

THE MESSENGER

Believing, Behaving, Becoming Like Christ

May 10, 2023



MOTHERS AND GRANDMOTHERS

Before I was a Mom: I cleaned my house each day. I never tripped over toys or forgot words to a lullaby. I didn't worry whether or not my plants were poisonous. I never thought about immunizations. **Before I was a Mom:** I never held down a screaming child so that the doctors could do tests or give shots. I never looked into teary eyes and cried. I never got gloriously happy over a simple grin. I never sat up late hours at night watching a baby sleep. **Before I was a Mom:** I never held a sleeping baby just because I didn't want to put him or her down. I never felt my heart break in a million pieces when I couldn't stop the hurt! I never knew that someone so small could affect my life so much. I never knew that I could love someone so much. I never knew I would love being a Mom. **Before I was a Mom:** I didn't know the feeling of having my heart outside of my body. I didn't know how special it could feel to feed a hungry baby. I didn't know that bond between a mother and her child. I didn't know that someone so small could make me feel so important and happy. **Before I was a Mom:** I had never gotten up in the middle of the night every 10 minutes to make sure all was okay. I had never known the warmth, the joy, the love, the heartache, the wonderment or the satisfaction of being a Mom. I didn't know I was capable of feeling so much before I was a Mom. **And before I was a Grandma,** I didn't know that all those "Mom" feelings more than doubled when you see that little bundle being held by your baby. - copied



MOONSHINE OUTING!



You are invited to the FCC Family Outing to Moonshine this Saturday, May 13! The bus is filled, but you are welcome to drive and follow the bus there. We will be leaving from FCC at 10:30 AM that morning. Please indicate on the sign-up if you plan to drive. The only cost is your meal! Come enjoy the scenery, enjoy the food, and enjoy the company! Sponsored by the Membership Committee.

PENTECOST & MEMORIAL SUNDAY

Pentecost & Memorial Sunday both fall on May 28 this year. It is traditional to wear red on this day as this is the color that signifies the work of the Holy Spirit, and you are invited to do so. A part of the service will also be dedicated to remembering church members who have passed away in the year since last Memorial Day. Families of members who have passed are invited to attend and will be given the ribbon, flower, and candle used in their loved one's service.

FCC Memory Books, Graduates & Scholarship Recipients

The Memory Books for our FCC high school seniors are out and available for you to write in your good wishes for their future. Look for them on the table by the sign-up desk. FCC graduates and scholarship recipients 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 are sure to include them in our list. The scholarship recipients for 2023 are listed on pg. 2 and have been notified and invited to attend on June 4 to receive their certificate.



Paris Healthcare: Martha Stephen,
Richard Melendez

Pleasant Meadows: Dorothy Waltz,
Brandon Bell, Linda Driver

Hospitalized: Reigan Kennedy, St. Louis
Steve Eitel, Carle

Home from the Hospital: Randy Creech,
Barbara Dick, and Joe Hasler

To Rehab: Dorothy McGee, Twin Lakes Rehab

Continue prayers for: Janice Nicholson and
Louise Bridwell, Paul Ricketts



-- Cathy Melendez for the
Children's Sermon;

-- Jenny McMahan for leading
Children's Church;

-- all those who participated in the National Day
of Prayer;

-- the Lanker family for flowers in memory of
Carolyn Lanker & Fellowship Circle for flowers
in memory of Karen Newhart;

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BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

"Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD,
and turn away from evil. It will be healing to
your flesh and refreshment to your bones."

- Proverbs 3:7-8

MAY PRAYER

Dear Father, Help us to be humble, to be
truthful and admit when we fail. Help us to be
sincerely repentant, not proud, in order to bring
forgiveness and healing. Thank You for Your
grace, which we don't deserve, but shows Your
marvelous love. In Jesus' name, amen.

FCC LENDING LIBRARY

We are starting a "Lending Library" for First
Christian Church. You can take a book to keep;
and, if possible, leave a book. Books can be
devotionals or any other form of Christian
literature. The Share Library book cart will be
located outside the Jerusalem room. There will
be a box to collect books donated to the library
next to the cart. Please see Emily Thomas with
any questions.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Open Door and New Horizons will meet
throughout the summer but all children and
youth Sunday school will go on hiatus for the
summer.

"SPLINTERS" from the BOARD

At the May meeting of the Executive Board: Faith
Milam shared a devotion on seeing God through
the eyes of a child. Reports were given as follows:

- Faith is looking for adult volunteers to attend youth meetings for support and extra help, also, the youth will be going to Holiday World on July 7, the church will cover \$80 per student;
- Christian Ed: adult Sunday School classes will continue to meet through the summer, the children and youth will take a hiatus;
- Community Outreach: 21 pairs of shoes were given through their shoe project during a Holy Week event, 128 books were given to first graders at Crestwood and Memorial, Lunch was provided to Bridges on April 3;
- Staff Relations: Vickie Blair has joined the staff as Asst. Financial Secretary, Bethanny Lawson will be leaving in June for a new job in Florida;
- Trustees: rock will be placed on the new building lot;
- Search: FCC will be entering a contract with Vanderbloemen for the senior pastor search, they will provide candidates for our consideration and prayers, they are continuing to search for an interim minister.

ORGANIST JOB OPENING

If you, or someone you know, would like to submit an application for the FCC organist position, please go on the church's website at: www.fccparis.org and look under the "Job" tab for further information or see Troy Sanders.

FCC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Scholarship recipients for 2023 are:

1. Shayleigh Cline - John C. Faust Ministerial; \$1,000
2. Kaitlyn Coombes - James H. & Connie J. Houston Community College; \$1,000
3. Max Moody - Disciples Men; \$500
4. Alyssa Reed - Donald H. & E. Berniece Mink Nursing; \$250
5. Lia Rigdon - Peggy Thiel Education; \$1,000
6. Aubrey Sanders - Bill Kerrick Memorial; \$750
7. Lily Smittkamp - John Z. & Ruth W. Frazier Memorial; \$750
8. Will Templeton - Harold & Faye Jump Memorial; \$1,000
9. Ethan Vice - Moke C. Owens/First Christian Church Music; \$750
10. Chloe Waltz - Larry Moss Agricultural; \$750
11. Claire Young - Joe & Nila Hasler; \$1,000

Congratulations to all those who were awarded scholarships. The checks will be sent directly to each college for the fall semester.

MAY CIRCLES

CIRCLE OF PRAYER: meets Thursday, May 11, at 6:00 PM in the church parlor.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: meets Tues., May 16, at 2:00 PM in the church parlor.

KOINONIA CIRCLE: meets Thursday, May 18, at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen.

WOMEN'S BANQUET

The Women's Banquet is Thursday, June 1st, at 6:00 PM. Tickets are required prior to the event (none will be available at the door). Tickets are sold by the Circle women for \$10, girls age 10 and under, \$5. The program, open to all, will be "Women of Talent on the Steinway" at 7:00 PM.

DISCIPLE MEN'S BREAKFAST

All men are invited to the Disciple Men's breakfast on Saturday, May 20, at 8:00 AM. Be sure to sign-up that you will be attending!

BABY BOTTLE BLESSINGS

Pick up a baby bottle for the Choices Baby Bottle Blessings Campaign beginning Mother's Day. Fill the bottle with spare change and return it on Father's Day. Available at the entryways.

CHURCH YARD SIGNS

You are invited to pick out a Church Yard Sign to post in your yard. Thank you for spreading God's love around town!

SEARCH COMMITTEE

The committee members are: Cody Vaughn, Chair, Barb Free, Faith Milam, Nick Sanders, Emily Thomas, Dustin Whitezel, and Kim Woods. Members of the committee have met on five separate occasions to begin the process of securing a senior minister for FCC. Rev. Jim Blue has committed to serving in our pulpit through the month of May. The committee met with him following the May 7 service and offered him an interim position until a senior pastor could be appointed. We are currently awaiting his decision on this possibility. The Committee met via Zoom with a representative from Vanderbloemen, an executive search firm that helps Christian organizations of all sizes and types find their key leaders. The committee will present the Vanderbloemen proposal to the Board at their May 9 meeting. If approved, then Vanderbloemen consultants and recruiters will assist in our search. The Committee also met with Rev. Dr. Alexander Ruth following his message on Sunday, April 30. We are working on our church profile that CCIW will be posting on their search and call registry.



Good day from 412 youth! We have been continuing in our Love Does series. I think all of us are counting down the days until summer at this point!!

God's Gang has concluded for the semester & it was a great turnout. We will now be preparing for VBS!! If you would like to volunteer, don't hesitate to let us know where you would like to serve. It takes a village to put on a great VBS so please be a part of it if you can.

Upcoming events:

May 14 - youth group 6-8pm, mothers & special women are invited

May 21 - youth group 6-8pm

May 28 - youth group 6-8pm

July 7 - holiday world trip, cost is \$60 per student & coffee bar funds can be used

- Faith Milam, Youth Director

RELAY FOR LIFE YARD SALE

As you are cleaning out your garages and closets this season, keep in mind to save items to donate to the RFL Yard Sale (tentatively, depending on dates for fence) coming up on June 9-10.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Open Door Sunday School class will not meet on Sunday May 14th due to Mother's Day. We will resume our study of the book of Daniel on the following Sunday, May 21st immediately following the worship service or at approximately 1015am. We are currently meeting in the classroom upstairs adjacent to the elevator. If you are looking for a Sunday School class that is friendly and interactive, please give us a try. We would welcome anyone.

- Greg Terry

Thank You!

I would like to thank Candi Milam and the Education Committee for the delicious breakfast and much appreciated gift in honor of the Sunday School teachers. It was very thoughtful of them. It is a blessing for the honor and privilege of serving at FCC.

- Greg Terry



THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

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PERMIT #147

Paris, Illinois

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U.S. POSTAGE

PAID



COME WORSHIP WITH US

COFFEE BAR AT 8:00 AM • SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 8:15/10:15 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. 30: 9:00 - 94 Nursery-1 Online-views 38/57*

TOTAL 152* SS = 21

May 7: 9:00 - 112 Nursery-2 Online-views 27/41*

TOTAL 155* SS = Teacher Bkfst./9

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFERING TOTAL

	Apr. 30	May 7, 2023
General Fund	\$4,899.25*	\$2,621.25*
Sunday School	9.00	
Food Pantry	5.00	50.00
Designated	500.00	
Reimb. Baseball		280.00
Disciples Missions	650.00*	
Week of Compassion	95.00	
Life Center	2,375.00*	160.00
Church Bus Fund	30.00	125.00
Reimb. Church Laptop	900.00	
Church Fence	100.00	170.00
Memorial Fund	1,265.00	500.00*
Building Fund	1,440.00*	395.00
TOTAL	\$12,268.25*	\$4,301.25*

*Includes *Electronic Giving ~ *Pay Pal*

SERVING SCHED: May 14, 2023 – Mother's Day!

8:00/8:15&10:15 AM: Coffee Bar & Sunday School

9:00 AM: GREETERS: TBD

WORSHIP ELDER: Daniel Smittkamp

BREAD ELDER: Nels Kasey

DEACONS: Jim Bennett, Kenny McCain, Chris Waters & Kevin Woods

JR. DEACONS: Carter Fox, Ethan Smittkamp, Will/Drew/ Graham Templeton &/or Ethan Vice

DEACONESS: Steve Webb

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Candi Milam

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Angel Templeton

SCRIPTURE: John 20:24-29

SERMON: "Locked Out By Doubt" by Pastor Jim Blue

SERVING SCHEDULE: May 21, 2023

8:00/8:15&10:15 AM: Coffee Bar & Sunday School

9:00 AM: GREETERS: TBD

WORSHIP ELDER: Cody Vaughn

BREAD ELDER: Candi Milam

DEACONS: Team 1, Dustin Whitezel, Capt.

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

DEACONESS: Bev McCain

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Sammy Milam

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Cindy Mathis

PROJECTION/SOUND: Tony Peel

MAY USHERS: Pam Lobb, Randy Creech, Nick Sanders

MAY FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Kenny & Bev McCain

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Cathy Clawson

SCRIPTURE: John 21:1-19

SERMON: "What to do When You Fail" by Pastor Jim Blue



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

VBS will be July 10-14 this year, from 9:00-11:45 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 info.