

# THE MESSENGER

“CHOOSE LIFE AND LOVE GOD”

March 15, 2017

## BAD DAYS

We all have them. Hopefully, they are few and far between. Yet it's universal that things do not always go as we plan, as we want, as is good.

I said recently (because I heard Andy Stanley say) that our lives are not, “pain-free, nor problem-free,” just because we are following Jesus. Some of the bad is natural; some we bring on ourselves, and some may be the consequences of belonging to God.

I've been dealing with some “very bad days” each week - in the lessons at God's Gang. We've heard about Noah, Joseph, Moses, Daniel, Jonah and their “very bad days.” We'll go on to talk about the Disciples, Lazarus, Jesus, and other's bad experiences - and, of course, some of our own.

But the best thing is that it's not the end. We go on from “very bad days” to “how God fixed them,” what He did in the bad, with the bad, through the bad. After all, it's what He promised - Romans 8:28 - right?!

And if God could use the bad that happened to those biblical characters, then He can use your bad - to mend and strengthen you, to help your family, to inspire a neighbor, to witness to a co-worker, to encourage others who can relate, and even to change the world. (I know that seems too much, but, hey - this is God we're talking about!)

He has not changed. God is still in the business of taking “very bad days” and fixing/using/transforming them, even yours - mine - ours.

Tell Him. Ask Him. Wait for Him. Trust God.

*MC*



## **24 HOUR PRAYER VIGIL**

Our 24-hour Prayer Vigil will be Saturday, April 8, beginning at 8:00 AM and go through 8:00 AM Sunday, April 9 in the Prayer Room. A sign-up sheet is in the hallway to sign-up for a half-hour time slot. Instructions will be provided for all participants.

## **HAM LOAVES - ORDER TODAY!**

Last day for HAM LOAF orders is today! Ham loaves will be made this Saturday, March 18, and will be ready for pick-up in the church kitchen between 10:00 AM and 12:00 noon. Payment is due at that time. You may also pick them up Sunday, March 19, after worship services. Please be sure to make checks payable to “Disciples Men” and give to Ken Hamilton if you pick up your order on Sunday. Thank you! (DISCIPLES MEN: We will have our monthly Saturday morning breakfast on March 18, but it will be a BYOB - bring your own breakfast! Then we'll put the assembly line together for making ham loaves.)

## **MEN'S BANQUET**

The Men's Banquet is coming up on Monday, March 27 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$8 for men/\$5 for boys and are available from Dan Thomey, Ken Hamilton, Joel Gleckler, Daniel Smittkamp, or Rev. Mike! The program follows at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary with speaker, Paul Slifer.



**Hospitalized:**

Esther Blanford, Regional  
Gary Waters, Union  
Barbara Walker, Union

Home from Hospital: Rick Kennedy

Congratulations go to Don McGee on his birthday celebration!



-- Ethan Smittkamp for snacks at Pastor's Class;

-- Evie Gill for the 8:00 accompaniment;

-- Steve Webb for the Children's Sermon;

-- Edna Creech for the devotion at Board meeting.

**BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

Many books inform,  
only the Bible transforms.

**MARCH PRAYER**

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

**WEEK OF COMPASSION UPDATE**

You have given \$1267 toward our goal of \$1600 for the Week of Compassion Offering. Thank you for your gifts.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

◆ The Memorials Committee will be meeting on Thursday, March 23 at 1:30 PM.

◆ The Trustees will be meeting on Thursday, March 23 at 6:00 PM.

**LOVE NOTES**

Thanks to those who wrote notes of love and encouragement. The ones not picked up are being mailed out. PS: God sent notes to FCC at the Board meeting. They are now posted on the bulletin board.

**"WELCOME TO THE FAMILY"**

We were pleased on Sunday to officially welcome Allen Englebright into our FCC family as he came forward to transfer membership. Worshiping with us and getting acquainted led to this next, natural step. We're glad to say, "Welcome To The Family!"

**"SPLINTERS" FROM THE BOARD**

At the March meeting of the Executive Board, members:

- gathered around the worship setting of Matthew 22:36-39 with two "Love-Notes" from God;
- offered continuing prayers of thanks and love to God, and for one who needs love;
- heard about the "Passion Play" in Bloomington (Any interest?)
- celebrated the new pictorial directories;
- were told the 2016 statistics for the denominational yearbook;
- heard about missionaries Dan & Mary Jane Westra who will be here on March 28 at Golden Age;
- applauded that the FCC road signs are up and in use;
- saw a t-shirt with an FCC ad given out at PHS ballgames;
- approved the 2017 Memorials Priority List;
- heard, discussed, and approved the Staff Relations recommendation to begin a search for a Youth Minister;
- received the report of the Permanent Fund that the 2016 earnings/interest - \$5,164.08 - be distributed per our policy with 10% to our additional Staff Fund. Thanks to all and to God!

**LENTEN VIDEO SERIES**

You are invited to attend the Lenten Video Series on Monday evenings at 5:00 pm in the Jerusalem Room.

**LENTEN MUSIC & MEDITATION**

Music and Meditation services are held at the Presbyterian Church each Wednesday at 12:00 noon. Rev. Mike Dixon will be the speaker on March 22 with Kristin Chittick providing the special music.

**LENTEN PRAYER PROGRAM**

Thank you to those praying, please continue. If you do not know the people in your packet, please ask.

**BIBLE STUDY**

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

**CANTATA REHEARSALS**

Rehearsals for the FCC Cantata Choir are Sunday evenings at 5:00 PM. All singers welcome!



**CIRCLES IN MARCH**

KOINONIA CIRCLE: is Thursday, March 16, at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen. Hostesses are Peggy Barath & Coralie Smittkamp, study leader is Audrey Stickler.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: is Tuesday, March 21 at 1:30 PM at the home of Carolyn Lanker, hostess. Lesson will be by Linda Chittick.

**COMMUNITY KITCHEN**

Volunteers are welcome on Monday, March 20 to help serve and bring desserts. Please sign-up your help or food item!

**GOLDEN AGE**

The next Golden Age luncheon will be Tuesday, March 28, with missionaries from Honduras bringing the program.

**NOTE / POST CARDS**

Some of you noticed the extras on the table with the new directories - some pictorial postcards and notecards. We will offer packages of each - for a cost - at a later date.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

FCC Scholarships are available in the office for graduating seniors and college students. They are also available on the church website:

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

Applications are due back in the office no later than April 15.

**YEAR BOOK REPORTS**

If you have not turned in your report for the 2016 Yearbook, please do so this week. We would like to have them printed and available by this Sunday or next at the latest.

**SECRET PLACE DEVOTIONALS**

There are still a few of "The Secret Place" devotionals for spring available. Pick up a copy at the entryways.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Life is what you learn and do,  
It's who you know, too,  
So come experience both -  
In Sunday School.



**YOUTH GROUP**

Youth Group will meet in the Youth Room each Wednesday at 6:00 PM - bring a friend!

**GOD'S GANG / CROSSROADS**

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

**PASTOR'S CLASS**

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

**MICE**

MICE will be heading to the Children's Museum in Terre Haute next Sunday, March 26. We will leave from the church at 1:00 PM and return around 4:30 PM.

\* \* \*

Save up your aluminum cans to bring in that same Sunday!

**CHURCH CAMP**

It's time to plan for summer Church Camp! Forms are available in the hallway or on the church website under "Events." Most camp deadlines to register are April 29 for the early bird discount! Payment is due with your camp registration.

**PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES**

The new pictorial directories are in and available for pick-up. If you did not take a picture but would like a directory, they are available for \$4.00 each.

**SMALL CROSSES**

To go along with our theme of, "The Way Of The Cross" for Lent, we have small crosses available. We invite you to wear it or display it where it will remind you that you, too, are to live, "The Way Of The Cross."

*Thank You!*

Dear Church Family, Thank you all so very much for your concern, prayers, and delicious food. What a blessing to be surrounded by a loving and caring group of people. May God bless you all and I'm looking forward to a successful recovery!

Yours in Christ, Rick Kennedy



# THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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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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U.S. POSTAGE

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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!**

**March 12: 8:00 - 45 10:00 - 100 Nursery - 1**

**TOTAL WORSHIP = 146**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 0, 2nd-5th - 2, Jr & Sr High - 2, New Disciples - 10, Open Door - 18, New Horizons - 8**

**TOTAL SS = 40**

### OFFERING TOTALS

**March 12, 2017**

General Fund	\$3,691.25
Sunday School	12.00
God's Gang	49.00
Food Pantry	75.00
Bell Choir	50.00
Disciples Outreach-Missions	305.00
Week of Compassion	72.00
Building Fund	455.00
Scholarship Fund	30.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,739.25</b>

### SERVING SCHEDULE: March 19, 2017

**8:00 AM:** ELDER: Dan Lynch  
DEACONESS: Cathy Clawson  
PIANIST: Pete Templeton

**9:00 AM: Sunday School**

**10:00 AM: GREETERS:**

East: Joe & Evie Gill

West: Bill & Donna Moss

ACOLYTES: Macie Thomas, Drew Templeton

WORSHIP LEADER: Steve Webb

BREAD ELDER: Pete Templeton

DEACONESS: Karla Pierson

DEACONS: Team #2, Autumn Kasey, Captain; Barb Free, Candi Milam, Dwight & Cindy Robinson, Cody Vaughn, JK Vilks, Kevin Woods

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Rev. Mike Dixon

NURSERY HELPER: Chloe Waltz

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Jane Smittkamp

MAR.FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Dwight & Cindy Robinson

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

SOUND SYSTEM: Chris Milam

PROJECTION: Chris Milam

SCRIPTURE: Mark 8:31-9:13

SERMON: "The Way Of The Cross: Cross - Reference"  
by Rev. Michael C. Dixon



# You're Invited!

## Invitations

Who can you invite? We will soon have a printed invitation available for you to give/send/share with someone in your circle of life. Be thinking/praying about who you can invite to "Choose Life and Love God" here in FCC.