

THE MESSENGER

“LIVE AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT”

May 2, 2018

WHEN OUR THOUGHTS TURN

Ah, spring! That time of year when a young man's thoughts turn to....

Regardless of what the poet says, this old man's thoughts turn outside - to the new life bursting forth - the daffodils and tulips

- the leaves slowly unfolding
- the birds chirping away
- the warmer temperatures

Of course, I also see and think about - the grass that needs cutting

- the sticks to be picked up
- the dandelions !#!*!
- the ivy to be pulled back
- the dirt to be turned and prepared and moved
- the flower seed to be purchased
- the bulbs to be also planted
- the garage to be cleaned

So do your thoughts turn to - beauty, or hard work?

- appreciation, or dread?
- opportunity, or responsibility?

Do your thoughts - lift you up? or pull you down?

Regardless, stop and - even if you can't smell the roses yet - admire the magnolia blooms, notice the tiny African violets, enjoy the early-morning birds, appreciate the trees that go from barren to buds to leaves, and do it simply as a man/woman of God - thanking Him for His work, appreciating His creation, being grateful for your part in it, and praising God for life and new life.

Ah, spring! When our thoughts turn to... God.

MCD

Mission Trip to Russia

Please continue to pray for God's blessings on the Mission Trip to Russia. Our own, JC Foley, went with a group to help work on a church building. He has been in touch back home and shared that it has been "awesome and enlightening.... They got a lot done and worked well together.... The people are truly good and [he] could see Christ's wonder [there]." Pray for safety for the team and in their travels. They are expected back this Saturday.

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 provided by the Paris Ministerial Fellowship. Come join us.

COVERING PARIS, IL WITH PRAYER

We received an invitation to participate in "Covering Our Town" with prayer. As you drive around town any given day, purposely drive to First Christian Church. Begin praying there and drive west. Return to the church by Madison Street, praying as you go, until you reach the Paris Library. During the drive, pray for all who live and work within this area. Feel free to branch out from the church and cover any area you wish - your own neighborhood for example. With several people joining in, we'll be "Covering Our Town" with prayer.

Mother's Day

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13. Bring your mom, come as a mom, or come to remember your mom in worship. We will have gifts for all the ladies that day.



Congratulations to Ari Metcalf and family on her confession & baptism!

Home from Hospital: Ron Barath

JC Foley & team are in Russia on the mission trip, but are to be home this weekend. Continue your prayers!



-- CWF crew for the funeral dinner;
-- "Lunch On the Lawn" leaders, donations, cooks, servers, & table hosts for the Bridges visit;

- "The Joyful Ringers" for the Community Handbell Concert;
- Peg Dixon for the 8:00 accompaniment;
- Barbara Dick & Rev. Mike for leading the song requests;
- and Barbara Dick for the Children's Sermon;
- Tony Peel for the projection while JC is gone;
- Clawson family for the funeral flowers, and the Templeton family for the memorial flowers.

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

God created the world;
now He's working on you!



MAY PRAYER

"Dear God, May our blessings, like Your love for us, be infinite. Amen."

SCHOLARSHIPS

Thank you to all those who applied for the FCC scholarships this year. We will announce those selected next week.

BACCALAUREATE

A worship service to honor graduating seniors in the presence of God is an understanding of Baccalaureate. This year's PHS event will be held Wednesday, May 23, at 7:00 PM at the First United Methodist Church. All are invited.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Sign-up to help at the Community Kitchen this month on Monday, May 21. Volunteers are welcome to serve and provide desserts.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

We are pleased to be able to welcome Ari Metcalf, as she made her confession of faith and was baptized on Sunday! We had prepared for this in our special Pastor's Class. Ari is the daughter of Stuart and Leid Metcalf. So to Ari - Welcome to the Faith, and to our FCC Family!

WOMEN'S BANQUET

This year the Women's Banquet will be held Thursday, June 7. The program will be by the "Sugar-Groovians" (Duke family from Sugar Grove who are Christian musicians). Tickets will soon be available to the Circle leaders to distribute to their respective Circles.

DISPLAY OF 1st GRADE BOOKS

Check out the display that shows the first-grade book, "Splat the Cat," that we gave out this year. We received several "thank yous" from teachers that said, "this may be the only book some of these children have at home," "great selection, the title encouraged the children's interest," "thanks for taking the time to come read to the children." Thank you for helping support this annual outreach.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

- ★ Elders: Thursday, May 3, 5:00 PM
- ★ Board: Tuesday, May 8, 7:00 PM
- ★ Evangelism Committee: Sunday, May 20, 11:30 AM

"LOL" REPORT

It was a special day! Because of the cool temperatures, we opted to stay in and host Bridges in the Fellowship Hall. The food was great, as always, and the hospitality was lovely. The "thank yous" were genuine, and the interaction between students and church was the best ever! - and the comments reflected that. Now we are going to their place for a follow-up lunch with them. It turned out that they wouldn't be having lunch this Friday, so we are taking them pizza.

GRADUATION INVITATION

The congregation is invited to help celebrate Adrienne Haupt's college graduation on Saturday, May 26, at the Paris VFW from 2:00 to 4:00 PM.



CIRCLES IN MAY

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.

DISCIPLES MEN HIGHWAY CLEANUP

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.

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.

Thank You!

Thank you for the cards, calls, thoughts and prayers. I have enjoyed each one. I don't get out much anymore and miss everyone.

- Bea Mae Camp

MICE CANS

Thank you to all those who donated aluminum cans last Sunday that help fund our monthly MICE events!



Youth Group Hey everybody, Wednesday night youth group is here! Jr High is from 6:00-7:00 PM, and Sr High is from 6:30-8:00 PM. Invite your friends!

* * *

Upcoming Trips We are planning an end of the year get-together-party-hooplah for any and all youth! It will be May 25th (hopefully), starting around 6. Those invited to attend include high school, middle school, member of this church or not, all are welcome; so tell your friends! Will be held at the Johnson's house, wienies will be eaten.

* * *

God's Gang & Crossroads God's Gang and Crossroads is nearly over; next week (May 9th) will be the last Wednesday until after summer! It's been great so far, pray that it ends well too!

* * *

MICE The final MICE shebang of the season has been **moved to Saturday, May 26** 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!

* * *

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. I've met with several families so far and there are more scheduled; thank you to those I've ate with so far, I'm really getting to know more of the church! The sign-up list is in front of the sanctuary doors at the sign-up desk; I expect to eat with the entire church eventually!

* * *

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 indefinitely! 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 card. This will give you time, and the church will send the check for you so you just have to pay the church back for half since we buy half the camp. Any further questions, contact FCC and we will walk you through the process. We appreciate your understanding.

- John Snidle, Youth Minister





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

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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 29: 8:00 - 47 10:00 - 98 Nursery - 6

TOTAL WORSHIP = 151

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 2, 2nd-5th - 5, Jr & Sr High - 3, New Disciples - 10, Open Door - 19, New Horizons - 12

TOTAL SS = 51

OFFERING TOTALS

April 29, 2018

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| General Fund+E.G.* | \$4,501.25* |
| Sunday School | 24.00 |
| Envelopes | 2.00 |
| Emergency Fund | 30.00 |
| God's Gang | 20.00 |
| Reimbursements: Youth Concert | 32.00 |
| Community Concert: "Play If Fwd" | 550.37 |
| Bell Choir Fund | 50.00 |
| Dis.Out.-Missions+E.G.* | 275.00* |
| Easter Offering | 2.00 |
| Week of Compassion E.G.* | 75.00* |
| Building Fund | 660.00 |
| Memorials | 50.00 |
| Permanent Fund | 12.00 |
| TOTAL | \$6,283.62* |

**Electronic Giving*

SERVING SCHEDULE: May 6, 2018

8:00 AM: ELDER: Dick James
DEACONESS: Pam Lobb
PIANIST: Faye Eitel

9:00 AM: Sunday School

10:00 AM: GREETERS:

East: Cindy Robinson

West: Kevin & Kim Woods

ACOLYTES: Sophie Young, Taylor Shewey

WORSHIP LEADER: Steve Webb

BREAD ELDER: Kim Woods

DEACONESS: Carolyn Ray

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: Cathy Melendez

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Emily Thomas

NURSERY HELPER: Aubrey Sanders

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Edna Creech

MAY FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Steve Webb

MAY USHERS: Randy Creech & Lloyd Maggert

SOUND SYSTEM: Joe Gill

PROJECTION: Chris Milam

SCRIPTURES: I Corinthians 3:1-15; Jude 20-21

SERMON: "Christians Under Construction"

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon

SHUT-IN COMMUNION: Dennis Thiel, Steve Webb

