

THE MESSENGER

“LIVE AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT”

September 12, 2018

AS WE CONTINUE...

It is with both sadness and relief that I announce my retirement as minister of FCC. This is scheduled for January 1 of 2019.

It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to serve as your pastor. We have been through a lot of ups and some downs over these past 27 years, but we've been through it together.

And that's not over yet; it's just coming to a close in 4 months. In the meantime, we will appoint a Search Committee to find a short-term interim minister to, hopefully, be on board in January. Then the search will shift to finding and calling the next settled pastor of FCC, Paris.

Please understand that I am not going to another church. (Although, I may do an interim ministry sometime in the future.) This is a retirement - so I can rest some and do things that I need/want to do. It is also for the long-term benefit of the church, as I am no longer able to provide the energy and ministry that you deserve.

I know this is a shock to some of you; others of you have been expecting it. I have been struggling with the issue for quite some time. I did not do it earlier, partially because I wanted to provide and give some time and guidance to help get Pastor John settled and well underway.

I want you to know that I commit my remaining time to helping you if I can, and to serving FCC by preparing for next year and beyond. I will do my best to help our leaders carry on the ministry.

Remember - this is God's church. In 1991, God's work brought us together and has used us to do good ministry. He will do it again. Trust and pray for God's guidance in these next steps.

Although you and I will no longer have the pastor-people relationship, I still will have you in my heart and will always love you. May God bless you and all of FCC.

MCD

Women's Workshop

The Women's Workshop will be this Thursday, Sept. 13, at 9:00 AM. You are welcome to bring in the following items: used postage stamps, Box Tops for Education, eye glasses/cases, cell phones/chargers, pop tabs, and old keys. All women are invited to come help sort items!

CCIW TRAINING

We are pleased to host a CCIW clergy training event in the FCC Fellowship Hall this Saturday. Ministers from throughout the region will be here to see and share FCC. We are glad to partner together in this way.

HONEYBEE WEEKEND - CHANGES

Honeybee weekend is Sept. 28-30, with the following needs and changes: 1) the FCC "Scarecrow Booth" will be on the Square and they need accessories: belts, necklaces, scarves, etc., 2) the Parade - with the FCC bus - need walkers and freezer pops to hand out, 3) there will NOT be a Community Sunday service this year - so, we need volunteers for the 10:00 service Sept. 30 for Elders, Deacons, Jr. Deacons, Deaconess, Sound/Projection, Nursery/Helper, Children's Church, and Children's Sermon since they were not originally scheduled. Thank you!

LUNCH ON THE LAWN

We have been invited to the high school to provide the annual, "Lunch On the Lawn" for the students and staff on Wednesday, October 3 - during their Homecoming week. We will need lots of help, lots of food donations, and your prayers. Sign-ups are in the hallway! Thank you!



Congratulations to all grandparents as we remember Grandparent's Day!

Hospitalized: Erin Terry, Paris

Home from the Hospital: Bill Fudge

Our sympathies go to Steve Eitel & family in the recent loss of his aunt.



-- The Chancel Choir for their return;
-- Faye Eitel for the 8:00 accompaniment;

-- Elder Dan Lynch and Chair John Chittick for the follow-up to the retirement announcement;

-- Carolyn Ray and Rev. Mike for the Children's Sermons;

-- Roseann Moss & helpers for trimming our bushes and landscaping.

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

Purpose Of Pain:
Make Us Better, Not Bitter



SEPTEMBER PRAYER

"Dear God, As we begin a new school year, we pray for the students who feel they don't fit in, who feel alone, or who may be bullied. We pray they realize that they are loved and that they find their own group of friends. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen."

"WELCOME TO THE FAMILY"

We welcome Nate and Nick Behrens as they came forward on Sunday to confess their faith. After his attack of shyness up front, Nick was able to do it later. We are looking forward to their baptisms on Sunday - as we say, "Welcome To The Family."

SERMON SERIES

The plan is to share a sermon series in September-October on the pain and suffering of life. Entitled, "Faith and Fire," we will explore the Experience, the Reasons, the Healing, the Value, the Response to suffering - and more.

"SPLINTERS" FROM THE BOARD

At its September meeting, the Executive Board:

- worshiped around symbols of our building, Rev. Mike Dixon, FCC members, and then Jesus, who is in "first place" according to Colossians 1:18;
- offered prayers for one who is active and involved, and one who simply attends;
- received the resignation of Connie Bean as Financial Secretary for January 1;
- heard the retirement announcement of Rev. Dixon;
- received thanks for the "Baby Bottle" offering of \$296.93;
- approved the request of money from the Youth Investment Fund for equipment;
- asked for Budget Requests by October 15;
- officially hired Jenny McMahan as Nursery Attendant - with great thanks to Emily Thomas!
- noted building work, including the gold trim in the sanctuary that is upcoming!
- approved the "Beyond These Walls" mission money recommendation (see copies next week);
- received the appointment of the 2018 Nominating Committee: Peggy Barath, Deena Hasler, Marge Houghland, Peg Raley, Steve Webb;
- accepted the appointment of the 2018 Interim Minister Search Committee: Kristin Chittick, Dick James, Elisabeth Johnson, Pastor John Snidle, Tammy Terry;
- set the date for the annual congregational business meetings as Sunday, November 18.

BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday morning Bible Study will be resume on September 18 at 10:30 AM in the Jerusalem Room. There is room for more and you are welcome and wanted! Come join us as we study "The Most Misused Verses In The Bible."

THE JOYFUL RINGERS

The handbell choir begins their Wednesday evening rehearsals this week at 7:30 PM. We look forward to having them play in worship.

RECONCILIATION OFFERING

This year we want to give you the opportunity to help with the opening of "Hope House", a local shelter for homeless, in need youth. We have heard the vision, and know it is now full-speed ahead. So our upcoming Reconciliation Offering will be kept here in town, and used to help teens with their present and their future.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- ◆ Staff Relations, Tues., Sept. 18, 5:00 PM
- ◆ Worship Committee, Thurs., Sept. 20, 2 PM
- ◆ Trustees Thurs., Sept. 27, 6:00 PM

CIRCLES IN SEPTEMBER

CIRCLE OF PRAYER: will meet Thursday, Sept. 13, at the church at 6:00 PM.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: will meet Tuesday, Sept. 18 at Pat Hittle's; she will be hostess. Corky Davidson will bring the lesson.

KOINONIA CIRCLE: will meet Thursday, Sept. 20 in the church kitchen. Cindy Mathis will be the hostess and give the lesson.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Thank you to all the volunteers who faithfully help each month at the Community Kitchen. Our next Monday to serve is September 17. Please sign-up to help serve or bring desserts.

GOLDEN AGE

You are invited to join the Golden Age luncheon on Tuesday, Sept. 25, at 12:00 NN. Sign-up!

FAITH IN ACTION WEEK

This is "Faith In Action Week" here in Paris/Edgar County. We appreciate all the volunteer work of "Faith In Action" and commend them to you. Way to go FIA!

SCOUT MEETINGS

Just to make you aware, two groups of Scouts will be meeting on Sunday's from 2:00-4:00 PM, Tuesdays from 6:00-7:00 PM and the third Tuesday of the month will be their Pack meeting.

DISCIPLES MEN

The Disciples Men will have their breakfast get-together on Saturday, Sept. 15, at 8:00 AM at the Paris Family Restaurant.

SECRET PLACE

The Secret Place devotional for the fall quarter is available at the entryways. Pick up a copy!

Thank You!

Hi Folks! Thank you so much for your prayers and good wishes. They did the trick! I'm doing great. I was glad to be kept in the hospital rehab for 10 days - they did a wonderful job.

Love, Shirley Ross

I so appreciated the cards, prayers, and your thoughts during my recent surgery and recovery. Also, thanks to Rev. Dixon for the hospital visits.

- Ron Barath



Youth Group It's here and so far we have had a ballin' good time. Youth group is every Wednesday, from 6:30-8; 6th through 12th grade. Bring your friends! 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]. Bring your friends, all youth welcome!

Also, we now have t-shirts! Available for students and adults who regularly attend. Free of charge; donations appreciated!

MICE If you are wondering about MICE, it is a work in progress and at this time it is TBA. Just know it hasn't been forgotten about and we will get the info out as soon as we can!

Upcoming Events God's Gang and Crossroads will start on September 12, **that's this week!** Registration is open and available, do that as soon as you can to help keep things as smooth as possible. If you would like to volunteer to help, talk to Angel Templeton or Saunny Preston.

See You at the Pole is September 26, the last Wednesday of the month. If you're not aware, See You at the Pole is an event all over the nation where Christian high school students gather around the flag pole in the morning before school starts to pray! It's not long, it doesn't take much out of your day, but it is a great way to praise God along with other believers, both at your school and across the nation, and glorify Him in front of those who don't.

Lunch On the Lawn, aka LOL, will be October 3rd, starting at 11am! This is when FCC prepares lunch (hamburgers, hot dogs, veggies, desserts, etc) for the high school and feeds them for homecoming week. It's just a way to serve the youth and get involved in the community. But we need your help! We need volunteers to donate different food items, to participate in the cooking and/or distribution of the food to the students, and other things. So give a floop and help out your youth!

- 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

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"

ATTENDANCE

We count because you count!

Sept. 9: 8:00 - 50 10:00 - 115 Nursery - 4

TOTAL WORSHIP = 169

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 2, 2nd-5th - 2, Jr & Sr High - 0, New Disciples - 9, Open Door - 20, New Horizons - 13

TOTAL SS = 46

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFERING TOTALS

September 9, 2018

General Fund	\$2,940.25
Sunday School	26.00
Food Pantry	50.00
God's Gang	80.00
Faith In Action	10.00
Hope House	70.00
Reimbursement: T-shirts	61.00
Reimbursement: Camp Fee	82.50
Lunch On the Lawn	50.00
Community Kitchen	53.00
Disciples Outreach/Missions	50.00
Week of Compassion	20.00
Building Fund	160.00
TOTAL	\$3,652.75

SERVING SCHEDULE: September 16, 2018

8:00 AM: ELDER: Dick James

DEACONESS: Pam Lobb

PIANIST: Evie Gill

9:00 AM: Sunday School

10:00 AM: GREETERS: East: Linda West

West: Tony & Rita Haupt

ACOLYTES: Nora Adams, Sarah Littlejohn

WORSHIP LEADER: Nels Kasey

BREAD ELDER: Steve Webb

DEACONESS: Ellen Webb

DEACONS: Team 1, Dan Smittkamp, Captain; Sue Elliott,

Greg Kelly, Dwight 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 HELPER: Sammy Milam

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Jenelle Adams

SOUND SYSTEM: Brooklyn Ward

PROJECTION: Tony Peel

SEPTEMBER FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Steve Webb

SEPT. USHERS: Randy Creech, Steve Eitel, Lloyd Maggert

SCRIPTURE: Luke 13:1-5

SERMON: "Faith And Fire: The Reasons For Suffering"

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon

