

THE MESSENGER

“CHOOSE LIFE AND LOVE GOD”

December 6, 2017

A NEW CHAPTER

When I read a book I like to stop at the end of a chapter. That's the point when I know something new is coming next.

We are at that point in the life and ministry of FCC.

As announced on Sunday, we offered our position of Youth Pastor to a young man and he accepted! Now that we have that acceptance, we are working to finalize the call and get him on board.

John Snidle is from Olney and graduated from high school there. He is already a tiger! He grew up in the Christian Church, and then went on to Lincoln Christian University, graduating in 2016. When a full-time position was not open then, he was able to wait - for us! - and in the meantime worked construction and as a substitute teacher, while continuing to volunteer in his local church.

We were very pleased to interview him, reference him, follow-up with him, and then invite him to join us!

You will get to meet him on Sunday as we continue the steps to begin January 1 of 2018.

One of the next steps is housing, we're checking and we invite you to help us with what you know, hear, wonder about - as well as your prayers. (We don't know about furniture yet - stay tuned.)

So far, the "book" of FCC has been a good "read". Now it's getting even more exciting as we get ready to open "a new chapter" with Pastor John.

Keep "reading"....

MCD

Youth Pastor Plan

Now that we have our candidate and his acceptance, we need to take official steps to bring him on board as staff. To that end we have called for: 1) a Special Board Meeting for Tuesday, December 12, at 7:00 PM to hear the report and recommendation of the Search Committee and approve it, if appropriate; 2) Congregational Meetings to be held Sunday, December 17, at 9:00 and 11:15 AM to approve the Board's action.

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 and we've almost met it with \$1,242.

PEACE in the PANDEMONTUM

Our 2017 Advent Devotional Booklet entitled, "Peace in the Pandemonium" is available for you to pick up and read through Advent. Additional copies are at the entryways, if you didn't get one last week.

2017 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 turned in by Sunday, December 17.

- Thank you, Staff Relations Committee



Our sympathies are extended to the family & friends of members:

- Laura Dayton, in her passing this week; services Wednesday;
- Helen Payne, in her recent loss of life; arrangements are TBA;
- Sue Sallee, in her death last month.

Home from the Hospital: Mary Alice Foley
Janean Gilliland



-- All those who offered testimonies & thanks to God after Thanksgiving;
-- Evie Gill & Rev. Mike for delivering the Children's socks to

Head Start;

- All those who rang the Salvation Army bells on Saturday at Walmart;
- Evie Gill & Faye Eitel for the 8:00 accompaniments;
- Marge Houghland & Cathy Melendez for explaining "The Giving Tree" ministry;
- Tammy Terry, Dan Smittkamp, & Rev. Mike for the Children's Sermons;
- Roseann Moss for the Harvest scene;
- Steve Eitel & Monty Raley for the Love Offering explanations;
- Dawn Hopper, Kendal Close, Al, Nancy & Jesse Englebright for the Advent Meditation and candlelighting;
- God's Gang for their music, as well as "The Joyful Ringers";
- Rev. Mike & Peg Dixon for the floral arrangement;
- All those who contributed to our Advent devotional book;
- Membership Committee for the Birthday cake for Jesus.

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**BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

Quit trying to fix yourself,  
Fix your eyes on God.

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DECEMBER PRAYER

"Lord Jesus Christ, please allow us to hold You in our hearts above all else. Help us to strive to show others Your love and joy through our own actions. Amen."

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**CHURCH SECURITY TRAINING**

The issue of security has come to the fore, and First Baptist Church is offering training Sunday, Dec. 10 from 1:00-3:00 PM. You are invited.

**"WELCOME TO THE FAMILY"**

We welcome sisters, Katie & Erica Garver, as they came forward to re-affirm their faith and be re-baptized as they join us in FCC. Welcome!

**ADVENT PRAYER LIST**

Copies of the Advent Prayer List are available to pray for others through the season.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

There will be a special Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, Dec. 17, following each service to approve the hiring of the new Youth Minister.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Deacons Organizational will meet Sunday, Dec. 10 at 11:15 AM.
- Deaconess Organizational will meet Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 5:30 PM.
- Trustees will meet Thursday, Dec. 14 at 4:00 PM.

**2018 COMMITTEE CHAIRS INVITE**

The Program Chairs for 2018 will be inviting people to work with their committees. If you would like to be on a certain committee, let them know.

**CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS CARD**

Stop by and sign the Congregational Christmas Card to share your Christmas greetings. If you would like, you may donate the money saved on sending cards to go to the CWF.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

Sunday evening, Dec. 24, will be have our Christmas Eve Service with Caroling, Candles, and Communion. If interested, we also offer Parent-Child Dedications at this time. Call the office to let us know.

**SECRET PLACE**

The winter edition of "The Secret Place" devotionals are available.

**INVITATIONS TO WORSHIP**

Look this Sunday for invitations to give to others to come worship with us.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Several individuals have been thinking and considering membership in FCC. If that would be meaningful to you at the end of 2017 or the beginning of 2018, let's take care of that! ☺



### **CIRCLES IN DECEMBER**

**CIRCLE OF PRAYER:** meets tomorrow, Dec. 7, at 6:00 PM at the home of Angel Templeton.

**FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE:** will go to the Red Oak Inn on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 12:00 NN.

**KOINONIA CIRCLE:** will meet at the home of Barbara Dick. Peg Dixon will bring the lesson and members are to bring hearty soups.

### **GIVING TREES**

The Circle of Light is sponsoring the "Giving Trees" again this year. Names and gifts will go to the local group home residents. The only request is that there are "no aerosol cans." Check out the trees for names still available.

### **COMMUNITY KITCHEN**

Sign-up to help at the Community Kitchen on Monday, Dec. 18. We need desserts and serving helpers. Thank you!

### **END-OF-YEAR GIVING**

This may be a helpful tax break to some to give their end-of-year donation and now is the time.

### **FCC T-SHIRTS**

The first order is received and the second order is turned in. Check to see if you have a shirt to pick up.

### **"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.

### **CHRISTIAN CONCERT**

The Ball Brothers joined by Adrienne Haupt will be performing at the Fine Arts Center on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$20 adult, \$15 Senior/Student. More information is available on the bulletin board in the hallway.



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

Youth Group will meet at 6:00 PM this evening, but next week plan to go caroling at that time!

→ Our year-end, lock-in will be Friday, Dec. 29, from 7:00 PM to 7:30 AM. Youth bring snacks & pop/water, if you can.

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

God's Gang/Crossroads finale for this semester is tonight. Thanks to all who helped make this term happen. We'll announce the next semester information in January.

### **MICE**

The MICE will celebrate a pre-New Year's Party on Sunday, Dec. 31. Time and place to be announced.

### **CHILDREN'S BELL-RINGING**

Next Wednesday, December 13 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**

Also on December 13, the children and adults are invited to go caroling at 5:00 PM.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS PARTY**

The Open Door SS Class Christmas Party will be Sunday, Dec. 10, at 5:00 PM at FCC in the Fellowship Hall.

### **BLOODMOBILE**

The Community Bloodmobile will be at the KC Hall on Monday, December 18.

### *Thank You!*

Paris Head Start would like to say, "Thank You for all of your wonderful donations throughout the years. We greatly appreciate all you do for us.

Merry Christmas! from Paris Head Start

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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

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!

**Dec. 3: 8:00 - 50 10:00 - 138 Nursery - 9
TOTAL WORSHIP = 197**

6:00 PM evening - 121

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 0, 2nd-5th - 4, Jr & Sr High - 2, New Disciples - 9, Open Door - 23, New Horizons - 0

TOTAL SS = 38

OFFERING TOTALS

December 3, 2017

General Fund	\$5,059.25
Sunday School	17.00
Envelopes	1.00
Love Offering	1,060.00
Friendly Circle	500.00
God's Gang	41.00
Head, Hands, Heart	100.00
Disciples Outreach-Missions	832.50
Thanksgiving Offering	30.00
Christmas Offering	123.00
Church Bus Fund	20.00
Building Fund	497.50
TOTAL	\$8,281.25

SERVING SCHEDULE: December 10, 2017

8:00 AM: ELDER: Joel Gleckler

DEACONESS: Cathy Clawson

PIANIST: Pete Templeton

9:00 AM: Sunday School

10:00 AM: GREETERS:

East: Jim & Kay Bellerud

West: Bill & Karla Pierson

ACOLYTES: Gage Johnson, Emmalyn Kennedy

WORSHIP LEADER: Steve Webb

BREAD ELDER: Kim Woods

DEACONESS: Megan Mathis

DEACONS: Team #1, Dan Smittkamp, Captain; 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: Cindy Mathis

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Emily Thomas

NURSERY HELPER: Brooklyn Ward

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Nancy Englebright

DEC. FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Emily Thomas

DEC. USHERS: Ken Dennison, Dean Smittkamp,

Ron Stickler

SOUND SYSTEM: Joe Gill

PROJECTION: Evie Gill

SCRIPTURES: Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18; Romans 3:19-28

SERMON: "Words of Christmas: Achieve"

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon



BUILDING NEWS



- The recent work around the tower has been to repair water-damaged boards and to install new flashing and shingles. Thanks!
- The new sculpture in the Main Street landscaping is a depiction of the chalice that symbolizes our Disciples church, with the stone in the center - one of the finials from the top of the tower, representing the cross in our denominational symbol. Thanks!