

THE MESSENGER

“CHOOSE LIFE AND LOVE GOD”

March 29, 2017

EVENTUALLY . . .

The church has never been known for speed and efficiency. While there are times when we race toward a result, it's often a more turtle-like pace. Usually with delays. Often there's a detour or two. Sometimes even a disagreement. There are quite often stops and starts, and then more starts and stops. But

Eventually . . .

It can be embarrassing. It's frustrating. It can end up being that little irritant that bothers you, but not enough to push it through. Until

Eventually . . .

But when eventually turns into reality, there's reason to celebrate - as we do now over our road signs!

Some years back we decided it would be good to put signs at the entrances to town, so people would know we are here. We ordered some and soon had the ones up on the east and west. But we had those delays and detours north and south - again, more, over and over. It got to the point where we'd laugh whenever we mentioned it. We'd shake our heads and say

Eventually . . .

Well, now it's done. Completed. Accomplished. All it took was a new approach and some folk to make it happen. And so I say thank you to all involved!

You can call it inefficiency, but it's also a matter of priorities - some projects are not urgent, not as important, and need to wait; but when we don't forget, don't give up, don't quit - it's a reminder of how God treats you - with patience, persistence, steadfast waiting. God's loving approach is

Eventually . . .

I hope you respond to Him each day.

MCD



24 HOUR PRAYER VIGIL

You are invited 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 in the Prayer Room. The sign-up sheet is posted in the hallway with the following openings: Saturday AM - 8:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:00 NN; Saturday PM - 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, 9:30, 11:00; 12:00 Midnight; Sunday AM - 12:30, 1:00, 3:00, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:00. Please sign-up today!

COMMUNITY 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." Special music to be provided following the concert.

FREE 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. There is no cost for admission, but the concessions will be open for purchases. There will be a few door prizes, and FCC information will be free to all.



Congratulations to all involved in the Paris play this weekend!

Hospitalized: Esther Blanford, Paris

Home from Hospital: Brenda Buckley

Congratulations also go to all our students on new opportunities at school including: Ava Huddleson, Mayo Cheerleader!



-- Morgan Gann for providing snacks at Pastor's Class;

-- Barbara Dick for her help bundling the notes & postcards for sale;

-- Mary Helen Hamilton for our accompaniment at 8:00;

-- Daniel Smittkamp for the Children's Sermon;

-- Barbara Dick for directing the choir;

-- Kim & Kevin Woods for sharing their anniversary flowers!

-- CWF for the Men's Banquet meal, and all the men for their leadership;

-- Disciples Outreach for sponsoring the visit of missionaries, Don & Maryjane Westra, who spoke at both the Men's Banquet & Golden Age;

-- Don & Dorothy McGee, who hosted our guests & their motorhome;

-- Mary Carriere for the devotion at Golden Age.

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

Struggles can define you or refine you.



APRIL PRAYER

Dear God, In this Lenten season, help us to understand the love it took for Christ's suffering and humiliation, the ultimate sacrifice for all of us as sinners. But let us focus on the blessing and power that was shown when He rose again so we who believe will live forever. Amen.



CHRISTIAN EDUC COMMITTEE MEETING

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



SCHOLARSHIPS

FCC Scholarships are available in the office or on the church website. Applications and references are due back in the office no later than April 15.

2016 YEARBOOKS

It is finished! The 2016 Yearbook are available at the entryways. Pick up a copy!

LENTEN VIDEO SERIES

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

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 each Sunday evening at 5:00 PM.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

- ◆ Maundy Thursday Communion, 7:00 PM
- ◆ Community Good Friday Service, 12:00 NN at Otterbein UMC, Rev. Mike preaching

INVITATIONS

Invitations are available for you to use in inviting others to worship.

LENTEN PRAYER PROGRAM

Thank you for continuing to pray. Remember to ask about names you do not know. Prayer notes are available when needed.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is each Tuesday at 10:30 AM in the Jerusalem Room. We have just started the book of Esther.

POSTCARDS / NOTECARDS

We have notecards and postcards for sale:

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

If these would like some, come check them out.



CIRCLES IN APRIL

CIRCLE OF LIGHT: meets Tuesday, April 4 at 6:00 PM in the church parlor.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: meets Tuesday, April 18, at 1:30 PM. Hostess is Corky Davidson and lesson will be by Mary Helen Hamilton.

KOINONIA CIRCLE: meets Thursday, April 20, at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen. Mary K. Bradford will be the hostess with Cindy Mathis bringing the lesson.

EASTER OFFERING

The Easter Offering will begin next week and information presented during the Minute for Mission.

SECRET PLACE DEVOTIONALS

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

WOMEN'S WORKSHOP ITEMS

Keep in mind to save the items collected by CWF at their semi-annual workshops: Box Tops for Education, pop tabs, used glasses & hearing aids, used cell phones & chargers, used stamps, and Campbell's labels. These can be brought in anytime and placed in the containers by the sign-up desk. Thank you!

PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES

The new pictorial directories are available in the office. If you did not take a picture but would like a directory, they are \$4.00 each.

PRAYER CONCERN

We have received word of recent heavy rains and, therefore, flooding and mudslides in Peru. We are awaiting word about Tatiana, the little girl we sponsor through Compassion International. Please pray for her, the family, and those who work there.

FOOD FOR KIDS

We have also just learned that money is needed to help the weekend food program for children' in our community. If you would like to help, you can give through the church or directly to the Edgar County Bank Trust Dept.



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 "Animals" and next week's will be "Bugs."

PASTOR'S CLASS

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

MICE

The next MICE outing will be Sunday, April 30. We will meet at the Paris Bowling Alley from 2:00 - 4:00 PM.



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.

CAMP WALTER SCOTT DATES:

High School - June 11-17

Kindergarten-2nd Grade - June 21-24

3rd-5th Grade - June 23-29

Jr. High - July 16-22

K-5th with Grandparent - June 18-21

Hurry - the late fee is \$25

CCIW STATISTICS FOR 2016

The following info was sent to CCIW about FCC:

Total Membership: 890

Participating Membership: 480

Baptisms: 10

Transfers: 7

Average Worship Attendance: 170

Weekly C'tian Educ. Attendance: 166

CWF Members: 50

Local Operating Receipts: \$264,188

Local Capital Receipts: \$85,851

Total Outreach: \$98,455



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

Non-Profit

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!

March 26: 8:00 - 56 10:00 - 97 Nursery - 5

TOTAL WORSHIP = 153

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 0, 2nd-5th - 3, Jr & Sr High - 2, New Disciples - 9, Open Door - 16, New Horizons - 10

TOTAL SS = 40

OFFERING TOTALS

March 26, 2017

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| General Fund* | \$4,490.25* |
| Sunday School | 21.50 |
| Choices Pregnancy & Health | 50.00 |
| Food Pantry | 80.00 |
| Emergency Fund | 50.00 |
| God's Gang | 70.00 |
| Disciples Men | 100.00 |
| Disciples Outreach-Missions* | 165.00* |
| Week of Compassion* | 70.00* |
| Building Fund* | 280.00* |
| Scholarship Fund | 30.00 |
| TOTAL | \$5,406.75* |

**Includes Electronic Giving*

SERVING SCHEDULE: April 2, 2017

8:00 AM: ELDER: Dick James
DEACONESS: Amber Tegeler
PIANIST: Faye Eitel

9:00 AM: Sunday School

10:00 AM: GREETERS:

East: Al & Nancy Englebright

West: Bob & Anita Martin

ACOLYTES: Morgan Coombes, Sophia Young

WORSHIP LEADER: Kim Woods

BREAD ELDER: Chris Milam

DEACONESS: Carolyn Ray

DEACONS: Team #1, Dan Smittkamp, Captain; Rita

Haupt, Mark Johnson, Greg Kelly, Doc & Donna

Moody, Jacob Thomas, Margo Yeargin

JR DEACONS: Team #1 Brady Chittick, Mike Kirk,

Lainey Ogle, Macy Richards, Aubrey Sanders

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Rev. Mike Dixon

NURSERY HELPER: Aubrey Sanders

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Tammy Terry

APRIL FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Pat Hittle

APRIL USHERS: Ken Dennison, Dean Smittkamp &

Ron Stickler

SOUND SYSTEM: Brooklyn Ward

PROJECTION: Tony Peel

SCRIPTURE: Mark 10:46-52

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

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon

SHUT-IN COMMUNION: Pete Templeton, Steve Webb

