

THE MESSENGER

Believing, Behaving, Becoming Like Christ

October 25, 2023

A GREAT PRAYER - PART 2

In part one of "A Great Prayer", we discussed the **sequence** in this prayer from Psalm 19:14, "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."

In Part two, we look at two points, the **standard** in this prayer, and the **strength** mentioned in this prayer.

First, the **standard** in this prayer. Acceptable to whom? To the Lord: "acceptable in Your sight, O Lord." Our thinking and talking are to please the Lord, not merely ourselves or others.

If people set the standard, it will be set too low. Today's books, movies and television programs are getting freer with profanity and obscenity and blasphemy. Most speakers can't get through a speech without tossing in some smutty joke to entertain the crowd. Our society has a low standard of thought and speech. I remember when some mothers use to wash their children's mouths out with soap for using bad language. Proctor and Gamble would be pushed to make enough soap to handle the situation today. The Lord sets the standard much higher.

We also look at the **strength** mentioned in this great prayer. "O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." If we are going to please God, we will need His strength to overcome temptation and to shuck off the influence of the world. Only the strength of God can keep one's mind and mouth holy in the midst of a crazed world. But thank God, the power for goodness and truth is available to us.

This great prayer can become our daily experience, Lord, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer" TODAY .

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



November is just around the corner and that signals the start of wrapping up the year. The farming community is wrapping up their harvest, the warm growing season has ended, Thanksgiving is coming to reflect on the blessings of God and reward of hard work. FCC also begins to wrap things up with the final Board Meeting and preparations turned in for the new year. Those involve things like leaders for the next year, budgets, volunteers, and appreciation to those who have served well.

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.



Paris Healthcare: Martha Stephen,
Richard Melendez, Ron Odle,
Chantell Whitezel
Pleasant Meadows: Brandon Bell,
Linda Driver
Twin Lakes: Irma Julian

Home from Hospital: Carol Winemilller, Doug
Hasler, Coralie Smittkamp

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



-- Barbara Dick and Kim Woods for
the Children's Sermons;
-- Sammy Milam for leading
Children's Church;
-- Donna Moody for delivering some of the
multiplication flashcards this week!

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May those
who love you be secure. May there be peace
within your walls and security within your
citadels.' For the sake of my family and friends,
I will say, 'Peace be within you.' For the sake of
the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your
prosperity." - Psalm 122: 6-9



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.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Thursday, Nov. 2 - Elders, 5:00 PM
- Thursday, Nov. 2 - Trustees, 6:00 PM
- Tuesday, Nov. 14 - Board, 7:00 PM

Note: 2024 Budgets & Nominations will be due.

SCARE ON THE SQUARE

The Evangelism Committee will have a booth at
the upcoming "Scare on the Square" downtown,
this Sat., October 28. Thank you to all those who
donated candy! Stop by and visit us if you're out!

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.



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 or Saunny
Preston.

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.



COMMUNITY ADVENT CHOIR

Rehearsals for the Community Advent choir will
begin on Monday, Nov. 6th at 7:00 PM at the
Presbyterian Church. The schedule will follow on
Monday, Nov. 13th, then Tuesday, Nov. 28th and
Thursday, Nov. 30th. All practices start at
7:00 PM and will be held at the Presbyterian
Church. The choir will sing at the service on
Sunday, Dec. 3rd at 3:00 PM at the Presbyterian
Church.

Christian Women's Fellowship

NOVEMBER CIRCLES

CIRCLE OF LIGHT: meets the first Tuesday of the month, Nov. 7, at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

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

KOINONIA CIRCLE: meets the third Thursday, Nov. 16, at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen.

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

DISCIPLE MEN'S BREAKFAST

In November the Disciple Men's Breakfast will be at Red Oak Inn on Saturday, November 18, at 8:00 AM. The cost is \$13. Sign-up please, if you will attend!



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.

FOOTBALL DINNER REPORT

Fifty-five football players and coaches said a THANK YOU to First Christian Church for a Fellowship Hall converted into a TIGERS DEN decorated to the hilt by Deena Hasler, Dean & Coralie Smittkamp, Dan Smittkamp and Peggy Barath. A dinner with pulled pork BBQ, mac and cheese, baked beans, applesauce cups, chips and topped off with chocolate sheet cake, toffee cake, and dirt desserts; beverages were soda, lemonade and water. Event Dinner Chairman, Donna Garver, wishes to THANK all the decorators, cooks: Roseann Moss, Linda Stickler, Donna Moody, Sue Bennett, Gloria Magers and her sister, Brenda; Pastor Jim Blue for the church welcome and prayer before the meal and for serving BBQ along with Steve Eitel. Last, but certainly not least, I thank the clean-up crew, Dan Dayton, Dan Smittkamp, and Doc Moody. It takes a full crew to make a successful even for FCC and this crew did that! AGAIN THANK YOU ALL! - Donna Garver



Good day from 412 Youth!! It has been an interesting season of ministry with many of our high school students being busy with sports, band, jobs, schoolwork, etc. I have enjoyed getting to meet with a few of them in smaller groups because it just facilitates different conversations than what are typically had in the big group and that is a blessing for this season.

God's Gang is going well with half the semester done and students are loving every minute of it. They enjoyed the Southfork field trip a few weeks ago and that is always a highlight for the adult helpers, too. Thank you to everyone who invests time into this important program! It is truly appreciated.

Thank you to Faye Eitel for coming to the rescue with getting God's Gang snacks!

Upcoming Events:

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

Nov. 5 - youth group at the church 6-8pm

Nov. 12 - 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 on one part and list of Christmas gifts on the other. 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 a Paris resident's Christmas special! The trees will be put up on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 26th.



THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

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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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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

Oct. 15: 9:00-106 Nursery-3 Online-views 44/66*

TOTAL 174* SS = 21

Oct. 22: 9:00-101 Nursery-2 Online-30/45*

TOTAL 148* SS = 23

*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>Oct. 8</u>	<u>Oct. 15</u>	<u>Oct. 22,'23</u>
General Fund	\$2,574.25	\$1,746.25	\$3,823.25
Sunday School		11.00	14.00
God's Gang			100.00
Food Pantry			60.00
Choices			350.00
Love Offering			500.00
T-Shirt Fund		112.00	78.00
Disciples Mission	250.00	50.00	200.00
Reconciliation Offering	25.00		
Life Center	200.00	115.00	50.00
Heated Sidewalk Fund	5,410.08	120.00	4,338.97
Church Bus Fund	100.00		
Building Usage			100.00
Memorial Fund	30.00		100.00
Building Fund	1,030.00	260.00	170.00
TOTAL	\$9,619.33	\$2,414.25	\$9,884.22

SERVING SCHED.: October 29, 2023

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

9:00 AM: GREETERS: TBD

WORSHIP ELDER: Cody Vaughn

BREAD ELDER: Nels Kasey

DEACONS: Team 2, Kenny Milam, Capt.

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

DEACONESS: Kathy Peel

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Barbara Dick

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Faith Milam

PROJECTION/SOUND: Tony Peel

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Cathy Clawson

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

OCT. FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Bill & Lisa Young

SCRIPTURES: Colossians 3:1-2; Romans 8:1-8

SERMON: "The Narrow Path"

by guest speaker, Pastor David Biggs

SERVING SCHEDULE: November 5, 2023

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

9:00 AM: GREETER: Roseann Moss

WORSHIP ELDER: Kim Woods

BREAD ELDER: Steve Webb

DEACONS: Team 3, Patty Waters, Capt.

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

DEACONESS: Steve Webb

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Candi Milam

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Nels Kasey

SCRIPTURE: Luke 5:1-11

SERMON: "Rising Above Your Failures"

by Pastor Jim Blue

We are
Thankful for
YOU!

