

# **THE MESSENGER**

“MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH”

January 9, 2019

## **SUPPORT, UNDERSTAND, COMMUNICATE**

I would like to say, “Thank you for all the support!” Many understand the huge change in dynamic in the church office. I’ve described it as “being a farmer and trying to farm without a tractor, combine, or grain hauler!” Rev. Mike and my working relationship operated with him as the “gatherer”/“idea-man”, while I brought it to fruition. Now I’m doing that and more. The leaders and many members of the congregation have been very encouraging, which relieves a great deal of concern. I ask for your prayers and want you to know that I am praying for you as we navigate these “uncertain waters.” It is my desire to serve God and you well. The FCC Elders and leaders feel the same way. They are praying for you, so please pray for them and for the future ministers - both interim and fulltime.

I also ask for your understanding as we are in transition. We are human; we’ll make mistakes. Continue loving and forgiving one another as you have been doing. If you think about it, we are in a similar situation to the first disciples. They didn’t want Jesus to leave. They didn’t feel ready; they didn’t like the unknown; they didn’t like “losing” their leader. But God wasn’t panicked. That’s how He grows us, so that we’ll trust Him more. Look at it from His perspective. It’s told, a person drowning in difficulties decided to ask God, “Why are you taking me through troubled waters?” and God said, “Because your enemies can’t swim.” Realize that God is not surprised with where we are. He knows what He’s doing. Trust Him through the process and be patient.

Finally, as we pray for each other, trust God, and work together for His Kingdom, our ministry comes down to communication. Ministries fall flat, if no one knows about them. That’s why we use all the ways we have available, from this newsletter, to the Sunday bulletin, to flyers, phone calls, emails, texts, the web, letters, schedules, etc., to keep you in the know. In this way, crucial news is relayed so ministry stays involving and active. Your help is needed to provide the information. Call, email, put a note in the Office Box, or come in and communicate those things we announce in order for us to better minister to each other and the community God has called us to serve.

By prayerfully supporting each other, being patient and understanding, and communicating vital information, we’ll keep “Moving Forward in Faith” through 2019 and beyond.

*Cheryl Clark*

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## **Congregational Meeting**

There will be two Congregational meetings held Sunday, Jan. 20, following each service at 9:00 and 11:15 AM, to vote on the hiring of the Interim Minister. More will be announced this Sunday and in next week’s newsletter.

## **BLANKET SUNDAY**

Blanket Sunday is January 20. We will have a presentation at both services. Donations to this outreach provide blankets for those who are victims of disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, etc. and those who are fleeing their homes.

## **PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Christian Education, Community Outreach, Disciples Outreach, Evangelism, Membership, Stewardship/Finance, and Worship Committees will be meeting next Sunday, Jan. 20, at 2:00 PM. All committee members need to attend in order to plan for the 2019 year. Committee Chairs - please make it a point to check your mailbox by the office each Sunday. Mail/information to you will be in your box - mail/information from you to the office goes in the Office Box. Also, please follow-up by letting the office know of your committee’s plans, dates, and schedules for 2019. Thank you!



**Hospitalized:**

Ken Dennison, Union  
Shirley Edwards, Paris

Home from the Hospital: Karen Newhart  
Rick Ward

Our sympathies go to Berniece Hayes & family on the passing of her sister-in-law.



-- the 2019 Leaders who were recognized on Sunday;

-- David & Barbara Dick, Donna Moody, Roseann Moss, JC Foley, John Sanchez, those "special voices from the past", the youth, McDaniel Catering, all those who decorated and were in anyway involved in the Dixon Retirement Dinner and Reception;

-- Tony Peel for the Children's Sermon.

**BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

Tough times never last,  
but tough people do.

**JANUARY PRAYER**

"Dear Lord, we know that all things work together for the good of those who love You and are chosen to be part of Your plan. Help us to rely on You and remember You are in control. Amen."

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING REPORT**

Thank you to all those who gave to the Christmas Offering for CCIW ministries. Our goal was \$2000 and our total given is \$2006!

**DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE**

For 2019, we have a "Daily Bible Reading Guide" available on the sign-up desk to read through the Bible in a year. Pick up one and get started!

**PRAY FOR PARIS**

Remember to pray for - Wenz School - and your own personal Paris Prayer Focus. See display.

**GOLDEN AGE LUNCHEON & PROGRAM**

Sign-up for this month's Golden Age luncheon on Tuesday, Jan. 22, at 12:00 NN. The program will be by Dennis & Lewis Thiel on their recent trip to Nepal. This year's leaders are Mary Carriere & Mary Helen Hamilton.

**BE SURE TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**  
**FCCParis**

**"SPLINTERS" FROM THE BOARD**

At the January meeting of the Executive Board, they:

- heard devotions from Steve Webb and prayed for two people we don't know, 1) interim minister, 2) full time minister;
- approved request for Kenya mission trip funds to JC Foley of \$1000;
- approved housing allowance and pension from Pastor John Snidle's salary package for tax purposes;
- approved funds for youth pizza party following Youth Sunday for their service;
- approved funds for youth Ski Trip to Michigan;
- heard report from Trustees that church doors will have new locks installed;
- heard report from the Interim Minister Search Committee Chair, Elisabeth Johnson, recommending the call of Mark Parkinson, to be our Interim Minister for a minimum of one year, which was approved;
- approved overtime pay for the church secretary up to 20 hours a week.

**SOUP LUNCHEON**

A Soup Luncheon will be provided by the Circle of Light on Sunday, January 27, following the second service at 11:30 AM. Everyone is invited. A variety of soups will be offered for a freewill donation. Proceeds go to fund Circle of Light's projects.

**ELDERS ARE AVAILABLE**

Your Elders want you to know that they are available for questions, comments, counseling needs, etc. Below are the names and phone numbers of the 2019 Elders:

Daryl Bridwell	822-1948
Mary Carriere	(217) 494-5313
Kristin Chittick	251-2016
David Dick	251-7700
Nels Kasey	(217) 254-8705
Rick Kennedy	822-5362
Dan Lynch	822-0317
Dan Smittkamp	822-6328
Pete Templeton	822-0798
Tammy Terry	251-6130
Dennis Thiel	251-9968
Kim Woods	822-8775

**2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Please pick up your 2019 Offering Envelopes - check to see if you have a box!

## CIRCLES IN JANUARY

CIRCLE OF PRAYER: will meet Thursday, Jan. 10, at 6:00 PM.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: will meet Tuesday, Jan. 15, at 1:30 PM.

KOINONIA CIRCLE: will meet Thursday, Jan. 17, at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen.

## “YOU ARE INVITED”

You are invited to Marge Houghland’s 85th Birthday Bash this Sunday, January 13, from 2:00-4:00 PM in the FCC Fellowship Hall. No gifts, please, but cards would be appreciated!

## COMMUNITY KITCHEN

The Community Kitchen for January will be Monday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>. Please sign-up to help, we need volunteers for desserts and to serve.

## DISCIPLE MEN’S BREAKFAST

The Disciple Men’s breakfast will be Saturday, Jan. 19, at 8:00 AM at Main Street Café.

## MISSING

An oversize “Dough Maker’s” sheet pan was taken from the KC Hall that belongs to Sue Bennett. Her name would be on the pan. Please check and see if you accidentally picked it up and return it to the church office. Thank you!

## *Thank You!*

Among the many people to thank for their help in making the Dixon Retirement Celebration such a success are the youth of FCC. They were asked to be a part of the celebration and did they ever come through. There were fun, considerate, hard working, helpful and right on top of all the tasks needed to be done. They were ready and willing to learn new things. We are proud of you and we Thank You for your large contribution in Sunday’s event.

Thank you to all of you who helped in any way to make the Dixon Retirement Day an overwhelming success. We couldn’t have done it without your help, thoughts, prayers and encouragement. You are the best! - Barbara & David Dick, Donna Moody, & Roseann Moss

Knitters, Thank you so much for the knitted lap blankets. They are beautiful and the residents will love them. Thank you again and God Bless,  
Amy, Activity Director



YG/CR/GG Youth Group, Cross Roads, and God’s Gang are out for Christmas break! Youth Group resumes tonight, January 9<sup>th</sup>, Crossroads and God’s Gang will resume early February.

Upcoming Events Youth Sunday is eerily close, February 3<sup>rd</sup>! I have already asked several youth to participate and they have excitedly agreed, but there are still many more that need be asked! So if you are a youth, prepare to say yes. Youth Sunday will be only one service, at 10:00 AM. Plan to be at the rehearsal on Saturday, Feb. 2, at 1:30 PM - final preparation will be Sunday; be at the church at 9:00 AM.

Our next youth event is Ski Trip(Jan 18-21)! We will leave Friday morning towards Michigan and get back Monday evening. We are skiing at Timber Ridge Ski Resort in Gobles, and our lodging will be at a nearby church camp. This is not a closed event, we are one out of many youth groups heading to the same place, which means in-between skiing we will spend time with other youth groups from around the area. There will be food, games, worship, messages, and crazy dares while at the lodges. I went when I was in high school and trust me, it’s a blast.

Very shortly after Ski Trip is Mid-Winter Retreat (Jan 26-27). Leaving Saturday morning, we will head to Macomb IL and stay at First Christian Church. There will be the usual games, messages, and free time that we all know and love. To attend, you will have to sign yourself up on their website [[www.cciwdisciples.org/youth](http://www.cciwdisciples.org/youth)] and pay the full price. The event costs \$40 for everyone, but the church is paying for part of it, so let us know that you’ve signed up and we will reimburse all youth \$15 and all adults fully. So really, with it being so cheap, you have no excuse not to go.

- 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

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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!**

**January 6: 9:00 AM - 172 Nursery - 7**

**TOTAL: 179**

**~ NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ~**

### OFFERING TOTALS

**January 6, 2019**

General Fund	\$6,194.76
Envelopes	58.00
Sunday School	13.00
Choices Pregnancy & Health	50.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Emergency Fund	10.00
Dixon Retirement Gift	1,087.00
Dixon Retirement Reception	1,763.00
Head, Hands, Heart	100.00
Disciples Outreach/Missions	267.00
Week of Compassion	20.00
Christmas Offering	30.00
Church Bus Fund	50.00
Building Fund	352.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,044.76</b>

### SERVING SCHEDULE: January 13, 2019

**8:00 AM:** Elder: Dan Lynch

Deaconess: Pam Lobb

Pianist: Evie Gill

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 4:19-24

SERMON: "What Do These Stones Mean?" by Brad Harper

**9:00 AM: Sunday School**

**10:00 AM: GREETERS:**

EAST: Dan, Lisa, Ethan, Mya Smittkamp

WEST: Patty Waters

ACOLYTES: Steven West, Emma Kennedy

WORSHIP LEADER: Tammy Terry

BREAD ELDER: Nels Kasey

DEACONESS: Lisa Smittkamp

DEACONS: Team 2, Ryne Donaldson, Captain; Jenelle

Adams, Jim Bellerud, Dena Dosch, Allen & Nancy

Englebright, Jerry Thomas, Dan Thomey

JR DEACONS: Team #2, Aubrey Sanders, Capt., Elizabeth

Kennedy, Mike Kirk, Lily Smittkamp, Will Templeton

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Rick Kennedy

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Jenny McMahan

NURSERY HELPER: Aubrey Sanders

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Jenelle Adams

SOUND SYSTEM: Brooklyn Ward

PROJECTION: Chris Milam

JANUARY FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Autumn Kasey

JAN. USHERS: Randy Creech, Chris Milam, Dwight Robinson

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:22-38

SERMON: "The Good News Is Come to You"

by Brad Harper

### HOW CAN I HELP?

A lot of people are asking - "How can I help?" Below are a few ways to pitch in where needed:

♥ Turn out the lights - Don't leave lights on in an empty room or hallway.

♥ Make sure the doors are locked - People can still leave if the outer doors are locked, so make sure the building is secure (from the basement to the Prayer Room, from the front doors to the Nursery).

♥ Keep things neat and clean inside and out - Take care of the items and rooms you use. If you're cleaning out at home, ask before you bring in your unwanted items.

♥ If you're not on a committee and you want to be, contact one of the Chairs and volunteer.

♥ Stop in the office and ask... Thank you! ☺