

# **THE MESSENGER**

Believing, Behaving, Becoming Like Christ

April 12, 2023

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

Well, this is the last time that I will write something for the Messenger. I have enjoyed the opportunity I have had every couple of weeks to share with you my thoughts in this format; thoughts about the church and things that I believed were important for us to understand as we try to live the Christian life. I have also just flat enjoyed my time in Paris. I love this church and all of y'all will always have a special place in my heart.

I am so grateful for all the love and support that you showed me, but not just me, but also my family, people that you never even really knew. That speaks volumes about the kind of people you are and about the kind of church FCC is. As I move on to the next chapter of my life and ministry, please know that I leave here having learned things that I hope will help me be a better pastor moving forward. I also hope that I leave the church in a better place and that everyone that I have encountered over the last year feels like their life is better, maybe just a little better, than it was before you met me. Thanks again.

- Grace and Peace, Reece

## **→ WORSHIP TIME CHANGES ←**

While we are in the process of securing an interim minister to serve until another full-time minister is called, the Board has approved going to one, combined service. Starting next Sunday, April 16, the Coffee Bar will be open at 8:00 AM, the Open Door Sunday School class will start at 8:15 AM, and worship will begin at 9:00 AM. (See Greg or Tammy Terry for New Horizon class time.) This will mean schedule changes: Elders and Deaconesses will serve at 9:00 AM who were originally on the 10:00 AM schedule.



## **Summer Fun - MOONSHINE OUTING!**



Sign-up to ride the church bus to Moonshine on Saturday, May 13! There is room for 14 passengers, but you are welcome to drive and follow the bus there. We will be leaving from FCC at 10:30 AM that morning. Indicate on the sign-up if you want to ride the bus or plan to drive. The only cost is your meal! Come enjoy the scenery, enjoy the food, and enjoy the company!

## ***Sunday School Teacher Appreciation***

On Sunday, May 7, a Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Breakfast is being planned in the Fellowship Hall at 8:00 AM with gifts for the teachers. Please attend to express your appreciation.

## **FCC GRADUATES**

FCC graduates will to be recognized on Sunday, June 4. Be sure to let us know if you have an 8th grade, high school, or college graduate so that we can list them in the newsletter and congratulate them on June 4!



## **FCC Scholarships**

The 2023 FCC Scholarship applications are available online at: <https://fccparis.org/scholarships/> or on the hallway table. Completed applications and recommendations are due **THIS Friday**, April 14!



Paris Healthcare: Martha Stephen,  
Richard Melendez

Pleasant Meadows: Dorothy Waltz,  
Brandon Bell, Linda Driver

New Address: Mary Lou Adams, Brookstone  
Hospitalized: Dorothy McGee, Paris  
Home: Karen Newhart, Brenda Gordon

Continue prayers for: Janice Nicholson and  
Louise Bridwell

Congratulations to Zoey Morgan, Brady  
Sanders and Colten Vaughn on their baptisms!



-- Candi Milam and Carter Fox for  
the Children's Sermons and Candi  
Milam and Sammy Milam for  
leading Children's Church;

-- Evie Gill and Kathy Peel for the 8:00  
accompaniment;

-- Peggy Barath & Coralie Smittkamp for setting  
up the Prayer Room & decorating for Easter;

-- all those who took part in the procession of  
the palms on Palm Sunday;

-- Pam Lobb and Patty Waters for the Easter  
Offering Minute for Mission;

-- Saunny Preston & the Evangelism Committee  
for all their preparation & work at the Paris  
Theatre for the spring break free movie;

-- Mary K. Bradford & the Community Outreach  
Committee for First Grade book deliveries;

-- the Chancel Choir for their special music  
during the Good Friday Service;

-- CWF ladies for the luncheon on Good Friday;

-- David & Barbara Dick & the Membership  
Committee for the Easter breakfast.

### **BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

"In him we have redemption through his blood,  
the forgiveness of our trespasses, according  
to the riches of his grace which he lavished  
upon us."

- Ephesians 1:7-8

### **APRIL PRAYER**

Dear Father, Thank You for Your mercy in  
forgiving our sins by dying for us, Your power  
displayed over death by the resurrection, Your  
free gift of salvation to all who believe and the  
Holy Spirit's presence to guide us. Thank You  
for loving us so much! Amen.

### **FENCE AROUND CHURCH YARD**

The fence around the back church yard needs  
replaced. The Trustees are moving forward with  
that project with donations. The estimate is  
approximately \$10,000. If you would like to help,  
please designate your gift "Church Fence".

### **CCIW ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES**

FCC is able to send four representatives to the  
General Assembly on Sat., July 29, beginning at  
9:00 AM in Louisville. If you are interested, see Jacob  
Thomas by Sunday, May 7. Thank you.

### **INSURANCE/BEQUEST**

At the most recent Board meeting, Rev. Mike Dixon  
presented a proposal for an insurance plan that will  
benefit FCC sometime in the future. He has now  
established a policy on his own life with FCC as the  
owner/beneficiary. This will pay FCC \$25,000 upon  
his death. The Dixons pay the annual premiums, so  
there is no cost to FCC. The agreement with the  
Board stipulates how the insurance bequest is to be  
used: Current Expenses, Outreach, Building/  
Property, with the largest portion to go into the  
Permanent Fund to generate future income for the  
ongoing ministry of FCC. This is an opportunity to  
encourage FCC members and friends to establish  
your own plan of legacy giving. whether it be in your  
will, an annuity, an insurance policy, or some other  
means that will allow your giving and support to  
continue in the years to come. When asked, Rev.  
Dixon said "I've wanted to do this since I first learned  
it was possible; now we are in a position to make it  
happen. I'm glad we did and hope others will, too.  
Imagine the difference it will make for those who  
come after us."

### **DISCIPLE MENS BREAKFAST**

The Men's Breakfast is this Saturday, April 15, at 8:00  
AM in the Fellowship Hall. Be sure to call the office  
today if you are not signed up so that Theresa will  
know how much to prepare!

### **KITCHEN CHAIRS**

Special thanks to Cindy Mathis for gifting the funds to  
refinish the wooden kitchen chairs, and thanks also to  
David and Barbara Dick for taking the chairs to  
be redone.

### **EASTER OFFERING**

The Easter Offering supports several of the general  
ministries of the Christian Church. Your gift supports  
college students in leadership development  
programs, global mission partners, health and social  
service ministries, the formation of new  
congregations, support for pastors and chaplains, and  
so much more. The goal for this year's Easter  
Offering is \$1,500. The total amount received to date  
is \$1,446.

### **HAM LOAVES**

Please be sure to pay for and pick up your ham loaf  
order. See Ken Hamilton or Joel Gleckler on  
Sundays, or stop by the office weekdays.

### **COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**

The Good Friday Service is held at a different church  
each year in the Paris Ministerial Fellowship rotation.  
This year it was at FCC with 77 in attendance and a  
luncheon following provided by the CWF ladies.

## APRIL CIRCLES

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.

## ITEMS TO BRING IN

The ladies will be collecting the following items: stamps, pop tabs, used eye glasses/cell phones & chargers and plastic lids. These should be brought in by next Monday, April 17.

## NEED/OPPORTUNITY/MONEY MAKER

The Meals on Wheels program at the hospital needs help with meal deliveries. For each day an organization delivers meals, they are credited \$20. Deliveries are not made on major holidays. If a women's or men's group is willing to take this on as a money-maker, this is a way to help out your community and earn at the same time. Contact the hospital for more information. Rick Brinkerhoff from First Methodist called with this information and plea for help. Their church helped 250 days last year. They need the help!

- Mary K. Bradford

## FREE MOVIE REPORT

The free movie, sponsored by the Evangelism Committee during spring break, was a huge success. Theatre manager, Colt Peterson's, cooperation was above and beyond. Committee members were able to help at the theatre: Emily Thomas, Cindy Robinson, Joel Gleckler, Theresa Emerson, and Edna Creech along with Chair Saunny Preston; while others were able to help by making the Dino-bite treats: Cody & Katie Vaughn, Autumn Kasey, and Jacob & Emily Thomas; Emily also acquired the door prizes given out each day! Special donations allowed us to gift 25 kid packs per day to the first 25 kids who came in. The attendance was great this year with each day gaining: Tuesday-68; Wednesday-78, and Thursday-88 for a total of 234 kids reached with the love of Jesus! I would like to thank everyone who helped; it really takes a committee!

- Saunny Preston, Chair

## 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.



412 has had some slower weeks as the spring musical took place and Easter, too, but we are back into the full swing of things these next few weeks. Last Sunday, I took some of the youth kids to see the movie, Jesus Revolution. It was an interesting movie with a good message and talked about how sometimes the church can be so judgmental of people and not really know their story or heart for God. Overall, I think the kids enjoyed it and it was something different out of our normal routine.

Soon, we will be gearing up for Vacation Bible School so I would encourage church members and youth to start praying about how God might be calling you to serve through our church's VBS. This is a great opportunity to serve and can be used as community service hours for anyone seeking them, especially for those high schoolers wanting scholarships \*wink wink\*!! For now, God's Gang has a few weeks left and we will be graduating one 5th grader, Keira Shaffer, onto the middle school Crossroads program.

## Upcoming Events:

April 16 - youth group 6-8pm - MTV Awards

April 23 - youth group 6-8pm

April 30 - youth group 6-8pm

- Faith Milam, Youth Director

## CHURCH CAMPS!

It's time to check the church camp schedule - see it online or ask Faith - and work out camp weeks for your kids/youth! Church camp is a great place for kids to grow in their faith; it's life changing!

## Thank You!

Thank you so much for all of the greetings and cards for our 50th anniversary. We appreciate your kindness. It was a wonderful day of celebration.

- Barbara and David Dick

Thank you so much to the Circle of Light & all those who contributed for selecting the girls and putting together the Easter basket for them. We are so incredibly grateful.

With love,

Kenny & Faith Milam and Zoey & Zailey



# 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

PERMIT #147

Paris, Illinois  
Non-Profit  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID



### COME WORSHIP WITH US

COFFEE BAR AT 8:00 AM • SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 8:15 AM • WORSHIP 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*

Apr. 2: 8:00 - 41 10:00 - 97 Online-No Upload Available  
Nursery-4 = **TOTAL 142\*** SS = 21

Apr. 9: 8:00 - 51 10:00 - 163 Online-views 48/72\*  
Nursery-2 = **TOTAL 288\*** (No SS - Breakfast)

*\*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>Apr. 2</u>	<u>Apr. 9, 2023</u>
General Fund	\$8,185.25**	\$3,789.25
Sunday School	12.00	
God's Gang	50.00	
Food Pantry	50.00	
Emergency / Youth Fund	10.00	100.00
Baseball Reimb.	315.00	
Disciples Men	350.00	
Disciples Missions	530.00*	50.00
Week of Compassion*	75.00*	
Wk. of Comp. (Turkey/Syria)	500.00	
Easter Offering	421.00	1,025.00
Life Center	355.00*	145.00
Church Bus Fund	275.00	
Church Fence	2,100.00	100.00
Memorial Fund	835.00	100.00
Permanent Fund	300.00	1,250.00
Building Fund	963.00*	555.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,326.25**</b>	<b>\$7,114.25</b>

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

### SERVING SCHEDULE continued: April 16, 2023

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: John 20:1-18

SERMON: "Turning Grief into Joy" by Pastor Jim Blue

### SERVING SCHEDULE: April 23, 2023

**8:00/8:15 AM: Coffee Bar & Sunday School**

**9:00 AM:** GREETERS: The Vaughn Family

WORSHIP ELDER: Ellen Webb

BREAD ELDER: Cody Vaughn

DEACONS: Team 1, Dustin Whitezel, Capt.

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

DEACONESS: Lisa Young

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Edna Creech

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Taylor Shewey

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:13-35

SERMON: "The Road That Leads to Nowhere"

by Pastor Jim Blue

### SERVING SCHED: April 16, 2023

**8:00/8:15 AM: Coffee Bar & Sunday School**

**9:00 AM:** GREETERS: The Vaughn Family

WORSHIP ELDER: Nels Kasey

BREAD ELDER: Kim Woods

DEACONS: Team 3, Patty Waters, Capt.

JR. DEACONS: Team #3, Sammy Milam, Capt.

DEACONESS: Emily Thomas

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Cassie Boatman

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Jacob Thomas