

# **THE MESSENGER**

Believing, Behaving, Becoming Like Christ

March 8, 2023

## **FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

By now I am sure that you have all heard that I have resigned as pastor of FCC. Last Sunday, I tried to explain my decision. I hope I was successful. As I said at the conclusion of worship last week, this decision was based primarily on what my wife and I believe is best for our family. It was not in any way due to negative experiences that I have had at FCC. I love this church and I felt loved by you as well. It was just something that we felt like we needed to do.

I am happy that I will be here for the next two months. My last Sunday will be April 30. This allows us to continue our journey together through the season of Lent and into the Easter season. I hope everyone will continue to be engaged and continue to participate over the next several weeks in all that is going on at FCC. Lent is a time when we can think seriously about our commitment to Christ and take tangible actions to make that commitment stronger.

I also want to remind you that on Easter Sunday, we will have at least two, possibly three baptisms. Our pastor's class began last week and I am excited about the opportunity to spend four weeks with these young people as they prepare to be baptized and commit their lives to Jesus. Please do all you can to support them.

- Grace and Peace, Reece

## **CWF Blessing Box Calendar - Enclosed**

The Blessing Box was created in 1953 by the women who founded Christian Women's Fellowship. Jessie Trout, who was CWF's co-founder and first Executive Secretary, developed the idea as an over-and-above way to help fund the broader mission of the Church. The idea was to make a monetary deposit into the blessing box anytime one found themselves in a space of gratitude for something God had done for them or a loved one. Since then, Blessing Boxes have been kept in the homes and offices of women across the Church as a way for them to express their gratitude for everyday blessings by giving to others. In 2013, the Blessing Bag was introduced as part of this practice and was used interchangeably with the original box. For almost 70 years, the women of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have been able to pay their attitude of gratitude forward for the blessings they have received. In this way, they perpetuate the spirit of blessing others while simultaneously acknowledging their blessings. FCC has adapted this practice by having one month set aside for their Blessing Box giving, labeling each day something for which to be grateful. Enclosed is the March Blessing Box calendar for ladies (and men if they wish) to use. Please make checks to First Christian Church and mark donation "CWF Blessing Box". Thank you.

## **LENTEN PRAYER PACKET**

There are still 11 "Lenten Prayer Packets" available to those who would like to pray for others throughout the Lenten season. Each packet contains a daily devotional booklet, cards with names of people to pray for and a blank card for you to write in an additional person you wish to pray for, a prayer sheet you are free to use to help you pray, and an instructional letter to answer your questions. The packets are located in the hallway. Please help us get everyone prayed over by taking one. Thank you!



## **TIME CHANGE**

It's almost time for the Daylight Savings time change when we spring ahead an hour. Go to bed early and set your clocks forward one hour this Saturday, March 11, so you'll be on time for worship Sunday morning the 12th. (You don't want to go to sleep during service - see Acts 20:9!)



Paris Healthcare: Martha Stephen,  
Mary Lou Adams, Richard Melendez  
Pleasant Meadows: Dorothy Waltz,  
Brandon Bell, Linda Driver

Continue prayers for: Janice Nicholson,  
Louise Bridwell, Cynthia Faulk, Sammy Milam,  
Vera Pratt, Nancy Weger, Paul Ricketts

Our sympathies to Kathy Peel & Vickie Blair  
on the passing of their aunt; also to Billy  
Henson on the loss of his mother.

Note: Louise Bridwell has moved back to  
Champaign, correspondence may be sent to  
her daughter, Brenda Bright.



-- Steve Webb & Kim Woods for the  
Children's Sermons and Edna  
Creech & Barbara Dick for leading  
Children's Church;

-- Kathy Peel and Evie Gill for the 8:00  
accompaniment;  
-- the Membership Committee for hosting the  
"All Church Potluck";  
-- the Fellowship Circle for flowers in memory of  
Corky Davidson.

### **BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He  
maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he  
leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth  
my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of  
righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though  
I walk through the valley of the shadow of  
death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy  
rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou  
preparest a table before me in the presence of  
mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil;  
my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and  
mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
for ever."

- Psalm 23

### **MARCH PRAYER**

Dear Heavenly Father, As our Lenten journey  
takes us to the Cross of Jesus, we pray that  
You will change the grief of our guilt into the joy  
of forgiveness; that we may be delivered from  
sin and set free to serve You, our Lord and  
Savior. Amen.

### **DAILY DEVOTIONS / BIBLE STUDY**

Daily devotions and a weekly Bible Study by  
Reece are on the FCCParis facebook site. You  
can follow along live or catch up anytime.

### **PASTOR'S CLASS**

Pastor's Class will resume on Friday, March 17,  
at 3:30 PM in the Jerusalem Room. The  
schedule will then be to meet each Friday after  
school through March 31.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Trustees meet Thursday, March 9, at 6:00 PM.
- Board meets Tuesday, March 14, at 7:00 PM.

### **WEEK OF COMPASSION**

Week of Compassion ended Feb. 26. The special  
offering goal was \$1,500 and the amount  
received was \$1670. Thank you for your giving!



### **DISCIPLE MEN'S HAM LOAVES**

The Disciples Men are currently taking orders for  
1 and 2 lb. ham loaves. Cost is \$7 = 1 lb. and  
\$13 = 2 lb. loaf. Orders will be taken until Wed.,  
March 22. Loaves will be available for pickup on  
Sat., March 25. Payment can be made with your  
order, or at the time of pickup. Make checks  
payable to "Disciples Men".

### **POSITION AVAILABLE**

There is an opening for the Assistant Financial  
Secretary. It is a paid position. Applicants please  
contact the office or a Staff Relation Committee  
member for an application.

### **SECRET PLACE**

The quarterly "Secret Place" devotionals for  
March/April/May are available at the entryways  
for you to read for yourself and take to share  
with others.

### **COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES**

The Presbyterian Church hosts an ecumenical  
"Music & Meditation" service at noon each  
Wednesday of Lent with the following dates still  
available: March 15, 22, and 29. Everyone is  
welcome.

### **RUMMAGE SALE**

The Right to Life of Edgar County is having a  
rummage sale on Friday, March 31 from 3-7 PM  
and Saturday, April 1 from 8-11 AM at the St.  
Mary's Parish Hall at 528 N. Main St. Donations  
may be prior: Wed. & Thurs., Mar. 29 & 30 from  
noon-6 PM, and Fri., Mar. 31 from 9 AM-noon.  
Call Kevin at (217) 822-8802 for pick up.  
Volunteers are welcome, please call Mary Taylor  
at 264-5342.

## MARCH CIRCLES

CIRCLE OF PRAYER: meets on Thursday, March 9, at 6:00 PM in the church parlor.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: meets on Tuesday, March 21, at 2:00 PM in the church parlor.

KOINONIA CIRCLE: to meet Thursday, March 16, at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen. Saunny Preston is hostess, with Peg Dixon bringing the lesson.

## SOUP LUNCHEON

This Sunday, March 12th, the Circle of Light will be having our Annual Soup Luncheon. NO SIGN UPS NEEDED! We will have 10+ different kinds of soups this year including several favorites: Chili, Chicken Noodle & Cheesy Potato Soup. Of course we will also have ham salad and pimento cheese sandwiches along with veggie sticks & plenty of deserts. So this Sunday, right after the second service (abt. 11:30 AM), join us in the Fellowship Hall downstairs for lunch. We will have take outs available and all for just a donation. We use all money from this event for our Easter Basket Project that provides several needy families in Paris a great Easter Sunday Basket with items in it for the whole family. So, no need to worry about what's for lunch this Sunday. Join us downstairs right after church for a hearty soup luncheon! Thank you.



### *Thank You!*

A very heartfelt thank you to all who grieved with us upon the passing of our husband, father, grandfather, uncle and brother, Jim. We appreciate deeply the hugs, cards, food, memorials, flowers from all who cared for and loved him as we did. A special thank you to Reece, Mike, and John who officiated the funeral with love and kindness... to Jessica and the Elite Harmony for the beautiful hymn he so loved... to Pete for taking care of him with dignity and grace... and to the ladies who prepared and served the lovely dinner for us.

With love and appreciation,  
Cindy, Megan, Mallorie and Taylor  
Peggy, Coralie, Bob and their families

Dear FCC members, Thank you for your monetary gift and your continued support to the Salvation Army. Your donation will be used to help those in need in Edgar County. God loves a cheerful giver and He blesses those who give.

Sincerely, Edgar County Salvation Army



Good morning from 412 Youth!! The youth have been busy and have a lot going on with school and extracurricular activities but we've been trying to make the most of it. We are in the homestretch of finishing our prayer series. I also took the kids to Steak n Shake one week for a fellowship event. I also taught the kids a new game called "Code Names." If you've never played it, I would love to teach you sometime!! It is pretty fun!

God's Gang is still going well and the kids seem to be loving it. We are trying some new things this semester and they seem to be going well. Praise God!

### Upcoming Events:

Mar 12 - youth group 6-8pm

Mar 19 - youth group 6-8pm

Mar 26 - No youth group due to spring musical

### Coffee Bar:

Mar 12 - Carlee Longest

Mar 19 - Mya Smittkamp

Mar 26 - Sammy Milam

- Faith Milam, Youth Director

## GOD'S GANG & CROSSROADS

God's Gang and Crossroads are underway for this semester. They meet each Wednesday, when school is in session at 3:30 PM, except each third Wednesday when there is an early dismissal at 2:30 PM. Registration forms are on the Parent Resource Center bulletin board in the hallway and available on the church website at:

<https://fccparis.org/gods-gang-2/>

and

<https://fccparis.org/crossroads/>



## FCC SCHOLARSHIPS

The 2023 FCC Scholarship applications are available online at the link below:

<https://fccparis.org/scholarships/>

or on the hallway table. Completed applications and recommendations are due Friday, April 14.



# THE MESSENGER

## FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

201 S. Main St., Paris, Illinois 61944

Phone: (217) 466-3255 • E-mail: office@fccparis.org

Web page: www.fccparis.org • Facebook: FCCParis

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8 AM-12 NN, 1-5 PM

Reece Jones, Pastor • Faith Milam, Youth Director

PERMIT #147

Paris, Illinois

Non-Profit

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID



### COME WORSHIP WITH US

WORSHIP AT 8:00 & 10:00 AM • SUNDAY SCHOOL & COFFEE BAR AT 9:00 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**

**Feb. 26:** 8:00 - 31 10:00 - 97 Online-views 40/60\*

Nursery-2 = **TOTAL 190\***

Sunday School - 28

**Mar. 5:** 8:00 - 43 10:00 - 74 Online-views 42/63\*

Nursery-3 = **TOTAL 183\***

Sunday School - 23

\*Per CCIW Regional Office: to allow for additional people watching electronically, the formula is - view count x 1.5

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### SERVING SCHEDULE: Mar. 12 continued...

DEACONS: Team 1, Dustin Whitezel, Capt.

JR. DEACONS: Team #1, Ethan Smittkamp, Capt.

DEACONESS: Kathy Peel

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Faith Milam

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Nels Kasey

PROJECTION/SOUND: Tony Peel

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Cathy Clawson

MARCH USHERS: 8:00 - Steve Cochran

10:00 - Dan & Dean Smittkamp

MARCH FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Saunny Preston,

Joel Gleckler

SCRIPTURE READER: Carlee Longest

SCRIPTURE: I Timothy 5:1-16

SERMON: "A Church That Cares"

### SERVING SCHEDULE: March 19, 2023 - 4th Sun. Lent

**8:00 AM:** GREETERS: Roger & Theresa Emerson

ELDER: Dennis Thiel

DEACONESS: Jenneane McDaniel

PIANIST: Peg Dixon

**9:00 AM: Sunday School & Coffee Bar**

**10:00 AM:** GREETER: Barb Free

WORSHIP ELDER: Nels Kasey

BREAD ELDER: Cody Vaughn

DEACONS: Team 2, Kenny Milam, Capt.

JR. DEACONS: Team #2, Drew Templeton, Capt.

DEACONESS: Haley Sanders

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Jenny McMahan

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Mary K. Bradford

SCRIPTURE READER: Ethan Vice

SCRIPTURE: I Timothy 5:17-6:2

SERMON: "Taking Care of Leaders"

### OFFERING TOTAL

	Feb. 26	Mar. 5, 2023
General Fund	\$4,055.25*	\$5,922.25*
Sunday School	16.00	12.00
Emergency Fund	10.00	
Youth Fund	30.00	100.00
Reimb.: Baseball Game	300.00	
God's Gang		300.00
Food Pantry		50.00
Paris Ministerial Fellow.		500.00
Disciples Missions	100.00	660.00*
Week of Compassion	113.00	170.00*
Wk. of Comp-Ukraine	20.00	Turkey/Syria 602.00
Easter Offering		250.00
Life Center	315.00	330.00*
Memorial Fund	725.00*	180.00
Permanent Fund	30.00	1,500.00
Building Fund	455.00	1,115.00*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,269.25*</b>	<b>\$11,691.25</b>

*Includes Pay Pal\* ~ Electronic Giving\**

### SERVING SCHED: March 12, 2023 - 3rd Sun. Lent

**8:00 AM:** GREETER: Linda Chittick

ELDER: Ellen Webb

DEACONESS: Emily Thomas

PIANIST: Jessica Hendrickson

**9:00 AM: Sunday School & Coffee Bar**

**10:00 AM:** GREETERS: Pete Templeton family

WORSHIP ELDER: Candi Milam

BREAD ELDER: David Dick