

# THE MESSENGER

“LIVE AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT”

January 3, 2018

## DON'T TIE HIM DOWN!

I love our Christmas decorations at the church. I find them beautiful, tasteful, well-done - I also found an unexpected, unnoticed, surprise.

We were down in the Fellowship Hall for a dinner and party. I went over to a nativity set and discovered - baby Jesus is ziptied to the manger! There are two other such nativities and He is tied down in each one. I don't know the story behind the zipties?! But I can see meaning and symbolism in tying Him down.

Some want Jesus to stay as baby Jesus. They like the cute, cuddly image of “sweet little Jesus boy” and want to keep Him that way - when He's harmless to them. However, we need to let Him go!

Others prefer to keep Jesus in Bethlehem as part of the events that took place there. They may want Him there and not here, but we need to turn Him loose!

And then there are those of us who have Him in our homes, but we want Him tied down so He doesn't mess up things or disrupt our comfort or make us see something we rather not. So we, too, need to set Him free!

In real life, don't tie Jesus down - let Him go forth, and then let come in to your life.

*MCD*



## **Welcome “Shower” for Pastor John**

We want to physically welcome Pastor John - with gifts to help him get established in his new place. The youth brought paper goods; you can do likewise, but especially basic food items - soups, mac-n-cheese, ramen noodles, canned meats, fruits, vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, instant potatoes, microwavable items, frozen foods - for someone who doesn't cook much - or even gift cards to the stores or restaurants. We will have containers out this Sunday to give him. It's a surprise, so don't tell him!

## **Christmas Offering Report**

Our goal for the 2017 Christmas Offering was \$2,000 and we received a total of \$1,902. Thank you for your gifts!



## **Theme Sunday**

January 7, is our Theme Sunday, when we will introduce the new theme for 2018 and showcase the new Theme Banner! Invitation cards are available with the new theme. We will also introduce and dedicate the new 2018 Leaders at 10:00 AM. Therefore, we need all the Elders, Deacons, Deaconesses, Jr. Deacons, Trustees, Ushers, and Committee Chairs to be here.



Our sympathies go to the family & friends of member, Brenda Buckley, in her recent passing.

Home from the Hospital:

Lewis Thiel                      Ken Dennison  
Ron Odle                              Karen Moore

We also extend our sympathies to former resident, May Reel, in her loss. A service will be Thursday.

Congratulations to Matt & Sue Watson on their official adoption!



-- Mary Helen Hamilton & Peg Dixon for the 8:00 accompaniments;

-- John Chittick, Tammy Terry, and Rev. Mike for the Children's

Sermons;

-- Watson's, Metcalf's, Dayton/Johnson, Garver sister's and Young's for reading and lighting the Advent meditations and candles;

-- Karen Newhart and Carolyn Lanker for the Minutes for Mission;

-- Peel's for the Memorial flowers;

-- All those who helped with Christmas!

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**BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

Remember the Reason  
for All the Seasons

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**JANUARY PRAYER**

"Thank You God, for Youth Ministry. Our youth are the future for our city, our nation, our world. Help them want something real, want to make a difference and want to be involved now. Amen."

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**END-OF-YEAR GIVING**

We are grateful to those who made end-of-the-year gifts to the church and to God. Thank you all! If you missed the end, maybe you can make a beginning-of-the-year gift! Whenever the timing, we are sincerely grateful for your gifts of support and faith!

**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.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Elders Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 4, 5:00 PM
- Board Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 9, 7:00 PM

**ANNUAL PLANNING MEETINGS**

All Program Committees: Christian Education, Community Outreach, Disciples Outreach, Evangelism, Membership, Stewardship/Finance, and Worship, will meet at 2:00 PM on Sunday, January 7 for their annual planning. All committee members are asked to attend.

**2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Please pick up your 2018 Offering Envelopes in the hallway. Electronic giving is available.

**2018 COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

We are still in need of the names for some of our 2018 committees. Please turn those in asap!

**2017 COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Please write your 2017 Yearbook report and turn over your information/key to the new Chair.

**COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS**

If you are interested in receiving communion in your home or nursing home, please call and let us know.

**CARILLON**

Our new carillon and speakers are hooked up and operational. We hope you have noticed and are enjoying the music once again. Special thanks to our Trustees for the purchase and installation.

**BIBLE STUDY**

We will resume our Tuesday morning Bible Study next week on January 9. Come join us then - or any Tuesday morning, 10:30 AM-12:00 noon. We meet in the Jerusalem Room by the offices, and we have a couple of open places - as well as a fun, welcoming, learning experience to share. You are invited.

**SANCTUARY UPDATE**

You may have noticed the painting in the sanctuary. It will be finished soon, then we'll be ready for new carpeting, new trim, and some pew rearrangement to make things more accessible. It's likely that one Sunday we'll be in the Fellowship Hall for worship when all this is being done. So be patient with the process and look forward to the improvement!



**JANUARY CIRCLE MEETINGS**

CIRCLE OF LIGHT: has moved their meeting to Tues., Jan. 9, at 6:00 PM in the church parlor. Cathy Melendez is hostess with Mary Henson giving the lesson.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER: will meet on Thurs., Jan. 11th at 6:00 PM at the home of Megan Mathis with Tammy Terry bringing the lesson.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: is scheduled to meet at 1:30 on Tues., Jan. 23.

KOINONIA CIRCLE: is scheduled to meet on Thurs., Jan. 18 at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen.

*All women are welcome to any Circle!*

**DISCIPLE MEN'S BREAKFAST**

The Disciples Men will meet for breakfast on Sat., January 20, at 8:00 AM in the church kitchen. Rev. Mike will be cooking. Sign-up! All men are welcome!

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***Thank You!***

Thanks to everyone for the bountiful cards & love received at Christmas, and then the flood of birthday cards afterward. I am extremely grateful. It is a blessing to have a church family that remembers and cares about you.

- Linda Driver

I am so grateful for your love and encouragement not only at Christmas, but throughout the year. Thank you for the Love Offering and thank you for being Christ-like. God bless your New Year!

- Cheryl Clark

Dear FCC Family, How very kind and generous you are! Your monetary gifts helped "sponsor" our Lindberg Christmas in Valpo, Dixon Christmas in Elkhart and the 2018 banner. You are a fountain of blessings!

- With Love, Peg

Once again I am overwhelmed, touched, inspired, humbled, encouraged, challenged and grateful for the gift of the Love Offering. Hugs come in many ways - yours burst from that envelope and surrounded me with the sweetness of your love! Once again, I thank you - and try to love you back!

- Rev. Mike



HELLO! If you have not heard, First Christian Church has hired a new youth minister named, John Snidle, and he is me! I am very excited to begin working, and I know God has led me here - so big and wonderful are sure to follow. If you wish to contact me, I am available at

618/838-5646

or in my office during regular hours. Good Cheers and God Bless!

\* \* \*

Lock-In Report A lock-in took place with the youth group on the night of the 29th, and the following morning from 7 to 8. Large activities were roller-skating, concert, pizza, and movie. There was also free time in which we played games and hung out. Approximately 33 students attended with 5 adult sponsors. We would like to thank Angel Templeton, Troy Sanders, Daniel Smittkamp, Ryne Donaldson, and Mark Johnson for their help and support.

\* \* \*

Mid-Winter Retreat Come "Rise Up" at the CCIW Mid-Winter Retreat which is an amazing 24-hour event held every year for grades 6-12. We will engage in Godly play, mission, keynotes, discussion and worship. This year it will be hosted at Eureka Christian Church and Eureka College. We will be leaving early morning on Sat., January 20 and returning Sun., January 21 around noon. You will need to bring money for one meal. Registration due this Friday!

\* \* \*

Youth Group will continue to meet on Wednesday night at 6:00 PM for Jr./Sr. High. Bring your friends and come join us!

\* \* \*

God's Gang/Crossroads will resume on Wed., February 7 through May 2, except for March 28 due to spring break. A planning meeting will be held on an upcoming Wednesday, time and date will be announced.

\* \* \*

MICE will be heading to the Bouncy Barn on Sun., January 28. The bus will leave from FCC at 1:00 PM (IL time) and return at 4:00 PM (IL time).

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ONE MORE THING If you have a loveseat you could donate to be used in the youth minister's office, we are in need of one. Thank you!



# 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!**

**Dec. 24: 8:00 AM - 55 10:00 AM - 88 Nurs. - 1**

**TOTAL WORSHIP = 144**

**TOTAL SS = 32 \* 7:00 PM = 162**

**Dec. 31: 10:00 AM - 86 Nursery - 1**

**TOTAL WORSHIP = 87 (No SS)**

### OFFERING TOTALS

	<b>Dec. 24</b>	<b>Dec. 31, 2017</b>
Gen'l Fund+PP/EG*	\$5,782.25*	\$12,221.75
Envelopes		2.00
Sunday School	23.00	
Love Offering 2018	80.00	
God's Gang		120.00
Food Pantry		590.00
Emergency Fund	201.00	730.00
Reimbursement	20.34	
T-Shirt Fund	420.00	
Youth Pastor Fund	1,450.00	50.00
Bell Choir Fund	150.00	
Dis.Out.-Missions+EG*	236.50*	222.50
Wk of Compassion EG*	70.00*	
Christmas Offering	967.00	430.00
Building Fund+EG*	456.50*	535.00
Permanent Fund	12.00	40.00
Scholarship Fund	300.00	30.00
Mem. Fund PayPal*	50.00*	900.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,218.59*</b>	<b>\$15,871.25</b>

*\*PayPal &/or Electronic Giving as noted*

### SERVING SCHEDULE: January 7, 2018

**8:00 AM:** ELDER: Dan Lynch  
DEACONESS: Cassie Boatman  
PIANIST: Faye Eitel

**9:00 AM: Sunday School**

**10:00 AM: GREETERS:**

East: Aubrey Sanders

West: Troy Sanders

ACOLYTES: Macie Thomas, Jasmine Littlejohn

WORSHIP LEADER: David Dick

BREAD ELDER: Rick Kennedy

DEACONESS: Ellen Webb

DEACONS: Team #1, Dan Smittkamp, Captain; Sue Elliott, Greg Kelly, Dwight & Cindy Robinson, Angel Templeton, Cody Vaughn, Bruce Young

JR DEACONS: Team #1, Brooklyn Ward, Capt.; Austin Kirk, Mike Kirk, Greg Johnson

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Kay Bellerud

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Emily Thomas

NURSERY HELPER: Aubrey Sanders

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Peg Dixon

JAN. FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Kristin Chittick

JAN. USHERS: Randy Creech, Ken Dennison, and Lloyd Maggert

SOUND SYSTEM: Tony Peel

PROJECTION: Dan Smittkamp

SCRIPTURES: Ephesians 5:7-11; I John 1:5-7; 2:8-11

SERMON: "Live As Children Of The Light"

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon

