

# THE MESSENGER

“CHOOSE LIFE AND LOVE GOD”

December 13, 2017

## “WE DO”... WHAT?

I was over in Indianapolis last week for a day and when I was driving around (you do that when you miss your turn and aren't sure how to get back! #?\*) and saw a sign that caught my eye. It read, “We Do Law”, and under those three words it then described the kinds of legal work they do.

Hmmm... so I wondered about us? We know what we do, but I'm not sure others do. So what sign would we have?

“We Do Church”

would be a natural. And we would then list worship, prayer, music, preaching, plus baptism and communion. But that's not all we do.

“We Do Family”

would be a possibility. And we could list weddings, funerals, dedications, dinners, counseling, and more. But that's not enough, because

“We Do Children/Youth”

That is also true, with Children's Sermons, Children's Church, Nursery, as well as God's Gang, Youth Group, MICE and now a Youth Minister coming on staff. Yes, but there's also

“We Do Community”

That's where we'd list all our local projects and those we are a part of, as well as what our members do in the community. And that doesn't include

“We Do Education”

“We Do Outreach”

“We Do Fun”

“We Do Love”

We are too much for three words, unless it's

“We Do God”

Yet that sounds wrong, so I guess we'll stay with

“First Christian Church.”

*MCD*

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## CHILDREN'S BELL-RINGING - Today

Today - Wednesday, December 13 - FCC kids who signed up meet at Walmart to ring Salvation Army bells with Rev. Mike at 3:30, 4:00, 4:30 PM.



## CAROLING - Tonight

Also today, all children and adults are invited to go caroling at 5:00 PM. Meet at the church to head out and carol around town.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be two special Congregational Meetings held this Sunday, December 17, following each service, at 9:00 and 11:15 AM, to vote on the hiring of a new Youth Minister.



Congratulations to Kaitlyn Coombes and Macie Thomas - & families - on the Crestwood 7th Grade Basketball State Championship!! Well-played.

Home from the Hospital: Karen Moore

Congratulations also go to all involved in the PHS Drama production last weekend. Well-done!



- Pete Templeton for the 8:00 AM accompaniment;
- Gary & Linda Hancock and Bill & Karla Pierson, plus Jaydin Seeley, for the Advent Meditation and Candlelighting;
- Megan Mathis for the Children's Sermon;
- Cathy & Richard Melendez for helping host the Open Door SS Class Christmas Dinner Party;
- Trustees for their work above and below the building;
- Rev. Mike for the devotional thoughts and prayer at Board Meeting.

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**BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

A bad attitude is like a flat tire - change it.

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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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**CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

The Christmas Offering goes to support the Christian Church in Illinois-Wisconsin and our goal is \$2000.

**INVITATIONS TO WORSHIP**

Be sure to pick up some copies of the invitations to worship with us and give them to others.

**END-OF-YEAR WORSHIP**

On Sunday, Dec. 31, we will combine our services with one worship at 10:00 AM. There will be no Sunday School on that day.

**SHUT-IN COMMUNION**

The Elders are asking if any of our shut-ins would like communion brought to them once a month. This is a service provided to those interested and requested. So, let us know who we can serve.

**2017 STAFF LOVE OFFERING**

We, the congregation of FCC, have many things to be thankful for; one of which is our church staff. These individuals do so many things we take for granted week to week. We ask you to consider giving to the Love Offering to show your appreciation for: Rev. Mike Dixon, Troy Sanders, Cheryl Clark, Peg Dixon, Kathy Peel, Ray Coombes, Jim Mathis, Betty Kelly and Evelyn Harris. You may donate to a specific individual or generally. All undesignated donations will be divided equally. In order to deliver these expressions of love before Christmas, all gifts must be turned in by this Sunday, Dec. 17. - Thank you, Staff Relations

**TRUSTEE MEETING**

The Trustees are scheduled to meet this Thursday, December 14 at 6:00 PM.

**2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

The new 2018 Offering Envelopes are out in the hallway for those who currently use envelopes or are assigned a number. Please pick yours up. Those who would like to start using envelopes, please sign the sheet to be assigned a number. Electronic giving is also an option, call for info.

**ADVENT PRAYER LIST**

The Advent Prayer List is a helpful way to pray for others through the season. Pick up your copy in the hallway.

**NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION**

This Sunday, Dec. 17, we will recognize this year's new members during worship.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

At 7:00 PM, 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**

Copies of the winter edition of "The Secret Place" devotional are still available.

**PEACE in the PANDEMONIUM**

A few of the 2017 FCC Advent Devotional Booklets are still available, if you haven't gotten one previously, or would like to share it with others.



### DECEMBER CIRCLE MEETING

**KOINONIA CIRCLE:** will meet at the home of Barbara Dick on Thursday, Dec. 21 at 9:00 AM. Peg Dixon will bring the lesson and members are to bring hearty soups.

### CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS CARD

The Congregational Christmas Card, provided by CWF, is a way to share your Christmas greetings with others in FCC. A donation stocking is available if you would like to give to the CWF.

### GIVING TREES

The Circle of Light is sponsoring the "Giving Trees" with names and gifts for local group home residents. The only request is "no aerosol cans." Presents are due back this Sunday, 17th.

### COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Your help is welcome at the Community Kitchen on Monday, Dec. 18. We need desserts also!

### END-OF-YEAR GIVING

End-of-year donations are welcome - needed - accepted at this time.

### 2018 SERVING SCHEDULES

The Serving Schedules for next year will be mailed as soon as they are ready. These will include: Elders, Deacons, Deaconesses, Jr. Deacons, Ushers, Pianists, Acolytes, Nursery Helpers, Children's Church, Nursery Helpers, and Sound & Projection.

### NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

Starting off on Sunday, January 7, 2018, we will:

- Dedicate the new leaders,
- introduce the Annual Theme,
- hold all Program Committee mtgs. at 2:00 PM (Chairs -please turn in committee names!)

### CHRISTIAN CONCERT

The Ball Brothers joined by our very own, 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 to go caroling at that time! Our year-end, lock-in will begin Friday, Dec. 29 at 7:00 PM and go through Saturday, Dec. 30 to 7:30 AM. Bring snacks & pop/water, if you can.

### MICE

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

### BLOODMOBILE

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



### INVITATION TO OPEN HOUSE

You are invited to a Christmas Open House for Mallore Mathis-Shewey on Saturday, December 23 from 4:00-6:00 PM at 513 S. Central St.

### DISCIPLE MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Disciples Men will meet for breakfast this Saturday morning at 8:00 AM at Main Street Café. All men are welcome to come join us!

### *Thank You!*

A word of thanks to Rev. Mike and all who sent cards or had my family in their thoughts and prayers. During times like these, one really realizes how important and comforting our church family is.

- Dayton Family

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*Choosing to Give is  
Choosing to Live for God!*  
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### NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

The holiday schedule for the newsletter will be as follows: a Holiday version of the newsletter will be mailed out next Wednesday, Dec. 20, but there will not be a newsletter on Wednesday, Dec. 27 due to the office being closed from Christmas to the Tuesday after New Year's Day.



# 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

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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!**

**Dec. 10: 8:00 - 56 10:00 - 103 Nursery - 3  
TOTAL WORSHIP = 162**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 2, 2nd-5th - 4, Jr & Sr High - 8, New Disciples - 10, Open Door - 22, New Horizons - 12**

**TOTAL SS = 58**

### OFFERING TOTALS

**December 10, 2017**

|                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| General Fund + PayPal*      | \$3,957.25*        |
| Sunday School               | 20.00              |
| Envelopes                   | 5.00               |
| Love Offering               | 1,346.00           |
| Emergency Fund              | 20.00              |
| Food Pantry                 | 100.00             |
| Choices Pregnancy & Health  | 50.00              |
| God's Gang                  | 50.00              |
| Ark Trip                    | 335.00             |
| Disciples Outreach-Missions | 140.00             |
| Christmas Offering          | 137.00             |
| Building Fund               | 250.00             |
| Church Bus Fund             | 50.00              |
| Memorial Fund + PayPal*     | 140.00*            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>\$6,600.25*</b> |

### SERVING SCHEDULE: December 17, 2017

**8:00 AM:** ELDER: Dennis Thiel

DEACONESS: Jenneane McDaniel

PIANIST: Mary Helen Hamilton

**9:00 AM: Sunday School**

**10:00 AM: GREETERS:**

East: Joel Gleckler

West: Ken & Mary Helen Hamilton

ACOLYTES: Lily Smittkamp, Morgan Gann

WORSHIP LEADER: Doug Hasler

BREAD ELDER: John Chittick

DEACONESS: Karla Pierson

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

Candi Milam, Dwight & Cindy Robinson, Cody Vaughn,

JK Vilks, Kevin Woods

JR DEACONS: Team #1, Mike Kirk, Lainey Ogle, Macy

Richards, Aubrey Sanders

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Cody Vaughn

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Emily Thomas

NURSERY HELPER: Ava Huddleson

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Cindy Robinson

DEC. FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Emily Thomas

DEC. USHERS: Ken Dennison, Dean Smittkamp,

Ron Stickler

SOUND SYSTEM: Brooklyn Ward

PROJECTION: Tony Peel

SCRIPTURES: Luke 1:67-79; Philippians 4:4-9

SERMON: "Words of Christmas: Relieve"

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon



### **CARILLON REPORT**

The new carillon has been purchased (since the old one quit working). The work on the tower had to be completed before new speakers could be mounted. That process is now underway and is very close to being finished. Then we will have beautiful bell music to enrich our neighborhood and city once again! So, soon - and very soon.