

THE MESSENGER

“LIVE AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT”

February 7, 2018

THANK YOU

Below is the basic letter presented to Troy Sanders as part of the “thank you” on Sunday - appropriately on “Youth Sunday”:

“Troy, On behalf of FCC, I get to express all our thanks for your work as our Youth Director. It has been life-giving to us and for us. At a time when we were down and not sure which way to turn, God called and you answered. Then God proceeded to use you to make a difference in the lives of our youth and congregation. You will never know how many were touched, loved, inspired, encouraged, lifted, supported, and developed as a result of your leading and teaching, example and testimony, presence and prayers, love and joy. Neither do we know all the names and numbers, but we know it to be true. And we know it was a sacrifice. You had to juggle work and ministry, especially family and youth activities. Part of our thanks goes to your family for cooperating and adjusting to your work at FCC. You have been the point person for our youth work. We’ve tried to support you while we depended on you. Please forgive us when we disappointed you, and know how grateful we are for your years of investing in our young people. We are pleased to gift you, and sincerely thank you for your work as our FCC Youth Director.”

MCD



INSTALLATION SERVICE

Rev. Scott Woolridge of the Christian Church in Illinois-Wisconsin will be here to help install Pastor John Snidle this coming Sunday, February 11. An abbreviated ceremony will be done at 8:00 AM, with a full installation ceremony at 10:00 AM (Youth and families are especially wanted and invited to attend). There will be refreshments served between the services by the Membership Committee. Note: due to the renovations, worship will be in the Fellowship Hall this Sunday. Come experience the difference!

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is February 14 this year. We will have our service at 6:00 PM. Come join us for this special service that begins our season of Lent through Easter. Bring your “valentine” with you. God’s Gang kids and parents are wanted and welcome also.

TRIP TO “PASSION PLAY”

Yes, we do have enough to go to the “Passion Play” in Bloomington, IL on Saturday, March 17. At the last moment, we had several call in to sign up, so we decided to keep all the tickets we had originally received. By doing that, we have 6 tickets available in case you missed the previous deadline. You can either ride the FCC bus (which will include the buffet lunch beforehand - total cost \$40) or, sign up to drive on your own (cost \$25 ticket and either the buffet at \$15, or make your own eating arrangements). The sign-up sheet is back out on the sign-up desk for the remaining tickets to be taken.



Hospitalized: Karen Moore, Union

Home from Hospital:
Susan King
Betty Burgess-Swanson

Congratulations to Will Templeton on the County Spelling Bee!



-- The Trustees for getting the sanctuary ready - and all the volunteers who helped on Sunday! (It only took a couple of hours);

- All the youth for the Youth Sunday worship, especially "preachers" Montana & Kyle!;
- Monty Raley of Staff Relations for the presentation of thanks to Troy Sanders;
- Circle of Light for the Soup Luncheon!

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

There's no time like the pleasant.

FEBRUARY PRAYER

"Heavenly Father, as many of us will be giving and receiving flowers of affection this month, let us not forget the flower Jesus gave to us when he ROSE from the grave as our Savior. Amen.

BIBLE STUDY

You are welcome to Bible Study on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 AM.

LENTEN WORSHIP & PRAYER PROGRAM

Our Lenten worship will begin on Sunday, Feb. 18. Lenten Prayer packets will be ready for our Lenten Prayer program. Everyone is invited to take a packet and pray for those members whose names are inside throughout the season of Lent.

PAYPAL

We are grateful for all the donations to FCC, including those by electronic means - PayPal. The Board wants all to know there is a fee of almost 3% for each donation made this way. Each can decide if the convenience is worth the extra cost. Thank you.

"WELCOME TO THE FAMILY"

We are pleased to welcome Brandy Hays and Josh Wood into our membership after confessions and baptisms last week. As the wife and son of Cheston Hays, we get to officially say, "Welcome To The Family!"

YOUTH SUNDAY FOLLOW-UP

Well done! Youth Sunday was truly a highlight. Your comments are welcome because we want to share them with the youth. A copy of the sermon will soon be available in the office. Thanks again to all the youth!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Thank you for the donations to the "Souper Bowl of Caring." It has become part of Youth Sunday as a way for the youth to help collect donations for the Paris Food Pantry. The total donation received to date is: \$157. Thank you!

MISSION TRIP

There is an upcoming mission trip to Russia to help finish a church building. JC Foley will be going with friends, and there is room for another - if you can get it together by next week. (We'll share more and invite your help this spring.)

INVITATION CARDS

This is the time when we have "snowbirds" gone south and west - making it a good time to invite. We are ready to start a new series and seasonal emphasis - making it an ideal time to invite someone to worship. You are invited - to invite!

LENTEN SERIES

Beginning Monday, March 19, we will be offering a video series entitled, "Made For A Miracle". More information and a sign-up sheet will follow.

TALENT-VARIETY SHOW

FCC Talent-Variety Show is coming up Sunday evening, February 25, at 6:00 PM. We need youth to sing, play instruments, dance, etc. and we need adults to read, etc. Sign-up please! The free supper will be pulled pork and will served at 5:00 PM.

BUILDING UPDATE

We're underway! The floor in the Fellowship Hall is repaired and will be ready for the weekend. The sanctuary was emptied on Sunday and the new carpeting is being laid! (Stop and see it on Sunday.) The installation will go into next week, then "soon" we'll be back to normal.

NEEDED/REQUESTED

We would like to borrow old-fashioned glass oil-lamps to decorate for our series in February-March If you have one, let us know.



FEBRUARY CIRCLE MEETINGS

KOINONIA CIRCLE: meets Thursday, February 15, at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen. Hostesses are Sue Bennett and Audrey Stickler. The lesson will be given by Donna Moody.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER: meets Thursday, February 15, at 6:00 PM at the church. Hostesses are Megan Mathis and Tammy Terry. The lesson is also by Tammy Terry.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: meets Tuesday, February 20, at FCC, at 1:30 PM. Hostess is Janean Gilliland and the lesson is by Patty Waters.

FCC RELAY FOR LIFE

Most of us have been touched in one way or another by cancer. The First Christian Church Relay For Life Team is forming for 2018. If you would be interested in joining, an organizational meeting will be held on Monday, February 12, at 7:00 PM at the church. If you can't make the meeting, but would like to be on the team, please call Tammy Terry or Coralie Smittkamp.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

This month's Community Kitchen will be Monday, February 19. Volunteers are needed for serving and for desserts. Sign-up!

GOLDEN AGE

The Golden Age luncheon will be on Tuesday, February 27, at 12:00 NN for a donation. The program will be by Deena Hasler on "Assessments". Sign up and come join us.

DISCIPLE MEN'S BREAKFAST

All men are welcome to join the Disciple Men's Breakfast at 8:00 AM on Saturday, February 20, at the Paris Family Restaurant.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

If we do not have your email address or it has changed recently, please turn it in or send it to the office.

"GEOGRAPHY OF GRACE"

If the schedule fits - Saturday, February 24 - and you would like to experience some spiritual growth, see Rev. Mike about the upcoming CCIW event.



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! This week, Feb. 7, there are renovations being done downstairs, so we will leave the church together and go bowling! The church will buy the first game for everyone. Bring your own money for additional games, food, drinks, and arcade games.

* * *

Upcoming Trips For the Jr. High, we are attending a conference called "Believe." Believe is an overnigher, full of worship and chances to learn and grow closer to God. This will take place April 7-8 in Anderson, IN. The cost is \$60 + 2 meals per student, and the deadline is March 7. **For High School**, we are planning to attend a concert by the band, "Rend Collective," one of my personal favorites; they are a praise and worship band in folk-rock style. The concert is April 22 in Rock Island, IL. This will be a one-day trip, costing \$32 per student + 1 meal.

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God's Gang/Crossroads God's Gang will officially start Wednesday, Feb. 14. Registration is now open, so come and sign-up! Forms will be on a table in the Fellowship Hall.

* * *

SUMMER CAMP may seem far away, but it sneaks up fast! If you or your child is interested in signing up for summer camps at Camp Walter Scott, the registration deadline is April 20 with an early-bird discount until March 16. FCC is offering to pay half of your camp experience! We think camp is important! So don't miss out on this incredible opportunity.

CYF (9-12) - June 10-16

Grandparents-n-Me (K-5/Adult) - July 8-11

Beginners (K-2) - July 11-14

Chi-Rho (6-8) - July 15-21

JYF (3-5) - July 22-28

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YOUTH SUNDAY It's possible I could be a little biased, but I really thought Youth Sunday was a huge success! All the youth involved did an awesome job speaking and serving; and Kyle and Montana did a super awesome job with the sermon. I am immensely proud of all of them and I am sure you all are also. I'd also like to thank the band, "Frantic Utopia," because they did an awesome job providing the worship music and I personally would love to hear from them again soon!

PASTOR'S CLASS

Pastor's class for fifth grade students will begin this Friday, Feb. 9 at 11:30 AM due to early school dismissal. Classes will follow on Fridays at 3:30 PM. If others interested, let us know.



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 ~ John Snidle, Youth & Family Minister

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!

Feb. 4: 10:00 - 156 Nursery - 1 "Youth Sunday"

TOTAL WORSHIP = 157

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 6, 2nd-5th - 4, Jr & Sr High - 34, New Disciples - 9, Open Door - 18, New Horizons - 10

TOTAL SS = 81

OFFERING TOTALS

February 4, 2018

General Fund + E.G.*	\$4,408.01*
Envelopes	2.00
Sunday School	30.00
God's Gang	100.00
Food Pantry	60.00
Souper Bowl of Caring (Food Pantry)	157.00
Mid-Winter Retreat Pmt.	40.00
Disciples Out-Missions + E.G.*	375.00*
Week of Compassion E.G.*	70.00*
Building Fund + E.G.*	560.00*
TOTAL	\$5,802.01*

**Electronic Giving for January*

SERVING SCHEDULE: February 11, 2018

8:00 AM: ELDER: Dan Lynch

DEACONESS: Cassie Boatman

PIANIST: Evie Gill

9:00 AM: Sunday School

10:00 AM: GREETERS:

East: Randy & Edna Creech

West: Bob & Anita Martin

ACOLYTES: Sophie Young, Taylor Shewey

WORSHIP LEADER: Rick Kennedy

BREAD ELDER: Tammy Terry

DEACONESS: Lisa Smittkamp

DEACONS: Team 2, Autumn Kasey, Captain;

Jim Bellerud, Al & Nancy Englebright, Mark Johnson, JK

Vilk, Patty Waters, Kevin Woods

JR DEACONS: Team #2, Lainey Ogle, Capt.; Austin Kirk,

Mike Kirk, Greg Johnson

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Cathy Melendez

NURSERY HELPER: Emily Thomas

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Montana Boatman

FEB. FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Susan King

FEB USHERS: Steve Coombes, Dean Smittkamp,

Ron Stickler

SOUND SYSTEM: John Chittick

PROJECTION: Chris Milam

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 4:2-8

SERMON: "God's Best - Think About These Things"

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon



HANDSHAKING

During this cold-flu season, you do not have to shake hands as a greeting. If you are concerned, it is perfectly acceptable to wave, or shake your head and hand "no". Or if you prefer a thumbs up, pointing, fist-bump, or even a jump and chest bump are okay. We want you safe - and present, if possible.