

# **THE MESSENGER**

“LIVE AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT”

March 14, 2018

## **WHAT KIND?**

We know there are many kinds of animals, and many different breeds of even one kind of animal. The same is true of plant life; for instance, trees come in multiple kinds. So does almost everything else, including businesses.

When I was out-of-town recently, I noticed a billboard on the other side of a bridge. It read:  
“Bridges May Be Icy,  
Your Bank Shouldn't Be.”

I was impressed! Someone took that statement that anyone who lives in the Midwest has read and knows about bridges, and applied it to their business.

As I was congratulating them, I thought about us -  
“Bridges May Be Icy,  
Your Church Shouldn't Be.”

How true! But is it really? We could talk about them, those others, and the “frozen chosen” who really are cold and icy, but let's personalize it - by thinking about us, FCC in Paris, IL: Are we friendly? Are we warm? Do people seem to care? Do we learn people's names/family/job? Do we offer help and provide guidance? Those go a long way in thawing any dangerous icy spots, but let's personalize it even more. What about you? And me? Are you welcoming? Do you greet others? Do you make the effort to ask names? find out connections? ask what you can do to help?

There are, obviously, different kinds of churches. What kind are we? And what kind are you?

*MCD*

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## **24-Hour Prayer Vigil**

Many who used to sign up for our Prayer Vigil have passed on and their absence is missed with their open time slots. So we need new people to take their place and carry on by signing up for a 30 minute time slot. The Prayer Vigil will be held from Saturday, March 24, at 8:00 AM through Sunday, March 25, 8:00 AM and the place will be the FCC Prayer Room. Check out the board to find available times. You may pray with a spouse or friend to fill two time slots, if you wish. Thank you!

## **DISCIPLE MEN'S HAM LOAVES**

Next Wednesday is the deadline! Order your ham loaves, at \$6 for the one pound loaf, \$12 for the two pound by Wednesday, March 21. Order form may be given to Ken Hamilton or brought to the church office. Payment can be made at time of order or when you pick it up. Pick up times are Saturday, March 24 from 10:00-12:00 NN or Sunday, March 25 after services. Make checks payable to “Disciples Men.” Thank you for your order; proceeds go to fund the Disciple Men's Scholarship and ministry.

## **Week of Compassion Offering**

The Week of Compassion Offering goes to help those in emergency situations such as natural disasters. Our goal this year is \$1,600 and we are close with \$1,229. Thank you!

## **EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

Easter Sunday, April 1, we will have 8:00 & 10:00 AM worship with a breakfast between at 9:00 AM served by the Membership Committee.

## **Lenten music & meditation services**

The final Music & Meditation service will be held at 12:00 NN on Wednesday, March 21 at the Presbyterian Church. The speaker will be Kevin Levellie with music by Susan Farris.



We extend our sympathies to the family & friends of Esther Wakefield in her passing this week. More details to follow.

Hospitalized: Ken Dennison, Carle  
Nancy Weger, Bloomington

Home from Hospital: Karen Newhart  
Bill Clawson



-- Graham Templeton for remembering to bring a snack to Pastor's Class;

-- Evie Gill for the 8:00 accompaniment;

-- Mary Griffin for the Children's Sermon and Taylor Shewey for her prayer;

-- Barbara Dick for the solo in the anthem;

-- Cathy Melendez for the devotion at the Board meeting;

-- Joe Gill for the work on the website and new youth page.

**BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

Bored Again?  
Be Born Again.

**MARCH PRAYER**

Dear God, When the outside world is roaring like a lion, help us to remember that we can find peace in the mercy of your Lamb. Amen.

**TRIP TO "PASSION PLAY"**

All those riding the bus, please be at the church by 8:30 AM. We need to arrive by 11:00 AM so we have plenty of time to eat. The play begins at 1 PM promptly and lasts about 3½ hours. We will stop on the way home for a quick and light supper. Our arrival time back in Paris should be about 7:30-8:00 PM. For those driving themselves the address is: 600 N East St, Bloomington, IL.

**COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**

The Community Good Friday Service will be held on March 30 at Cornerstone Baptist at 12:00 NN.

**LENTEN PRAYER PROGRAM & NOTE**

Thank you for continuing your prayers for others through the Lenten season. If you have questions about any names, call the office. We plan to have Prayer Notes ready Sunday so you can let those you've been praying for know after Easter.

**"SPLINTERS" FROM THE BOARD**

At its March meeting, the Executive Board:

- gathered around the worship setting of grapes, chalices, and I Corinthians 11:23-26 as a reminder of what's our priority;
- offered continuing prayers for one seen in worship and one missed in worship;
- received a community thank-you for our carillon and music;
- shared information about the upcoming Mission Trip of JC Foley;
- approved funding from the Investment Fund for the upcoming youth trips;
- also approved a recommendation to fund the senior minister's conference attendance from the Pastoral Education Fund;
- noted the plan to sponsor the upcoming Children's Movie at the Paris Theatre;
- voted to approve the Memorials Priority List;
- approved the Permanent Fund interest distribution, including 10% to the Additional Staff Fund;
- heard about the ongoing renovations from the Trustees;
- noted the upcoming Men's Banquet on Tuesday, April 17;
- authorized \$1,000 from the Mission Trip Fund for tools on JC Foley's upcoming trip.

**LENTEN VIDEO STUDY**

This week's lesson is postponed and will be combined with next week. Come Monday, March 19 at 5:00 PM to see how you are "Made For A Miracle."

**CANTATA REHEARSALS**

There's still time to join Cantata rehearsals, each Sunday evening at 5:00 PM.

**SECRET PLACE DEVOTIONALS**

The spring edition of "The Secret Place" devotional is located at the entryways.

**WORSHIP INVITATIONS**

Worship invitations are out; a new version, will be available soon.

**HOLY WEEK COMMUNION**

We are planning a special service in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, March 29. Stay tuned for further details.

**UPCOMING MEETING**

Trustees will meet Thurs., March 22, 6:00 PM.

**MEMBERSHIP**

This is a very appropriate time to take the step into membership in FCC. Several are ready to do so; if that might include you, let us know your thoughts and questions, or surprise us on a Sunday! We are ready to say, "Welcome To The Family" - to you!

## CWF - CIRCLE INFO.

- ♥ KOINONIA CIRCLE meets Thursday, March 15 at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen. Hostess is Kay Bellerud, with Mary K. Bradford bringing the lesson.
- ♥ FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, March 20 at 1:30 PM at the home of Mary Helen Hamilton. Karen Newhart will give the lesson.
- ♥ The "Blessing Box" giving continues through March. Ladies, count your blessings!

## COMMUNITY KITCHEN

The FCC night at Community Kitchen is Monday, March 19. Sign-up to help, please.

## YOUTH SUNDAY SERMON

Typed copies of the Youth Sunday sermon are available on the sign-up desk.

## NEW HORIZONS S.S. CLASS

The New Horizons class will be starting a series of lessons entitled, "Christians Get Depressed, Too" beginning this Sunday, March 11. This is something that affects many of us in one form or another but is often not given proper attention by Christians suffering from its symptoms. We will be using the book and have videos as we study this topic. Should you be interested in getting a book ahead of class time, please contact Greg Terry (251-6132). The New Horizons class is now meeting in the Sunshine room on the upper floor right next to the elevator.

## CHILDREN'S MOVIE

FCC is offering a free children's movie at the Paris Theatre during Spring Break! It will be, "All Dogs Go To Heaven" shown at 10:00 AM, March 27, 28, 29. Spread the word and come enjoy - adults are welcome too!

## MICE CANS

The last Sunday of the month, March 25, will be the day to bring in aluminum cans to be recycled for our MICE group. The proceeds go to help fund the Monthly Inspiring Children's Events!

## *Thank You!*

To the FCC Knitting Group; Thanks so much for the beautiful baby blanket; Maddux loves it!

- Erica Buntain

## FAMILY BIBLE FOUND

A white leather family Bible was found while sorting in the church library. It contains a family history of births/deaths/etc. and newspaper clippings. The name in the Bible is E. Louise Caylor; she was married to William Quinn. I would like to return it to family members/heirs. If more information is needed or you know who the Bible might go to, please let me know! Thank you!

Peggy Barath, Church Librarian



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

\* \* \*

Upcoming Trips For the Jr High we are attending a conference called Believe. Believe is an over-nighter 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 \$70 + 2 meals per student. You can still sign up! **For High School**, we are planning to attend a concert for 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<sup>nd</sup> in Rock Island IL. This will be a one day trip, costing \$32 per student + 1 meal. **I will also be taking** only a couple of students on a week of wilderness camp through Oil Belt Christian Service Camp at Current River in Missouri. We will spend a week in June canoeing and camping, spending time in God's creation!

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## God's Gang & Crossroads

God's Gang and Crossroads has OFFICIALLY began! Get pumped. You can still sign up, forms will be on the table in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your prayers for this ministry!

\* \* \*

MICE will go to the Children's Museum in Terre Haute on Sunday, March 25. Meet at FCC to leave on the bus at 1:00 PM. We will return around 4:00 PM. Any 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders interested in going next month are more than welcome to come!

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## Summer Camp

It may seem far away, but it sneaks up very 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 the early bird discount date at March 16 (**Scholarship money is available for those who need it**). FCC is offering to pay for half of your camp experience! We think camp is important! So don't miss this incredible opportunity.

One of the camps is *Chi-Ro*. It is for sixth through eighth grade students, on July 15-21 at Camp Walter Scott. I will be attending this camp so I expect to see everyone there!

\* \* \*

## Pastor's Class

If you're unaware, we offer "Pastor's Class" which is a 7-week class primarily for fifth graders. They are taught the basics of Church, Jesus, baptism, etc. The class ends around Palm Sunday and the children are encouraged to commit themselves to baptism, which then happens on Easter Sunday. While it is too late to join, if your child is older and has questions (adults too!) we are more than happy to meet individually to discuss these important dogmas of the Christian faith. So, come talk!

- John Snidle, FCC Youth Minister



# 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 ~ John Snidle, Youth & Family Minister

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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!**

**March 4: 8:00 - 39 10:00 - 97 Nursery - 6**

**TOTAL WORSHIP = 142**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 2, 2nd-5th - 5, Jr & Sr High - 4, New Disciples - 12, Open Door - 20, New Horizons - 13**

**TOTAL SS = 56**

### OFFERING TOTALS

**March 11, 2018**

General Fund	\$3,924.25
Sunday School	25.00
God's Gang	86.00
Emergency Fund	20.00
Food Pantry	125.00
Reimbursements: T-Shirts	10.00
Reimbursements: Passion Play	40.00
Bell Choir	50.00
Paris Ministerial Fellowship	75.00
JC Foley Mission Trip Fund	500.00
Disciples Out-Missions	255.00
Week of Compassion	80.00
Building Fund	210.00
Scholarship Fund	30.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,430.25</b>

### SERVING SCHEDULE: March 18, 2018 - LENT

**8:00 AM:** ELDER: Dan Lynch

DEACONESS: Cynthia Faulk

PIANIST: Peg Dixon

**9:00 AM: Sunday School**

**10:00 AM: GREETERS:**

East: Bruce, Melinda, Claire, Andrew, Ben, Sophie Young

West: Joe & Evie Gill

ACOLYTES: Lily Smittkamp, Ava Huddleson

WORSHIP LEADER: David Dick

BREAD ELDER: Kim Woods

DEACONESS: Karla Pierson

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: Pastor John Snidle

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Emily Thomas

NURSERY HELPER: Montana Boatman

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Nancy Englebright

MARCH FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Katie Vaughn

MARCH USHERS: Randy Creech, Ken Dennison,

Lloyd Maggett

SOUND SYSTEM: Tony Peel

PROJECTION: Dan Smittkamp

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:12-24

SERMON: "Living The Light: Following"

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon

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