

THE MESSENGER

“CHOOSE LIFE AND LOVE GOD”

May 3, 2017

LESSONS FROM THE LAWN

Once again I've been out in the lawn. It always looks so good when it greens up - which also means more work. And then there are those bright yellow flowers -

Dandelions

– which I know bring joy to John Deere dealers, children, and grandmothers; but it means more work to me.

I know I previously declared war on any dandelions that dared to invade my territory, and I went out to “destroy, slay, and annihilate” all I could find. And I did - they came back. I did - there were more. I did - they popped up and waved their bright yellow at me in mocking defiance of my boast to have a clean yard.

This year I'm doing the same things, but with a different attitude. I know I cannot win the war - there will always be more. But I'll win tomorrow, maybe next week, and so make progress.

Now if you think of those beautiful weeds as sin, the comparison is that I can't overcome it all on my own. I need God's help to win today, hopefully tomorrow, and beyond. The temptation will come back, and others will arise, but with Christ we can advance. It's not won all at once, so let God help - and keep making progress.

That's this lesson from the lawn.

MCD

National Day of Prayer Breakfast

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



Sunday School Appreciation Dinner

We have scheduled for this Sunday, May 7, at 11:30 AM our “Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Dinner.” All teachers are expected, and all class members are invited. Even if you did not get to sign-up in class, you are still wanted. The Christian Education Committee will provide the fried chicken, table service, and drinks. They'll do the set-up and clean-up. The classes are asked the following: Disciples class bring vegetables & salads, the Open Door class bring fruit and desserts, and the New Horizons class bring any of the above. Come share appreciation!



EARTH SUNDAY

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



God's best to Louise Bridwell and family in her move to Savoy!

Home from Hospital:
James Brooks
Aubrey Sanders

New Addresses: Esther Blanford, Brookstone & Bea Mae Camp and Marcella Johnson at Paris Healthcare

We extend our sympathies to:
- Nancy Weger in the loss of her brother;
- Jim Ray & family in the passing his sister;
- Pat Hittle in her niece's sudden death.



-- Scholarship Committee for their deliberations and decisions;
-- JC Foley for the extra projection preparation;
-- Peg Dixon, director, and all the musicians for the worshipful music of the Cantata;
-- Rev. Mike for the Children's Sermon;
-- Daniel & Lisa Smittkamp for sharing their anniversary flowers;
-- Trustees for addressing the leak in the corner entry.

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

Souler energy used here.

MAY PRAYER

"Lord, please help us to love one another as Jesus loved us all. We pray that Your light may shine through us and brighten the world for those around us. Amen."

"LOL" DATE

Our "Lunch On the Lawn" with Bridges, is next Friday, May 12, at 11:00 AM. Thank you to those who have already signed up to help and bring food items. Still needed are: table hosts and servers, puppy chow and caramel corn.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

We were very pleased to officially welcome Nancy Englebright into our FCC family on Sunday as she came forward to transfer membership. We look forward to sharing more with Nancy and Allen and family as we continue to serve the Lord. So - "Welcome To The Family!"

A SEASON OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

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

<http://fccparis.org/spiritual-growth-week-1/>
<http://fccparis.org/spiritual-growth-week-2/>

We are in our second week and the above extra link is provided in case you missed week one. Choose at least one thing to do to help you grow spiritually.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Elders, Thurs., May 4, 5:00 PM
- Christian Educ., Mon., May 8, 6:00 PM
- Board, Tues. May 9, 7:00 PM
- Memorials, Thurs., May 11, 1:30 PM

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

We are happy to report this year's scholarships were awarded to the following:

- Disciples Men: Brady Chittick, Kaleb Kelly
- John C. Faust Ministerial: Cliff Gale II
- John Z. & Ruth W. Frazier: Claire Woods
- Bill Kerrick: Adrienne Haupt
- Joe & Nila Hasler:

- Zara Kasey, Johnna Sanchez
- James H. Houston Community College:
Kenny Milam
- Donald H. & E. Berniece Mink Nursing:
Christy Landrum

- Larry Moss Agricultural: Kristian Kelly
- Moke C. Owens/FCC Music: Dillan Dorjahn
- Harold & Faye Jump: Erica Buntain
- Peggy Thiel Education: Pete Dayton

Award letters have been mailed. Congratulations to all.

Thank You!

Dear FCC Family,
Thank you for the privilege of directing our choir. This Sunday was a special blessing as we offered our cantata, "The Letter." I pray that everyone in attendance received a personal message from God our Father during the music, scriptures, prayers, and message.

Praise be to God for His guidance in the preparation and rehearsals. Thank you to each member of God's Gang and the choir, who devoted time and talent, and to Kathy Peel, J.C. Foley, Joe Gill, Tony Peel and Rev. Mike for the unique talents they offered to make "The Letter" a reality. To God be the Glory! Peg Dixon

CIRCLES IN MAY

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.

CIRCLE LEADERS Pick up tickets for the Women's Banquet in the CWF Box to sell Sunday and at your Circle meeting.

WOMEN'S WORKSHOP

The Women's Workshop is this 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. Workers are needed to sort items. Thank you!

WOMEN'S BANQUET

The Women's Banquet will be held on Thursday, June 1, at 6:00 PM. The speaker for the evening will be Jeanette Levellie. Tickets will be available Sunday from Circle Leaders.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

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



CHURCH CAMP

The early-bird registration has passed, but camp application forms will still be accepted with the extra \$25 payment added to the regular fee. Have the registration forms and payment in the office no later than NOON, Friday, May 12. (The form says May 13, but that's a Saturday and no one is in the office on that day.) Be sure that all required signatures are on the form! CCIW will NOT accept the application without the camper or parent signatures. 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

Tonight is the finale for this semester of God's Gang & Crossroads. The theme tonight is "Me!" Thank you to all the kids who came and a special thank you to all the adults who helped make it possible!

MICE

Since the bowling alley was closed last Sunday, our MICE group went to Red's Fun Zone. Thanks to all who came. For May, we will be going to the Paris Paddle Club, on the 21st from 2:00-4:00 PM.

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!

DISCIPLE MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Disciples Men will meet for breakfast on Saturday, May 20 at 8:00 AM. Place TBA.

FIRST-GRADE THANK YOU'S

We recently shared our Community Outreach first grade book project to the schools in Paris. Copies are on display, including the children's letters and teacher notes in response. Here are a few...

"This is a very beneficial program. It is nice for kids to see others promoting reading besides just the schools. My class was very excited to get their own new books. They couldn't wait to read the rest of the story. It was wonderful seeing their excitement! Thank you!"

"My students loved receiving the books. So many students do not have books at home to read! It also shows the students how they get involved in the church."

"Thank you so much for this wonderful program! The children love having you come and share with them. This is such a wonderful opportunity for them to see you in our school and to share at home (and read) as well. Thank you again!"

"Thank you so much for taking the time to visit with my class and provide them with a treasured book! You always do an excellent job talking with the kids and getting them excited about reading."



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 30: Cantata 10:00 - 172 Nursery - 11

TOTAL WORSHIP = 183

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 0, 2nd-5th - 3, Jr & Sr High - 0, New Disciples - 11, Open Door - 18, New Horizons - 0

TOTAL SS = 32

OFFERING TOTALS

April 30, 2017

General Fund	\$3,030.75
Sunday School	15.00
God's Gang	90.00
Choices Pregnancy & Health	50.00
Emergency Fund	20.00
Food Pantry	90.00
MICE	10.00
Youth Fund	200.00
Lunch On the Lawn	100.00
Bell Choir	50.00
Disciples Outreach-Missions	515.00
Easter Offering	9.60
Building Fund	722.50
Church Bus Fund	20.00
Permanent Fund	40.00
TOTAL	\$4,962.85

SERVING SCHEDULE: May 7, 2017

8:00 AM: ELDER: Dick James

DEACONESS: Amber Tegeler

PIANIST: Pete Templeton

9:00 AM: Sunday School

10:00 AM: GREETERS:

East: Joe & Corky Davidson

West: Jim & Cindy Mathis; Malloreë & Taylor Shewey

ACOLYTES: Lily Smittkamp, Graham Templeton

WORSHIP LEADER: Doug Hasler

BREAD ELDER: Pete Templeton

DEACONESS: Karla Pierson

DEACONS: Team #3, Sue Bennett, Capt.; 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: Tammy Terry

NURSERY HELPERS: Candi & Sammy Milam

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Edna Creech

MAY FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Katie Vaughn

MAY USHERS: Randy Creech, Jerry Thomas,

Dan Thomey

SOUND SYSTEM: Chris Milam

PROJECTION: Chris Milam

SCRIPTURES: Genesis 1:26-31; Matthew 5:13

SERMON: "You Are Not The Pepper Of The Earth"

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon

SHUT-IN COMMUNION: Chris Milam, Dennis Thiel



NOTES TO LOUISE

Because of the move to Savoy, we invited you to write a note to Louise Bridwell - and those will be available on Sunday. If you want to send your own, her new address is: Autumn Fields of Savoy, 65 Airport Rd., Room 408, Savoy, IL 61874.