

# THE MESSENGER

“LIVE AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT”

August 8, 2018

## EPIC FAILURE

Top of the morning to you! This is Pastor John writing to you here because, if you didn't know, reverend Mike is on vacation this week so I have the honor of writing the opening article. I thought this would be a good chance to explain my mistake at second service. Apparently, my nerves got the better of me and caused me to skip an important paragraph, so I would like all of you to hear it!

If you recall, I talked about why seeking fairness for yourself is overrated because when we love God above all else and love others above ourselves, we no longer crave retaliation. I explained that our values boils down to who we love the most and why, and used the four degrees of love model by Bernard of Clairvaux. The final degree of love to love the self for God's sake, which means that God is priority over everything in your life, your well-being included.

The point that I missed is that this model for our love is also God's model, He would not give us a model for love that He doesn't also follow, that's not how God operates. So if this model is accurate, which I believe it is, then it means that God does not love us first, He loves himself. It sounds backwards but He has to. You don't want God to love anyone more than himself. If He did, our will would come before His; no one would go to Hell, and every prayer would get an immediate yes. This would surely lead to a world of chaos.

John Piper has a quote that talks about this that I just love. He says, “Before you ever came on the scene, God valued God above all things. He saw the perfections of himself shining out of his own infinitely glorious divine Son. And he loved his Son, and the Son loved the Father, and the Holy Spirit powerfully, personally radiated between the Father and the Son. And before we were ever on the scene, there was a gladness to reality. And then you came. And I'll tell you something: nothing changed. God did not suddenly become an idolater when he created man, putting man where God belongs. God is not a man-worshiper. God is a God-worshiper.”

It's important to me that everyone hears this because I think it is radically different than what we usually envision. We think that God created man because He needed something to love, as if He wasn't good enough; and that is incorrect. We need God to value His will above our own. I know for sure that many times what I desired and prayed for turned out to be the worst thing that could've happened, so praise God that He knows better than I do!

Again, I stress that God still loves you more than you can even understand. It's just that He loves himself and values His will even more so.

Good Cheers & God Bless, John Snidle



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REPORT

Thank you to all who were involved in VBS; from the directors, to the teachers, helpers, kitchen, crafts, music, activity time, volunteers, providers of needed items, and especially to those who brought the children and prayed! We had 80+ kids involved and 50+ volunteers for a super Vacation Bible School like none other. There were sound effects, smoke, lights, computers, time travel and all sorts of fun things to help us all learn that Jesus was, is and always will be our Lord. The kids were also encouraged to pass on the love of Jesus to people in Africa who need a water well. We are still taking contributions, so please designate your gift “VBS Offering”. We also want to thank all the kids who participated in VBS/Children's Sunday, sang the VBS songs and brought their families. It was a special week and a wonderful Sunday morning follow-up. Thank the Lord for His answered prayers!



Congratulations to Bob & Anita Martin & family on the birth of a new granddaughter!

And to Cathy Clawson & family in the birth of a great-granddaughter!

Hospitalized: Ron Barath, Paris

Home from the Hospital: Mary Helen Hamilton

New Address:

Ken Dennison, Providence HealthCare

Welcome home to those who were at church camp!

Congrats to all involved in the Fairs and Relay For Life!



-- Dennis Thiel and Faye Eitel for the 8:00 accompaniments;

-- Mike Cavaliere and Katie Smith for their Special Music;

-- Deena Hasler & Angel Templeton for the Children's Sermons;

-- Deena Hasler & Kim Woods for the promotions, leadership, decorations for VBS;

-- ALL who were involved in making VBS happen - go smoothly - be used by God!

**BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

Souler powered  
by the Son



**AUGUST PRAYER**

"Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for the joy we find in worship. May we always share that joy throughout the rest of the week. Amen."

**BLOODMOBILE**

The Bloodmobile is open to the community for donations at the KC Hall the fourth Monday of each month - August 27. Giving blood saves lives - so please give if you are able.

**MICE CANS**

Each month on the last Sunday of the month, we collect aluminum cans. These are taken in for recycling, we receive a small compensation and those monies are used for children's events.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Congratulations to "Woman of the Year" Roseann Moss. She was presented the award this last Sunday during worship for her good heart and willingness to help, her hard work, serving behind the scenes; she's fun to be around, supports her family, is a faithful Christian who helps fill needs whether for food or committee support, decorating or donations. She's especially recognized as taking care of our landscaping, and was host for our "Christmas in the Stable" services in past years. Congratulations, Roseann Moss!

**PROMOTION SUNDAY**

On September 2, we will have our Promotion Sunday for all youth classes. Children in fifth and first grades will receive a Bible. Please plan to be here on that Sunday.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

During the summer months, we have Special Music in place of the choir and handbells. The remaining Sundays for August we will have: Tanner Laughlin, Aug. 12; Carrie Lindsay, Aug. 19, and the Templeton boys, Aug. 26.

**NURSERY ATTENDANT POSITION**

We are seeking someone to work as our Nursery Attendant. We are very grateful to Emily Thomas for her work - and her upcoming birth this fall! The position is open if you are interested. Contact the office for details.

**VIDEO SERIES AVAILABLE**

We have a couple of the Video Series recently finished from our Summer Sunday School available if you would like to borrow them to view at home. The titles are: "Faith Commander" by the Duck Commander family and "What On Earth Am I Here For?" by Rick Warren.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- ◆ CWF Leadership Team to meet Tuesday, August 14, at 1:30 PM.
- ◆ Mission Project Committee to meet Thursday, August 16, at 1:30 PM.

**CIRCLE OF PRAYER in Summer**

The Circle of Prayer will continue to pray for prayer requests received throughout the summer. Please include name on prayer cards.

### RELAY FOR LIFE REPORT

The FCC Relay team would like to thank everyone who supported them and the American Cancer Society. They were presented the Bronze status and the Spirit awards. Kathy Peel and Anita Martin won the quilt raffle, and Sam Preston won the fishing rod and tackle box. The final totals in monetary giving won't be available until the end of August.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL IN AUGUST

During the Sundays of August, all adult and youth Sunday School classes will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 AM for special presentations. Thank you to JC Foley, who started our presentations last Sunday. The schedule continues with JD Hasler speaking on Eureka College and it's affiliation with DOC and their mission work on Aug. 12; Beth Hansel will speak about her "homeless teens" project Hope House on Aug. 19. Come join our combined Sunday School for the rest of the summer!

### COMMUNITY KITCHEN

FCC Community Kitchen helpers are needed for Monday, August 20. Sign-up to serve or provide desserts. Thank you!

### GOLDEN AGE

Our next Golden Age luncheon will be Tuesday, August 28, at 12:00 NN. Sign-up to participate in the luncheon. Our speaker will be Beth Hansel presenting a new shelter for teens.

### TIME TO CELEBRATE!

You are invited to join in the celebration of Gladys Wright's 100th birthday on Sunday, August 26, from 2:00-4:00 PM at FCC. RSVP to Sandy Templeton - 251-2643. Cards are welcome, no gifts please.

### MISSING BOOK

Whoever was the last one to get the book, "Rebounding From Death's Door", would you please return it to David Dick? Others want to borrow it! Thank you!

### TEACHER'S BREAKFAST

This year's Teacher's Breakfast will be held at Lake Ridge Christian Church on Wednesday, August 15, at 8:00 AM. Church Women United host the event and are asking for coffee cakes. If you would like to help or provide a coffee cake, see Linda Chittick.



VBS A big, big shout out to everyone involved in Vacation Bible School this year; a huge thank you to everyone who helped make it possible (50+ volunteers!), and a huge "glad you came" to all the youth that signed up, all the parents that brought their kids, and all the kids that invited friends. We're so happy that this year was a huge success! Another thank you to everyone who came on the Sunday after to help with Children's Sunday, it's very important to us that the rest of the congregation can get a taste of how awesome VBS is.

Upcoming Events Youth Group is upon us! The first Wednesday is August 22 from 6:30-7:30. Our main idea for this year is "Disciples on fire." We will be talking throughout the year about how to conform to the character of Christ [Disciple], and relating Old Testament stories to today's social issues [Fire]. Be sure to bring your friends!

For a fall kickoff this year, we are doing a Food smash! There will be a giant hammer used to smash a bunch of different food items. We have a lot of violent fun and make a big mess, so come on over to fulfill your dreams of becoming like Gallagher! August 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30, bring goggles and an item of food for you to smash.

The most beloved and favorite time for all youth is almost here, and that is time for school! I want to wish everyone going back to school (suckers) a good luck! I hope you know that we are all praying that you have the best year yet and have many opportunities to spread the love of Christ at school; remember, the mission field is everywhere!

- John Snidle, Youth Minister





# THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

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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!*

**July 29:** 8:00 - 40 10:00 - 112 Nursery - 4  
**TOTAL WORSHIP = 156 SS Total: 35**

**Aug. 5:** 8:00 - 51 10:00 - 160 Nursery - 6  
**TOTAL WORSHIP = 217 SS Total: 25**

<b>OFFERING TOTALS</b>	<b>July 29</b>	<b>Aug. 5, 2018</b>
General Fund	\$3,037.25	\$5,149.56
Sunday School	8.00	6.00
Food Pantry	20.00	20.00
VBS Offering	133.00	200.00
Reimbursement		143.92
Faith In Action		10.00
Youth Fund		1,938.17
Head, Hands, Heart		100.00
Disciples Outreach/Missions	50.00	230.00
Week of Compassion		100.00
Christmas in July	40.00	100.00
Organ Fund	50.00	
Permanent Fund	40.00	
Bus Fund		25.00
Building Fund	190.00	320.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,568.25</b>	<b>\$8,342.65</b>

### Aug. 12, 2018 continued...

SOUND SYSTEM: Joe Gill

PROJECTION: Evie Gill

AUGUST FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Saunny Preston

AUG USHERS: Steve Coombes, Dean Smittkamp, Ron Stickler

SCRIPTURE: TBA

SERMON: "TBA" by Bob Miller

### SERVING SCHEDULE: August 19, 2018

**8:00 AM:** ELDER: Dennis Thiel

DEACONESS: Ellen Webb

PIANIST: Mary Helen Hamilton

**9:00 AM: Sunday School - Presentation**

**10:00 AM: GREETERS:** East: Richard & Cathy Melendez

West: Rick Kennedy

ACOLYTES: Jasmine Littlejohn, Morgan Coombes

WORSHIP LEADER: Tammy Terry

BREAD ELDER: David Dick

DEACONESS: Karla Pierson

DEACONS: Team 3, Jacob Thomas, Captain

JR DEACONS: Team #3, Jaydin Seeley, Capt.

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Kim Woods

NURSERY HELPER: Brooklyn Ward

CHILDRENS CHURCH: Nancy Englebright

SPECIAL MUSIC: Carrie Lindsay

SOUND SYSTEM: Tony Peel

PROJECTION: Brooklyn Ward

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 26:69-75

SERMON: "Overcoming The Obstacle Of Denial"

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon

### SERVING SCHED.: August 12, 2018

**8:00 AM:** ELDER: Daryl Bridwell

DEACONESS: Pam Lobb

PIANIST: Peg Dixon

**9:00 AM: Sunday School - Presentation**

**10:00 AM: GREETERS:** East: Joe & Evie Gill

West: Ken & Mary Helen Hamilton

ACOLYTES: Steven West, Emma Kennedy

WORSHIP LEADER: David Dick

BREAD ELDER: Rick Kennedy

DEACONESS: Megan Mathis

DEACONS: Team 2, Autumn Kasey, Captain

JR DEACONS: Team #2, Lainey Ogle, Capt.

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Pastor John Snidle

NURSERY HELPER: Claire Young

CHILDRENS CHURCH: Erica Garver

SPECIAL MUSIC: Tanner Laughlin