused to set any price other than \$1. He was happy to use his musical skills to "preach the gospel."

Both of these hymns remind us to be thankful even when "tempest tossed or discouraged" and to take our problems and concerns to God in prayer. Before counting their blessings, the ladies were reminded that a "blessing" can be more than material things. They can also be an experience, an opportunity, or leadership and guidance from God. Some of the blessings shared were our Christmas Cantata and Concert, a job interview, worship, and family. Also shared were ways we bless others through prayer, giving, caring, and encouraging.

Seven ladies and one guest enjoyed the morning. Our next meeting is May 9th at 10 a.m.



The Chancel Choir's year is winding down. We will continue to rehearse through May. We hope you enjoy the music/choir. The choir members have a grand time preparing music and we probably have a greater blessing by being in the choir. Has anyone ever told you that you have a lovely voice? Perhaps that's the nudge you need to become part of the choir. We are in need of specials for the summer. A number of hymns have been submitted for the Hymn Focus! If you have someone to suggest to do a special, please let Cori Copeland or Steve Lee know. Special thanks to Diane Robinson for directing the choir while Cori was gone.

The Worship Committee met on April 13th to evaluate the winter activities and services and plan for the spring and summer services. The 5th Sunday/Palm Sunday meal was well attended. We had 116 in church on Easter, that is thrilling! Our church is growing! Microphones and sound seem to be a constant concern. We are trying to improve ways for the online listeners to understand what is going on as well as those attending. Stay tuned for changes.

We appreciate all those that help with the services: ushers/greeters, the musicians, the committees that meet to plan the services, the choir, the Liturgist, the song leader, Chuck and Nancy, Joel in the sound booth, the special music...the list is long! There are many behind the scenes that make our services run each week.

Communion will be May 3rd and August 2nd.

We are making the schedule for special music for the summer. If you would like to do a special or have someone to suggest, please see Cori Copeland or Steve Lee.

Paschal Candle

The Paschal Candle is one of the most profound and cherished symbols in the Christian liturgical tradition. Its significance stretches beyond the mere physical presence of a large candle; it represents Christ's light overcoming the darkness of sin and death, offering the faithful a spiritual beacon of hope and renewal.

The Paschal Candle is traditionally lit during the Easter Vigil, the most important service in the Christian calendar, which marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The candle's use in this context is symbolic of Christ's light entering the world after His resurrection, dispelling the darkness of sin, death, and despair.

At the heart of the Paschal Candle's significance in the symbolism of light. In Christian theology, light represents Christ himself, who is often referred to as the "Light of the World". This idea is rooted in the Gospel of John, where Jesus declares, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). The Paschal Candle, therefore, represents the manifestation of Christ's divine light, which illuminates the path to salvation.

The Paschal Candle also represents the resurrection of Christ, which is central to Christian faith. Through His death and resurrection, Christ conquered death and opened the way to eternal life for all believers. The candle's bright, flickering flame symbolizes the perpetual life of Christ, a light that never fades and is never extinguished, even in the face of darkness. The use of the Paschal Candle during the Easter Vigil emphasizes this victory over death. The ritual of lighting the candle during the vigil mirrors the victory of Christ rising from the dead and conquering the darkness of the grave.

Though the Paschal Candle is most prominently featured during the Easter Vigil, its role extends throughout the liturgical year. After Easter, the Paschal Candle remains lit during significant liturgical events, including baptisms and funerals. This reinforces the connection between baptism, the Resurrection, and eternal life. During baptisms, the Paschal Candle is a reminder to the newly baptized that they are incorporated into Christ's life, death, and resurrection. At funerals, the Paschal Candle serves as a symbol of the deceased's passage from death to eternal life, echoing the hope of resurrection. As the candle stands at the head of the casket, it proclaims that death is not the end, and that through Christ, all will be raised to new life.

the Paschal Candle continues to shine brightly in the liturgical calendar, it calls all believers to embrace the light of Christ, to live as bearers of that light in the world, and to proclaim the victory of love and life that the Resurrection represent.

specials for April will be as follows:

SPECIAL MUSUC:

May 3: To Be Announced
May 10: Choir Singing
May 17: To Be Announced
May 24: Choir Singing
May31: To Be Announced

PREACHING:

Jacob Holmes
Steve Lee
Matt Henson
Steve Lee
Jacob Holmes



THANK YOU NOTES:

Thank you so very much for your continued monetary support and volunteerism for the Feeding Kids of Wayne County. we are very Grateful for your support! -- Sincerely Mindy Otey

On behalf of Fairfield Memorial Hospital Associates, Jiren Closet, we would like to thank you for your generous gift. Your donation will help Jiren's Closet assist our staff and to help fulfil our mission statement. Again, thank you for your donation. -- Sincerely, Shauna Williams FMH Marketing Director

Susan Brake and her family want to thank everyone for their many expressions of sympathy on Don's passing. The many kind words, cards, hugs, and memorials have been so appreciated by each of us.



May 3 - Carolyn Brown, Jerad Gale; May 17 - Debbie love; May 23 - Robert Young; May24 -L. Bryan Williams; May 28 - Reta Mathews; May 30 - Robyn Donoho

Anniversaries: May 11 - Sherrill and Pat Bartley; May 28 - William and Janet Kent; May 29 -- Melvin and Robyn Donoho

A rabbit on the swim team

Once upon a time, the animals decided, they should do something meaningful to meet the problems of the New World. So, they organized a school. They adopted an activity curriculum of running>climbing, swimming and flying. To make it easier to administer the curriculum, all the animals took the subjects. The duck was excellent in swimming. In fact, he was better than his instructor, but he made only passing grades in flying, and was very poor at running. Since he was slow at running, he had to drop swimming and stay after school to practice running. This caused his web feed to be badly worn so that he was only average in swimming. But average was quite acceptable, so nobody worried about that except the duck.

The rabbit started at the top of his class in running, but developed a nervous twitch in his leg muscles because of so much make up work in swimming. The squirrel was excellent in climbing but he encountered constant frustration in the flying class. Because his teacher made him start from the ground up instead of from the tree top down, he developed Charlie Horses from overexertion and so only got a C in climbing and a D in running. The eagle was a problem child, and was severely disciplined for being a non-conformist. In climbing classes. he beat all the others to the top of the tree. but insisted on using his own way to get there.....

The obvious moral of the story is a simple one. Each creature has its own set of capabilities in which it will naturally excel, unless it is expected or forced to fill a mold that doesn't fit. When that happens., frustration discouragement and even guilt brings overall mediocrity or complete defeat. A duck is a duck-And only a duck. It is built to swim. not run or fly, and certainly not to climb. A squirrel is a squirrel and only that. To move it out of its forte, climbing, and then expect it to swim or fly will drive the squirrel nuts. Eagles are beautiful creatures in the air, but not in a foot race. The rabbit will win every time unless, of course, the eagle gets hungry.

What is true of creatures in the forest is true of Christians in the family. Both the family of believers and the family right under your roof. God has not made us all the same. He never intended to. It was He Who planned and designed the differences, unique capabilities and variations in the body. So concerned was He that we realize this He spelled it out, several times in His final will and testament. Please take the time to read the 31 verses of First Corinthians 12 slowly and loudly.

I'll let you in on my own experience. The trap I fell into years ago, having been exposed to a few of the greats in various churches and an outstanding seminary, I tried to be like them. For over 10 years in ministry I, a rabbit, worked hard at swimming like a duck or flying like an eagle. I was a frustrated composite creature and my feet of clay were slowly crumbling beneath me. It was awful! The worst part of all, what little bit of originality or creativity I had was being consumed in the false role I was forcing. One day, my insightful and caring wife asked me, "Why not just be you, why try to be like anybody else?" Well friends. this rabbit quit the swim team, gave up flying lessons and stop trying to climb. Talk about a relief! Best of all I learned it was OK to be me.

So relax. Enjoy your spiritual species. Cultivate your own capabilities and your own style. Appreciate the members of your family or your fellowship for who they are even though their outlook or style may be miles different from yours. Rabbits don't fly. Eagle don't swim. Ducks look funny trying to climb and squirrels don't have. feathers. Stop comparing. Enjoy being you! There's plenty of room in the forest. Taken from "Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life" by Charles Swindell

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- May 3: Communion 10:00 a.m.
- May 4: Knit Together 5:00 p.m.
- May 6: Choir Rehearsal 5:30 p.m.
- May 7: Midwest Food Pickup 1:30 p.m.
- May 9: Women of Cornerstone 10:00 a.m.
- May 10: Mother's Day
- May 10: Choir Singing 10:00 a.m.
- May 10: FCHS Senior Class Baccalaureate.
- May 11: Worship Committee Meeting 5:00 p.m.
- May 13: Choir Rehearsal 5:30 p.m.
- May 14: Food Pantry Delivery to High Rise 8:30 a.m.
- May 20: Choir Rehearsal 5:30 p.m.
- May 21: Food Pantry Delivery to Fair Way 8:30 a.m.
- May 24: Choir Singing 10:00 a.m.
- May 25: Memorial Day
- May 25: Admin Board Meeting 5:00 p.m.
- May 27: Choir Rehearsal 5:30 p.m.
- May 30: Vaughan Wedding 12:00 p.m.
- May 31: Men's Breakfast 7:30 a.m.



May Events

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|-------------------------------|--|---------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 AA - 7P | 2 |
| 3 Social Hour - 8A Sunday School - 9A Morning Worship - Communion --10A | 4 Knit Together - 5P | 5 AA - 7P | 6 Choir Rehearsal - 5:30P | 7 Rotary - 12P Midwest Food Pickup -- 1:30P NA - 7P | 8 AA - 7P | 9 Women of Cornerstone - 10A |
| 10 Mother's Day Social Hour - 8A Sunday School - 9A Choir Singing -- 10A Morning Worship - 10A FCHS Senior Class Baccalaureate -- 4:30 P | 11 Worship Committee Meeting - 5P | 12 Lions Club Meeting - 12p AA - 7P | 13 Choir Rehearsal - 5:30P | 14 Food Pantry Delivery Highrise - 8:30A Rotary 12P NA - 7P | 15 AA - 7P | 16 |
| 17 Social Hour - 8A Sunday School - 9A Morning Worship 10A | 18 | 19 AA - 7P | 20 Choir Rehearsal - 5:30P | 21 Food Pantry Delivery Fair Way- 8:30A Rotary - 12P | 22 AA - 7P | 23 |
| 24 Social Hour - 8A Sunday School - 9A Choir Singing - 10A Morning Worship - 10A | 25 Memorial Day Admin Board Meeting - 5P | 26 Lions Club Meeting - 12P AA - 7P | 27 Choir Rehearsal - 5:30P | 28 Rotary - 12P NA - 7P | 29 AA - 7P | 30 Vaughan Wedding - 12P |
| 31 Men's Breakfast - 7:30A Social Hour - 8A Sunday School - 9A Morning Worship - 10A | | | | | | |



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