

THE MESSENGER

“LIVE AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT”

December 12, 2018

FCC COMMERCIALS

For one last time, I want to take something that I enjoy doing - watching commercials on TV - and seeing if we can use their tagline or jingle to apply to our ministry and faith.

You will recognize some of these, but unless you are a commercial nerd like me, probably not all. We'll list the business names on pg. 4 for you - after you've tried to figure it out.

- 1) “Better prayers. Better faith. FCC, Paris” - not compared to others, but to our past.
- 2) “FCC - We Have the Faith” - the basics of Jesus and what is needed, and not needed.
- 3) “For the many, not just the few; FCC” - because we offer our ministry to all.
- 4) “Helping your business be better, your family be better, your friends be better, your faith be better - FCC” - since that's our objective.
- 5) “For the best peace and love in the whole wide world, visit fccparis.org” - that's one way we share the message.
- 6) “Eating Good At God's Table” - we not only need it; we cherish our close communion with God.
- 7) “J”, “J”, “J”, “J”, “J”, What are Christians Raving About? God answer - Jesus” - He's the final Answer to our questions.
- 8) “It's not just easy, it's live-your-life-and-love-your-neighbor-easy - with God at FCC” - true, life Gets easier with God.
- 9) “We know a thing or two, because we've seen a thing or two - about life, especially life with God” - you know that someone else here is/has gone through what you are facing.
- 10) “Make everyone happy this Christmas. Give them the FCC family and faith-growing opportunities” - it can make a difference!

From the culture and FCC, we celebrate our faith in Jesus Christ!

MCD

Christmas Offering

The Christmas Offering is our final of all the special offerings we do during the year. It is used by CCIW, so stays here in Illinois to help support Disciples churches. We will have a Minute for Mission on Sunday with more details.

STAFF 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 this Sunday, December 16. - Thank you, Staff Relations

GIVING TREES

You are invited to participate in the “Giving Trees” gifts for Paris group home residents. There are still 9 ornaments left, so we need these taken. The ornaments provide the information and gift ideas for one resident (no aerosol cans). That ornament should be attached to your gift bag and then returned underneath the trees located at the entrances by this Sunday, Dec. 16. Thank you!

ORDINATION INVITATION

The home church of Pastor John has planned an ordination service for him and others from their church family. It will be Monday, December 31, 5:30 PM at the Elm Street Christian Church, 727 E. Elm St., Olney, IL. You are invited to pray in support, offer congratulations, and/or attend. What a great way to start a new year!



“Home” from the hospital:
 - Madonna Meeks to “Life’s Journey”
 - Esther Blanford back to Brookstone

Hospitalized: Shirley Edwards, Mooresville

New Address: Erin Terry - Moultrie County Community Center, Attn: Erin Terry, 240 E. State St., Lovington, IL 61937



-- Bridges School for poinsettia;
 -- Joel Gleckler, Karen Newhart, & Rev. Mike for sharing lunch with Bridges;
 -- Evie Gill for the 8:00 accompaniment;
 -- Joe & Corky Davidson and Steve & Faye Eitel for the Advent meditation and candlelighting;
 -- Mary K. Bradford for the Children’s Sermon;
 -- Peg Dixon & God’s Gang for the program - Crossroads for the bell anthem - and all the helpers;
 -- Cindy Robinson for the new Chrismon;
 -- Youth for the reception after the program.

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

The tiny manger was a King-size bed.

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.”

FINAL SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

December 30th will be our final Sunday with Rev. Mike and Peg Dixon as our ministering family. The schedule will be a bit different: with regular service at 8:00 and 10:00, but no Sunday School during 9:00 AM - that has been set aside for a time of visiting.

NEW YEAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

For the first Sunday of 2019, Jan. 6, we will have one-combined service at 9:00 AM with guest speaker, Karl Marshall. The service will include the new Theme and Dedication of New Leaders, so all 2019 leaders are requested to attend.

OPEN DOOR SS CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Christmas Dinner Party will be this Sunday, the 16th, at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All those connected to the Open Door Class are welcome and invited and needed to attend. Even without complete coordination.

PRAY FOR PARIS DISPLAY

Remember to pray for - Wenz School - Students & Staff and your own personal Paris Prayer Focus on an ongoing basis.

BE SURE TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS CARD

The Congregational Christmas Card is out for you to share your greetings with each other. Sign your name and a note if you like, and read the others left for you!

CHRISTMAS EVE - DEDICATIONS

Our Christmas Eve service will be held at 7:00 PM on December 24. We offer Parent-Child Dedications during the service for parents of babies/toddlers. If you would like to participate in the dedication, please let us know.

INVITATIONS

Invitations to worship are out and available for you to pass along to friends, family, neighbors, co-workers... whoever God puts on your heart.

ADVENT PRAYER LIST

Pick up a copy of our Advent Prayer List to pray through during this season.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

If you have not already picked up a copy, there are a few left.

GIFTS from REV MIKE

Over these final few weeks, Rev. Mike will have a good-bye gift to share. Stay tuned...

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

- 2019 Deacons: Sunday, Dec. 16, 11:30 AM
- 2019 Ushers: Sunday, Dec. 16, 11:30 AM
- 2019 Deaconesses: Mon., Dec. 17, 5:30 PM

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITIONS

On Sunday, December 23, we will have our New Member Recognition for those who have joined FCC during the 2018 year. If you would like to become a member, now is the best time to talk to Rev. Dixon!

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Chairs/Co-chairs of our committees for 2019, please turn in your committee member names as soon as possible!

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2019 offering envelopes are out on the hallway table for those who currently use a number. If you don’t have a number and would like offering envelopes, sign up on the sheet.

CIRCLE OUTING

CIRCLE OF PRAYER: will be going to Tuscany's on Thursday, Dec. 13, at 6:00 PM.

RFL CANDY SALES REPORT

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped the FCC RFL Team reach \$555 in candy sales last Sunday! All the proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society. Thank you again!

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

Rev. Mike will also be bellringing with the children tonight, Dec. 12, from 3:00-5:00 PM at Walmart. Sign-up to participate!

ADULTS & KIDS CAROLING

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

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

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

DISCIPLE MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Disciple Men's breakfast will be this 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".

DINNER & RECEPTION - NEW LOCATION!

The venue for the dinner and the reception following has been moved to the KC Hall because it has more space. Everything else remains the same: the "Dixon Retirement Reception" will still be held Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019; the doors for the dinner will open at 11:15 AM. The freewill offering for the meal will be taken at the door. You must sign-up to attend the church dinner - only one name per line on the sign-up sheet. (One line = one chair!) The reception, which is open to the community, will be held at the KC Hall from 2:00-4:00 PM.

IRA WITHDRAWAL

We have been informed and want to let you know that those of you who are the age of 70 1/2 or older, and take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), may want to consider either individually or systematically having the IRA Holder send a check(s) to the church. The distribution will be non-taxable and it benefits the church!



YG/CR/GG Youth group. Enough said. Youth group is every Wednesday, from 6-7:30; 6th through 12th grade, all are welcome to participate.

God's Gang and Crossroads are over. However, all Crossroads kids are welcomed to join us for youth group at 6!

For those of you who witnessed the beautiful program "Stars, Shepherds, Angels, Kings" you know how great it was. For those of you who missed it, you really missed a lot. There were wonderful performances from God's Gang kids with lots of songs and a great Christmas message. The Crossroad Ding-Dongs, as they are calling themselves, also had a great performance playing the bells. Well done all kids, and a big thank you for all those adults who helped make it happen.

Upcoming Events "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear." – Buddy the Elf December 12th (THIS WEEK) 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 enhance 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 (Dec 28-29), Ski Trip (Jan 18-21), and Mid-Winter (Jan 26-27). Our next event is Frenzy (our yearly overnighter 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: we are so close to the countdown of twelve days until Christmas!! It is so close I can almost taste that figgy pudding. I hope you are ready, excited, decorated, joyful, and pumped to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Merry Christmas!

- John Snidle, Youth Minister



THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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Phone 217-466-3255

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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"

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ATTENDANCE

We count because you count!

Dec. 9: 8:00 - 51 10:00 - 99 Nursery - 4

TOTAL WORSHIP = 154

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

TOTAL SS = 30

OFFERING TOTALS

December 9, 2018

General Fund	\$5,583.25
Sunday School	25.00
Love Offering to Staff	2,376.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Head, Hands, Heart	100.00
Dixon Retirement Gift	650.00
Disciples Outreach/Missions	870.00
Christmas Offering	150.00
Building Fund	355.00
TOTAL	\$10,139.25

SERVING SCHEDULE: December 16, 2018 - 3rd Advent

8:00 AM: ELDER: Dick James

DEACONESS: Cynthia Faulk

PIANIST: Peg Dixon

9:00 AM: Sunday School

10:00 AM: GREETERS:

East: Edna Creech, Cameron Buntain

West: John & Riley Snidle

ACOLYTES: Drew & Graham Templeton

WORSHIP LEADER: Steve Webb

BREAD ELDER: Nels Kasey

DEACONESS: Carolyn Ray

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: Cindy Mathis

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Jenny McMahan

NURSERY HELPER: Claire Young

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Jane Smittkamp

SOUND SYSTEM: Brooklyn Ward

PROJECTION: Tony Peel

DECEMBER FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Steve Webb

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

SCRIPTURES: Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:1-20

SERMON: "Dear God," Was Jesus Born In A Stable And

Not In A Hospital?" by Rev. Michael C. Dixon

END OF YEAR GIFTS

For some it may be a tax-advantage to contribute an end-of-year gift. If this is the case for you and you wish to do so, please be sure to send get it to us before December 31 - with our thanks.

COMMERCIALS...

From page 1, the slogans are from the following:

- 1) Papa John's
- 2) Arby's
- 3) Bud Light
- 4) State Farm
- 5) My Pillow
- 6) Applebee's
- 7) Pioneer
- 8) Geico
- 9) Farmer's
- 10) Flex Seal

Did you guess them all?