

THE MESSENGER

“LIVE AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT”

January 10, 2018

NO MORE PRAYER?!

When we began our search for a Youth Pastor, we prayed the following prayer:

“Dear God, we thank You for the young people in our church and in the community. We want to care and teach and include them in ministry, so we seek a pastor to do that. Guide the committee in the process; bless the individual You are preparing; connect us, so we can then work together to serve You and love Your people. We pray this in Jesus’ Name, Amen.”

I then taped copies in each attendance book that we see every week. There they stayed and stayed and stayed... until Sunday when I asked everyone at 10:00 to open the book and rip it out! Now that Pastor John is here and underway. (Sorry, 8:00 folk, I couldn’t figure out a way to do both services.)

This means that God answered that prayer - using the committee, through ups and downs, beyond delays, around some dead ends, and on some detours until we made our connection. Now - does that mean

No More Prayer?

Are we done? Is our praying finished? Can we stop?

No, now we need a new prayer. Pray with me:

“Dear God, we thank You that we have youth and children in our church and community. And we especially thank You for preparing both us and John, then connecting us to serve together! Now use us all to reach out to young people, to care and develop relationships, to teach and train, so we can serve You and love You and keep praying with You - in Jesus’ Name, Amen.”

And it’s that some way in our individual/family lives, when one prayer is answered, another begins. So instead of

No More Prayer?

it is

Now Another Prayer!

MCD

Soup Luncheon

The Circle of Light will host their annual Soup Luncheon on Sunday, January 28, following the second service at 11:30 AM. A variety of soups will be offered for a free-will donation. All are invited and welcome.

Theme Banner

Our 2018 theme is “Live As Children Of The Light.” We will explore it throughout the year. It is visualized up front on the theme banner with the light coming from the Alpha/Jewish Star of David to the cross, then through us on to the Omega. Thank you, Peg Dixon!

Outing to “Passion Play”

We are planning to take a bus to, “The American Passion Play” (the oldest running play in the United States) in Bloomington, IL on Saturday, March 17. The cost is \$25 per person and lunch is available from 11:00-12:15 at \$15 per person. (Note, there are no refunds for the lunch.) We plan to leave around 8-8:30 AM that morning. Sign-up in the hallway.

Gifts to Pastor John

Thank you to all who brought gifts to help Pastor John get started! If you did not get it done, you can still do so. There will be a basket in the entry on Sunday for any further items, especially mac & cheese (just kidding, see his note on pg. 3)!



We extend our sympathies to the family & friends of member, Barbara Brown in her passing. Services were last week.



- Evie Gill for compiling the volunteer list from your forms!;
- Tony Peel, who contacted the City on Saturday about our frozen water meter & the repairman who came on the weekend to restore our service!;
- Faye Eitel for the 8:00 accompaniment;
- Kay Bellerud for the Children's Sermon;
- Kasey family for the memorial flowers;
- Donna Garver for the devotion at Board Meeting;
- Cathy Melendez for substituting in the office.

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

Save money on gas -
walk with God.

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."

2018 SERVING SCHEDULES

The Serving Schedules for next year have been posted on the Schedule Board in the hallway across from the church office.

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

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

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is back to its weekly schedule. Come join us from 10:30 AM-12:00 noon. We meet in the Jerusalem Room by the offices, and we have a place for you!

INVITATION CARDS

Soon - we will have the new invitation cards for you to take and use - soon.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please pick up your 2018 Offering Envelopes in the hallway and remind others. If you have envelopes, but don't want them, let us know. Electronic giving is also available.

"SPLINTERS" FROM THE BOARD

At its January meeting, the Executive Board:

- ◆ worshiped around a display of cut out children/youth and a "youth pastor" over Proverbs 22:6 about "training a child";
- ◆ offered continuing prayers for one youth/child and for Pastor John;
- ◆ noted and read a new letter from Tatiana, our sponsored child in Peru;
- ◆ approved the annual parsonage allowance form for the IRS;
- ◆ voted on the Christian Education proposal to designate the Sunday School offering to the Youth Scholarship Fund;
- ◆ celebrated that the Christmas Offering is now over the \$2,000 goal! (Thanks)
- ◆ heard plans for the Talent/Variety Show on Sunday, Feb. 25;
- ◆ discussed PayPal donations and the fee that is charged;
- ◆ voted to approve a thank-you gift;
- ◆ heard that the Trustees are providing furniture for the Youth Pastor's office;
- ◆ received the announcement of Blanket Sunday on Jan. 21;
- ◆ discussed the issue of church security and the different perspectives that need further discussion.

TRUSTEES MEETING

Trustees meet Thursday, Jan. 25, at 6:00 PM.

2017 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

2018 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Please turn in the information from your meeting with notes and names of those responsible for assignments and the committee plans for 2018.

MEMBERSHIP NEEDS

Please lend us your help for the following:

- 1) Does anyone know where the "stork" is? FCC has used it in the past at different houses. Please bring it in to the office if you have it. Thank you!
- 2) We need the updated College Addresses for our FCC students. Please call, email, bring those to the office.
- 3) You are invited to participate in the upcoming Talent/Variety Show on Sunday evening, February 25. Be thinking about what you would like to do!



JANUARY CIRCLE MEETINGS

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

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: is to meet at the home of Priscilla Gilles on Tues., Jan. 16 at 1:30 PM. Carolyn Lanker will bring the lesson.

KOINONIA CIRCLE: meets Thurs., Jan. 18 at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen. Hostess is Donna Moody and Cindy Mathis is giving the lesson.

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!

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Community Kitchen is Monday, January 15. With the larger attendance, we need more servers and desserts. Please sign up to help!

GOLDEN AGE

Our Golden Age luncheon will be on Tuesday, January 23, at 12:00 NN. Sign-up!

DISCIPLES SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Please note that we are going to try using the library for the Disciples SS class taught by Mary K. Bradford. Go into the Jerusalem Room and turn right. This will allow the Youth Office to remain an office. Thanks to all involved.

FLOWER SIGN-UP for 2018

The sign-up sheet is out on the hallway desk for those who would like to provide worship flowers on a Sunday.

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***Thank You!***

First Christian Church, Thank you for the wonderful love offering gift at Christmas.

- Sincerely, Ray Coombes

Church Family, Thank you for your generous act of love through the staff love offering. My heart is full and I am so blessed!

Thank you! Kathy Peel



PERSONAL Greetings all! I need to thank everyone who graciously blessed me with food this last week. I received an awful lot; I have enough Mac and Cheese to last me until the rapture! You all have been a huge blessing to me in so many ways; I hope to make you proud! People keep telling me what an answer to your prayers I am and I need you to know that God has answered my prayers as well through all of you. I have also been given a clothes dryer from members of the congregation, and the Board of Trustees have generously provided me with a wonderfully comfortable couch for my office. So, please come and visit me to test it out! My door is open any time.

\* \* \*

Mid-Winter Retreat All those students and adults who are registered for the Mid-Winter Retreat will arrive at Eureka Christian Church on Saturday, Jan. 20 at 12:00 NN for check-in; leaving FCC at 9:00 AM ON THE DOT (so don't be late!). You will need money for one meal, and a sleeping bag and pillow, for we will be sleeping on the floor at the church.

\* \* \*

Youth Group Hey everybody, Wednesday night youth group is here! Jr. High is from 6-7 PM and Sr. High is from 6:30-8 PM. Invite your friends!

\* \* \*

God's Gang/Crossroads God's Gang will be having a leaders meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 5:30 PM in the Jerusalem Room. If you would like to be involved or just have questions, please attend. God's Gang will officially start Feb. 7.

\* \* \*

MICE MICE Events are planned for the fourth Sunday of each month and this month they 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).

\* \* \*

YOUTH SUNDAY Youth Sunday is fast approaching! It will be Feb. 4, one service only, at 10:00 AM. Come support our youth!

\* \* \*

VBS Vacation Bible School will be July 30-August 3 this year. Put it on your calendar. A planning meeting, registrations, etc. will be noted closer to that date. Don't miss it!



# 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!***

**Jan. 7: 8:00 AM - 52 10:00 AM - 92 Nursery - 8  
TOTAL WORSHIP = 152**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 0, 2nd-5th - 3, Jr & Sr High - 4, New Disciples - 5, Open Door - 17, New Horizons - 12**

**TOTAL SS = 41**

### OFFERING TOTALS

**January 7, 2018**

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| General Fund                | \$4,037.25        |
| Envelopes                   | 54.25             |
| Sunday School               | 18.00             |
| God's Gang                  | 20.00             |
| Youth Fund                  | 100.00            |
| Youth Pastor Fund           | 40.00             |
| Disciples Outreach-Missions | 230.00            |
| Christmas Offering          | 135.00            |
| Building Fund               | 370.00            |
| Memorial Fund               | 75.00             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>\$5,079.50</b> |

### SERVING SCHEDULE: January 14, 2018

**8:00 AM:** ELDER: Daryl Bridwell  
DEACONESS: Pam Lobb  
PIANIST: Mary Helen Hamilton

**9:00 AM: Sunday School**

**10:00 AM: GREETERS:**

East: Daryl & Lori Bridwell  
West: Bill, Donna, Brandon Moss  
ACOLYTES: Claire & Sophie Young  
WORSHIP LEADER: Tammy Terry  
BREAD ELDER: Nels Kasey

DEACONESS: Susan King

DEACONS: Team #2, Autumn Kasey, Captain; Jim Bellerud, Al & Nancy Englebright, Mark Johnson, JK Vilks, Patty Waters, Kevin Woods

JR DEACONS: Team #2, Lainey Ogle, Capt.; Aubrey Sanders, Alex Tapscott, Ben Young

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Susan King

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Emily Thomas

NURSERY HELPER: Candi Milam

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Jenelle Adams

JAN. FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Kristin Chittick

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

SOUND SYSTEM: Joe Gill

PROJECTION: Evie Gill

SCRIPTURE: John 8:12-30

SERMON: "Jesus, the Light of the World"



### SANCTUARY UPDATE

We don't know details yet, but we want you to know what's coming. When the sanctuary painting is done, we are ready for new carpeting and some pew adjustment in the back. But we don't know yet if that will be the end of January or the first part of February. Stay tuned - we'll let you know when we know.