

# THE MESSENGER

“CHOOSE LIFE AND LOVE GOD”

March 22, 2017

## WHO WE ARE AND WHAT IT MEANS

When you find something good, you want to share it. (Hopefully.) If it's good to you, it may be equally good to others. In that spirit, the following was shared at Bible Study and now I share it with you.

“I Am A Christian”

When I say I am a Christian, I'm not shouting that I am clean living, I'm whispering I was lost but now I'm found and forgiven.

When I say I'm a Christian, I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumbled and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not claiming to be perfect, my flaws are far too visible, but God believes I'm worth it.

When I say I'm a Christian, I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His Name.

When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not holier than thou. I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace somehow.

You may want to share it, too. (We'll put out some copies.) But let it first remind you of who you are and what it means.

*MCD*



## **24 HOUR PRAYER VIGIL**

Sign up to be part of our 24-hour Prayer Vigil beginning Saturday, April 8, at 8:00 AM and going through 8:00 AM Sunday, April 9. You are invited to pray for a 30-minute time slot in the Prayer Room. The sign-up sheet is posted in the hallway.

## **MEN'S BANQUET**

The Men's Banquet is next 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! Menu for the banquet includes: starter salad, Italian pork loin, potatoes, vegetables, roll and assorted desserts. Our speaker had to cancel due to an emergency at work, but God provides. We are pleased that Don & Maryjane Westra, church members and missionaries, will be with us to tell of their experience in Honduras - (from his mechanical background tractors/engineering to her people skills/social work). Come join us. Call in and we'll save you a ticket!



Happy Birthday to Ray Taylor this week! (Cards are encouraged c/o [son] Gary, 104 Allenwood Dr.)

Home from Hospital:

Sue Bennett Gary Waters  
Barbara Walker Mary Alice Foley  
and

Marcella Johnson to Paris Healthcare for short-term rehab/therapy.

Congratulations to James Brooks on his "surprise" birthday celebration!

Congratulations to Tim & Lori Hough & family on the birth of a new grandchild recently!



-- Sammy Milam for the Pastor's Class snacks, including the dog biscuits;

-- the Disciples Men for the ham loaves;

-- Pete Templeton for the 8:00 piano accompaniment;

-- Rev. Mike for the Children's Sermon;

-- Barbara Dick for bundling the notecards for sale;

-- All who are using the printed invitations to invite someone else!

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**BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

Inhale faith.  
Exhale works.



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**MARCH PRAYER**

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



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**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.
- ◆ The Christian Education Committee will meet on Monday, April 3, at 6:00 PM.

**2016 YEARBOOKS**

The 2016 Yearbook is being typed, printed, and "bound" this week to be ready for this coming Sunday. Be sure to get your copy and check out our look back at 2016 through the ministries of FCC.

**LENTEN VIDEO SERIES**

The Lenten Video Series is ongoing each Monday at 5:00 pm in the Jerusalem Room. There is room for more.

**LENTEN MUSIC & MEDITATION**

Music and Meditation services are at the Presbyterian Church each Wednesday at noon.

**CANTATA REHEARSALS**

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

**INVITATIONS**

Use the invitations provided to invite - give or mail - others who God puts on your mind. According to a recent Barna poll, 47% of the unchurched said they would come if invited!

**CROSSES**

We have a few more small crosses available to those who didn't receive one. They go along with our theme of, "The Way Of The Cross."

**LENTEN PRAYER PROGRAM**

Keep praying for those in your packet - ask about names if needed.

**BIBLE STUDY**

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

**HAM LOAVES**

Be sure to pick up your Ham Loaf order asap. Call or come in this week!

**POSTCARDS / NOTECARDS**

Along with our new pictorial directories, we designed and ordered some postcards and notecards. We have extras to make available for sale to you:

- 10 Notecards for \$5 (either design)
- 20 Postcards for \$5 (either design)

If these would be of use to you, come check them out.



### GOLDEN AGE

The Golden Age luncheon will be Tuesday, March 28 at 12:00 NN, sign-up to let us know the number attending for the catered meal. Cost for lunch is by donation. The program will follow with Don & Mary Jane Westra, with their missionary work in Honduras.



### 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.

### SECRET PLACE DEVOTIONALS

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

### HANDBELL CONCERT

The Community Handbell Concert will be held on Saturday, April 8, at the PHS Fine Arts Center at 6:00 PM. There will be an offering collected with proceeds going to "Shop With A Cop."

### PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES

Be sure to pick up your copy of the new pictorial directory. If you did not take a picture but would like a directory, they are available in the office for \$4.00 each.

### CHILDREN'S MOVIE

We are sponsoring a children's movie at the local Paris Theatre on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, April 10,11,12 of spring break. The movie is, "The Secret Life of Pets." Doors will open at 9:30 AM, the movie starts at 10:00 AM.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

We want to  
See U  
in  
Sunday School!  
Thank U



### 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 "Rainbows" and next week's will be "Animals."

### PASTOR'S CLASS

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

### MICE

CHANGE OF DAY: Saturday, March 25, the MICE group will head to the Children's Museum in Terre Haute. Plan to leave from the church at 12:00 NN (IL time) and return around 4:30 PM (IL time).

\* \* \*

Bring in your aluminum cans on Sun., March 26.



### 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.

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### Thank You!

Thank you for all the cards, phone calls, thoughts and prayers following my surgery and Gary's heart attack. We appreciate each of you and your thoughtfulness. May God bless each of you.

- Patty Waters

First Christian Church, I'm still here at PHC due to breaking my ankle. Thanks to Rev. Mike for the Secret Place, also to the Elders for their card & others who sent cards. I miss seeing you all, and communion. Love, Bea Mae Camp



# 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!***

**March 19: 8:00 - 58 10:00 - 88 Nursery - 11**

**TOTAL WORSHIP = 157**

***SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 0, 2nd-5th - 5, Jr & Sr High - 3, New Disciples - 9, Open Door - 20, New Horizons - 11***

**TOTAL SS = 48**

### OFFERING TOTALS

**March 19, 2017**

General Fund	\$3,501.25
Sunday School	18.00
Choices Pregnancy & Health	100.00
Food Pantry	100.00
Reimbursement	18.75
MICE	10.00
Flower Fund (Worship Committee)	100.00
Head, Hands, Heart	50.00
Bell Choir Fund	50.00
Disciples Outreach-Missions	174.00
Building Fund	359.00
Memorial Fund	50.00
Scholarship Fund	30.00
Permanent Fund	12.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,572.35</b>

### SERVING SCHEDULE: March 26, 2017

**8:00 AM:** ELDER: Dennis Thiel  
DEACONESS: Cathy Clawson  
PIANIST: Mary Helen Hamilton

**9:00 AM: Sunday School**

**10:00 AM: GREETERS:**

East: Patty Waters  
West: Dwight & Cindy Robinson  
ACOLYTES: Claire Young, Taylor Shewey

WORSHIP LEADER: Chris Milam

BREAD ELDER: Tammy Terry

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: Dan Smittkamp

NURSERY HELPER: Claire Young

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Sandy Templeton

MAR.FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Dwight & Cindy Robinson

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

SOUND SYSTEM: Joe Gill

PROJECTION: Evie Gill

SCRIPTURE: Mark 10:17-22

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

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon



**Happy Spring**