

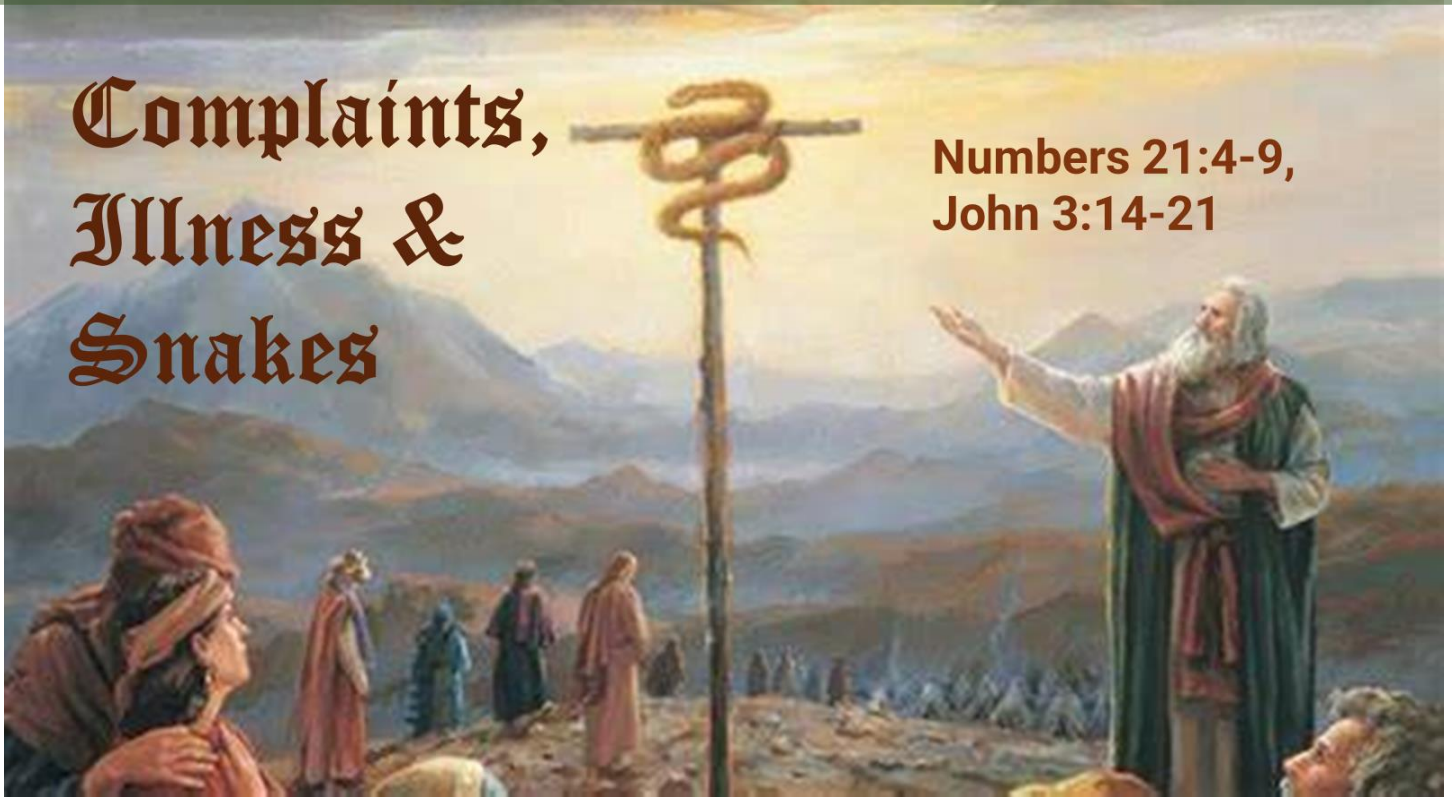
Our Mission

We are an open and welcoming community that God calls and the Holy Spirit empowers us to:

- *Share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all ages*
- *Explore and express a growing faith*
- *Equip believers for ministries which expand the kingdom of God*

Complaints, Illness & Snakes

Numbers 21:4-9,
John 3:14-21



Complaints, Illness & Snakes, Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:14-21

Lent 4B, March 10, 2024

Theme: Healing

The Old Testament reading this Sunday takes us into the desert south and east of the Dead Sea about 900 years before the time Jesus lived and preached along the coast of the Sea of Galilee. Some historians think this is where we would find the survivors of Israel's descendants. They had successfully escaped slavery and 400 years of captivity in Egypt. Some say there could have been as many as 100,000 people struggling to survive as nomads under the leadership of Moses and his brother Aaron.

Perhaps as long as a year before, this band of nomads had approached the west side of the Dead Sea near a city called Jerico. They had sent spies to scout out the land on the west side of the Jordan river. When those spies reported back to the Israelites, they told of a land filled with a powerful and wealthy people. As a result, the people became fearful. God became angry of their lack of faith and banished them to forty more years of nomadic life.

So, there they were, about a year or so later, wandering the arid lands of the Negeb. They experienced many hardships – and they complained. They complained to Moses. They complained to Aaron. They complained to God.

In their wandering, they stumbled upon an area infested with poisonous snakes. Many were bitten and several died. Of course, the complaints became even louder.

God told Moses to have Aaron fashion a snake out of copper and display it on a staff. He was then instructed to have the infected people look at this sculpture so that they could be healed.

This story is strange but may have survived the centuries because of its symbolic meaning. Meandering in a wilderness of suffering can be compared to how a person feels when they are sick. Most illnesses are often associated with severe discomfort and possible outright pain. Trapped in this syndrome of agony, one's awareness of the world around them disappears into an inward focus on the pain and suffering. An individual caught in such a state of mind often loses perspective. The result is a magnification of that very pain and discomfort. Joy of any kind disappears into a cloud of inescapable agony.

This state of despair can be compared to a type of wilderness of hopelessness. As the Israelites suffered, God challenged them to face the cause of their suffering as represented in the copper snake, and to look past it toward their dream of a land of milk and honey where their descendants could live a life free from such suffering. In doing this, they would be able to see a hope for a better life. The result is a renewal of purpose. They found renewed strength – a strength which they used to move on toward the promise God gave them.

In our own experiences, we often find ourselves in a quagmire of hopelessness. Join us this Sunday at First Christian Church in Warrensburg, Missouri where we seek a new hope for the future. We will gather around a Jesus Christ who, with his healing power, can renew our spirits and give courage to face the hardships life can bring to us.

Thank You Note

Thank you, First Christian Church Family, for all the prayers, good thoughts and well wishes for our son, Andy, and his family the past several months while he was fighting cancer. We are thankful he is now cancer free and continues recuperating from the side effects.

Blessings to each of you!

In Christian Love,

Al and Anita Gosney

Coffee Connection

*We need Hosts for Coffee Connection for April!
If you are available for any Sunday in April or early May,
please stop by the bulletin board in the CLC lobby
and sign up or call the Office! If you have the time, please
know that you need not pay for items out of pocket.
A Walmart card will be provided. Thank you!*



Prayer Concerns and Praises

Prayers for Heaven Martin & baby Amari, friends of Kristal Shaumeyer.

Prayers for Emberlynn, Sierra Alley's daughter.

Prayers for Theresa Schibi's daughter, friends of the Goodwin's from the Clothes Closet.

Prayers for Steve, friend of Grab 'N Go.

Prayers for Jimmy & Brian Petty, Janice Wolff's friends.

Prayers for Phillip Bodenhamer.

Prayers for Brenda Dougherty, Kristal's mother, she's back in the hospital.

Prayers for Kathy's nephews, Eric Mueller and Trevor Browning.

Prayers for Ann Patterson Scott.

Prayers for Rick Dooley.

Prayers for Melvin's cousin, Erin Rogers.

Prayers for the Basye family.

Prayers for Ed and Bubbles Goodwin, Bill's parents.

Prayers for the Search & Call Committee.

Prayers for our members who are homebound, in an assisted living community and nursing homes.

Praises for Jim Metcalf, he's out of ICU and improving every day.

Praises for Andy Gosney who is cancer free.

Praises for Sharae Kelly & Teresa Spear who have been ordained.

March Birthdays

1 – Elle Schnakenberg
4 – Dana Baldwin
6 – Zane Spalding
6 – Chris Burton
7 – Jake Turner
9 – Carol Dunham
10 – Mary Shoop
14 – Debbie Haller
14 – Kameron Key
16 – Noah Cromer
17 – Donna Hays
17 – James Dooley
17 – Caroline Smith
19 – Cindy Gabel
20 – Noel Dougherty
20 – Sam Jones
20 – Lee Younce
21 – Ellen Woody
21 – Bill Goodwin
22 – Easton Burchard
24 – Garrett Osborne
25 – Vyrdel Basye
25 – Cory Shaumeyer
26 – Janet Ritchhart
26 – Christina Blevins
27 – Kaylin Piper
28 – Kierston Newberry

March Anniversaries

11 – Jon & Toni Frandsen
13 – Jim & Megan Stuck
17 – Lee & Mary Ann Younce
26 – Lyman & Claudine Hannah
26 – Doug & Ellen Woody



**First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
101 East Gay Street
Warrensburg MO 64093**

**Church phone: 660-747-6815
Pastor Lem Whitmer's Cell phone: 816-695-3002
Website: fccwburg.com
Office Email: 1stchristianchurchwburg@gmail.com
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00-2:00**

**Don't miss the March Book review
on page 6 of this newsletter!**

Weekly Calendar

Wednesday March 6, today!

11:00 to 12:00 – Grab 'N Go Lunch
NO Young Adult Meet, Greet & Eat tonight
NO Discussion on Jesus' Parables in the Parlor

Thursday March 7

11:00 to 12:00 – Devotion & Singing at
Warrensburg Manor
5:00 - Harmonayres Practice

Friday March 8

9:00 – Bell Choir Practice
Don't forget to RSVP for the Ladies
Game Night next Friday, March 15th!

Saturday March 9th

Spring forward 1 hour between Saturday
evening March 9th and Sunday morning
March 10th for Daylight Savings Time!

Sunday March 10

9:15 – Sunday School
9:15 – Traditional Service in the Sanctuary
10:15 – Coffee Connection in the CLC lobby
10:45 – Celebration Service in the CLC

Tuesday March 12

6:30 – Elder's Meeting
Please keep reading, there is two more pages!

First Christian Church

Ladies Game Night



Friday, March 15th

6:00 PM

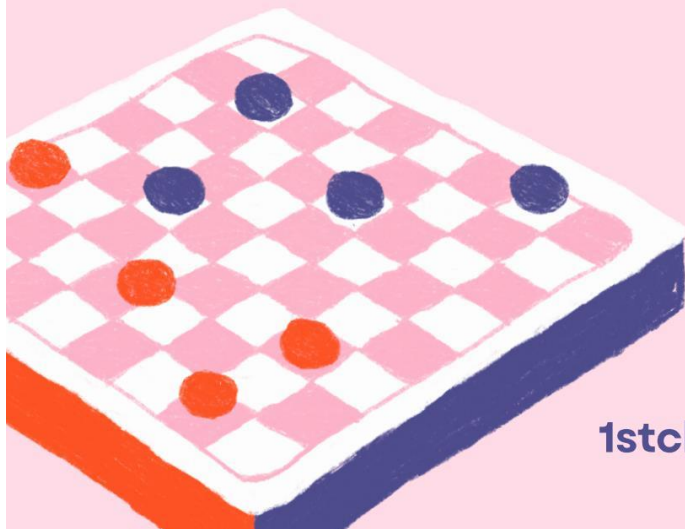
**First Christian Church
Warrensburg, MO
(CLC Lobby)**

**Enjoy a night of fun and
fellowship with the
ladies of FCC!**

**Bring your favorite game
to play & share!**

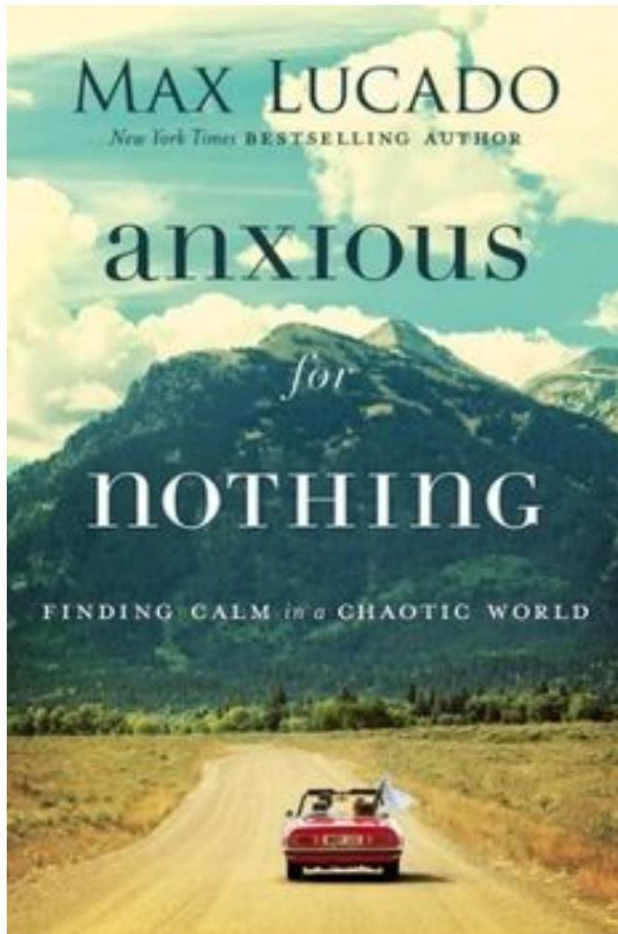
**(Pizza, Drinks, and
Desserts Provided)**

Childcare Available



**Please RSVP to:
First Christian Church, DOC
(660) 747-6815**

1stchristianchurchwburg@gmail.com



MARCH BOOK REVIEW

When it comes to anxiety, depression, stress-related illnesses, America is the frontrunner. Max Lucado in his book Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World, provides a roadmap for battling with and healing from anxiety. Lucado walks the reader through four sections of C.A.L.M. —

Celebrate God's Goodness, **A**sk God For Help, **L**eave Your Concerns With Him, **M**editate On Good Things. As Christians, Lucado says, "Others see the problems of the world and wring their hands. We see the problems of the world and bend our knees."