

THE MESSENGER

“LIVE AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT”

April 25, 2018

BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

Some won't. They cannot believe such a thing - either because of their own experiences, or their preconceived prejudices.

What about you? Do you believe it? And maybe more importantly, are you part of it?

When I was flying recently, I was handed a drink and a napkin. I looked at the saying on the napkin, thought, “I can use that,” then promptly threw it away when finished. Fortunately, I got another on the return and kept it. It was one of Southwest's clever sayings: “In a world full of no, we're a plane full of yes.” Of course, I quickly transposed it to:

“In a World Full Of No,
We're A Church Full Of Yes.”

That's not the way the world sees the Church. The stereotype is, “Thou shall not” and “We've never done it that way before,” meaning no.

Sure, there are standards, and behaviors that are not acceptable for God's people. But God is open to all types of music and hairstyles... and so should we. God welcomes all sorts and colors of people... and so should we. God is certainly open to new ways of doing things... and so should we.

I'm pleased that we do that in multiple ways. I also know we must continually strive to be a “yes” church. So tell those you know that

“In a World Full Of No,
We're A Church Full Of Yes...”
Believe It Or Not.

MCD



“LUNCH ON THE LAWN”

This Friday, April 27, is our “Lunch on the Lawn” with Bridges school. Thank you to all those who signed up to bring in food items or help with serving or set-up/clean-up. Please pray for this outreach and the Bridges students.

Community Handbell Concert

This Saturday, April 28th, the Community Handbell Concert will be held at the Fine Arts Center beginning at 4:00 PM. This concert will include our own “Joyful Ringers”, the First United Methodist Church and Lake Ridge Church handbell choirs. Each choir will play their own music and then combine to play together! The freewill offering will go toward the grand piano, in memory of Moke Owens, for the Fine Arts Center.

KOINONIA BASKET RAFFLE REPORT

The winners of the baskets were as follows: “Mal's Creation Cards” - Donna Moss; “Family Movie Night” - Felicia Shaffer; “Chicago Cubs” - Andy Martin; “Pool Accessories” - Kay Bellerud; “Dog Basket” - Evelyn Harris; “Cat Basket” - Carolyn Ray; “Your Personal Spa” - Jane Lanie; “Sit and Stitch” - Vicki Hollingsworth; “St. Louis Cardinals” - Cindy Mathis; “Wine, Cheese & Chocolate” - Jo Ellen Edmonds. Thank you to all who helped support the Koinonia Basket Raffle Fundraiser; they made \$810!



We express our sympathies to the family & friends of Bill Clawson in his passing last weekend. Services were held today (Wednesday).

Hospitalized: Ron Barath, Union

Home from Hospital: Lewis Thiel
Rick Ward
Judith McCarty



-- Tony Peel for his work to re-light the stained glass display box in the Main St. entry;

-- CWF for the funeral dinners;

-- Mary K. Bradford, Saunny Preston, & Rev. Mike for delivering the 1st grade books last week;

-- Peg Dixon & the Cantata Choir for worship on Sunday, as well as JC Foley for the extra projection;

-- "The Joyful Ringers" & Jonathon Boren for their Special Music;

-- Cody Vaughn for the Children's Sermon (and candy);

-- Dean & Coralie Smittkamp for sharing flowers in honor of their 57th anniversary;

-- Pastor John for speaking at the Golden Age Luncheon.

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**BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

Self-worth is more important than net worth.  
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APRIL PRAYER

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son - thank You, God." (John 3:16)



MICE CANS

This coming Sunday is the day to bring in your aluminum cans to be recycled. Proceeds go to help fund our Monthly Inspiring Children's Events. Thank you!

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Scholarship Committee will soon meet to determine this year's recipients. We will announce those as soon as they are determined.



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 3, is the National Day of Prayer. Locally, you are invited to the Prayer Breakfast at Tuscany's at 7:00 AM. Come join us.

EASTER OFFERING

We have gone over the goal of \$3,000 for this year's Easter Offering with a total \$3,021.50. Thank you!



JC Foley leaves for Russia this Thursday and will be gone through May 5. He is going to help with construction work on a church building. Please keep him in your prayers as this is a communist country.

GRADUATES

Please let us know of any graduates in your family - from 8th grade, high school, or college. We want to be sure to include all in our service the first Sunday of June.

WORSHIP MUSIC

This Sunday we plan to sing requests from the Power & Praise hymnal, so come and call out your favorite. Then on May 6, we will begin 10:00 worship with Praise & Worship music.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- ★ Memorials: Thursday, April 27, 1:30 PM
- ★ Elders: Thursday, May 3, 5:00 PM
- ★ Board: Tuesday, May 8, 7:00 PM

BUILDING UPDATE

We have a new liner in the baptistry - and are eager to try it out! The painting is basically done; the carpeting is in all the rooms and on the stairs - next is the hallway and entryway. Watch your step, and look for the signs warning you along the way!



CIRCLES IN MAY

CIRCLE OF LIGHT: meets Tuesday, May 1, at 6:00 PM at the church. Marge Houghland is hostess and the lesson by Edna Creech.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER: meets Thursday, May 10, at 6 PM at the home of Megan Mathis as hostess.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: – meets Tuesday, May 15, at 1:30 pm at home of Corky Davidson with the lesson brought by Carolyn Lanker.

KOINONIA CIRCLE – meets Thursday, May 17, at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen. Hostess is Cindy Mathis, with Barbara Dick bringing the lesson.

LADIES SPRING SOCIAL

A Ladies Spring Social is planned for Saturday, May 19, at 2:00 PM, hosted by the Circle of Light. Save the date!

DISCIPLES MEN - NEXT MONTH

The Disciples Men will be doing their highway cleanup next month and ask you to come help. They will meet at McDonald's for breakfast at 8:00 AM on Saturday, May 19, then go out to the Pool's parking lot to meet any others who would like to help at 9:00 AM before heading out to do the highway clean-up. A sign-up is out.

RELAY FOR LIFE

The FCC Relay For Life Team will have their annual yard sale on Friday, June 8 and Saturday, June 9. As you do your spring cleaning, please save items for our sale.

Thank You!

I would like to thank all of the Evangelism Committee members, as well as Cindy Robinson, Ellen Webb, and John Snidle, for all of your hard work in preparing for and volunteering to help with the Free Summer Movie at the Paris Theatre. When we all come together for God's purpose, great things happen! I look forward to what the rest of the year has in store for FCC! (And remember, committee, we have a meeting coming up on Sunday, May 20, at 11:30 AM. Please attend!)

Cody Vaughn, Chair



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!

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Upcoming Trips I will 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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Report This past Sunday myself and three other people went to the Rend Collective concert in Rock Island, IL and we had such a great time! It was a long drive for everyone, but we loved the music and the bands, and had a truly great worship experience.

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God's Gang & Crossroads God's Gang and Crossroads has been going on for quite a while now and is going very well, lots of learning and fun going on, and there are still people signing up! We're almost done with only 3 weeks left! Thank you for your continued prayers for this ministry.

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MICE The final MICE shebang of the season will be May 27 at Twin Lakes Park. The Year End Picnic will be from 12-3; we will get to enjoy the water park and some mini-golf. If you've only come once or twice but missed the rest, make sure you don't miss this one!

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Lunch with John In an effort to get to know more of the congregation, and so you can get to know me, we have started a sign-up sheet called "Lunch with John" which will take place every Sunday after church. It's a win-win situation, we both get fed and blessed with each other's company! The sign-up list is in front of the sanctuary doors at the sign-up desk.

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Summer Camp

Unfortunately, there has been a lot of confusion signing up for the Camp Walter Scott camp weeks. Fortunately, because of this confusion the deadline has been extended for this week! So if you missed the deadline, or you participated in the sign-up confusion, you still have time. The secret to making the sign up easier, which no one told me until just recently, is to mark "Will send check" instead of paying on your own then hit "SUBMIT." This will get you registered, give you time to pay the church the half-cost, and the church will send the check for the total. Any further questions, contact me and I'll walk you through the process. We appreciate your understanding.

- John Snidle, Youth Minister



THE MESSENGER

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Michael C. Dixon, Senior Minister ~ John Snidle, Youth & Family Minister

PERMIT #147

Paris, Illinois

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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!

April 22: Cantata – 10:00 - 147 Nursery - 11

TOTAL WORSHIP = 158

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 3, 2nd-5th - 1, Jr & Sr High - 1, New Disciples - 8, Open Door - 22, New Horizons - 0

TOTAL SS = 35

OFFERING TOTALS

April 22, 2018

General Fund	\$2,834.25
Food Pantry	50.00
JC Foley Trip	50.00
Reimbursements	20.97
CWF Blessing Box	65.00
Youth Fund	114.00
Lunch On the Lawn	50.00
Disciples Outreach-Missions	75.00
Easter Offering	59.00
Building Fund	140.00
Memorials	30.00
TOTAL	\$3,489.22

SERVING SCHEDULE: April 29, 2018

8:00 AM: ELDER: Dennis Thiel
DEACONESS: Cynthia Faulk
PIANIST: Peg Dixon

9:00 AM: Sunday School

10:00 AM: GREETERS:

East: Grace Ward
West: James Brooks

ACOLYTES: Ethan Smittkamp & Sammy Milam

WORSHIP LEADER: Tammy Terry

BREAD ELDER: Rick Kennedy

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: Barbara Dick

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Emily Thomas

NURSERY HELPER: Montana Boatman

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Jane Smittkamp

APRIL FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Pat Hittle

APRIL USHERS: Steve Coombes, Dean Smittkamp, Ron Stickler

SOUND SYSTEM: John Chittick

PROJECTION: Dan Smittkamp

SCRIPTURES: Deuteronomy 30:1-10

SERMON: "Spiritual Prosperity" by Rev. Michael C. Dixon

