

# THE MESSENGER

Believing, Behaving, Becoming Like Christ

November 22, 2023

## SOMEBODY! - Part Two

In our last brief message we were focusing on the question Jesus asked, "**Who touched me?**" and the crowd said "**Nobody**"...

**Part Two, "Who touched me?"** the disciples said, "**Everybody.**" "Master," they said in exasperation, "the multitude throng you and press you."

Jesus drew crowds quicker than a fire engine can, and everybody wanted to get close enough to see and hear him. There was a lot of shoving and elbowing and toe-stomping, and the disciples got tired of it. Their answer was no better than the crowd's. If you are "everybody" you are still "nobody." Just a face in the crowd. a number in an account book you become depersonalized.

**"Who touched me"** Jesus answer was "**Somebody.**" Look at Luke 8:46 "Jesus said, "Somebody has touched me: for I perceive that the virtue is gone out of me."

Everybody is somebody to Jesus. He cares for the poor, the sick, the hurt, the lost. He sees the individual in the crowd.

The little woman came and confessed and testified that something beautiful happen to her when she touched Jesus. The woman became a somebody in the presence of Jesus.

Watch for part three next issue of FCC Messenger December 6th.

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



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Attention all FCC members - the Congregational meeting has been moved to Sunday, November 26, and will be held immediately following the worship service. Please plan to attend and participate in voting of the 2024 budget and nominees.



## LOVE OFFERING

It is apparent how blessed FCC is to have such a talented and dedicated staff! We appreciate all the work and effort from each one of them. Note the bulletin board next to the office with our current personnel. We, the congregation, have an opportunity during this season of love and joy to show our appreciation to the staff through our Love Offering. We will begin taking gifts now through Sunday, Dec. 17th. The gifts will be distributed on Wednesday, Dec. 20th. Any gifts that come in after Dec. 17th will be held over until December 2024. It is a process that does take some time. Your Love Offering can be made in general, or you may designate your offering gift to staff individuals by writing the individual's name on your offering or on the Offering Envelope. All undesignated money will be divided evenly among all the staff. We thank you for your support and Merry Christmas.

- Staff Relations Committee



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

Carol Marlowe to Twin Lakes Rehab

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

Our sympathies to Bill Young on the loss of  
his brother, to Kristin Chittick on the passing of  
her brother-in-law, and to Susan King-Brooks  
on the death of her nephew.



-- Steve Webb for the Children's  
Sermon;

-- Emily Thomas & Cassie  
Boatman for leading Children's

Church;

-- Joyful Ringers for their Special Music;

-- Edna Creech for devotions at Board meeting.

### **BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced  
exceedingly with great joy; and going into the  
house they saw the child with Mary His mother,  
and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then,  
opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts,  
gold and frankincense and myrrh."

- Matthew 2:10-11

### **NOVEMBER PRAYER**

Dear Heavenly Father, Praise and Glory to You  
in the highest. We lift up to YOU a prayer of  
Thanksgiving. Thank you, LORD, for our church  
congregation, and the strong leadership of our  
elders, executive board, and committees over  
the past 5 years. Thank you for the interim  
ministers, Pastor Parky and a BIG thank you  
LORD for Pastor Blue! But, most of all LORD,  
thank you for your Beloved Son, our personal  
Savior, Jesus; our Rock and Redeemer. Amen.

### **S'MORES at CHRISTMAS IN PARIS**

FCC will have a "S'more's" booth at Christmas  
in Paris this Saturday, Nov. 25. They will be at  
the Pure Paris building from 1:00-3:00 PM. To  
make the s'mores there is still a need for more  
Keebler Fudge Stripe cookies and bags of  
regular size marshmallows. A collection  
container is out under the sign-up desk in the  
hallway. There will also be a sign-up sheet for  
volunteers to help at the booth. They will need  
approximately 4 helpers during each hour 1:00-  
2:00 and 2:00-3:00. Contact Donna Moody with  
questions or for further information.



### **"SPLINTERS" from the BOARD**

At the November meeting of the executive board:

- The Treasurer's report was given and concern  
was expressed due to the fact that giving to the  
General Fund was down considerably from last  
year and expenses are up significantly;
- The Trustees reminded everyone to turn off  
lights when leaving the building;
- Community Outreach reported \$500 is being  
sent to Shop With A Cop;
- Disciples Outreach stated the special  
Thanksgiving Offering for DOC colleges is  
being collected;
- Evangelism reported the Christmas display in  
the park was in place thanks to the Vaughn's;
- Staff Relations have completed staff  
evaluations; now is the time to give our Love  
Offerings;
- Elders reported selecting an Advent devotional,  
"Waiting in Joyful Hope" that has been ordered  
for the advent season;
- Search Committee reported they are  
considering a new candidate submitted by  
Vanderbloemen;
- New business included: the list of church  
leaders nominated, Program Committee Chairs  
and nominees for 2024 were presented and  
approved.

### **WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!**

We are happy to welcome (back) Connie Rhoads  
to the First Christian Church family. She came  
forward on Nov. 5th to place her membership  
back at FCC. We say to Connie, "Welcome to the  
family!"

### **ADVENT CHORAL SERVICE**

Rehearsals for the Advent choir are at 7:00 PM  
at the Presbyterian Church for the following  
dates: Tuesday, Nov. 28th and Thursday, Nov.  
30th. Additional singers are still welcome! The  
Community Advent Service will be on Sunday,  
Dec. 3 at 3:00 PM.

### **COMMUNITY INVITE**

Lake Ridge Christian Church will be having "A  
Merry Melodic Madrigal & A Medieval Miracle"  
free Christmas show on Sat., Dec. 9, at 5:00 PM  
and Sun., Dec. 10 at 12:30 PM. See more  
information on their flyer posted on the bulletin  
board. Everyone is invited.

## Christian Women's Fellowship

### DECEMBER CIRCLES

CIRCLE OF LIGHT: will meet at the home of Marge Houghland on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 5 PM.

KOINONIA CIRCLE: will be going to Mattoon on the church bus to the Fujiyama Japanese restaurant on Thursday, Dec. 14, leaving FCC at 10:30 AM.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER: meets at 6:00 PM on Thursday, Dec. 14.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: is going to Rocky's on Dec. 19, at 11:30 AM.



### SALVATION ARMY BELL-RINGING

You are invited to ring bells for the Salvation Army at the Paris Walmart on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM. A sign-up sheet is out on the hall desk for you to choose your desired time slot. See Ken Hamilton for information.

### PLAN OF GIVING FORM

2024 Plan of Giving forms will be available for you this Sunday to fill out and turn in.

### IN HIS SERVICE VOLUNTEER FORM

Volunteer forms for 2024 are available in the hallway for you to fill in what ministries you feel called to serve in. Thank you for completing a form and turning it in!

### PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE

For several years Dorothy Farnham has graciously headed the Prayer Chain. She has decided to step down and we want to extend our sincere thanks for her devoted and wonderful service. We also want you to know that Donna Garver has kindly agreed to fill this position. Therefore, if you have a prayer need after office hours (evening/weekends), please call Donna at 465-8180.

\* \* \*

To all Prayer Chain participants - Having served as your leader for several years, I have considered it a privilege to be there when needed. It is time to let a willing and capable person take over the responsibility for FCC. Thank you all for volunteering with your prayers, calls, time and concern for those in need of comfort during the past years.

God Bless, Dorothy Farnham



Hello from 412 Youth!! It is definitely the holiday season and schedules are crazy but we have lots of excitement coming up here at the church too! Youth Sunday planning is underway and SpringHill sign ups are currently happening. Youth Sunday will take place at the beginning of the 2024 year and I can't wait to see how the kids work together for this special service. SpringHill is Feb. 9-11 and sign ups are happening until the end of this month.

God's Gang is coming to a close for the semester, shortly.. December 6th will be our last Wednesday evening for the fall and it will include our fancy night dinner. We will start up again on January 31st and run until April 24th. If you haven't helped with the program this fall and would like to start, please get in touch with Faith Milam. It takes a lot of manpower to make this program run smoothly and effectively. I am so grateful for each person who makes it happen and dedicates time each week to serve the children of this church and community.

### Upcoming Events:

Nov. 26 - youth group at the church 6-8pm

Dec. 3 - youth group at the church 6-8pm

Dec. 10 - youth group at the church 6-8pm

Faith Milam, Youth Director

### CIRCLE OF LIGHT "GIVING TREE"

The Circle of Light is sponsoring the "GIVING TREE" again this year. You may recall that the trees 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 set up on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 26th. Gifts must be returned to FCC by Friday, Dec. 15th.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

- ♦ Stewardship-Finance Committee, Monday, Nov. 27, 7:00 PM
- ♦ 2023-24 Elders, Thursday, Dec. 7, 5:00 PM
- ♦ Trustees, Thursday, Dec. 7, 6:00 PM
- ♦ Community Outreach Committee, Sunday, Dec. 10, 2:00 PM



# 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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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*

Nov. 12: 9:00-118 Nursery-3 Online-views 19/29\*

**TOTAL 150\*** SS = 14

Nov. 19: 9:00-103 Nursery-1 Online-42/63\*

**TOTAL 167\*** SS = 12

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### OFFERING TOTAL

	Nov. 12	Nov. 19, 2023
General Fund	\$3,022.25	\$2,180.25
Sunday School	5.00	7.00
God's Gang		100.00
Food Pantry	100.00	150.00
Choices	100.00	100.00
T-shirt Fund	69.00	
Salvation Army	150.00	200.00
Love Offering	450.00	886.00
Disciples Missions	140.00	50.00
Thanksgiving Offering	160.00	496.00
Reconciliation Offering		25.00
Life Center	100.00	50.00
Church Bus Fund	100.00	175.00
Heated Sidewalk	220.00	2,195.00
Building Fund	590.00	120.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,206.25</b>	<b>\$6,734.25</b>

### SERVING SCHED.: Nov. 26, 2023 - Cong. Mtg.

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

**9:00 AM: GREETERS:** Pete Templeton family

**WORSHIP ELDER:** Nels Kasey

**BREAD ELDER:** Candi Milam

**DEACONS:** Team 3, Patty Waters, Capt.

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

**DEACONESS:** Glenda Berry

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Edna Creech

**CHILDREN'S SERMON:** Candi Milam

**PROJECTION/SOUND:** Tony Peel

**NURSERY ATTENDANT:** Cathy Clawson

**NOV. USHERS:** Pam Lobb, Nick Sanders

**NOV. FRIENDSHIP VISITOR:** Joe Gleckler

**SCRIPTURE:** John 13:1-5; 12-17

**SERMON:** "Good...Better...Best" by Pastor Jim Blue

### SERVING SCHEDULE: Dec. 3, 2023 - First Advent

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

**9:00 AM: GREETERS:** TBA

**WORSHIP ELDER:** Ellen Webb

**BREAD ELDER:** Kim Woods

**DEACONS:** Team 1, Dustin Whitezel, Capt.

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

**DEACONESS:** Katie Vaughn

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Jenny McMahan

**CHILDREN'S SERMON:** Tammy Terry

**DEC. USHERS:** Steve Cochran, Dan & Dean Smittkamp

**DEC. FRIENDSHIP VISITOR:** Cody & Katie Vaughn

**ADVENT CANDLELIGHTERS:** Nick Sanders Family

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 80

**SERMON:** Joy For Every Longing Heart: "Light"

by Pastor Jim Blue

**SHUT-IN COMMUNION:** Dennis Thiel & Steve Webb

### HOLIDAY HOURS

The church offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday and Friday, November 23rd and 24th.

