

THE MESSENGER

“CHOOSE LIFE AND LOVE GOD”

April 26, 2017

LUKE 2:52 GROWTH

I've always appreciated the Bible verse that describes the “growing-up years” of Jesus. We don't know much from that time, but the description in Luke 2:52 shows His normal raising, for these four areas of growth should be true of all of us as well. Luke tells us,

“Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.”

In other words, He grew mentally and emotionally, physically, spiritually, relationally. So should we.

Some of it happens naturally, when we feed a child, his body grows - and grows. It just happens. When you answer a child's questions - and they are natural - she learns and grows. When we discipline our children with a “no” or an “I forgive,” they grow in understanding of how to relate and live with others.

But spiritual growth doesn't just happen. We must model it, as well as try to explain, answer, teach it. But what about us adults - how do we grow spiritually?

None of us want to learn the hard way, so we need to be intentional - if we are to grow closer with God. During this spring's spiritual growth emphasis, what will you do in order to grow? Choose one or two practices you will try for a month. What will you read - learn - listen to - speak - watch - memorize - pray - be with in order to grow!

Let's be honest, we've already grown physically, mentally, emotionally, relationally. Following the Luke 2:52 description of Jesus, we need spiritual growth as well, to be “in favor with God.” That will balance us as children of God.

The grass, the trees, the flowers are growing - we want you to grow, too, like Luke 2:52.

MCD

CANTATA WORSHIP

Join us for Cantata Worship next Sunday, April 30, at 10:00 AM, entitled, “The Letter,” based on a letter from God to us. The service will be led by the Cantata Choir with God's Gang kids. It's a highlight - invite a friend! Note: we will not be having an 8:00 service, but we will have Sunday School classes at 9:00 AM.



National Day of Prayer Breakfast

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

Sunday School Appreciation Dinner

Sunday, May 7, all Sunday School classes are invited for our Teacher Appreciation Dinner following second service at 11:30 AM. The Christian Education Committee will provide fried chicken, table service, and drinks - and are asking the Disciples class to bring vegetables & salads, the Open Door class to bring fruit and desserts, and the New Horizons class to bring any of the above. **Teachers**, please pass around the sign-up sheet this Sunday. We need to know who will be attending and how many - so we need you to be sure to sign-up on the sheet provided in your classroom.



Hospitalized: Esther Blanford, Paris

Home from Hospital: Brenda Buckley
Mary Alice Foley



-- Cindy Mathis & Rev. Mike for distributing reading books to all first-graders in town last week;
-- Mary Helen Hamilton for accompanying the 8:00 service;
-- Peg Dixon for the invitation to spiritual growth;
-- Cindy Mathis & Rev. Mike for the Children's Sermons;
-- Dean & Coralie Smittkamp for the anniversary flowers;
-- Carolyn Lanker for the devotion, and Cory Craig for the program at Golden Age this week.

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

Get real.
Get spiritual.
Get real spiritual.

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

The movie, "The Shack," based on the book is currently showing. Many are seeing it. If, as a result, there are questions or thoughts you'd like to ask or discuss, let us know. We may be able to accommodate you individually or in a group.

"LOL" DATE

Oour "Lunch On the Lawn" with Bridges, will be on Friday, May 12, at 11:00 AM. Sign-up sheets are displayed in the hallway for needed items. Thank you for your help.

EASTER OFFERING

Our Easter Offering goal was \$3,000 and the total received is \$3,311.70! Thank you!

PRAYER NOTES

It's still not too late to send out Prayer Notes if you have not yet done so.



EARTH SUNDAY

We will celebrate Earth Sunday on May 7 to praise God for His creation with our responsibility. We plan to decorate with flowering trees, animals, and fountains. If you have an item to donate, let us know.

BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to Bible Study each Tuesday morning at 10:30 AM in the Jerusalem Room.

POSTCARDS / NOTECARDS

We have FCC notecards and postcards for sale in the church office:

- 10 Notecards for \$5 (two different designs)
- 20 Postcards for \$5 (two different designs)



A SEASON OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Our "Spiritual Growth" promotion will be for six weeks. You may use the weekly outline provided as the bulletin insert, or go online to the blog at:

<http://fccparis.org/spiritual-growth-week-1/>

Choose at least one thing to help you grow: maybe a scripture, commitment to worship, reading, Christian radio, talk with a partner, do a different prayer pattern, etc.



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



CIRCLES IN MAY

CIRCLE OF LIGHT: meets Tuesday, May 2, at 6:00 PM in the church parlor.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: meets Tuesday, May 16, at 1:30 PM at the home of Shirley Yeargin. Lesson will be by Dorothy Farnham.

KOINONIA CIRCLE: meets Thursday, May 18, at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen. Pam Lobb will be the hostess with Coralie Smittkamp bringing the lesson.

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.

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 next week.



COMMUNITY KITCHEN

A sign-up sheet is already out for our May 15 date to help at the Community Kitchen. Thank you for your help!



CAMP REGISTRATION - THIS WEEK!

It's time to turn in your camp registration forms! Bring the completed form with payment to the office no later than NOON this Friday, April 28. Be sure that all required signatures are on the form! The church pays half the early-bird fee for members, so check your cost on the information sheet in the hallway. Checks should be made out to First Christian Church. Camp fee assistance is available, see Rev. Dixon.



YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group continues each Wednesday in the Youth Room at 6:00 PM through May 17.



GOD'S GANG / CROSSROADS

God's Gang & Crossroads theme tonight is "All the People of the World." Next week's finale theme is "Me!"



MICE

This 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 this Sunday to be recycled. Thank you!



FCC GRADUATES

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

~~~~~  
*Thank You!*

I want to thank all of you for your cards, phone calls, and your prayers. Thanks to Rev. Mike for his visit and phone calls. ALL OF THIS IS WHY I GOT WELL. Thank you again, Janet Kirsch

~~~~~  
BULLETIN BOARD INFO

Be sure to stop by the bulletin boards outside the office for community event flyers, youth and mission information, and worship scheduling. The May Worship Schedule will be posted this week. Check them out to stay up-to-date!



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!

April 23: 8:00 - 48 10:00 - 87 Nursery - 7

TOTAL WORSHIP = 142

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 0, 2nd-5th - 5, Jr & Sr High - 3, New Disciples - 6, Open Door - 21, New Horizons - 9

TOTAL SS = 44

OFFERING TOTALS

April 23, 2017

General Fund*	\$4,234.50*
Envelopes	1.00
Membership Committee	20.00
Lunch On the Lawn	10.00
Emergency Fund	100.00
Bell Choir	10.00
Disciples Outreach-Missions*	209.00*
Easter Offering	25.00
Week of Compassion*	70.00*
Building Fund*	339.00*
Permanent Fund	12.00
TOTAL	\$5,030.50*

**Includes Electronic Giving*

SERVING SCHEDULE: April 30, 2017

**CANTATA SUNDAY
~ ONE COMBINED SERVICE ~**

9:00 AM: Sunday School

10:00 AM: GREETERS:

East: Merle & Evelyn Hays

West: Joel Gleckler

ACOLYTES: Gage Johnson, Morgan Gann

WORSHIP LEADER: Tammy Terry

BREAD ELDER: John Chittick

DEACONESS: Megan Mathis

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

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

Lainey Ogle, Macy Richards, Aubrey Sanders

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Susan King

NURSERY HELPER: Haley Fudge

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Brooke Bartley, Lainey Ogle

APRIL FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Pat Hittle

APRIL USHERS: Ken Dennison, Dean Smittkamp & Ron Stickler

SOUND SYSTEM: Joe Gill

PROJECTION: Evie Gill

SCRIPTURES: Romans 5:6-8; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

SERMON: "Special Delivery" by Rev. Michael C. Dixon

