



FIRST
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

REPORTER

Volume 68, Number 3 March 2026

MUSTARD SEED NETWORK

The Mustard Seed Network is a Mission that wants to see the cities of Japan saturated with and impacted by gospel – centered churches that further the global cause of Jesus Christ. The Japanese are the 2nd largest unreached people group in the world. Less than 1% of the 126 million people in Japan claim to have faith in Jesus.

Jared Henke is a FCC “Timothy”. He graduated from Ozark Christian College and joined Mustard Seed in 2009. He and his family currently serve in Kyoto, Japan.



As 2026 begins we want to share our appreciation for each of you who support us prayerfully and financially. Just this morning I read in Mark 9:41, “For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.” Simply by keeping up to date with our family, and reading these monthly emails, you are showing support and figuratively “giving us water to drink”. Your support refreshes and encourages us and God uses you to sustain our ministry in Japan. It means so much to us and we are truly grateful. May God bless you this New Year!

(Pictured above: our family enjoying a meal with a visiting supporting church, First Christian Church in Salem, Illinois, Jared’s home church, this past November)

With love from Japan,
Stephanie (and Jared) Henke



“Lunch & Learn”

“Lunch and Learn” is a monthly community outreach program organized by the Outpatient Care Coordinators at Salem Township Hospital. Lunch & Learn offers free education on various health topics all while enjoying lunch, dessert, and coffee. This monthly meeting is held on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the CLC at FCC from 12-1. The next Lunch and Learn for 2026 will be held on March 12th. If you have any questions or would like to RSVP, please call 618-740-1683.



The Reporter can also be viewed online at www.fccsalem.net

April Newsletter deadline: March 15th (This includes all newsletter, calendar and scheduling items.)

FCC LEADERS

MINISTRY TEAM:

Phil Martin

Lead Minister

Dave Jarrett

Creative Arts Minister

Jesse Brinkley

Children's Minister

Logan West

Student Minister

Trisha Mosbarger

Secretary

ELDERS:

Wyett Colclasure

Cory Crane

Brandon Howe

Phil Martin

Steve Phillips

Andy Smith

Louis Williams, Jr.

Bob Wilson

First Christian Church

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Salem, IL 62881

618-548-0867

fax 618-548-0868

office@fccsalem.net



Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

For more information including sermon downloads and more please go to:

www.fccsalem.net



This is an opportunity for preteens (3rd-5th grade) to attend an overnight worship event. Oil Belt's Big Overnighter is March 6-7th. It's a great time for children to get introduced to camp life. Sign-ups and information can be found at the "Station."



Daylight Saving Time begins

Sunday, March 8, 2026.

Don't forget to set your clocks AHEAD 1 hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 7th!



Be on the lookout for the "EGGSTRAVAGANZA" egg tubs in the foyer...

We need your help to fill 10,000 eggs!!

Our annual "FCC EGGSTRAVAGANZA" will be held on

Sunday, March 29th @ 3pm.

March Birthdays

1 Rachel Williams	14 Justin Snow
1 Ken Brewer	15 Trish Padberg
2 Terry Ford	16 Alicia Engel
2 Matthew Thornton	16 Cheryl Hill
3 James Martin	16 James Patrick
4 Randy Rose	17 Jemma Telford
4 Maxine Nash	19 Mary Johnson
4 Craig Vieira	19 Greg Hill
4 Riggs Green	20 Harper West
5 Gary Kennedy	21 Michael Ferguson
5 Peggy Maxey	22 Emily Young
5 Bethany Hensley	23 Mike Anderson
5 Callie Shipp	23 Jaxon Smith
7 Alex Clark	23 Andrew Richardson
7 Greyson James	24 Carolyn Goostree
7 Dustin Collier	25 Donna Shaw
8 Kelly Bandy	26 Oslynn Holmes
8 Madison Pryor	26 Finley Richardson
10 Sheri Molenhour	26 George Kruse
11 Margaret Smith	27 Amelia Westman
12 Eric Bandy	28 Kurtis Rollins
13 Madilyn Harrison	28 Hadley Dunaway
13 Kyle Rose	30 Tobi Sexton
14 Gayle Erxleben	31 Trisha Green

March Anniversaries

4 Louis & Connie Williams
5 Doug & Jackie Malan
7 Michael & Jaime Ferguson
16 Brian & Sandra Banning
18 Dave & Debby Lamb
18 John & Nancy Gaston
21 Mike & Brenda Hodge
21 Evan & Haley Maxey
27 Cory & Beth Crane



FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Throughout the month of March we will be collecting:

- Pasta & Spaghetti Sauce
- Spices

Items can be left in the collection box in the foyer.



the RESTORE NETWORK

changing the culture of foster care

Dear Friends at First Christian Church Salem,

We appreciate your recent gift of \$4,874.00 to The Restore Network. We are honored that your church would partner with us in caring for children in our area and the families that love them! Thank you for answering God's call on the church to care for the vulnerable!

Thank You,

Taylor Suddeth

You can learn more about "Restore Network" @ restorenetwork.org or by scanning the QR code.



FCC Library

Do you enjoy reading? Are you looking for a new Bible Study for yourself or a group? Would you like to check out a new Devotional? Visit the FCC Library! Located just inside the Main FCC Entry on the left, we have Fiction, Non-Fiction, Devotionals, a small Reference section and personal or group Study materials available including some on DVD. Each section is clearly marked and a self-checkout system allows you to sign your name and note the date of withdrawal on the Library Card and leave it in the box provided. When you are finished, return the items in the Book Return Box. If you have questions call or text Connie Williams at 618-548-2408 or Laura Crain at 618-267-5266.



2025 Annual Giving Statements

The 2025 Annual Giving Statements have been emailed to FCC contributors. Make sure you check your inbox or spam folder. The email will be from FCC Salem (no-reply@churchcenter.com). If the office does not have an email address on file for you, your statement has been mailed to you. If you did not receive a giving statement or if you have any questions, please contact the church office.

We Need YOU!!

FCC is in charge of providing volunteers for the Food Pantry during the 2nd Thursday of every month. March 12th will be the next day that we need volunteers. There are 2 time slots available:

9:00am - NOON
11:45am - 2:00pm

Please sign up at the Welcome Center.



Louis Williams, Jr. visits P.V. Alexander Ministries (Mission supported by F.C.C.)



Louis Williams, Jr. joined a mission team from Greenview Christian Church in Centralia on Monday, January 12, traveling to Thiruvananthapuram, India, to visit the P.V. Alexander Ministries. FCC Salem is a long-time supporter of this impactful ministry, which encompasses the Kerala Christian Theological Seminary, over 75 churches, two orphanages, a Prison Ministry, the Johnson Gospel Offset Press, Ebenezer English School, Mercy Hospital in Valakom, and Mercy College of Nursing.

Although P.V. Alexander passed away in 2021, his home continues to serve as lodging for visiting teams. His son, Roy, guided the group during their four-day stay, escorting them to Mercy Hospital, Mercy College of Nursing, and the Seminary. They also learned about the process of extracting rubber from more than 50 trees planted by P.V.'s late wife, Ammukutty.

The team led a vibrant Convention each evening (much like an outdoor tent revival) and a Saturday Youth Convention that culminated in the Seminary's graduation ceremony. Team members prayed, preached, and presented diplomas.

Following the graduation, the group embarked on an overnight, 12-hour drive through the mountains to Jireh India Mission in Tamil Nadu, India. They were warmly welcomed at the House of Peace Orphanage. At House of Peace, the team interacted with the children—worshiping, giving devotions, and playing. They also assisted with constructing a bakery addition, prepared a building for a new woodworking facility, served a meal and led a service at a nearby leper colony (which the orphanage feeds weekly), visited one of two Beautiful Bindings locations—where widows and women, abandoned by their husbands, learn about Christ's love while gaining sewing skills to support their families—and the team hosted encouragement sessions for staff and held a full-day seminar for local pastors. They also stopped at the traditional site of St. Thomas's martyrdom before continuing to Nairobi, Kenya (details of that leg to appear in a future report).

This marked Louis' second visit to House of Peace, which he describes as “truly living up to its name as a place of peace.” The orphanage is largely self-sustaining, boasting 800 chickens producing about 600 eggs daily, four fish ponds that supply fish and irrigation for coconut trees and vegetables (yielding coconuts, oil, and produce), a bakery meeting internal needs while generating community sales, and a clothing store that adds income.

Louis contributed in practical ways, such as sharpening all of Leyna's knives and, alongside farmer John Klockenga, repairing the passenger van's seats for stable upright or reclined use—simple tasks to him but deeply appreciated by those who rely on them daily.

It's a small world when God is at work. We serve a big God, and little becomes much in His hands.

Members of the team pictured are: Greenview CC pastor, John Klockenga (1st on the left), Terry Edson (3rd from left), Jeff Dahlquist and son, Jacob (4th & 5th from left), and Louis (6th from left).
