

THE MESSENGER

“LIVE AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT”

November 14, 2018

A LOVE NOTE?!

When we got home from our vacation trip recently, I lugged my overly-large, extra-heavy suitcase (it was the shoes!?) upstairs to unpack - after I caught my breath. Nothing unusual; no difference from the norm - until I unzipped and opened it. There was a paper there that wasn't in there when I closed it!

At first I thought it was a love-note from Peg. She and I have done that over the years and I smiled, “How sweet.” But it wasn't from her.

Don't ask me how, but I did have the thought that maybe it was from God - with a word about what I'm to do next year. But it wasn't signed, “Love, God.”

Upon closer inspection, it was a “love note” from the TSA (Transportation Security Administration), “To protect you” - isn't that nice?, “some bags are opened and physically inspected” - I'm so grateful!, and after “the contents were returned to your bag” - they did it so well! I am so glad the TSA loves me that much. I hope you get that same love someday. It makes you feel all warm inside.

Yet even if you don't ever receive their love, I trust you know God's love. It may or may not come in your suitcase, but it does come in your prayers, in nature, from Scripture, during situations, through people, and especially in worship. Make sure you are available and open to God's “love-note” to you.

And then - make sure to give it back.

MCD

VETERAN'S RECOGNITION

We were happy to honor our veteran's this past Sunday who are: Ron Barath, Jim Bennett, Charles Bradford, Daryl Bridwell, James Brooks, Bill Chittick, Steve Cochran, Ray Coombes, David Dick, Steve Eitel, Larry Elliott, Ken Hamilton, Joe Hasler, Tony Haupt, Cheston Hays, John Hittle, Lyle Hutchings, Richard Melendez, Jim Ray, Roy Rogers, Monica Rollings, Beth Sablotny, Charles Schaich, Brenda Smith, Chandra Smith, Lawrence Waltz, Richard Ward, and Jim Watters. Gifts are still available for those not present. Thank you for serving!

\$tewardship \$unday

This Sunday, November 18, is Stewardship Sunday. It will include the Plan of Giving forms, Volunteer for 2019 form, and Pray for Paris information. Letters are going out this week. If you wish to try out electronic giving in 2019, or continue it, you will need to fill out a special form, available in the office.

Advent Devotions Due!

If you agreed to do a devotion for this year's Advent Booklet, it is due in the office this week. The theme is: “How Do We Move Forward In The Midst Of Change?” The devotion only needs to be a short, half page length thought that can go with the theme or whatever God places on your heart.

OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE

We are seeking families and individuals to hosts international guests from Chicago educational institutions during the Thanksgiving weekend - from Wednesday eve (Nov. 21) to Sunday afternoon (Nov. 25). Take on your family trip, share-a-guest with another host - we accommodates all situations. “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by doing so some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13:2) Interested? Contact Barbara Dick at (217) 822-9997.



Thank you to all veterans!

Home from the Hospital:
Al Englebright

Our sympathies go to Cathy Clawson & family in the loss of her father-in-law.

Congratulations to Daryl Bridwell, who was named 2018 "Man of the Year" on Sunday!



-- Steve & Ellen Webb for sharing their anniversary flowers in worship (and we apologize for missing/not mentioning it);

-- Gloria Magers for the flag lapel pins and Mary Alice & JC Foley for the service flags;

-- Karla Pierson & Cathy Melendez for the "Head, Hands, Heart" planning & Karla's crew of Mary K. Bradford, Faye Eitel, Carol Marlowe, Barbara Dick, Saunny Preston, and helpers;

-- Taylor Shewey for the "thank you" sign;

-- Connie Houston, Donna Garver, Coralie Smittkamp, & God's Gang kids for the veteran gift and recognition;

-- Mary Helen Hamilton and Faye Eitel for the 8:00 accompaniment;

-- Rev. Mike for the Children's sermon;

-- Mary K. Bradford for the devotion at the Board meeting.

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

Find joy in what you give,
not in what you get.

NOVEMBER PRAYER

"Thanksgiving doesn't come just one day a year, Father. For Your children it should be every day. Thank You for Your love and forgiveness. Amen."

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE SQUARE

We'll have a "booth" to serve S'mores again this year, Sat. Nov. 24. Sign-up to help out 4-5:30, or 5:30-7 PM. We also need donations of Fudge Stripe cookies and regular marshmallows.

RETIREMENT RECEPTION

The "Dixon Retirement Reception" will be Sun., Jan. 6, 2019 at the Tingley Reception Center. A retirement gift is planned and donations are welcome. All those wishing to contribute should note: "Dixon Retirement Gift" on their check. You must sign-up to attend the church dinner due to limited seating - only one name per line on the sign-up sheet. The sign-up will be out on Sunday, Nov. 25.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is Tuesday mornings at 10:30 AM in the Jerusalem Room with room for you!

"SPLINTERS" from the Board

At the November meeting, the FCC Board:

- worshipped around a setting of our outreach papers and scriptures about reaching out;
- prayed for one who reached out to us, for someone who needs reached, and for Steve Webb, 2019 Chair;
- received the official retirement letter of Peg Dixon as Choir Director;
- agreed to provide financial assistance to youth going on upcoming ski trip;
- received a check from Rev. Dixon to repay the housing loan from 1991;
- voted to close the Additional Staff Fund;
- noted the need to update signature cards on our bank accounts as the year changes;
- was grateful for the number of socks donated;
- noted our "Holiday in the Park" display will soon be put up;
- approved the proposed budget for 2019;
- reviewed the retirement plan for the Dixon celebration, chaired by David Dick & Donna Moody;
- voted to hire Kristin Chittick & Barbara Dick as Choir Director(s) for this winter-spring;
- approved the Elder's recommendation to hold one service on Jan. 6 at 9:00 AM (no S.S.);
- noted that the gold trim will soon be installed in the sanctuary;
- authorized funds to the Interim Search Committee for expenses;
- approved the report of the Nominating Committee;
- expressed heartfelt thanks to John Chittick for his leadership as Chair this year;
- noted our 2019 theme is "Moving Forward In Faith."

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Our annual congregational meetings will be on Sunday, Nov. 18, following each service to vote on nominations, budget, and appointments.

"WELCOME TO THE FAMILY"

We were pleased to welcome Riley Snidle as she came forward to officially transfer her membership to our FCC family. We look forward to our future together and her service with us as we say, "Welcome to the Family!"

FINANCIAL GIVING

We are asking you to review your income, plan your giving for 2019, and fill out a "Plan of Giving" form to turn in this Sunday, or soon after. Thank you so much!

"ADVENT CELEBRATION"

Sunday, Dec. 9, is our Advent Celebration and Christmas program, "Stars, Angels, Shepherds, Kings" with God's Gang and Crossroads youth. We will also share the new Chrismon and the Congregational Christmas Card. It will begin at 6:00 PM with cookie reception after.



CIRCLES IN NOVEMBER

KOINONIA CIRCLE: will meet Thursday, Nov. 15, at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen. Hostess is Donna Moody; lesson by Coralie Smittkamp.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: will meet Tuesday, Nov. 20, at 1:30 PM at the home of Berniece Hayes, hostess, with lesson by Carolyn Lanker.

EDGAR CO. RELAY FOR LIFE

Plan now to attend the Edgar County Relay For Life benefit concert at the Paris American Legion on Sat., November 17, at 7:00 PM. Mark Allen and the Rail Brothers Band will be playing. Cost is \$10 at the door with proceeds going to RFL.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Community Kitchen is Monday, November 19. Please sign-up to help!

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

FCC will be ringing the Salvation Army bells at Walmart on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM. Rev. Mike will also be ringing with the children on Wednesday, Dec. 19, from 3:00-5:00 PM at Walmart. Sign-up to participate!

HEAD, HANDS, HEART REPORT

Thanks to all involved in our coat/winterwear program. We were able to give out 75 coats to children and adults, plus many hats, gloves, and other items. Good job!

"SOCK-IT-TO-ME"

Thank you to all who have donated pre-school socks for Head Start. We will be delivering those soon.

ADVENT CHOIR

The Community Advent Choir rehearsals are: Monday, Nov. 19; Monday, Nov. 26; and Thursday, Nov. 29. All practices are at 7:00 PM and at the First United Methodist Church. The Community Advent Choir Program will be held at FUMC on Sunday, Dec. 2 at 3:00 PM.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at Nevins Christian Church on Tuesday, Nov. 20, at 7:00 PM. Several will be speaking, including Rev. Dixon. Refreshments to follow.

APPOINTMENTS

As we prepare for 2019, Steve Webb, Chairperson, will be making appointments. Please consider answering "yes," if asked - and thank you to those who have already!



YG/CR/GG Youth group, Cross Roads, and God's Gang are going on! Youth group is every Wednesday, from 6:30-8; 6th through 12th grade, all are welcome to participate.

God's Gang and Crossroads are happening! If you didn't know, every week there is a different theme that goes along with either the message for the night or with events on the calendar. The theme for this week is "Thanksgiving" of course. As a participator in the meal time, I am very eager to see what awaits us for this week!

WARNING There will be no Youth Group or God's Gang or Crossroads on November 21st. It's Thanksgiving! Go get fat and happy.

Upcoming Events Upcoming events for high school and Jr. high include Frenzy, Ski Trip, and Mid-Winter. Our next event is Frenzy (our yearly overnigher in between Christmas and New Year's); so ready yourselves for one of our most popular events! If you are a parent and could help chaperone, please say yes as soon as I ask you.

MOST IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT I would like to bring this to everyone's attention because it is very important: nearly 40 days until Christmas!! I hope you are ready and have started decorating! I finished mine ages ago. Merry Christmas!

- John Snidle, Youth Minister

Thank You!

I would like to thank Bryar Lee Burgin for my neat "Thank You Veteran's" card. It's really cool.

- Thank you, Charles Schaich

DISCIPLE MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Disciple Men's breakfast will be Sat., Nov. 17, at 8:00 AM at the newly opened "On The Tracks" Café. Sign-up.

FACEBOOK

Look up our "NEW" Facebook page at FCCParis - @FCCParisIL. Like us and share it!

INTERIM SEARCH

Continue to pray for the committee and for the unity, leading of the Holy Spirit, personal responsibility for growth, willing to be willing, a sense of ownership, and vision for the future for all of us.

POP MACHINE

The pop machine has been fixed and will now accept dollar bills. We also have both Coke & Pepsi. Proceeds go to the Youth Group fund.



THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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Web page: www.fccparis.org ~ Facebook: FCC Paris

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!

Nov. 11: 8:00 - 52 10:00 - 88 Nursery - 3

TOTAL WORSHIP = 143

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 2, 2nd-5th - 2, Jr & Sr High - 3, New Disciples - 8, Open Door - 20, New Horizons - 11

TOTAL SS = 46

OFFERING TOTALS

November 11, 2018

General Fund	\$3,525.50
Sunday School	21.00
Food Pantry	75.00
Dixon Retirement Gift	190.00
MICE	10.00
Head, Hands, Heart	400.00
Bell Choir	50.00
Disciples Outreach/Missions	90.00
Reconciliation Offering-Hope House	15.00
Thanksgiving Offering	25.00
Church Bus Fund	25.00
Building Fund	150.00
TOTAL	\$4,576.50

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SERVING SCHEDULE: November 18, 2018

8:00 AM: ELDER: Dick James
DEACONESS: Cynthia Faulk
PIANIST: Pete Templeton

9:00 AM: Sunday School

10:00 AM: GREETERS:

East: Dorothy Farnham
West: Dan & Lisa Smittkamp
ACOLYTES: Morgan Coombes, Myli Tapscott

WORSHIP LEADER: David Dick

BREAD ELDER: Rick Kennedy

DEACONESS: Edna Creech

DEACONS: Team 3, Jacob Thomas, Captain; Cory Craig, Barb Free, Mike Kirk, Doc & Donna Moody, Jerry Thomas, Dan Thomey

JR DEACONS: Team #3, Jaydin Seeley, Capt., Cheyenne Miller, Cydney Miller

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Pastor John Snidle

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Jenny McMahan

NURSERY HELPER: Ava Huddleson

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Jenelle Adams

SOUND SYSTEM: Joe Gill

PROJECTION: Evie Gill

NOVEMBER FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Katie Vaughn

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

SCRIPTURES: Malachi 3:6-12

SERMON: "How To Steal From God"

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon



PRAYING FOR PARIS

There is a current challenge to pray for Paris. We will be challenging you to do that individually on Sunday. And we will be doing that as a congregation by praying for

- Wenz Elementary School -

over the next three months. Please add the school to your prayers as we pray together on Sundays.