

THE MESSENGER

“MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH”

January 16, 2019

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- Romans 8:35, 37-39

We are headed down an unknown road; there are so many reasons to be afraid of what's to come, change, conflict, questions, being challenged and stretched more than we ever asked for, people leaving the church, stomping on our beloved traditions, getting ridiculed by outsiders, etc. We do not know what the future holds for this church and for each one of us personally. It's normal to be afraid and nervous about what is going to happen in our church family. We can remind each other that it's okay to be nervous. However, we also need to remind each other that our church family is not the only comfort we have, and it is certainly not our foundation; the grace of Jesus Christ is our comfort.

Even if this church would ever disintegrate from the outside in, we will still love each other, and we will still have the love of Christ to give us what we need to carry on. If you read this passage in the PCV (Paris Church Version©), it would read: “Will anything stop us from loving and being loved by our Savior? Would we let hard times, struggle, fear, loss, ridicule, vulnerability, or threat of eradication keep us apart from our Jesus? Never; in anything that may come we will praise Jesus because He loved and suffered for us first, and overwhelming victory is our through Him.”

The Bible says 365 times, “do not fear”, if God said it that many times, I think He means it. Yes, we will experience hard times and faith will be tested; God never tells us that life is going to be easy when we follow Him! But it also says that whatever we go through, God will comfort us and lead us closer to Him because of it. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God and have been called to be His children. So have faith, do not loose heart, trust continually in Jesus, and pray always so that you will know well the comfort He is eagerly asking you to rest in.

John Swille

Congregational Meetings

We will be having two congregational meetings this Sunday, January 20, following each service at 9:00 and 11:15 AM, to vote on the hiring of the Interim Minister. Elisabeth Johnson, Chairperson of the Interim Search Committee will share some of the following information: ...Finding an Interim Minister has been a job none of us took lightly. We asked God to bring us the minister we need in this time of transition. This nomination was brought before the church board and approved to nominate Pastor Mark Parkinson. He was raised in Yorktown, IN, and baptized in Yorktown Christian Church just after high school. He felt called to minister many years later. He is a graduate of Ball State University with a Bachelors of Science degree, and a Master of Divinity degree from Christian Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Kendala, have 3 grown daughters and 6 grandchildren. He came with many good references and we believe he is who God has chosen for us in this time of transition. Please make it a point to be here to find out more and vote!

BLANKET SUNDAY

Blanket Sunday is also 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

Christian Education, Community Outreach, Disciples Outreach, Evangelism, Membership, Stewardship/ Finance, and Worship Committees will be meeting this Sunday, January 20, at 2:00 PM. All committee members need to attend in order to plan for the 2019 year. Committee Chairs, please follow-up by letting the office know of your committee's plans, person responsible, and dates for 2019. Thank you!



New Address for Rehab:
 Ken Dennison
 c/o Kindred Health
 1700 W. 10th St.
 Indianapolis, IN 46222

Hospitalized: Gary Waters, Union

Home from the Hospital: Shirley Edwards

Our sympathies go to Richard Melendez on the death of his sister-in-law and to Cathy Melendez on the passing of her cousin.



-- Donna Garver for stepping up and taking notes at the Board meeting;
 -- Steve Webb for making the "One Call" to all our church members with the tough decision to cancel services due to the extreme weather;
 -- Tony Peel for clearing the sidewalks around the building.

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**BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

Overnight success takes years.  
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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."
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**2019 ELDERS**

The FCC Elders have requested that their phone numbers be made available in the newsletter for our members to contact with questions, comments, counseling needs, etc. at this time of transition because they care about taking care of you, the church. Here are their names and numbers:

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 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       |

**WORSHIP CANCELLATION...**

Did you get the auto-call last weekend about Sunday services being cancelled? If yes, then you are on our "One Call" service. If no, then you are not! If you are a member and want to be added, email or call the church office and provide your name and phone number. We want to keep you "in the know"!



**GOD'S GANG PLANNING MEETING**

The God's Gang planning meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 31, at 6:00 PM. All those helping out, please attend. Plans are for God's Gang/Crossroads to begin February 13.

**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.

**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.

**2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Please check to see if you have an Offering Envelope box in the hallway. I know you may be thinking, "I don't have a box" and you do! 😊

**DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE**

We have a "Daily Bible Reading Guide" available on the sign-up desk to read through the Bible in a year. Pick up a copy!

**TRUSTEES MEETING**

The Trustees will meet on Thursday, Jan. 24, at 6:00 PM.

**PRAY FOR PARIS**

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

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

## CIRCLES IN JANUARY

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

## RELAY FOR LIFE

The Edgar County Relay For Life is starting to organize for this year. Anyone who wants to help on the main Edgar County committee or be part of the FCC Relay Team, please contact Sue Bennett or Tammy Terry for further information.

## DISCIPLE MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Disciple Men's breakfast will be this Saturday, January 19, at 8:00 AM at the Main Street Café.

## 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.

## LETTER FROM TATIANA

Part of our Sunday School offering goes to support Tatiana, in Peru, the child we sponsor through Compassion International. We recently received a letter from her which we usually share in Sunday School, but decided to share with everyone. It translates in "broken English" but well enough for you to understand:

"Dear Sponsor FCC Sunday School, I greet you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I hope you are spending a great time. I want to thank God for giving me the opportunity to write to you. Let me tell you that some months ago, I traveled to Cajamarca for my mom's graduation. Also, I attend the church on Thursdays and Fridays. I want to tell you that I am very happy because I will graduate but also when I remember the beautiful moments and adventures that I spent with my friends I feel sad, too. I had Olympics in the school, I have participated in volleyball games, it was very funny for those who won, indeed my classroom (sixth grade) was the winner in volleyball but we lost in soccer. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. I ask you to pray for my family, for me and for the children who are in the streets, this is the reality in Peru, I want to know, this happens in the United States? I hope no, I would like to know The Unites States, is it beautiful? I say goodbye with many hugs in the name of the Lord. Tatiana"



YG/CR/GG Youth Group has resumed y'all, every Wednesday from 6-7:30. Cross Roads and God's Gang will resume early February.

Attention all God's Gang leaders! We are having a planning meeting for God's Gang on January 31 at 6 to discuss any and all issues, and make a game plan together for this upcoming semester. If you are involved I highly suggest you be there!

Upcoming Events Youth Sunday is eerily close, February 3<sup>rd</sup>! All spots have been filled, but not everyone knows what their part is (or that they are even signed up) so all youth need to check in with me to make sure you know your role. We will have a practice service Saturday Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1 so everyone can be perfectly smooth Sunday. Youth Sunday will be only one service, as is the norm, at 10am, and we will have a quick rehearsal at 9 during Sunday school to make sure it's perfectly perfect. Also, pizza party afterwards for all youth who participate!

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(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)

201 S. Main St., Paris, Illinois 61944

Phone 217-466-3255

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 AM-12 NN, 1-4 PM

E-mail: firstchristian@nwcable.net

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

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

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Paris, Illinois

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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!***

**SERVICES WERE CANCELLED**

**Due to inclement weather**

### OFFERING REPORT

TO BE

INCLUDED

NEXT

TIME

### SERVING SCHEDULE: January 20, 2019 "Blanket Sun."

8:00 AM: Elder: Dennis Thiel

Deaconess: Cathy Clawson

Pianist: Pete Templeton

~ CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO FOLLOW ~

9:00 AM: Sunday School

10:00 AM: GREETERS:

EAST: Greg & Tammy Terry

WEST: Cindy Robinson

ACOLYTES: Sammy Milam, Ethan Smittkamp

WORSHIP LEADER: Pete Templeton

BREAD ELDER: Kim Woods

DEACONESS: Ellen Webb

DEACONS: Team 3, Patty Waters, Captain; Jim & Sue

Bennett, Sue Elliott, Mark Johnson, Mike Kirk, Jacob

Thomas, Cody Vaughn

JR DEACONS: Team #3, Brooklyn Ward, Capt., Ava

Huddleson, Kaitlyn Coombes, Ben & Claire Young

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Angel Templeton

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Jenny McMahan

NURSERY HELPER: Sammy Milam

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Cindy Robinson

SOUND SYSTEM: Joe Gill

PROJECTION: Evie Gill

JANUARY FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Autumn Kasey

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

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 3:14-21

SERMON: "Let's Celebrate the Goodness of God"

by John Cutshall

~ CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO FOLLOW ~



◆ The 2018 Historian book is now available for you to peruse. It is on the podium in the hallway next to the elevator.

◆ The schedules available (so far) for 2019 are on the bulletin board just across from the office door. If you are listed on a schedule, you should have received a copy in the mail. If you have not, please notify the office. *If there are any changes to your schedule (ie. trading a Sunday or someone taking your place who isn't on the schedule), please notify the office in order for the change to be announced correctly in the newsletter or bulletin.*