

# THE MESSENGER

“CHOOSE LIFE AND LOVE GOD”

September 6, 2017

## WHEN THE WRONG WAY IS THE RIGHT WAY

I was surprised.

We had seen the signs for several weeks about the upcoming work on the railroad crossings and the necessary detours while it was completed.

That was not a surprise.

Where they detoured us was.

I fully expected the detours to go several blocks both east and west. Instead, it was simply one block - over to the other one-way, go the wrong-way, then back over. Easy - and it was the wrong-way, only now it's the right way.

I hope you drove it and took advantage of it.

Some did it with a little bit of trepidation, worrying that maybe it wasn't really right.

Others did it with a little bit of glee, enjoying the opportunity to do something you don't normally do, hoping that someone sees them, already planning to tell the story of when they drove the one-way streets the wrong way!

And isn't that how we sin? Think about it...

Some do it delightfully, open about it, wanting to be seen, willing to tell about it.

While most of us do it in secret, hoping that no one knows, worrying that it will be okay.

No matter which you are, what matters to God is what you do after - turn to Him, express regret, ask forgiveness, receive forgiveness and freedom. Do that with your sin please, but when you have the chance, experience life -

When the wrong-way  
is the right way.

*MCD*



## “LOL” at PHS



The fall “Lunch On the Lawn” at the Paris High School will be Wednesday, September 20. We have posted needed items. If you can donate items, please sign the appropriate sheet. Also, if you can help with set-up before, serving during and tear-down after, please sign-up on those volunteer sheets posted. Monetary donations are also welcome. Everyone is asked to pray for this event as we reach out to model Christ to the local youth and staff of PHS. Thank you!

## FCC T-Shirts

We are planning to have some FCC T-shirts for us to wear - if you order one. The Evangelism Committee will make the arrangements, and soon will have an order form for you to order yours. We think it will be \$10.00 each. And we hope to wear them in parades, at events, and on your own. We'll let you know more as information becomes available.

## A Call To Prayer

We are asked by our national leaders to pray for our nation. Specifically, prayer is requested from noon Sunday, September 10 to noon Monday, September 11, in conjunction with Patriot Day. We suggest you choose your own time and place - the Prayer Room will be open at FCC - and join in the prayers of our nation for our nation!



Congratulations to Steve Webb, who is our 2017 Man of the Year! Note his letter on the bulletin board.

Home from the Hospital:

Karen Moore      Tom King  
Cathy Melendez   Steve Dosch

Happy Birthday to Gladys Wright, who celebrated her 99th recently!



-- Cathy Melendez for the Golden Age devotion, and all who shared the program;

-- Mary Helen Hamilton & Faye Eitel for the 8:00 accompaniments;

-- Angel Templeton, Kim Woods, Dan Lynch, & Rev. Mike for the Children's Sermons;

-- Will, Graham, Drew Templeton and Peg Dixon for the Special Music;

-- Bob Miller for coming to fill the pulpit and Elders Dan Lynch, Dennis Thiel, Nels Kasey, Kim Woods for their leadership;

-- Saunny Preston and Angel Templeton for the "God's Gang" invitations;

-- Candi Milam for working in the Nursery;

-- Tony & Kathy Peel for their anniversary flowers;

-- Greg Terry and Peg Dixon for the combined Sunday School lessons they taught;

-- Nels Kasey for putting the sign on the fence.

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**BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

When we love God,  
we must also choose life.

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**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 in Montana by fires or the hurricanes on our coasts. We lift up those in need and praise You for your goodness forever and ever. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

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**WOMEN'S RETREAT**

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

**AMAZON SMILE**

This year FCC has received \$40.08 just from you shopping at Amazon Smile. Thank you! Go to:  
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/37-0776639>

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Staff Relations meet Thursday, Sept. 7, 3:30 PM
- Elder's meet Thursday, Sept. 7, 5:00 PM
- Board meets Tuesday, Sept. 12, 7:00 PM

**BIBLE STUDY**

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

**IT'S A SURPRISE - DON'T TELL!**

Shhhhhh - don't tell! Peg Dixon is going on a spiritual growth weekend called "Great Banquet" (Walk to Emmaus) later this month. One of the things they do is give her a packet of letters from people in her life. If you would like to write a note/letter of encouragement or appreciation, how she has touched your life - bring/hand me (Rev. Mike)/mail/ email it to the church by Monday, Sept. 18. Thank you! (I'll keep her from reading this article - shhhhh!)

**CONGRATULATIONS - MAN OF THE YEAR!**

Congratulations to our 2017 Man of the Year, Steve Webb! He was recognized on Sunday, August 27.

**HONEYBEE SUNDAY**

Honeybee worship will change our regular schedule a bit. FCC will still have the 8:00 AM worship in our sanctuary on Sunday, September 24. We will dismiss Sunday School classes that day and join the Community Honeybee Service at the First United Methodist Church at 10:15 AM.

**YOUTH PASTOR SEARCH**

We want you to know our search is ongoing. One individual declined, another was not a "good fit" and we have a couple of other possibilities to consider. So keep praying and waiting as we go on.

**NURSERY ATTENDANT**

We are grateful to Erica Buntain for her service as our Nursery Attendant. As she gets ready for the next phase of her life, we need to explore options for our Nursery. If you have suggestions or interest in the position, you can let us know.

**CHANCEL CHOIR**

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

**JOYFUL RINGERS**

The Joyful Ringers will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 13. Welcome back!

**DONATIONS FOR VICTIMS**

Our Week of Compassion offerings go to help those in emergency situations such as Hurricane Harvey (and may be needed for Hurricane Irma in the future). If you wish to donate towards an emergency, please designate it "Week of Compassion." Thanks!

## 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.

All women are invited to any of the Circle meetings and can visit them all. Info on the new Prayer Circle will be given as soon as it is available.

## CWF LEADERSHIP

Recently, the new CWF Leadership was recognized in worship. The handout of information and names is available in the hallway.

## WOMEN'S WORKSHOP

The workshop 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.

## "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).

## COMMUNITY KITCHEN

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

## HONEYBEE SCARECROW BOOTH

Thank you for your past donations! This year we could use kids clothes only - 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 candy to label and give out during the Honeybee Parade - Jolly Ranchers and Laffy Taffy. Please purchase only these two specific candies. Thank you!

## NURSERY ATTENDANT

We are grateful to have had Erica Buntain as our Nursery Attendant. Her love, attention, and consistency have been important and valuable. Thank you, Erica! Now that she is moving on to the next phase of her life, we are moving on to a new attendant - to be recommended to the Board.

## TOWER PROJECT

Update: the steel for the cover has been delayed, so the work will have to be finalized later, hopefully in two weeks. Be patient. ☺

## YOUTH GROUP

The weekly Wednesday Youth Group will resume on September 6 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 Sign-up Party this Sunday, September 10, from 2:00-4:00 PM. Register for this semester while enjoying the bouncy house in the churchyard! God's Gang will begin next Wednesday, Sept. 13, after school and go to Pumpkin Works! The 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).

## DISCIPLES MEN DINNER OUTING

The Disciples Men will kick-off their fall get-together with a dinner outing to Sam's Steakhouse in Marshall on Sunday, September 17, at 6:00 PM. All men are welcome and wanted to attend. Sign-up to drive or ride/carpool. We'll leave from the church at 5:30 PM.

## CHRISTMAS IN JULY REPORT

The Emergency Buckets were delivered and appreciated for "Harvey" - they totaled:

9 Buckets filled (est. \$75 = \$675) included -  
36 scouring pads  
54 reg. sponges / 9 lg. sponges  
9 scrub brushes  
162 reusable wipes  
9 50 oz. bottles of laundry detergent  
9 20 oz. bottles of dish soap  
9 16 oz. bottles of liquid cleaner  
450 wooden clothespins  
900 ft. of clothes line  
45 dust masks  
18 pair latex gloves  
9 pair work gloves  
225 contractor trash bags  
9 bottles insect repellent

## *Thank You!*

Thanks to all for the prayers, well wishes, and cards during my recent surgery and recovery, and to Rev. Mike for his visit. - Steve & Dena Dosch

Dear Friends at First Christian Church, Thank you for your participation in our 2017 Baby Bottle Blessings fundraiser! We appreciate your total donation of \$258.50. Your support helps provide information and caring services to those who come to us for free and confidential help in their unplanned pregnancy. You make a meaningful difference!

Yours in Christ, The Staff at Paris Choices



# THE MESSENGER

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

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Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 AM-12 NN, 1-4 PM

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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!***

**Aug. 27: 8:00 - 67 10:00 - 98 Nursery - 3**

**TOTAL WORSHIP = 168**

**TOTAL SS = 37**

**Sept. 3: 8:00 - 61 10:00 - 88 Nursery - 5**

**TOTAL WORSHIP = 154**

**TOTAL SS = 25**

| <b><u>OFFERING TOTALS</u></b> | <b><u>Aug. 27</u></b> | <b><u>Sept. 3, 2017</u></b> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| General Fund                  | \$8,126.50            | \$4,345.26                  |
| Sunday School                 | 6.00                  | 5.00                        |
| Food Pantry                   | 100.00                | 55.00                       |
| Emergency Fund                | 10.00                 |                             |
| Choices Preg. & Health        | 50.00                 |                             |
| God's Gang                    | 50.00                 |                             |
| MICE                          |                       | 10.00                       |
| Lunch On the Lawn             | 50.00                 | 35.00                       |
| Bell Choir                    |                       | 50.00                       |
| Disciples Out.-Missions       | 278.00                | 587.50                      |
| Wk./Comp: Hurricane Harvey    |                       | 250.00                      |
| Scholarship Fund              | 50.00                 |                             |
| Permanent Fund                | 40.00                 |                             |
| Building Fund                 | 560.00                | 722.50                      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>\$9,320.50</b>     | <b>\$6,060.26</b>           |

### **SERVING SCHEDULE: September 10, 2017**

**8:00 AM:** ELDER: Dan Lynch

DEACONESS: Cassie Boatman

PIANIST: Evie Gill

**9:00 AM: Sunday School**

**10:00 AM: GREETERS:**

East: Doug, Jane, Lily Smittkamp

West: Nels, Autumn, Zara Kasey & Kiersten, John Edgar

ACOLYTES: Kaitlyn Coombes, Sammy Milam

WORSHIP LEADER: Kim Woods

BREAD ELDER: Doug Hasler

DEACONESS: Lisa Smittkamp

DEACONS: Team #1 Dan Smittkamp, Captain; 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: Candi Milam

NURSERY HELPER: Cindy Robinson

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Edna Creech

SEPT. FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Cody Vaughn

SEPT USHERS: Randy Creech, Jerry Thomas, Dan Thomey

SOUND SYSTEM & PROJECTION: Chris Milam

SERMON: The Questions Of Jesus: "Do You Love Me?"

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon



### **GOING TO "THE ARK"**

Discussions are in process to schedule a trip in October to go to Kentucky to the "Ark Encounter." When set, we will invite you to sign-up your interest so we can finalize travel plans. Be thinking about traveling back in time....