

**Did you know** that First Christian Church has a recording studio called, A Next Level Production, which produces an episode of a children's Bible lesson each week? Last May amidst the pandemic, Ember, Tim, and I (Analisa) thought it would be fun and helpful to record a few Bible lessons and songs to share with our Kingdom Kids on Sunday mornings, since we couldn't all be here in the church together. Well, what started out as just a few lessons being recorded with a cell phone, has now turned into an online children's ministry!

The lessons are now being recorded and uploaded every Saturday at Noon on the church's Facebook page. Our first ten episodes were devoted to learning all about the Fruits of the Spirit. During this series, the kids were introduced to a fun and exciting place called Adventure Island, an island where we would go to show the kids an exciting craft that they could do at home, along with some cool science experiments!

Once that series ended, we moved on to seven lessons that helped engage conversations between you and your child(ren). Some tough questions were asked, and the kids were encouraged to share their answers with their parents or guardians.

In April, we started filming our third series called, Bible ABCs. We will be going through the alphabet and instilling in the kids how great our God is, A-Z! In this series, you'll get to see our new Craft Factory where we'll now be doing all our crafts and science experiments. Each episode has a Bible lesson, memory verse, song, and trips to the Craft Factory!

A lot of behind-the-scenes prep work takes place before, during, and after each episode before it's ready to be uploaded. A very special thanks to Ember Daugherty, Bethany Woods, Tim Woods, Isaac Banks, and everyone else who has volunteered to help us film, edit and upload these videos. We are also thankful for everything God has done and continues to do here at First Christian Church. Please let us know if you are interested in helping, as we'd love to get you involved in this awesome new ministry!

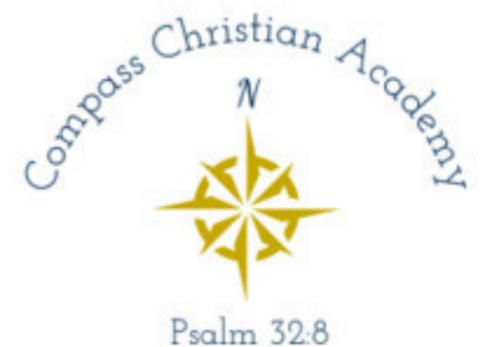
**-Analisa Woods, Student Ministries Director**



WE REMEMBER AND WE HONOR OUR HEROES

**Here's an update on the Compass Christian Academy launch for Fall 2021!**

- **We are recruiting teachers! If you know someone who might be interested (including you!), please visit <https://compasschristianacademy.com/teach-at-cca> to begin the conversation!**
- **Enrollment is open. As of now, we have 10 applicants...and there's room for more! To apply, please visit <https://compasschristianacademy.com/student-application>.**
- **CCA Preview Nights are a great way to learn about the school and begin the application process. Upcoming CCA Preview Nights are scheduled as follows:**
  - **Wednesday, May 12, 6 pm**
  - **Wednesday, May 26, 6 pm**
  - **June and July meeting dates are forthcoming!**
- **The CCA Advisory Committee will have its first meeting on Wednesday, May 19, 6 pm.**



**"A Mother's Love"**

*A Mother's love is something that no one can explain  
It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain  
It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may  
For nothing can destroy it or take that love away  
It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking  
And it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking  
It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns  
And it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems  
It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation  
And it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation  
A many splendored miracle man cannot understand  
And another wondrous evidence of God's tender guiding hand  
-Helen Steiner Rice*

**For those that are not aware**, our church has been teaching on the Fruits of the Spirit in our Kingdom Kids and Venture Youth programs this year. Coordinating some of the subject and topics across multiple ages was an intentional decision so that families could be discussing similar things about the Bible no matter their age. Guess what? Now it's your turn. There are nine fruits of the Spirit found in Galatians 6, however, I had the privilege of speaking about self-control and wanted to share some of the fruits 😊 of my study with you.

To get a better grasp of how self-control is used and addressed within the Bible, we should look into the Old Testament as well. This would be the writings that the authors of the New Testament would have to draw upon established uses and understandings in Scripture. Some insight to the understanding of self-control is found in Proverbs 16:32, "Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city." In this passage we get the idea that a person with self-control is better than a warrior of power and force but take a look at the verses that appear before this, verses 27-32. The patient and self-controlled person is referenced as if an antithesis to the scoundrel, perverse person, the gossip, and the violent person. Here self-control is translated from the Hebrew word *masal*, which means "to rule or govern" and another Hebrew word *ruah*, which means "spirit." To have self-control is equal to "govern your spirit" or "have a governed spirit."



We get another example of self-control in Proverbs 25:28, "Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control." A city whose walls are broken through has no functioning defenses. The enemy would have a wide open path into that which should be protected. With this in mind, having a lack of self-control leaves us vulnerable to Satan's attacks and the temptations of sin. We see this very issue addressed by God in Genesis 4:7, "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

When we choose to have a lack of self-control it is not only a denial and rejection of the work of the Holy Spirit within us, but a continuing habit of giving into little things that will lead to a spreading effect in more and more ways in life. The holes in our righteous defenses become wider and wider. In 2 Timothy 3:1-5 we are given a list that puts "without self-control" on equal terms as the "abusive, brutal, treacherous, lovers of pleasure, loveless, and unholy." Here, the words "without self-control" mean "to be powerless" (from the Greek *akrates*). With this in mind a lack of self-control will leave us both *vulnerable* and *powerless* against Satan's schemes.

Something to consider is that self-control is not always about restraint; sometimes it is about knowing when applying pressure is appropriate. Not all the time is holding back the right thing to do, and not all the time is "going all out" the right thing to do. Self-control is about knowing when and how it is appropriate to act or speak, according to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Someone who has no control over what they say to others is someone that no one would want to be around. It's unhealthy. Knowing how and when to act, react, speak, come on strong, or rebuke gently, comes from a spirit that is willfully governed by God. The fruit of the Spirit is both a result of submitting to the Holy Spirit as well as a sign to the world around us that we are maturing in the Spirit. A tree is known by the fruit that it bears (Matt. 7:17-20), and so are we. We should be growing and maturing, having a governed spirit willfully submitted to God.

**-Tim Ditch, Administrator**

## CHRISTIAN SENTINEL – MAY 2021

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF WEST FRANKFORT



### FCC May Happenings

**Sunday, 9 May** – Happy Mother's Day!

**Wednesday, 12 May** – Compass Christian Academy Preview @ 6 pm

**Saturday, 15 May** – Men's Fellowship Breakfast @ 8 am

**Sunday, 16 May**

11:45 am – Elders' Meeting

2 pm – Good Shepherd Ministry Training Academy

5 pm – Deep Dive Discussion

6 pm – One Year Bible Dessert Fellowship

**Wednesday, 19 May** – Jr. Bell Choir Performance / Last Kingdom Kids and Venture Youth Until Fall

**Wednesday, 26 May** – Compass Christian Academy Preview @ 6 pm

**Monday, 31 May** – Memorial Day (Church Office Closed)



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Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 am-4pm; Closed Friday

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Administrator: Mr. Tim Ditch ~ [tditch@fccwf.org](mailto:tditch@fccwf.org)

Student Ministries Director: Mrs. Analisa Woods ~ [awoods@fccwf.org](mailto:awoods@fccwf.org)

Worship Director: Ms. Ashton Gentry

Technology Director: Mr. Trent Grider