

THE MESSENGER

“CHOOSE LIFE AND LOVE GOD”

March 1, 2017

WHEN YOU REALIZE . . .

We've all been there, done that. (If that seems familiar . . . it is, because those are the same words that began last week's newsletter.) Only this is more of the “didn't know” category, ie:

- you started to read something and realized it was way too complicated for you;
- you got into a conversation and you didn't comprehend it enough to contribute;
- you were asked a question and didn't know how to address and answer it;
- you wanted to ask a question, but were afraid yours would sound way too simple, even stupid.

You can relate, right? You've probably got your own examples of ignorance, but I was reminded of mine last week.

Last week we went to see the movie, “Is Genesis History?” It's one of those I need to see again - with breaks in between to discuss - in other words, have someone explain what was just said. It's not that the movie was bad, or poorly explained; I think it was too much all at once (at the end of a long day). But it revealed my ignorance of geology, astronomy, and some of the sciences used - to explain the validity and historicity of the Genesis creation account. The movie's answer is, “Yes, Genesis is history, and there is evidence to back it up.” That much I understood, even though I couldn't discuss all the issues with you.

It's humbling, when you realize you don't know what you probably should. But the good news is that God accepts and uses that - and, as I've learned firsthand, so do you as His Church. Thank you.

MC



LENTEN VIDEO SERIES

Come join us on Mondays at 5:00 PM in the Jerusalem Room for small group learning, sharing, and growing using Andy Stanley's, “Follow” video series. “No matter what you believe, no matter how you behave, Jesus invites you to Follow.” Give God an hour as you “Follow.” (Since there were some who couldn't make the first night, we are offering a re-showing of video 1 at 4:30 PM this coming Monday, March. 6, and then will follow with the class and video 2 at 5:00 PM.

WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING

Your donation toward Week of Compassion goes to help in places hit with disasters, like tornadoes or hurricanes, and for refugee situations both home and abroad. The goal of the Week of Compassion Offering is \$1600 and so far we have received \$822 (including electronic giving).

PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES

The new 2016-2017 pictorial directories are in. For those who had their pictures taken to be in the directory, you may pick up your copy in the office. For those who did not have a picture taken, please wait until next week to purchase a copy for \$4.



Hospitalized:

- Patty Waters, Union
- Rick Ward, Union
- Joel Osborne, Regional
- Donna Moore, Sarah Bush

Our sympathies go to Tony Peel & family in the loss of his uncle, and to Shirley Yeargin & family in the passing of her cousin and others recently.

Our prayers go with Adrienne Haupt as she now goes to Germany for classes!



-- Pat Hittle, Donna Garver, Connie Houston, Gloria Magers for their behinds the scenes help in putting together our Prayer Packets;

- Peg Dixon for the 8:00 accompaniment;
- Barbara Dick for the Children's Sermon;
- "The Joyful Ringers" for their Special Music;
- Barbara Dick with Carla Keltz & Audrey Stickler for beginning a new pictorial directory distribution;
- Sue Bennett and the Membership Committee for the dinner Sunday eve, and the Talent Show following;
- Daniel Smittkamp for hosting the show and all the participants, including "God" – Who called in!

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

i Bible, You Bible, We Bible!

MARCH PRAYER

God in Heaven, we know life is short. Teach us to be swift to love and make haste to be kind. Amen.

YEARBOOK REPORTS

Thank you to those who have turned in their yearbook reports, for those who have not - please get them turned in asap!

CANTATA REHEARSALS

Rehearsals for our FCC Cantata begin this coming Sunday, March 5, at 5:00 PM. They will continue each Sunday with a Wednesday and Saturday rehearsal in April. All singers welcome!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sometimes life is "woo-woo!" And at times it is "p-u" - that's why you need to be in Sunday School!

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is each Tuesday at 10:30 AM in the Jerusalem Room. You are welcome to join us!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Christian Educ. - Monday, Mar. 6, 6:00 PM
- Elders - Thursday, Mar. 9, 5:00 PM
- Board - Tuesday, Mar. 14, 7:00 PM

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Lent begins tonight, March 1, and we will have our Ash Wednesday service at 6:00 PM. All are invited.



LENTEN WORSHIP

During the days of Lent our worship will include the traditions of the season - from the "old rugged cross" to the Minute of Silence and Unison Prayer. The message series will be, "Way of the Cross," based on the Gospel of Mark. Come join us.

LENTEN PRAYER PROGRAM

There are still a few Prayer Packets left for those who would like to prayer for others from now to Easter.

LENTEN MUSIC & MEDITATION

The community is invited to the Presbyterian Church for a Music and Meditation service each Wednesday at 12:00 NN, starting March 8 and going through April 5. A light lunch is provided following each service for a donation.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

The next Community Kitchen will be on Monday, March 20. Volunteers are appreciated and needed, please sign-up!

SCHOLARSHIPS

FCC Scholarships are available in the office for graduating seniors and college students. They are also available online at:

<http://fccparis.org/scholarships/>

PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain for 2017 has been updated and information is being mailed out this week to all participants.



CIRCLES IN MARCH

CIRCLE OF LIGHT: meets Tuesday, March 7, at 6:00 PM.

KOINONIA CIRCLE: meets Thursday, March 16, at 9:00 AM.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: meets Tuesday, March 21 at 1:30 PM.

GOLDEN AGE

Thanks to Carstan Stites for his program on Space Camp yesterday. Next month, March 28, the Golden Age program will be by missionaries from Honduras. Plan to attend!

DISCIPLES MEN

Disciples Men will be making ham loaves on Saturday, March 18th - it will be a "Bring Your Own Breakfast" in the church kitchen and then follow-up by making the ham loaves.



HAM LOAVES

The Disciples Men are offering their ham loaves for sale. A one-pound loaf is \$6 and a two-pound loaf is \$12. Orders forms are available and will be taken until Wednesday, March 15. Orders may be picked up between 10 AM - 12 NN on Saturday, March 18 or Sunday morning following worship. Make checks out to "Disciples Men."

MEN'S BANQUET

Save the date! - The Men's Banquet is set for Monday, March 27. Tickets will be available soon, so stay tuned!

YOU ARE INVITED!

You are invited to the 80th birthday celebration for Don McGee to be held Saturday, March 11, from 1:00-4:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. No gifts, please.

CHILDREN'S MOVIE!

We are once again exploring the possibility of sponsoring a children's movie at the Paris Theatre during spring break. If anyone is interested in paying the \$300 cost so we can provide other things, let us know. Such support is truly appreciated.



YOUTH GROUP

Tonight, March 1, the Youth Group will go to the sanctuary to join the Ash Wednesday Service at 6:00 PM.



GOD'S GANG / CROSSROADS

Join us for God's Gang/Crossroads each Wednesday from 3:30-6:00 PM. This week's theme is "Rocks" and next week's will be "Oceans!"

PASTOR'S CLASS

Pastor's Class for our 5th grade youth is each Friday after school.

MICE

MICE will be heading to the Children's Museum in Terre Haute on Sunday, March 25. We will leave from the church at 1:00 PM and return around 4:30 PM.

Thank You!

Thank you for the gift of the Valentine Love Bag. It was really appreciated.

In Christian Love, Sue Hooker

Thank you to the children for the Valentine, and to all the adults who prepared and delivered the bags. Great to be remembered, Margaret Phillips

First Christian Church members: Thank you all so much for the lovely Valentine and Valentine package of fruit. The fruit was delicious as was the candy. I love this way of remembering others.

God Bless you all, Barbara Walker

Friends of FCC, Thank you for your calls, thoughts, and prayers while I was dealing with the hospitalization and recuperation from the stent implant. Friends mean so much during times like this in our lives. Thanking God, also.

Dorothy Farnham

AWARDS

Thanks to those who voted for FCC in the Prairie Press "Reader's Choice Awards." No matter the results, we thank you for your support!



THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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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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U.S. POSTAGE

PAID



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!

Feb. 26: 8:00 - 46 10:00 - 113 Nursery - 4

TOTAL WORSHIP = 163

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 0, 2nd-5th - 4, Jr & Sr High - 5, New Disciples - 13, Open Door - 20, New Horizons - 0

TOTAL SS = 42

OFFERING TOTALS

February 26, 2017

General Fund + E.G.*	\$3,907.75*
Sunday School	17.00
God's Gang	25.00
Food Pantry	357.00
Emergency Fund	20.00
Organ Fund	25.00
Disciples Outreach-Missions + E.G.*	400.00*
Week of Compassion + E.G.*	624.00*
Building Fund + E.G.*	637.50*
Scholarship Fund	30.00
TOTAL	\$6,043.25

SERVING SCHEDULE: March 5, 2017

8:00 AM: ELDER: Dennis Thiel
DEACONESS: Amber Tegeler
PIANIST: Peg Dixon

9:00 AM: Sunday School

10:00 AM: GREETERS:
East: Steve & Ellen Webb
West: Susan King

ACOLYTES: Kyle Tapscott, Graham Templeton

WORSHIP LEADER: Tammy Terry

BREAD ELDER: Kim Woods

DEACONESS: Susan King

DEACONS: Team #3, Sue Bennett, Captain; Jim Bennett, Dena Dosch, Tim & Lori Hough, Doug Smittkamp, Angel Templeton, AJ Waltz

JR DEACONS: Team #1, Brady Chittick, Mike Kirk, Lainey Ogle, Macy Richards, Aubrey Sanders

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Peg Dixon

NURSERY HELPER: Ava Huddleson

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Cindy Robinson

MAR.FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Dwight & Cindy Robinson

MARCH USHERS: Randy Creech, Jerry Thomas, & Dan Thomey

SOUND SYSTEM: John Chittick

PROJECTION: Brady Chittick

SCRIPTURE: Mark 2:1-12

SERMON: "The Way Of The Cross: Cross - Fire"

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon

SHUT-IN COMMUNION: Doug Hasler, Pete Templeton



FEATURE ABOUT DANA ZARTMAN

Great Lakes Christian High School sent us their recent newsletter featuring the life and work of Dana Zartman while employed with them. They sent along several copies for us to share with his friends here and these will be out and available. They are also making available a way to contribute to a capital project to improve their athletic facilities in his memory. The Brooks Avenue Church of Christ handles gifts from American donors and will provide a tax receipt. If you are interested, more information is available in the office.