

THE MESSENGER

“LIVE AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT”

November 28, 2018

THANKS AND MINISTRY

We need to connect our thanks with real life, our personal life. I was challenged to do that last week at the Community Thanksgiving Service. Several of us were asked to address our thankfulness, and my assignment was in regard to ministry - in a very brief time frame. So I decided to do it in a little different way, as follows...

Things I Give Thanks To God About My Ministry

Ladies and Gentlemen, Children and Pets, it is time, and I'm now pleased to present...

Tonight's Top Ten List

You know the topic, so -

#10 - People Who Laugh At My Jokes

#9 - People Who Listen To My Bible Teaching - and Come Back

#8 - The Opportunity To Serve The Community

#7 - The Paris Ministerial Fellowship and My Fellow Pastors

#6 - The Privilege Of Praying For Others as well as The Privilege Of Others Praying For Me

#5 - The Opportunity To Try Creative Things

#4 - The Privilege Of Doing Ministry and Family At The Same Time

#3 - The Calling To Love All Of God's Children

#2 - The Opportunity To Tell People About Jesus Christ

And the #1 Thing I Give Thanks For About Ministry - My Boss - Working For God - The Best Boss In The Universe!

I could go on and say more about each (and I wish I had last week!), but I will resist here and now. In whatever form, I give thanks for ministry!

MCD

PS: And I encourage others, especially young people, to consider ministry for themselves.

Community Advent Choir & Program

The final Advent Choir rehearsal is this Thursday, Nov. 29 at 7:00 PM at the First United Methodist Church. The Community Advent Choir and Handbell Program will be held at FUMC this Sunday, Dec. 2, at 3:00 PM. You are invited to enjoy the sounds of the season!

Advent Sunday

December 2, is the first Sunday of Advent, when we will begin our traditions, season decorations, songs, prayer list, card, candlelighting and Devotional. Join us each Sunday of Advent!

Advent Celebration

Our Advent Celebration and Christmas Program (formerly Hanging of the Greens) will be Sunday evening, December 9, at 6:00 PM. The God's Gang kids will be presenting, "Stars, Angels, Shepherds, Kings" in story, songs, and costumes, the Crossroads kids will be playing bells, and you won't want to miss it! We will also present the Chrismon for 2018, the Congregational Christmas Card, have cookies and punch afterward! Come join us!

THANKSGIVING OFFERING

The goal for our Thanksgiving Offering is \$1350 to go to Disciples universities and colleges. We have reached \$797.00 so far. Thank you for your giving.



Hospitalized: Merle Hays, Sarah Bush

Thank God for safe travels!

Our sympathies go to Joe Fessant and family on the passing of his mother, Esther Fessant.



-- Jim Bennett for his work installing a new pump on the boiler;

-- Tony Peel & Dan Dayton for installing the gold trim in the sanctuary;

-- Stewardship/Finance Committee & volunteers for the financial mailing;

-- Pete Templeton & Faye Eitel for the 8:00 piano accompaniments;

-- Cody Vaughn, Pastor John, & Rev. Mike for the Children's Sermons;

-- "The Joyful Ringers" for their Special Music;

-- Joel Gleckler & Dan Thomey for the Minutes For Mission;

-- John Chittick for his leadership at the Congregational Business Meetings, as well as Marge Houghland, Steve Webb, & Ray Coombes, Nels Kasey for their presentations.

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

Laughter - A smile with the volume turned up.

DECEMBER PRAYER

"Dear Lord, we thank You for Your Son and our Savior, Jesus, whose humble beginnings in the manger led to a life of example for us. Amen."

S'MORE REPORT

We were again part of the "Christmas in Paris" event, and set up at the Chamber of Commerce with our "S'more Station." Using fudgecookies & marshmallows (thank you for the donations!), people made a 250 snacks to eat on the way. They also received papers & stickers with "S'more of God's love." Thanks to all!

RETIREMENT RECEPTION

The "Dixon Retirement Reception" will be Sun., Jan. 6, 2019 at the Tingley Reception Center. Doors will open at 11:15 AM that day. 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. (One line = one chair!)

BIBLE STUDY

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

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS CARD

The Congregational Christmas Card will be out this Sunday for you to share your greetings with each other. No monies will be collected this year.

LOVE OFFERING

We are thankful for our FCC staff and all they do for us throughout the year. Our way of showing our appreciation for them is through the Love Offering. Our staff includes: Rev. Mike Dixon, Pastor John Snidle, Cheryl Clark, Peg Dixon, Kathy Peel, Connie Bean, Jim Mathis, Betty Kelly and Evelyn Harris. If you wish, you may designate your gift to an individual by putting their name on the memo line; undesignated gifts will be divided equally. In order to deliver these expressions of love before Christmas, all gifts must be turned in by Sunday, Dec. 16. - Thank you, Staff Relations

"WELCOME TO THE FAMILY"

We were very pleased to rejoice with Taylor Shewey, Mya Smittkamp, Drew Templeton and families as they came forward last Sunday at 10:00 to confess their belief in Jesus as the Son of God. We are planning baptisms this Sunday - as we say, "Welcome To The Family."

APPOINTMENTS

At the recent Congregational Meetings, 2019 Chair Steve Webb made the required appointments for next year and beyond. Copies are available.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Daryl Bridwell, our 2018 Man of the Year! He was recognized on Sunday, Nov. 11th.

TURN IN FORMS

Be sure to turn in your Plan of Giving, Volunteer, and Pray for Paris forms!

Thank You!

Gracious Church Family, Words cannot express the feelings in my heart that I feel from the thoughtfulness given to myself and my family during my surgery and recovery. The prayers, deeds, food, visits, and cards were wonderful. We have been blessed by our church family many times over and we are forever grateful for each and every one of our church family members.

- In Christian Love, Cindy Mathis and family

I would like to thank my church family for being selected as 2018 Man of the Year. It is an honor and I appreciate it very much. - Daryl Bridwell

INVITATION

We have an invitation for you - a printed invitation - for you to hand/give/send to someone who may need God, & FCC. You think of who; we'll supply the words; then you pass it on - & let God do the rest.

BE SURE TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

CIRCLES IN DECEMBER

CIRCLE OF LIGHT: will meet Tuesday, Dec. 4, at 6:00 PM at the church.

KOINONIA CIRCLE: will be going to Tuscola on Monday, Dec. 10. Meet at the church at 11:00 AM.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: will be going to Betty Jane's Kitchen on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at 12:00 noon.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER: will be going out to eat on Thursday, Dec. 13. Place to be determined.

CHRISTMAS CANDIES

The FCC Relay For Life team will be selling assorted, homemade, Christmas candies between services and after on Sunday, Dec. 9. Stock up for your Christmas parties or just to enjoy yourself!

GOLDEN AGE

The holiday luncheon for Golden Age will be on Tuesday, Dec. 4, at 12:00 NN. Sign-up! Program will be "Dixon Memories".

GIVING TREES

The Circle of Light is sponsoring the "Giving Trees" again this year! In the heart of giving and the Christmas spirit... please pick up an ornament with the name of a group home resident and the items wanted or needed by him/her (no aerosol cans). The tag containing the resident name and facility name should be attached to your gift bag and then returned underneath the trees located at the entrances. The items will be delivered by Circle of Light in the afternoon of Dec. 16. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile cause!

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Community Kitchen is Monday, December 17. Please sign-up to help, we need volunteers!

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

FCC adults will be ringing the Salvation Army bells at Walmart on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM. We need someone to fill in our 4:00 PM time slot! ***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 and please remember your time!

DISCIPLE MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Disciple Men's breakfast will be Sat., Dec. 15, in the church kitchen at 8:00 AM. Sign-up - all men are welcome - and join us as we give Rev. Mike our "send off".

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.



YG/CR/GG Youth group. Enough said. 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 tonight! 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 "Birthday Night." This is the night where any birthday (for this half of the year [July-Dec maybe? I'm not sure]) will be celebrated. So happy birthday y'all.

Heads up: December 5th is the very last day ever (of 2018) for God's Gang. Cross Roads, however, will be continuing along with the same schedule as youth group; aka if there is school, we meet!

Upcoming Events "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear." – Buddy the Elf December 12th we will be caroling around town! There will be two groups going out on Wednesday. First, the Children and accompanying adults will visit nursing homes and such at 5PM. The youth group will go out after at 6PM, serenading people in their homes. If you would like to ameliorate your Wednesday evening with some lovely and definitely rehearsed musical tunes, sung by skilled youngsters, message/email/call me and you will be put on the list!

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! There will be a live band, roller skating, a movie, games, food, tickets and prizes; the list is nearly endless. Start is Friday Dec 28 at 7pm until Saturday morning at 6am. For Jr High and High both! 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: less than THIRTY days until Christmas!! I hope you are ready and excited and decorated and joyful and pumped to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Merry Christmas!

- John Snidle, Youth Minister

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

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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"

### ATTENDANCE

We count because you count!

Nov. 25: 8:00 - 59 10:00 - 105 Nursery - 3

TOTAL WORSHIP = 167

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 1, 2nd-5th - 2, Jr & Sr High - 1, New Disciples - 10, Open Door - 16, New Horizons - 0

TOTAL SS = 30

### OFFERING TOTALS

November 25, 2018

|                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| General Fund+E.G.*                | \$4,171.44*        |
| Sunday School                     | 20.00              |
| Love Offering to Staff            | 100.00             |
| God's Gang                        | 25.00              |
| Food Pantry                       | 90.00              |
| Dixon Retirement Gift             | 485.00             |
| Reimbursement: Phone              | 142.22             |
| Head, Hands, Heart                | 400.00             |
| Paris Ministerial Fellowship      | 50.00              |
| Disciples Outreach/Missions+E.G.* | 185.00*            |
| Week of Compassion+E.G.*          | 125.00*            |
| Thanksgiving Offering             | 501.00             |
| Building Fund+E.G.*               | 500.00*            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                      | <b>\$6,794.66*</b> |

\*Includes Electronic Giving



### ADULTS & KIDS / YOUTH CAROLING

The adults and God's Gang children will go caroling on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at 5:00 PM. Meet at the church and join us for a fun night out!

Later that same night, Dec. 12, at 6:00 PM the FCC Youth Group will also go caroling. All junior high and high school youth are invited! See Pastor John for details.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### SERVING SCHEDULE: December 2, 2018

8:00 AM: ELDER: Daryl Bridwell  
DEACONESS: Cassie Boatman  
PIANIST: Dennis Thiel

9:00 AM: Sunday School

10:00 AM: GREETERS:

East: Cody & Colten Vaughn

West: Katie & EJ Vaughn

ACOLYTES: Steven West, Emma Kennedy

WORSHIP LEADER: Doug Hasler

BREAD ELDER: Chris Milam

DEACONESS: Megan Mathis

DEACONS: Team 2, Autumn Kasey, Captain; Jim Bellerud, Al & Nancy Englebright, Mark Johnson, JK Vilck, Patty Waters, Kevin Woods

JR DEACONS: Team #2, Lainey Ogle, Capt., Aubrey Sanders, Alex Tapscott, Ben Young

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Nels Kasey

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Jenny McMahan

NURSERY HELPER: Aubrey Sanders

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Deena Hasler

SOUND SYSTEM: Tony Peel

PROJECTION: Brooklyn Ward

DECEMBER FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Steve Webb

DEC. USHERS: Dean Smittkamp, Ron Stickler, Steve Coombes

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 7:14; 9:2-7; 11:1-3, 10

SERMON: "Dear God, When Did You Plan Christmas?"

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon

SHUT-INS: David Dick & Dick James