

# THE MESSENGER

“CHOOSE LIFE AND LOVE GOD”

September 13, 2017

## UNTIL...

Sometimes people say, “I don’t understand God. Why would He do this?”

Other times you’ll hear, “I think God is gone. He’s left.”

Or maybe put this way, “He’s done. He did what He could; now He’s through.”

The first is disappointment. The second may be despair. The third is probably doubt. All are very human, especially

- when the hurricane hits
- if the tornado falls
- when disease strikes
- when death comes
- if tragedy becomes close to home
- when bad news surrounds you

But listen to the verse that I just heard again and saw with new eyes - it’s from God to Jacob the night he dreamed of the “ladder” to heaven:

*“Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done that of which I have spoken to you.”*

(Genesis 28:15)

It follows the promise God made about the future. It was spoken to that specific time, place, person, but I believe it was recorded for us as well. As such, it means:

Until - God has fulfilled all His promises, we don’t need to doubt;

Until - There’s no more of His family for God to lead, we shouldn’t despair;

Until - God ceases to care and runs out of love (!!), we can’t give in to our disappointments.

In the very next verse, Jacob says, “Surely the Lord is in this place; and I did not know it.”

However, we can; we should, we do -

Until.

*MCD*

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## **PROMOTION SUNDAY**

This Sunday, September 17, is our “Promotion Sunday” when we will recognize all our promoted classes and give Children’s Bibles to those entering 1st and 5th grades. Those receiving Bibles will be: August Clark, Jesse Englebright, Jasmine Littlejohn, Graham Templeton, Hannah Waltz and Xander Waltz. A certificate will also be given in recognition of their promotion. If any of these 1st and 5th graders are unable to attend, please let us know and we will keep the Bible and certificate in the office for pick-up later.

## **“LOL” at PHS**

The fall “Lunch On the Lawn” at the Paris High School will be next Wednesday, September 20. A sign-up of items needed is posted in the hallway. Note, we still need more cookies and brownies, as well as cans of soda pop. Additional helpers to set up and take down are also welcome. Monetary donations are appreciated to purchase any needed items. Please pray for this event as we reach out to model Christ to the local youth and staff of PHS. Thank you! (**NOTE:** *Lunch On the Lawn with Bridges will be coming up on October 13*)

## **FCC T-Shirts**

We don’t have it finalized yet, but there is a plan to order FCC t-shirts for you to use and enjoy, especially at church events. Stay tuned....



Congratulations to all Grandparents! (We have some bookmarks remaining for Grandparents Day.)

Hospitalized: Rick Ward, Union



-- Peg Dixon for the 8:00 accompaniment;  
-- Candi Milam and Rev. Mike for the Children's Sermons;

-- Chancel Choir for their music - welcome back!;  
-- Angel Templeton for the "inflatable" and Cindy Mathis/Saunny Preston for hosting the sign-up party for God's Gang;  
-- Tony Peel for the devotion at Board meeting, and fixing the choir closet door.

**BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

We are called to be witnesses, not judges.

**SEPTEMBER PRAYER**

"Dear Lord, May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others. We especially pray for those affected by fires in the west or the hurricanes to the southeast. We lift up those in need and praise You for your goodness forever & ever. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

**WOMEN'S RETREAT**

We have information on a regional women's retreat at Camp Walter Scott, September 22-24. If interested, check it out.

**BIBLE STUDY**

Tuesday morning Bible Study meets at 10:30 AM. We will study the questions of Jesus from the gospels - before the sermon!

**YOUTH PASTOR SEARCH**

We have a youth pastor candidate who is here in Paris and plans to join us for worship this Sunday. Your continued prayers are appreciated.

**CHANCEL CHOIR**

Chancel Choir rehearsals are Wednesday at 6:30 PM. All singers welcome!

**"SEE YOU AT THE POLE"**

Prayers at the local schools: PHS, Crestwood, Mayo will be held Wednesday, September 27, at times to be announced (7:30-7:45 AM). Please join us at the school of your choice.

**"SPLINTERS" FROM THE BOARD**

- At its September meeting, the Executive Board:
- gathered around "The Secret Life of Pets" figures along with Ephesians 1:9-10 to remember that Christ revealed God's mystery/secret;
  - offered continuing prayers for someone who knows God and the gospel, and one who does not, if known;
  - accepted the resignations of Erica Buntain as our Nursery Attendant, and Tim & Lori Hough as Deacons;
  - saw the financial figures are good, especially for the summer;
  - noted the upcoming Reconciliation Offering to our FCC Emergency Fund for helping people through the church - with a goal of \$800;
  - heard about the Community Outreach work - Community Kitchen, school supplies, "Back-to-School" shoes, and over 1,600 items donated to the Food Pantry;
  - noted that the Evangelism Committee is sending "Miss You" notes, working on FCC t-shirts, planning for the Honeybee Parade;
  - requested budget requests for the next year by October 15;
  - officially hired Emily Thomas as Nursery Attendant;
  - heard that the tower cap will, hopefully, go up next week, and noted the south trees have been removed;
  - received the recommendation from the Youth Pastor Search Committee and approved calling the candidate - per approval;
  - accepted the appointment of this year's Nominating Committee: Denise Craig, JC Foley, Joel Gleckler, Donna Moody, Jerry Thomas;
  - set the annual business meeting for Sunday, November 19

**HONEYBEE WORSHIP**

Honeybee Sunday, September 24, will change our normal worship schedule. We will still have the 8:00 AM service in the FCC sanctuary. We will then dismiss Sunday School classes and invite everyone to join the Community Honeybee Service at the First United Methodist Church at 10:15 AM.

**JOYFUL RINGERS**

Welcome back to the Joyful Ringers. We look forward to your music in the future.

## **CIRCLES IN SEPTEMBER**

**FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE:** will meet at the home of Pat Hittle, hostess, on Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 1:30 PM. The lesson will be given by Linda Chittick.

**KOINONIA CIRCLE:** will meet on Thursday, Sept. 21 at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen. Saunny Preston will give the lesson on "Encouraging One Another" and Mary K. Bradford is hostess.

*All women are invited to any of the Circles to experience the fellowship.*

## **RELAY FOR LIFE REPORT**

We promised to give you a final report on the FCC Relay Team and the Edgar County Relay For Life event. The FCC Team, with your help, raised a total of \$7,786! The goal for the Edgar County RFL event was \$35,000 and they went WAY over with a total of \$42,068! Thank you!!

## **WOMEN'S WORKSHOP**

The workshop, sponsored by the Fellowship Circle, will be held on Thursday, September 14, at 9:00 AM. Bring in your pop tabs, Campbell's labels, used postage stamps - eye glasses - cell phones & chargers - and hearing aids and put them in collection containers by the sign-up desk. All women are welcome to come help.

## **COMMUNITY KITCHEN**

Community Kitchen volunteers are needed next Monday, September 18, at 4:00 PM. Sign-up to help serve and/or bring a dessert. Thank you!

## **HONEYBEE SCARECROW BOOTH**

We could use kids clothes (no adult needed) - also accessories like necklace beads, hats, belts, scarves are loved by the kids who make their own scarecrow. If you can come help us, we'd welcome you Friday afternoon, or Saturday all day. See Deena Hasler or Coralie Smittkamp with questions.

## **HONEYBEE PARADE**

We are collecting hard candy, individually wrapped to label and give out during the Honeybee Parade - Jolly Ranchers, Air Heads, and Laffy Taffy. Please purchase only these specific candies. Thank you!

## **TOWER PROJECT**

We expect work to begin on the tower project next week. We will keep you posted.

## **YOUTH GROUP**

Weekly Youth Group resumes each Wednesday at 6:00 PM. All junior high and high school students welcome!

## **GOD'S GANG / CROSSROADS**

Kids - come join us for the God's Gang-Crossroads this Wednesday, Sept. 13, after school - when we will go to Pumpkin Works! The church bus will take the children out & back, parents meet at FCC at 6:00 pm for pick-up.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

We will resume our regular Sunday School classes this Sunday, September 10. Some kids may be moved up to the next grade class (for ex. if they will be going from 5th to 6th and will be in Jr. High class).

## **PHS FOOTBALL DINNER**

Once again, Coach Clodfelter is accepting church invitations to host the football team for dinner as last year. Yes, FCC has agreed to do so - on Thursday, October 5, under the leadership of Donna Garver. No, we don't have details yet. But pray for those involved.

## **DISCIPLES MEN DINNER OUTING - CHANGED!**

The Disciples Men will kick-off their fall get-together with a dinner outing on Sunday, September 17, at 6:00 PM. The time and date are still the same - but the location has changed to the Texas Roadhouse in Terre Haute. All men are welcome and wanted to attend. Sign-up to ride the church bus. We'll leave from the church at 5:30 PM.

## **NURSERY ATTENDANT**

We are pleased to officially welcome, Emily Thomas, as our Nursery Attendant on Sundays. We look forward to her care for our little ones! Please add your own welcome.

## **WILD FIRE / HURRICANE HELP**

Our Week of Compassion offerings go to help those in emergency situations such as the recent wild fires out west and the hurricanes in the south/southeast. If you wish to donate towards this emergency help, please designate it "Week of Compassion." (Our donations of "Christmas in July" clean-up buckets are already in Texas!) Thank you!



# THE MESSENGER

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

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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

**PERMIT #147**

Paris, Illinois

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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!***

**Sept. 10: 8:00 - 54 10:00 - 106 Nursery - 4**

**TOTAL WORSHIP = 164**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 2, 2nd-5th - 2, Jr & Sr High - 0, New Disciples - 6, Open Door - 16, New Horizons - 8**

**TOTAL SS = 34**

### OFFERING TOTALS

**September 10, 2017**

General Fund + PayPal*	\$7,760.30*
Sunday School	3.00
Food Pantry	75.00
Emergency Fund	20.00
God's Gang	70.00
MICE	110.00
Community Kitchen	25.00
Lunch On the Lawn	60.00
Bell Choir	50.00
Disciples Out.-Missions	120.00
Wk./Comp: Hurricanes	183.00
Building Fund	445.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,921.30*</b>

### SERVING SCHEDULE: September 17, 2017

**8:00 AM: ELDER: Dick James**

**DEACONESS: Cathy Clawson**

**PIANIST: Pete Templeton**

**9:00 AM: Sunday School**

**10:00 AM: GREETERS:**

East: Allen, Nancy, and Jesse Englebright

West: Jenelle and Nora Adams

**ACOLYTES: Ava Huddleson, Emmalyn Kennedy**

**WORSHIP LEADER: John Chittick**

**BREAD ELDER: Tammy Terry**

**DEACONESS: Ellen Webb**

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

**JR DEACONS: Team #1, Montana Boatman, Greg**

**Johnson, Jaydin Seeley, Brooklyn Ward, Ben Young**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON: Rev. Mike Dixon**

**NURSERY HELPER: Montana Boatman**

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Jenelle Adams**

**SEPT. FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Cody Vaughn**

**SEPT USHERS: Randy Creech, Jerry Thomas, Dan Thomey**

**SOUND SYSTEM & PROJECTION: Chris Milam**

**SERMON: The Questions Of Jesus: "Why Do You See The Speck That Is In Your Brother's Eye, But Do Not Notice The Log That Is In Your Own Eye?"**

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon

**THIRD SUNDAY COMMUNION: Dick James**



### **TRIP TO "THE ARK"**

Plans are underway for a one-day trip to the "Ark Encounter" in Kentucky in October. We plan to take the church bus and will have details out soon; be ready to sign-up!