

THE MESSENGER

“CHOOSE LIFE AND LOVE GOD”

April 5, 2017

A DREAM COME TRUE?

I've had it happen to me. But never to the one working with me.

Last Friday I walked into the office and Cheryl, our Administrative Assistant, mouthed the words, "I can't talk." It was a sudden case of that "larry-gitus" thing when no matter how hard you try, you can't do any more than whisper - and that's not good for you. And it's not good for us when she can't answer the phone!

She communicated that she was not answering the phone, just using the answering machine - and handing me the messages. (We apologize if that was you.) I said I would handle the phone and any calls.

One call came in, and I explained why I was answering. The response was, "That's every man's dream!" We laughed about it; then we went on.

But I've been thinking about it. And I'm not sure that stereotype fits my reality.

I admit (I'm trying to be careful here) that at some times, in some situations, with some people, I've wished for some more silence! But not in our work. Not with Cheryl. We have a very productive and cooperative relationship. I have too much respect for her and her input, suggestions, life to wish for no talking.

The same is true for most of you. That's not my dream - with her, with my wife, with others. Nor is it God's.

You think about that.

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[Editors Note: Thank you, Rev. Dixon - Cheryl ☺]

24 HOUR PRAYER VIGIL

THIS SATURDAY, April 8, begins the 24-hour Prayer Vigil in our Prayer Room. Several spots are still open and we need them filled ASAP! Call in to check on times available. Thank you to those who have signed up. Please remember your times. Additional instructions will be sent this week.

COMMUNITY HANDBELL CONCERT

Also, this Saturday, is the Community Handbell Concert at the PHS Fine Arts Center at 6:00 PM. There will be an offering collected with proceeds going to "Shop With A Cop." FCC will host the concert, so come give your support! (*Correction: there will not be special music following; the Joyful Ringers will be providing Special Music during the 10:00 AM service this coming Sunday.*)

FREE CHILDREN'S MOVIE

Kids - invite your friends to a free movie - April 10,11,12 of spring break! The movie is, "The Secret Life of Pets." The Paris Theatre 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.

Easter Offering

Letters have been mailed out with information on our Easter Offering. Our goal is \$3,000 based on previous giving. This special offering goes to help the ministries of the CCIW and the Disciples of Christ. We have already received \$153.00 toward the goal. Easter boxes are available for the children to participate in the offering as well. Thank you.



Our sympathies are extended to the family & friends of Dr. Ray Taylor in his passing last week. Services will be on Saturday.

Congratulations to Matt & Bridget Moss & family on the birth of Alexandra Rose last Saturday! Welcome to our world, Alexandra!

Hospitalized: Esther Blanford, Paris

Home from Hospital: Janet Kirsch
Donna Moore
Karen Moore

Congratulations to all who were involved in the PHS play last weekend!

Additional sympathies go to Dwight Robinson & family in the passing of his brother-in-law.

We pray for Tatiana, the girl we support in Peru, and all affected by the recent rains & storms.



-- Emma Kennedy & family for the snack at Pastor's Class;

-- Tony Peel for the new compressor in the pop machine;

- Faye Eitel for the 8:00 accompaniment;
- Joel Gleckler & Carolyn Lanker for the Minutes for Mission;
- Rev. Mike for the Children's Sermons;
- Disciples Outreach Committee for their work assembling the mailing that went out.

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

Without the Messiah,
Life is a Mess!

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.



WANTED

We are interested in borrowing a couple of table-type fountains for our worship the Sunday after Easter. If you have one available, let us know.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Less than 2 weeks are left for turning in your scholarship applications and references. They are due in the office by April 15!

LENTEN VIDEO SERIES

The Lenten Video Series is ongoing each Monday at 5:00 pm in the Jerusalem Room. Come join us.

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

- ◆ April 9, Palm Sunday, 8 & 10 AM with palms!
- ◆ April 13, Maundy Thursday Communion, at 7:00 PM - bring your small cross
- ◆ April 14, Community Good Friday Service, 12:00 NN at Otterbein UMC, with Rev. Mike preaching

INVITATIONS

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

EASTER SUNDAY!

April 16 we'll celebrate Easter at the 8 & 10 AM worship, which will include baptisms. Breakfast will be offered at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Come to the early service and eat after, or come at 9:00 and stay for the later service.

BIBLE STUDY

Each Tuesday morning at 10:30 AM we gather for Bible Study in the Jerusalem Room. After learning from the current study of Esther, we will continue on to Ruth before the summer break. Every session finishes with a sharing of concerns and prayer. All are invited.

POSTCARDS / NOTECARDS

We have FCC notecards and postcards for sale:
- 10 Notecards for \$5 (two different designs)
- 20 Postcards for \$5 (two different designs)

NEW GROWTH

Last spring we focused on "adding something New" to our life that would enrich our faith. Later this month we will continue this challenge. Here is a first-hand report from last year: "We watch and learn from Pastor James McDonald and Joyce Meyer M-F, 7-8 a.m. We also listen to Christian Radio broadcasting on the road." God offers us "something new" if we are willing to ask. Are you?

CIRCLES IN APRIL

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.

RELAY FOR LIFE

- The FCC Relay for Life team will have a meeting on Monday, April 10, at 7 PM. All members are asked to attend.
- The VFW is sponsoring a RFL Benefit Dinner on Sunday, April 23, from 11 AM-3 PM. They will be serving beef-n-noodles or chicken-n-noodles with mashed potatoes, green beans and roll for \$8 adult/\$5 children 5 & under. Tickets are available from Relay members or in the church office.

DISCIPLE MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Disciples Men will be having their breakfast get-together on Saturday, April 15 at 8:00 AM at the Lincoln Trail Restaurant.

WOMEN'S WORKSHOP

The Women's Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, May 9 at 9:00 AM. Please bring in these items: Box Tops for Education, pop tabs, used glasses & hearing aids, used cell phones & chargers, used stamps, and Campbell's labels. Collection containers are by the sign-up desk.

CHURCH CAMP

Turn in your Church Camp registration and payment - camp deadlines are April 29 for the early bird discount!

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

2016 YEARBOOKS

The 2016 Yearbook are available at the entryways. Get your copy!

LENTEN PRAYER PROGRAM

Thank you to those who prayed. Prayer notes should be sent out next week.

Thank You!

Thank you for the cards, calls, and prayers after my surgery. I appreciate everything. My therapy is going great. - Sue Bennett

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group will meet this week at 6:00 PM, But there will not be Youth Group next week due to spring break.

GOD'S GANG / CROSSROADS

This week's theme is "Bugs." **NOTE:** We will not have God's Gang next week, April 12, due to spring break. We'll start again on Wed., April 19.

MICE

MICE meet at the Paris Bowling Alley from 2:00-4:00 PM on Sunday, April 30.

PASTOR'S CLASS

Thank you to this year's Pastor's Class: Morgan Gann, Emmalyn Kennedy, Sammy Milam, Will Moody and Ethan Smittkamp. They submitted the following prayers:

Dear God, Thank you for Pastor's Class, family, friends, food and water. Thank You for this day. Thank You for our church that helps us learn about You. God, I want to be a Christian and get baptized and live my life with You. Bless me, my family, and everyone in this Church. - Morgan

Dear God, Thank You for Pastor's Class and thanks for everything You have done for us. I know that You want the best for everyone, as I do. I pray that my grandpa gets better and that I will be happy with You. I want to be baptized so I can finally say I am a Christian. I love You and I will always love You. Thank You for everything.

- Emmalyn

Dear God, I want to say thanks for helping me through Pastor's Class and how I learned about the church and how it got restructured. I also learned about how to be a Christian. I want to say that Pastor's Class helped me become closer to You and taught me about baptism and how to become a Christian and follow You. - Sammy

Dear God, Thank You for Pastor's Class. It's so fun with Rev. Dixon and all of my friends. I've learned about the Bible, prayer, and our church. I want to be a Christian so I can have Jesus with me for the rest of my life. - Will

Dear God, Thank You for Pastor's Class, family, and food. I have learned a lot more about Jesus and You in Pastor's Class. I want to be a Christian so I can be a part of Your family. I also want to be a Christian because I want to have You in my life. - Ethan



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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!

April 2: 8:00 - 52 10:00 - 114 Nursery - ?

TOTAL WORSHIP = 166

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 1, 2nd-5th - 3, Jr & Sr High - 0, New Disciples - 9, Open Door - 23, New Horizons - 6

TOTAL SS = 42

OFFERING TOTALS

April 2, 2017

General Fund + PayPal	\$6,892.25
Sunday School	16.00
Envelopes	1.00
Food Pantry	13.00
Backpack Lunch Program	50.00
MICE	10.00
Bell Choir	60.00
Disciples Outreach-Missions	430.00
Easter Offering	153.00
Building Fund	680.00
Scholarship Fund	30.00
TOTAL	\$8,335.25

SERVING SCHEDULE: April 9, 2017 - Palm Sunday

8:00 AM: ELDER: Joel Gleckler
DEACONESS: Cassie Boatman
PIANIST: Peg Dixon

9:00 AM: Sunday School

10:00 AM: GREETERS:

East: Sandy Templeton
West: Pete, Angel, Will, Drew, Graham Templeton

ACOLYTES: Christopher Gann, Steven West

WORSHIP LEADER: John Chittick

BREAD ELDER: Doug Hasler

DEACONESS: Ellen Webb

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

JR DEACONS: Team #2 Montana Boatman, Greg Johnson, Jaydin Seeley, Brooklyn Ward, Ben Young

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Mary Griffin

NURSERY HELPER: Gabbie Waltz

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Linda West

APRIL FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Pat Hittle

APRIL USHERS: Ken Dennison, Dean Smittkamp & Ron Stickler

SOUND SYSTEM: Chris Milam

PROJECTION: Chris Milam

SCRIPTURE: Mark 11:1-11

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

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon



MAUNDY
Thursday

SERVING SCHEDULE: April 13 - Maundy Thurs.

7:00 PM:

ELDERS: Steve Webb, Pete Templeton

DEACONESS: Mary Griffin

ACOLYTES: Myli Tapscott, Ethan Smittkamp

SOUND: Tony Peel