

THE MESSENGER

“CHOOSE LIFE AND LOVE GOD”

April 19, 2017

NO

We always try to be a “yes” church, but last week I had to say “no.”

Yet it started back in the winter. I was praying and planning for Lent. When I decide on one series using all the “cross”-words, I thought it would be good to get and distribute the small crosses we offered at the beginning of the season. (Thank you for taking and using them; it’s been good to see them.)

Since the Maundy Thursday word was “cross-bearer,” it seemed appropriate to use the small crosses in some way. So we asked you to bring yours with you. I know some were leary of that - having grown attached to theirs.

Nevertheless, at the service I announced that when we all came forward to the table we were to put the cross in the basket as a way of giving back to God. I couldn’t look at anyone when I said it, partly because of those feelings and partly due to what would happen then.

I stood behind the table and when each started to give back the cross, I held up my hand and said, “No - God wants you to bear the cross. Carry it for Him.” It was a symbolic act - even better as a surprise - to communicate that we are to be cross-bearers - not just burdens, but intentional, sacrificial lives for Christ.

Other than that symbolic “no,” we want to say “yes” because that’s what God says to us.

MCD

Easter Offering

Our Easter Offering goal was \$3,000 and we went over it with a total of \$3,286.70! There may still be some coming in the mail and children’s boxes to add, so we’ll try to give a final total next week. Thank you!

RELAY FOR LIFE

This Sunday, April 23, the VFW is sponsoring a RFL Benefit Dinner from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Beef-n-noodles or chicken-n-noodles with mashed potatoes, green beans and roll will be served. Tickets are \$8 adult / \$5 children 5 & under and are available from Relay members or in the church office. Get your ticket this week!



National Day of Prayer Breakfast

The National Day of Prayer will be Thursday, May 4 at Tuscany’s. The Paris Ministerial Fellowship is hosting the breakfast at 8:00 AM, donations will be accepted and all are invited. The FCC Prayer Room will also be open to use all that day.

CANTATA WORSHIP

“The Letter” is the title of this year’s choir cantata that will be our worship next week, April 30 at 10:00 AM. Inspired by a “letter from God,” Peg Dixon arranged the music and readings that highlight the Bible’s message of God’s love for us. The service will be led by the Cantata Choir, feature several solos and include the God’s Gang children as well. Plan to come share the love of God.



Congratulations to Morgan Gann, Emma Kennedy, Sammy Milam, Will Moody, and Ethan Smittkamp on their baptisms Easter Sunday!

Hospitalized: Mary Alice Foley, Carle Esther Blanford, Paris



-- Chancel Choir for singing at our Maundy Thursday Communion Service;

-- Rev. Mike for preaching the Good Friday Service;

- Evie Gill for the 8:00 accompaniment;
- Troy Sanders for his help with the baptisms;
- Chris & Candi Milam and Rev. Mike for the Children's Sermons;
- Membership Committee for the Easter Breakfast;
- Thomey family for the worship flowers.

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

Jesus' death changed life;
His life changed death!

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.



"THE SHACK" MOVIE

Several have asked about the movie based on the book, "The Shack." FYI - it is currently showing in Terre Haute, and it will begin this Friday at the Paris Theatre for at least a week! Several have recommended it.

"LOL" DATE

For those who have been involved in our "Lunch On the Lawn" with Bridges, we have confirmed the date of Friday, May 12. Plan on it.

PRAYER NOTES

Reminder - send out your prayer notes to those you prayed for through Lent, some are wondering.

EARTH SUNDAY

We will have Earth Sunday on May 7 to celebrate creation and our response. Come enjoy the reminders with flowering trees, animals, and fountains. (If you have an item to donate, let us know.)

BIBLE STUDY

Each Tuesday morning at 10:30 AM we gather for Bible Study in the Jerusalem Room. We are currently finishing up Esther and will continue to Ruth before the summer break.

POSTCARDS / NOTECARDS

We have FCC notecards and postcards for sale:
- 10 Notecards for \$5 (two different designs)
- 20 Postcards for \$5 (two different designs)
See Barbara Dick to purchase packets.



A SEASON SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Experts say that adults in the US make an average of 35,000 decisions EACH DAY! (That makes me tired just thinking about it.) Well, this Sunday you will be challenged to make a potentially life-changing decision...

I desire a closer relationship with Father God
or

I am satisfied with my Christian life as it is. You alone have the free will to keep things the way they are... or to intentionally seek God's supernatural help to transform your life into something much more. We will give you suggestions and various methods to use, but the reality is...

Do you want more?!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Memorials Comm., Thurs. Apr. 27, 1:30 PM
- Trustees, Thurs. Apr. 27, 6:00 PM
- Elders, Thurs. May 4, 5:00 PM
- Board, Tues. May 9, 7:00 PM

SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to all those who turned in scholarship applications. Reply letters should be received by the first of May.



CIRCLE IN APRIL

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.

WOMEN'S BANQUET

This year's Women's Banquet will be held on Thursday, June 1, at 6:00 PM. The speaker for the evening will be Jeanette Levellie. Save the date! Tickets will be available in May.

WOMEN'S WORKSHOP

The Women's Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, May 6 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 located by the sign-up desk.

GOLDEN AGE

Sign-up for the Golden Age luncheon on Tuesday, April 23, at 12:00 noon! The program speakers will be Cory & Denise Craig on the "Just Try It!" restaurant venture. Come find out more!

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Thank you to all who helped serve at the Community Kitchen this month. Next month our date will be Monday, May 15. A sign-up sheet is at the sign-up desk.



CHURCH CAMP

It's time to turn in your camp registration forms! Since all registrations must be submitted together, bring the completed form with payment to the office no later than NOON Friday, April 28 (in order to be mailed at the Post Office by 4:00 PM). Copies of camp registration forms, camp dates, and costs are available in the hallway. The church pays half the early-bird fee for members. Camp fee assistance is available, see Rev. Dixon.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group resumes tonight and each Wed. in the Youth Room. See you at 6:00 PM.

GOD'S GANG / CROSSROADS

God's Gang & Crossroads is back on schedule tonight; the theme will be "Air We Breathe." Next week's theme is "All the People of the World" - and then the final night will be May 3, "Me!"

MICE

Sunday, April 30, the MICE will meet at the Paris Bowling Alley from 2:00-4:00 PM for their outing. ALUMINUM CANS will be collected the same day, April 30, to be recycled. Thank you!



FCC GRADUATES

Please give us the names of your 8th grade, high school, and college graduates to be sure we don't miss anyone!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

On Sunday, May 7, we will have our Sunday School Teachers Appreciation Dinner following second service at 11:30 AM. All classes are invited to attend. More details TBA.



HIGHWAY CLEANUP

Our Disciples Men have sponsored a highway cleanup - currently Route 1 north of town - with the State of Illinois. We recently received recognition that we have done so for over 20 years! Congratulations, FCC men, for the good work and those who volunteered their help. The next date will be set soon. Stay tuned - so you can help.

Thank You!

To FCC, thank you so very much for the visits, prayers, flowers, get well cards, the Knitters Group for their prayer shawl, and Rv. md for all his visits & prayers, they will always be remembered. In Christian Love, Esther Blanford



THE MESSENGER

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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

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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!

April 16: 8:00 - 77 10:00 - 200 Nursery - 9

TOTAL WORSHIP = 286

~ No Sunday School ~

OFFERING TOTALS

April 16, 2017

General Fund	\$4,077.75
Sunday School	29.00
God's Gang	53.00
Food Pantry	30.00
Emergency Fund	70.00
Reimbursement	20.15
Movie Fund (Evangelism)	300.00
Head, Hands, Heart	100.00
Bell Choir	50.00
Disciples Outreach-Missions	317.50
Easter Offering	2,240.70
Building Fund	262.50
Memorial Fund	100.00
TOTAL	\$7,650.60

SERVING SCHEDULE: April 23, 2017

8:00 AM: ELDER: Joel Gleckler

DEACONESS: Jenneane McDaniel

PIANIST: Mary Helen Hamilton

9:00 AM: Breakfast

10:00 AM: GREETERS:

East: Jennean Gilliland, Shirley Yeargin

West: Dan, Debbie, Pete, Johnnie Dayton

ACOLYTES: Ava Huddleson, Emmalyn Kennedy

WORSHIP LEADER: Steve Webb

BREAD ELDER: Kim Woods

DEACONESS: Susan King

DEACONS: Team #1, Dan Smittkamp, Capt.; Rita

Haupt, Mark Johnson, Greg Kelly, Doc & Donna

Moody, Jacob Thomas, Margo Yeargin

JR DEACONS: Team #2, Montana Boatman, Greg

Johnson, Jaydin Seeley, Brooklyn Ward, Ben Young

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Cindy Mathis

NURSERY HELPER: Cindy Robinson

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Jenelle Adams

APRIL FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Pat Hittle

APRIL USHERS: Ken Dennison, Dean Smittkamp &

Ron Stickler

SOUND SYSTEM: Tony Peel

PROJECTION: Dan Smittkamp

SCRIPTURE: Acts 18:24-19:6

SERMON: "Decaffeinated Christianity"

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon



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If you buy groceries at the local Kroger store, sign up online to have a percentage of your purchases support our CWF group! It's fast and easy! Just go to: <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>



Shop at AmazonSmile by using this url:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/37-0776639>

and you'll be making a charitable donation of .5% of your purchase to FCC!