

# THE MESSENGER

Believing, Behaving, Becoming Like Christ

March 29, 2023

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

As we make our way closer to Easter, we find ourselves getting close to the end of the Lenten season. One of the things I have tried to focus on over the last several weeks is helping all of us think about how we can have a meaningful Lenten experience. At the same time, I have continued to preach through the book of I Timothy. Fortunately, Paul's letter to Timothy the pastor offers us a lot of Lenten material to work with. Remember, Paul is writing primarily to help Timothy become a better pastor, but in the process, he is also helping all of us become better Christians, hence the Lenten connection.

The last two weeks have been especially helpful. Two weeks ago, we talked about being a caring church, a church that really understands that to be God's people, we have to care about all people. We need to find ways to help people who can't help themselves and minister to people who are hurting. That is a Lenten exercise for sure. This past week, we finished up chapter 5, listening to what Paul had to say to the church about taking care of pastors, and what he said to pastors about taking care of themselves. Again, a lot of good Lenten stuff here, especially as it relates to self-care for all of us. My suggestion is that we finish Lent strong. Continue to look for things to do or things to give up that will help you grow and become a better Christian.

This coming Sunday is Palm Sunday; but it is also known as Passion Sunday. That is where most of my focus will be, as we think together about Good Friday and about how what started out as a great week ended up in a tragic way with the death of Jesus. But of course, we all know that Good Friday is not the end of the Jesus's story. Easter is coming.

- Grace and Peace, Reece

## 24-Hour Prayer Vigil

FCC's 24-Hour Prayer Vigil is always the Saturday prior to Palm Sunday. That means it will begin this Saturday, April 1, at 8:00 AM and go through to Sunday, April 2, ending at 8:00 AM. A sign-up sheet is out in the hallway with 30 minute time slots available. **We need to fill this sheet this week** to give us time to email out the completed time table and instructions to those participating. **Many times are still available**, please call in to volunteer! Thank you!

## LAND BEFORE TIME: A NEW ADVENTURE IS BORN

Get ready to bring the family to the FREE MOVIE that FCC sponsors each year during Spring Break! This year's movie will be "Land Before Time: A New Adventure Is Born" and will be shown on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, April 4-5-6, at 9:55 AM each day at the Paris Theatre. Doors open at 9:30 and admission is free, but the concessions will be open if you choose. You will receive a ticket when you arrive to be entered into a special drawing for Door Prizes! So, bring your family, bring your friends, spread the word and come have some fun on your spring break!

## GOOD FRIDAY

FCC will be hosting the Community Good Friday Service on Friday, April 7, at 12:00 NN. This will be a short service, led by the local pastors of the Paris Ministerial Fellowship. A light luncheon will be served by the FCC ladies following in the Fellowship Hall. Donations will be accepted.

## EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Sunday is April 9th. We will have services at 8:00 and 10:00 AM. Invite your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to celebrate Christ's resurrection!

At 9:00 AM the Membership Committee will provide a breakfast in the Fellowship Hall of egg casserole, coffee cakes and rolls, fruit, orange juice and coffee. There is no sign-up required.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** On Sunday, May 7, a Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Breakfast is being planned at 8:00 AM with gifts for the teachers. **GRADUATES** to be recognized on June 4. Let us know the FCC 8th grade, high school & college graduates!



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

Home from Hospital: Carolyn Lanker  
Hospitalized: Karen Newhart, Union  
Charleston Hilltop Rehab: Chantell Whitezel

Our sympathies to Cathy Melendez on the passing of her nephew.

Continue prayers for: Janice Nicholson, Louise Bridwell, Vera Pratt

Congratulations to all the youth & adults involved in PHS production of "Les Miserables" - so much talent!!!



-- Nels Kasey, Mary K. Bradford, & Tammy Terry for the Children's Sermons and Jenny McMahan & Emily Thomas for leading

Children's Church;

-- Peg Dixon & Pete Templeton for the 8:00 accompaniment; and Peg helping in the office;

-- the Circle of Light for hosting the Soup Luncheon;

-- the Disciples Men for selling ham loaves;

-- Tony Peel for the devotion at Board meeting;

-- Kenny & Faith Milam for flowers in honor of their first wedding anniversary and Kevin & Kim Woods for flowers for their 30th anniversary!

### BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience..." - Colossians 3:12

## PRAYER

### 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.

### FENCE AROUND CHURCH YARD

The fence around the back church yard needs replaced and the Trustees have decided to move forward with that project through donations. Estimates are currently being taken. If you would like to help, please designate your gift "Church Fence".

### "SPLINTERS" FROM THE BOARD

At the Executive Board meeting for March the following reports were provided:

- Reece thanked FCC for their support when his mother passed & understanding of his resignation;
- Faith reported youth will be starting a new study and the need for 2 support persons for Crossroads, also requested a new laptop for the youth room;
- Church Membership and Treasurer reports were received;
- Christian Ed met to discuss increasing Sunday School attendance and if teachers were interested in continuing through the summer; have ordered VBS supplies; plan a Teacher Appreciation Sunday and Graduation gifts in the future;
- Disciples Outreach are using the theme, "Growing in Christ Through Missions", thanked Coralie Smittkamp & Peggy Barath for designing the poster; Week of Compassion offering exceeded their goal;
- Evangelism met and have their responsibilities assigned; they are preparing and advertising for the Spring Break Movie during April 4,5,6 where they will have door prizes, handouts and treats;
- Membership reported the potluck was a success; Easter breakfast is planned and a trip to Moonshine is coming up May 13;
- Memorials have scholarship forms ready and they are due April 14, to be reviewed April 18; recipients will be awarded June 4; discussing kitchen and classroom chairs being refinished as an item for their priority list;
- Staff Relations are working on filling the Assistant Financial Secretary position; requested committees provide office with their agendas; addressed the resignation originally had Reece's final day as April 30, but with banked and vacation days his actual last day will be April 15; they also met to appoint an interim minister committee right away, which will be done by Board Chair, Jacob Thomas;
- Worship is looking into a large storage bag for the sanctuary Christmas tree; also proposed the worship service be combined at 9:00 AM starting April 16 and motion passed;
- Elders want everyone to know they are available for conversation and prayer;
- Trustees are working on replacing the north side steps, sidewalk and ramp and have a bid of \$42,000 but final cost could be lower; new elevator parts are in but awaiting state permit to install;
- New Building reported fundraising up \$50,974.77 from a year ago, but need to get behind this or consider selling the vacant lots; they are reaching out to a new source for bids;
- CWF reported Blessing Box income will go to Hopes & Dreams;
- Disciples Men will prepare ham loaves March 25, prices had to increase this year;
- Business - Mary K. Bradford said CWF will return to taking responsibility for funeral dinners; additional information will be shared in next newsletter.



## APRIL CIRCLES

CIRCLE OF LIGHT: meets Tuesday, April 4, at 5:00 PM in the church kitchen. Barb Free will be the hostess and bring the lesson.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER: meets Thursday, April 13 at 6:00 PM in the church parlor.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: meets Tuesday, Apr. 18 at 2:00 PM in the church parlor.

KOINONIA CIRCLE: meets Thursday, April 20, at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen. Donna Moody is hostess; Cindy Mathis will bring the lesson.

## CWF EVENTS

- ♦ The CWF Leadership Team meeting will be held on Thursday, March 30, at 10:00 AM in the Jerusalem Room.
- ♦ The CWF Workshop has been cancelled at this time. Stay tuned for further information.

## CWF BLESSING BOX CALENDAR

Thank you for following along with the Blessing Box calendar in March. Your donations may be turned in on Sunday, April 2 - please indicate they are for "CWF Blessing Box".

## \* WORSHIP TIME CHANGES \*

Pastor Reece's last Sunday will be April 9. We are in the process of securing an interim minister to serve until another full-time minister is called. During this time, the Sunday worship will go to one service at 9:00 AM, with Sunday School at 8:15 AM to allow time for those who wish to go to the Coffee Bar at 8:00 AM. The combined service at 9:00 AM will begin on Sun., April 16.

## 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.

## LENTEN PRAYERS

Thank you for continuing your prayers for those in your prayer packet, and thank you to all who took a packet!

## HAM LOAF REPORT

Thanks to the 13 Disciples Men who prepared 405 pounds of Ham Loaves and to the people who purchased them. Please pick them up asap! We also have extras for purchase.

## Thank You!

We would like to thank everyone for the many acts of kindness and love shown to us after the loss of Dwight.  
- The Robinson Family



412 is doing great things, not just within the church but outside of the church as well. Of course you see our youth being involved in coffee bar and reading Scripture weekly at church and there's always a steady crew at youth group every Sunday, but our youth are so involved in the community and in their schools as well. This coming weekend is the Les Miserables musical at the high school that several of our youth are involved in. I would encourage you to support our youth in any way you can.

God's Gang is going well and it's crazy to think we are over halfway done with the semester. The kids are loving learning about the important lessons that Jesus taught during his life on Earth and of course they love singing, eating dinner, crafts, and just being together with their friends.

One last thing, an IMPORTANT thing!! I am currently looking to recruit 2 more adults who would be willing to help and attend youth group and events from time to time. This does not have to be a weekly commitment, but someone who is interested in investing in this group of students by being a leader and example to them. I would be interested in having 1 male and 1 female adult that I could call on for assistance and help sometimes. Please let me know if you're interested!!

## Upcoming Events:

March 26- No youth group due to spring musical

April 2- Youth group 6-8pm

April 9- No youth group due to Easter

- Faith Milam, Youth Director



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

VBS will be July 10-14 this year, from 9-11:45 AM each day. The theme will be "Keepers of the Kingdom" and we are asking for volunteers to help as teachers, helpers, guides, etc. Please see Candi Milam for more information.



## OFFICES CLOSED

The offices will be closed Monday, April 10 in lieu of Good Friday.



# 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*

Mar. 12: 8:00 - 26 10:00 - 83 Online-views 49/74\*

Nursery-1 = **TOTAL 154\*** SS = 24

Mar. 19: 8:00 - 38 10:00 - 102 Online-views 54/81\*

Nursery-2 = **TOTAL 223\*** SS = 17

Mar. 26: 8:00 - 42 10:00 - 79 Online-views 39/59\*

Nursery-4 = **TOTAL 184\*** SS = 19

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

<u>OFFERING TOTAL</u>	<u>Mar. 12</u>	<u>Mar. 19</u>	<u>Mar. 26, '23</u>
General Fund	\$4,327.25	\$6,308.00	\$3,450.25
Sunday School	14.00	7.00	12.00
Offering Envelopes		1.00	
Youth Fund	100.00		
Disciples Missions	100.00	250.00	270.00
Wk of Compassion	25.00		20.00
Life Center	270.00	400.00	145.00
Church Bus Fund	150.00		
Memorial Fund	1,875.00	150.00	
Building Fund	870.00	755.00	965.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,731.25</b>	<b>\$7,871.00</b>	<b>\$4,862.25</b>

### GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

**April 7, 2023**

**12:00 Noon**

### SERVING SCHED: April 2, 2023 - Palm Sunday

**8:00 AM:** GREETER: TBD

ELDER: Pete Templeton

DEACONESS: Cathy Clawson

PIANIST: Evie Gill

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

**10:00 AM:** GREETER: TBD

WORSHIP ELDER: Kim Woods

BREAD ELDER: Cody Vaughn

DEACONS: Team 1, Dustin Whitezel, Capt.

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

DEACONESS: Glenda Berry

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Candi Milam

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Candi Milam

SCRIPTURE READER: TBD

SCRIPTURE: Luke 23:33-35

SERMON: "A Really Bad Day"

SHUT-IN COMMUNION: Dan Smittkamp,  
Pete Templeton

### SERVING SCHEDULE: April 9, 2023 - Easter!

**8:00 AM:** GREETER: TBD

ELDER: Troy Sanders

DEACONESS: Bev McCain

PIANIST: Kathy Peel

**9:00 AM: Breakfast in Fellowship Hall**

**10:00 AM:** GREETER: TBD

WORSHIP ELDER: David Dick

BREAD ELDER: Barbara Dick

DEACONS: Team 2, Kenny Milam, Capt.

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

DEACONESS: Haley Sanders

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Sammy Milam

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Carter Fox

PROJECTION/SOUND: Tony Peel

APRIL USHERS: 8:00 - Roger Faulk

10:00 - Tammy Terry, Bill Young

APRIL FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Cody & Katie Vaughn

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Cathy Clawson

SCRIPTURE READER: TBD

SCRIPTURE: TBD

SERMON: TBD