

THE MESSENGER

“CHOOSE LIFE AND LOVE GOD”

November 22, 2017

DON'T STEW ABOUT IT

God expects us to sort out the choices we have and then make decisions that are responsible and faithful. That will enable us to live out our theme for this year from the scripture in Deuteronomy.

And - that is stewardship.

Since that is a word that is not used elsewhere very much, we sometimes don't understand it. I recently discovered an explanation that made sense to me; I hope it will be to you, too:

Stewardship is

- using your God-given abilities (what you are)
- with your God-given resources (what you have)
- to accomplish God-ordained purposes (what you are to do!)

That includes your character and training and experiences, as well as your time, gifts, and finances.

We talk about our financial stewardship because we are too often content to coast along and do what is easiest. So we ask you to think about your life, your responsibility, your stewardship. That's why we ask you to fill out and turn in a Plan of Giving form - so you will do so.

It's been good for me as a discipline. I've done it annually as a Christian and as a member (and as pastor). I look back and am amazed at our giving. I remember when our weekly giving grew to 3 figures, and now that it is double that, I thank God for that privilege and responsibility. That's what I am to do with what I have and am.

I encourage you to think and do likewise. Make your choice. Do it in love. Trust God in your stewardship. Just don't stew about it.

MCD



Thanksgiving Offering

The Thanksgiving Offering goes to benefit Disciples' colleges and universities who teach and encourage workers for ministry. This includes our own, Eureka College. This year's goal is \$1,350.

ADVENT MUSIC SERVICE

The Advent Music Service will be held Sunday, December 3 at 3:00 PM at the First United Methodist Church. The program will include community musicians, some of our choir members and the "Joyful Ringers". Everyone is invited to attend.



FCC ADVENT CELEBRATION

On Sunday evening, December **3**, at 6:00 PM we will have our Advent Celebration (formerly "Hanging of the Greens") program with the God's Gang kids, Chancel Choir, the Chrismon presentation, and the Congregational Christmas Card. The service will follow with the birthday cake for Jesus. Come join us!



Blessed Thanksgiving to all!

Prayer Concern -
Travelers
this
weekend!

Our sympathies go to Paula Coombes and family in the loss of a family member at this time.



-- David Dick & Tony Peel for the two new trees planted in the church yard;

-- Trustees for the roof repair and improvement around the tower;

-- Mary Helen Hamilton for the 8:00 accompaniment;

-- Joel Gleckler & Berniece Hayes for the Minutes for Mission;

-- Rev. Mike for the Children's Sermon;

-- "The Joyful Ringers" for their Special Music.

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**BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

Only one "Black Friday"  
Offers eternal savings.

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NOVEMBER PRAYER

"Dear God, Confessing Your Word out loud will have a profound, positive effect on our lives. Please encourage us. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

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**CHRISTMAS AROUND THE SQUARE**

We will be having a S'more's booth located at the Chamber of Commerce this year during the Christmas Around the Square. It will be on Saturday, November 25 from 4:00-7:00 PM. Thank you for the donations of marshmallows, chocolate or graham crackers and for volunteering to help!

**TRIP TO "THE ARK"**

The second trip to "The ARK" has been postponed. We will let you know of the next date available. Stay tuned...

**NOTES TO TEXAS**

The notes written to the Texas Church have been mailed. Thank you to all who signed or wrote a message.

**STAFF LOVE OFFERING**

As a way of showing appreciation for the outstanding staff we have at FCC, you are invited to participate in the 2017 Love Offering. Our staff members include: Rev. Mike Dixon, Troy Sanders, Cheryl Clark, Peg Dixon, Kathy Peel, Ray Coombes, Jim Mathis, Betty Kelly and Evelyn Harris. You may note a specific amount to be designated to an employee; all undesignated donations will be divided equally. In order to deliver these expressions of love before Christmas, all gifts must be in by Sunday, December 17. - Thank you, Staff Relations



**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL**

Thank you to all those who signed up and submitted a devotional for the Advent Booklet. If you have not yet turned yours in, please do so this week! Advent Booklets have to be ready December 3.

**CONG. BUSINESS MTG. REPORT**

At the annual business meetings of the congregation, the complete list of nominations for next year and beyond were approved; the 2018 budget as presented was approved as well. And then, John Chittick, new Chair, made the following appointments:

Program Committee Chairs

Christian Education - Deena Hasler & Doug Smittkamp

Community Outreach - Mary K. Bradford & Karla Pierson

Disciples Outreach - Joel Gleckler & Karen Newhart

Evangelism - Cody & Katie Vaughn

Membership - Tony & Rita Haupt

Stewardship/Finance - Ray Coombes

Worship - Donna Garver

Standing Committee Members

Staff Relations - Daniel Smittkamp

Memorials - Evie Gill

Other Positions Appointed

Financial Secretary - Connie Bean

Asst. Financial Secretary - Jim Mathis

Librarian - Peggy Barath

Historian - Cathy Clawson

Others to be appointed will be announced soon.

### FCC T-SHIRTS

We have some of the ordered t-shirts on hand, and they will be available for pickup on Sunday or after. A few were out of stock and will be printed with the next order. Stay tuned...

### GOLDEN AGE

The combined Thanksgiving/Christmas Golden Age luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 5 at 12:00 NN. Sign-up for the luncheon. The program will be by David & Barbara Dick on their trip to the Holy Lands.



### SALVATION ARMY BELL-RINGING

The FCC Salvation Army Bell-Ringing time will be on Saturday, December 2 at Walmart, sponsored by the Disciples Men. Thank you to those who have signed up to participate!

### YOUTH PASTOR SEARCH

We continue to receive names and resumes for our position of Youth Pastor. And we continue to pray for the right individual. Please continue your prayers as well.

### "THANK YOU" CARDS

Don't forget to pick up some Thank You cards to hand out and encourage others who serve.

### PLAN OF GIVING FORMS

Please turn it in your 2018 Plan of Giving form or mail it to the office. Thank you!

### VOLUNTEER FORMS

Be sure to fill out a 2018 volunteer form to indicate any particular place you would like to serve. Turn the forms in at the office.

### ADVENT REHEARSALS

The Community Advent Choir rehearsals continue on: Monday, Nov. 27; Thursday, Nov. 30 - all at 7:00 PM at the First United Methodist Church.

### SECRET PLACE

The winter edition of "The Secret Place" devotionals are in and available at the entryways. Pick up a copy.



### YOUTH GROUP: Jr. / Sr. High

No Youth Group this week since school is out, but we'll resume next Wednesday at 6:00 PM. All junior high and high school students welcome!

### GOD'S GANG: K-5 / CROSSROADS: 6-8 Grade

No meeting this week since school is out! But come join us for the God's Gang-Crossroads next Wednesday at 3:00 PM. The week's theme will be "Animals".

### MICE CANS

Aluminum cans may be brought in on the last Sunday of the month, November 26.



### CHILDREN'S BELL-RINGING

On Wednesday, December 13 - the week after God's Gang ends - our FCC kids are invited to ring Salvation Army bells with Rev. Mike at 3:30, 4:00, 4:30 PM at Walmart. Sign-up!



### CAROLING

On December 13, the children and adults are invited to go caroling at 5:00 PM. The youth will go later at 6:00 PM. Meet at the church.

### NURSERY - 1st GRADE

During the 10:00 service each Sunday morning, we offer a Nursery for babies and infants as well as Children's Church for kids ages 3,4,5 up to first grade.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Classes are at 9:00 AM for all ages and you are welcome and invited to attend!

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*Choosing to Give is Choosing to Live
for God!*



THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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Phone 217-466-3255

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

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!

Nov. 19: 8:00 - 60 10:00 - 90 Nursery - 6

TOTAL WORSHIP = 156

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

TOTAL SS = 34

OFFERING TOTALS

November 19, 2017

General Fund + PayPal*	\$4,620.25*
Sunday School	36.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Emergency Fund	30.00
God's Gang	40.00
Love Offering	50.00
Choices Pregnancy & Health	50.00
Community Kitchen	40.00
Paris Ministerial Fellowship	50.00
Disciples Outreach-Missions	241.50
Thanksgiving Offering	731.00
Church Bus Fund	50.00
Scholarship Fund	60.00
Permanent Fund	12.00
Building Fund	366.50
TOTAL	\$6,427.25*

SERVING SCHEDULE: November 26, 2017

8:00 AM: ELDER: Dennis Thiel

DEACONESS: Amber Tegeler

PIANIST: Evie Gill

9:00 AM: Sunday School

10:00 AM: GREETERS:

East: Randy & Edna Creech

West: Jim & Cindy Mathis, Malloree & Taylor Shewey

ACOLYTES: Kaitlyn Coombes, Ethan Smittkamp

WORSHIP LEADER: Pete Templeton

BREAD ELDER: Doug Hasler

DEACONESS: Edna Creech

DEACONS: Team #2, Autumn Kasey, Captain; Barb Free,

Candi Milam, Dwight & Cindy Robinson, Cody Vaughn,

JK Vilks, Kevin Woods

JR DEACONS: Team #2, Montana Boatman, Greg

Johnson, Jaydin Seeley, Brooklyn Ward, Ben Young

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Tammy Terry

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Emily Thomas

NURSERY HELPER: Aubrey Sanders

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Deena Hasler

NOV. FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Dwight & Cindy Robinson

NOV. USHERS: Randy Creech, Jerry Thomas, Dan Thomey

SOUND SYSTEM: Tony Peel

PROJECTION: Dan Smittkamp

SCRIPTURE: John 18:28-37

SERMON: The Questions Of Jesus: "Do You Say This Of Your Own Accord, Or Did Others Say It To You About Me?"

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon

Happy Thanksgiving

So Very Thankful

FOR YOU!