

## A GREAT PRAYER - PART 1

There are many great prayers in the Bible. They cover a vast range of human desires and needs. They respond to a great variety of precious promises from God. We are going to look at one of these prayers in part one today, and part two on October 25.

The prayer is found in Psalm 19. Read slowly and thoughtfully through the entire Psalm. How fitting are the words of verse 14. For those who want to please the Lord in their daily lives, there is not a more important prayer than this one found in verse 14...

***"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."***

That would be a wise prayer to pray everyday and even several times a day.

In Part One, notice the **sequence** in this prayer. "The words of my mouth and meditation of my heart." The Psalmist was wise enough to know that the mouth is connected with the heart. What a person says will be determined by what he thinks. "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7). If the heart is clean, the speech will be clean, if the heart is corrupt the speech will be impure. What comes out of the mouth depends upon what is stored in the heart. Fill your heart with truth and beauty and your heart will overflow through your words spoke.

Yes, the mouth is connected to the heart. Your words are governed by your thoughts. There is no use praying for acceptable talking unless we pray for acceptable thinking.

Part two, on October 25, will focus on the standard of this prayer and the strength mentioned in this prayer.

"THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH AND THE MEDITATION OF MY HEART"

Pastor Jim sharing from his old library book shelf  
"TAKE A BIBLE BREAK" by W.E. McCumber

## **Reconciliation Offering**

(Numbers 10:4-7) The Reconciliation Ministry is an invaluable part of our church as we strive to faithfully follow Jesus Christ. When we encounter the perils of systemic racism, we sound the trumpet. In every expression of the Church, we sound the alarms so that we may be the hands and feet of Christ in the face of racial inequity and injustice. Just like the camps of the east and south in Israel, called together at the sound of the trumpets in the book of Numbers, Disciples are called together as an anti-racist and pro-reconciling faith movement. Your gift to Reconciliation Ministry strengthens our church's witness to God's unending love for all of humanity. The goal for the Reconciliation Offering this year is \$1,000.



October is Pastor Appreciation Month! Thank Pastor Blue and his wife, Chris, for their service to God and to FCC.



Paris Healthcare: Martha Stephen,  
Richard Melendez, Ron Odle  
Pleasant Meadows: Brandon Bell,  
Linda Driver

Twin Lakes: Irma Julian

Home from Hospital: Saunny Preston  
Chantell Whitezel

Continue prayers for: Janice Nicholson,  
Louise Bridwell, Randy Creech, Cathy Melendez

Our sympathies to Steve Webb on the recent  
passing of his mother. Our condolences also to  
the family & friends of Judy St. Louis.



-- Chris Milam and David Dick for  
the Children's Sermons;

-- Edna Creech and Jenny  
McMahan for leading Children's

Church;

-- all those who supported the Youth Fundraiser  
Dinner & youth who helped out;

-- Barbara Dick and committee for organizing  
the Pastor Appreciation Reception and to all  
those who participated.

### BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

"It is the Lord your God you must revere. Keep  
His commands and obey Him, serve Him and  
hold fast to Him." - Deuteronomy 13:4

### OCTOBER PRAYER

Dear God, provide us peace through the storms  
of our lives. By your Holy Spirit lift us up in Your  
mighty hand and sustain us through Jesus  
Christ our rock and redeemer.

### PRAYER FOR FCC & NEW PASTOR

*(adapted from Daniel 9:17-19)*

Lord, You know our need and our request for  
leadership to be with us: Now, our God, hear  
the prayers and petitions of Your servant. For  
Your sake, Lord, look with favor on Your  
sanctuary. Give ear, our God, and hear; open  
Your eyes and see the condition of the  
congregation that bears Your Name. We do not  
make requests of You because we are  
righteous, but because of Your great mercy.  
Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act!  
For Your sake, my God, do not delay, because  
Your church and Your people bear Your Name.  
And we thank You for the answer to our prayer  
in a new minister to lead us into Your will and  
Your future. We pray this in Jesus' name, amen.

### CHANCEL & BELL CHOIR COOKOUT

There will be a cookout for the Chancel and Bell  
Choir members and their families at David &  
Barbara Dick's on Sunday, October 22, starting  
at 4:30 PM. Bring a side dish to share and a  
lawn chair. Hot dogs, buns, drinks, and table  
service will be provided.

### SCARE ON THE SQUARE

The Evangelism Committee will have a booth at  
the upcoming "Scare on the Square" downtown,  
Sat., October 28. They would appreciate your  
donations of wrapped candies & mini candy bars  
to distribute to little Trick-or-Treaters. A collection  
basket is located under the sign-up desk. Thank  
you in advance for your help!

### 2024 NOMINATIONS

Letters are being mailed to nominees for serving  
in 2024. Be praying about where God wants you  
to volunteer and say "YES!" when asked.

### SPAGHETTI DRIVE-THRU

Faith In Action will have their annual Spaghetti  
Dinner Drive-Thru at Lake Ridge Christian  
Church this Friday, Oct. 13, from 4:00-6:30 PM.  
The dinner will include spaghetti, garlic bread,  
salad and dessert - for a donation. All proceeds  
go to Faith In Action of Edgar County.

\* \* \*

*Faith In Action is requesting FCC donate 10  
dozen cookies or brownies to be packed in  
plastic baggies - 2 lg. cookies or 3 small; 1 lg.  
brownie or 2 small per baggie. If you are willing  
to help, please contact Donna Moody.*



### FCC T-SHIRTS

Red FCC t-shirts are available for you to order!  
These are great to wear when you participate in  
a parade/booth/hospitality tent or other ministry  
to the community! A sample is shown on the hall  
table with the order form and instructions. Please  
order one item per line and make checks payable  
to FCC with "T-shirt" in the memo line, payment  
is due at time of order; labeled envelopes are out  
to place your payment in; write your name and  
amount on the envelope. If you have any  
questions, you may see Barbara Dick, Saunny  
Preston, or Cheryl.

### PROMOTION BIBLES

There are several Promotion Bibles that have not  
been picked up for our 1st & 5th graders. Please  
go to the office for your child's Bible.

# Christian Women's Fellowship

## OCTOBER CIRCLES

CIRCLE OF PRAYER: meets the second Thursday, Oct. 12, at 6:00 PM in the church parlor.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: meets the third Tuesday, Oct. 17, at 2:00 PM in the church parlor.

KOINONIA CIRCLE: meets the third Thursday, Oct. 19, at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen.

## DISCIPLE MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Disciple Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, October 21, at 8:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Sign-up if you can attend!



## PHS FOOTBALL DINNER

This year FCC will host the Paris High School Football Team on Thursday, October 12, at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Donna Garver is coordinating the event, so see her for information or questions.

## PMF THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The annual Community Thanksgiving Service will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 21, hosted by the Nevins Christian Church at 7:00 PM. Everyone is invited.

## Thank You!

Interim Pastor Jim and Chris want to express our appreciation and thanks for all the cards, notes, text messages, \$ gift cards and checks presented to us Sunday, October 8, following the Sunday Morning Worship Service at the Pastor Appreciation Reception. Your kind words and love are greatly appreciated. We are truly enjoying our opportunity to serve and minister each week filling in the assignment until the search committee secures a full-time minister to come and serve at First Christian Church in Paris. - Pastor Jim & Chris Blue

To all of my Church Family, Thank you to everyone who has called & sent cards while I'm not able to be at church. I really appreciate it.

God bless you all, Janice Nicholson



Good day from 412 Youth!! We don't have much of an update from youth group. Please continue to pray for the growth of our youth group and that kids will continue to show up to learn more about their faith. Students are so busy these days with sports, academics, and other extracurricular activities, but church is so important and will be with a kid for the rest of their life if they will let it be something they continue to pursue.

The youth fundraiser dinner is on September 24th at 5pm. Please sign up and plan to attend this dinner. The sign up form is on the desk outside of the sanctuary. The cost is by donation and there will also be a silent auction.

God's Gang starts this week and I am excited to say that we have 15 kids registered for God's Gang and 4 registered for Crossroads. I am hopeful that this will be a great semester. Please pray for those who help with this program and that they will find it as fulfilling as the kids do who benefit from this program.

## Upcoming Events:

Oct. 15 - Youth group at the church 6-8pm

Oct. 22 - Youth group at the church 6-8pm

Oct. 29 - Youth group at the church 6-8pm

Faith Milam, Youth Director



## CIRCLE OF LIGHT "GIVING TREE"

It's quickly approaching that time of year for the "GIVING TREE". You may remember that the tree will have a two-part "ornament" with a name and list of Christmas gifts on it. You pick an ornament, purchase the gifts from the list, pack them in a Christmas bag and attach the ornament with the resident's name onto the bag and return it to the church for distribution. Thank you for making someone's Christmas special! The trees will be put up on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 26th.



## THE MESSENGER

### FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

201 S. Main St., Paris, Illinois 61944

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

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

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

Pastor Jim Blue, Interim Minister • Faith Milam, Youth Director

PERMIT #147

Paris, Illinois

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### 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*

Oct. 1: 9:00-106 Nursery-3 Online-views 44/66\*

**TOTAL 174\*** SS = 21

Oct. 8: 9 - (No Report) Nursery-1 Online-34/51\*

**TOTAL ???\*** SS = 13+?

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### OFFERING TOTAL

October 1, 2023

General Fund	\$4,502.25
Sunday School	5.00
Food Pantry	400.00
Emergency Fund	10.00
Youth Fund	100.00
Choices	350.00
Love Offering	500.00
Bell Choir	100.00
Disciples Missions	250.00
Week of Compassion	75.00
Reconciliation Offering	610.00
Building Fund	825.00
Life Center	185.00
Heated Sidewalk	245.00
Church Fence	109.00
Church Bus	100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,366.25</b>

### SERVING SCHED.: October 15, 2023

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

**9:00 AM: GREETERS: TBD**

WORSHIP ELDER: Candi Milam

BREAD ELDER: Pete Templeton

DEACONS: Team 3, Patty Waters, Capt.

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

DEACONESS: Cathy Clawson

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Sammy Milam

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Barbara Dick

PROJECTION/SOUND: Tony Peel

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Cathy Clawson

OCT. USHERS: Roger Faulk, Tammy Terry, Nick Sanders

OCT. FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Bill & Lisa Young

SCRIPTURE: Luke 8:26-36

SERMON: "What Can Jesus Do for You?"

by Pastor Jim Blue



### AN ADDITIONAL FOOD PANTRY RESOURCE

"HARVEST HOUSE" food pantry is open the first Saturday of the month, beginning Nov. 4, from 9:30-12:00 NN at 116 E. Court St. Call 217/264-0670 for more information.



### SERVING SCHEDULE: October 22, 2023

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

**9:00 AM: GREETERS: TBD**

WORSHIP ELDER: David Dick

BREAD ELDER: Barbara Dick

DEACONS: Team 1, Dustin Whitezel, Capt.

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

DEACONESS: Katie Vaughn

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Faith Milam

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Kim Woods

SCRIPTURE: John 20:24-29

SERMON: "Making the Journey from Doubt to Faith"

by Pastor Jim Blue