

THE MESSENGER

“CHOOSE LIFE AND LOVE GOD”

February 8, 2017

MY NAME IS . . .

I probably didn't like it when I was asked two weeks before Youth Sunday if we could change the topic and theme of the service/sermons, but I'm glad we did. It is so appropriate for youth - and for adults.

We used a contemporary song entitled, "Hello, My Name Is . . ." that describes the feelings we have and the lies we believe that make us think we are and will always be regretful, a liar, a failure. But the song and the gospel go on to proclaim that we are not what we've done, said, though, sought, because in Christ we are now "a child of the one true King."

I told a friend that I'm not sure adolescents can understand the depth of what this addresses and the response was, "I'm not sure we adults do either."

As we built into the service, we have a new name, a new identity, a new image as Christians - but we tend to let the world drag us back into the old ways of thinking and feeling. So consider:

- Don't let your struggle become your identity.
- God is the only One who has the authority to tell you who you are.
- Who I am in Christ matters more than what I think or what other people say about me.
- Our true value doesn't lie in our abilities, but rather in our identity as a child of God.
- Your identity is not in your sin; your identity is in your Savior.
- Your worth is not in your _____, _____, _____, _____, _____; your worth is in Jesus Christ.
- Whenever you feel unloved, unimportant, or insecure, remember to Whom you belong.

That's life-changing! So choose it, love it, live it - with the One who provides it.

My Name Is . . . Child of God.

MCD



Talent Show

We need you to sign up your act for our Talent Show night coming up Sunday, February 26! The Membership Committee will serve a supper of sloppy joes at 5:00 PM and the Talent/Variety Show will follow at 6:00 PM. Come join the fun!



“Bella Notte Per Una Cura”

Our FCC Relay For Life team is hosting an Italian-themed dinner, “Bella Notte Per Una Cura” (Beautiful Night for a Cure) in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 18. Two different times are available: 5:00 or 6:30 PM. Tickets are available from Relay team members and team captains: Tammy Terry and Coralie Smittkamp. The \$10 donation will go to “Relay For Life.” Seating for each time slot is limited, so get your tickets today!

Youth Sunday Thank You!

Great thanks go to all the youth and families for our Youth Sunday service. Well done! No matter your age, you did your job very well, and kept the tradition going. We thank you for your actions - your faith - and your identity in Christ. Keep it up!



We extend our sympathies to the family & friends of member, Louise Keys, in her passing this week.

Hospitalized: Dorothy Farnham, Union
Donna Moore, Union

Home from the Hospital:
Mamie Dart Ken Dennison
Rick Ward Bill Fudge

Congratulations go to Lake Ridge Christian Church on their 40th birthday!



-- Cathy Melendez for her substitute work in the office these last several weeks - we couldn't have managed without her! and to Denise Craig

as well;

-- All the Youth who participated in the extra-special Youth Sunday service!

-- Those who did extra work on Sunday, ie, Troy Sanders & Angel Templeton for their leadership, JC Foley for setting up the projection, & Tony Peel for operating it;

-- Noah, Sadie, Alayna, Bryce, Aubrey as "Frantic Utopia" for the worship music.

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**BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

Love - the more you Give,  
the more you Have.



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FEBRUARY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Into Your hands I place my worries, cares, and troubles. Into Your wisdom I place my direction and my goal. Into Your love I place my life. Amen.

GOLDEN AGE

The Golden Age Luncheon is Tuesday, February 28, at 12:00 NN. The program will be by Carstan Stites on "Space Camp."

CANS

Thank you for all those who donated aluminum cans last month! We always collect the last Sunday of the month, so bring in your cans on February 26! Proceeds go to fund MICE events.

SOUP - SOUPER BOWL REPORT

Thank you for the soup donations for the local Food Pantry. We received an additional 70 cans of soup last Sunday. Our goal was at least 100 and you provided 166 cans of soup! Great job!!

In addition to the soup cans provided, a total of \$137.00 was collected for the Souper Bowl of Caring which will also go to the local Food Pantry! Thanks again!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Worship Committee: Sun., Feb. 19, 11:30 AM
- Memorials Comm.: Thurs., Feb. 23, 1:30 PM
- Trustees: Thurs., Feb. 23, 6:00 PM

PASTOR'S CLASS

Invitations have gone out to our 5th grade youth and families to be part of this year's Pastor's Class - where we talk about what it means to be a Christian and member of the Church. We'll begin on Friday, February 24, and go to Palm Sunday.

* * *

If others are interested in talking and exploring this for themselves, please contact Rev. Mike.

YEARBOOK REPORTS

If you were the head of a group or a chair of a committee in 2016, please turn in a report for the yearbook. Samples from 2015 are available in the office. You can type it or handwrite it and bring it to the office, or email it.

BLANKET SUNDAY OFFERING

Thank you for your monetary gifts for blankets to help those in emergency situations. The total received was \$664. Thank you so much!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

The Children's Church schedule has been mailed, so adults be sure to take note of your Sunday. The schedule is also listed each week on page 4 (the back) of the newsletter.

NEWS BY EMAIL

We apologize to those who did not receive last week's newsletter by email or if you received it in the wrong format and couldn't open it. The newsletter is available on our website at:

www.fccparis.org

We are also sorry that you did not receive the February birthday/anniversary calendar. It will be sent with this week's email, and the February event calendar is available on the web as well.



FEBRUARY CIRCLES

KOINONIA CIRCLE: will meet Thursday, February 16th at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen. Sue Bennett and Audrey Stickler are the hostesses and the lesson will be provided by Donna Moody.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: will meet Tuesday, February 21st at 1:30 PM at home of Pricilla Gilles as hostess. The lesson will be given by Patty Waters.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Volunteers are welcome to sign-up your help for Monday, February 20 at the Community Kitchen at 4:00 PM.

DISCIPLES MEN

The Disciples Men will be going to the American Diner/Heartland Grill on Saturday, February 18th, at 8:00 AM for breakfast. All men are invited - sign up!

* * *

Disciples Men will be making Ham Loaves on Saturday, March 18th - we will have a Bring Your Own Breakfast in the church kitchen and make the Ham Loaves afterward.

YOUTH SUNDAY HISTORY

In 1978 the first Youth Sunday was born as we know it today! Barry Martin and Tom Lanker gave the first sermon while throwing a football as each spoke! Yes - it did scare the congregation with the stained glass windows in the background! It's hard to believe that we will celebrate 40 years next year! You're never sure how things will turn out until that Sunday morning comes around, but as always, the youth come through and do a GREAT job! Congratulations to this year's youth & leaders!

- Jim & Cindy Mathis



Don't be blue, God's Word is true, and you can find it - in Sunday School!

We'll give you clues, and be the glue, that keeps you coming - to Sunday School.



YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group for junior high & high school students meets Wednesdays at 6:00 PM in the youth room.

* * *

This Friday, Feb. 10, the youth will be going to the "Winter Jam" concert in Indianapolis. Plans are to leave at 1:00 PM & return at 11:00 PM (?) Bring a friend!



MICE

This month's MICE event will be Sunday, February 19, from 1:00-2:00 PM at Shewey's Ceramics in Paris. Note change of time/date.

GOD'S GANG / CROSSROADS

Our mid-week children's/youth ministry begins for the Spring Semester tonight – Feb. 8th – with the theme "Outer Space" and continues into May. The program is for grades Kindergarten-5th, and grades 6-8th as the new Crossroads group, from 3:30-6:00 PM We invite all our families to get involved and friends can be invited, too. We need everyone to register; copies are in the hallway!!

P.S. Volunteers are also needed and wanted, perhaps at 3:30, 4:00, or even 5:00 PM. Let Angel Templeton or Saunny Preston know if you can help and what time you are available.

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*Thank You!*

Thank you to all my church family for the prayers, cards, and notes during my surgery and recovery. They were all filled with strength and appreciated.

- Roseann Moss

Dear Friends, Thank you for your love, prayers, visits, cards, calls & delicious food. You have helped me get through this time of healing in such a warm & loving way. FCC is filled with so much love. I felt it on my first day. I love you all & hope to see you soon.

- Hugs, Susan King

Dear FCC, I want to extent my heartfelt thanks for your calls, cards, prayers, and food during my recovery. Thank you so much.

- Cheryl Clark



# THE MESSENGER

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

201 S. Main St., Paris, Illinois 61944

Phone 217-466-3255

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 AM-12 NN, 1-4 PM

E-mail: firstchristian@nwcable.net

Web page: www.fccparis.org ~ We're also on Facebook: FCC Paris

Michael C. Dixon, Senior Minister ~ Troy Sanders, Youth Director

**PERMIT #147**

Paris, Illinois

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## **COME WORSHIP WITH US**

**EARLY WORSHIP 8:00 AM ~ SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM ~ WORSHIP 10:00 AM**

*MISSION STATEMENT First Christian Church's mission is to grow disciples who are:*

*"Believing in Christ,*

*Behaving as Christ,*

*Becoming like Christ"*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### ATTENDANCE

**We count because you count!**

**February 5: 10:00 - 190 Nursery - 7**

**TOTAL WORSHIP = 197**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 0, 2nd-5th - 6, Jr & Sr High - 35, New Disciples - 8, Open Door - 19, New Horizons - 11**

**TOTAL SS = 79**

### OFFERING TOTALS

**February 5, 2017**

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| General Fund                | \$3,670.25        |
| Sunday School               | 22.00             |
| Envelopes                   | 5.00              |
| God's Gang                  | 30.00             |
| Food Pantry                 | 52.00             |
| Souper Bowl of Caring       | 137.00            |
| Youth Fund                  | 25.00             |
| Bell Choir Fund             | 35.00             |
| Disciples Outreach-Missions | 420.00            |
| Blanket Sunday              | 10.00             |
| Building Fund               | 415.00            |
| Church Bus Fund             | 100.00            |
| Memorial Fund               | 340.00            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>\$5,261.25</b> |

### SERVING SCHEDULE: February 12, 2017

**8:00 AM:** ELDER: Dennis Thiel

DEACONESS: Cassie Boatman

PIANIST: Pete Templeton

**9:00 AM: Sunday School**

**10:00 AM: GREETERS:**

East: Steve, Jill, Kaitlyn, Morgan Coombes

West: Barb Free

ACOLYTES: Kaitlyn Coombes, Ethan Smittkamp

WORSHIP LEADER: Kim Woods

BREAD ELDER: Doug Hasler

DEACONESS: Lisa Smittkamp

DEACONS: Team #3, Sue Bennett, Captain; Jim Bennett,

Dena Dosch, Tim & Lori Hough, Doug Smittkamp,

Angel Templeton, AJ Waltz

JR DEACONS: Team #2, Montana Boatman, Greg

Johnson, Jaydin Seeley, Brooklyn Ward, Ben Young

CHILDREN'S SERMON: John Chittick

NURSERY HELPER: Montana Boatman

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Brooke Bartley & Lainey Ogle

FEB. FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Autumn Kasey

USHERS: Ken Dennison, Dean Smittkamp, Ron Stickler

SOUND SYSTEM: Chris Milam

PROJECTION: Chris Milam

SCRIPTURES: Ruth 1:6-18

SERMON: "Love Isn't Love Until You Live It"

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon

SHUT-IN COMMUNION: Kim Woods, John Chittick



We have not yet received notification, but we are expecting a deposit and letter from AmazonSmile. Thank you for designating FCC when shopping by entering:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/37-0776639>

or when you use our website to access the AmazonSmile connection. When you shop, you'll be making a charitable donation of .5% of your purchase!