

THE MESSENGER

Believing, Behaving, Becoming Like Christ

November 8, 2023

SOMEBODY! - Part One

Let's rest awhile and break bread together. I don't mean buttermilk biscuits; I mean the Word of the Lord. Take a look at Luke 8 with a question recorded in verse 45. In this two part brief message, let's think about the question Jesus asked.

"Jesus said, Who touched me?"

Do you know the story? A little woman was slowly bleeding to death. The victim of an incurable hemorrhage, she had trudged from doctor to doctor seeking help. They could not cure her, but they took all her money. In Mark's gospel it states, "she suffered many things of many physicians."

Then the suffering woman heard of Jesus, a strange healer who had helped so many people. So she slipped through the crowd, took the hem of His robe between her trembling fingers, and the bleeding stopped immediately. Jesus stopped, looked around and asked, "Who touched me?" He knew that power had gone from Him to heal someone.

Now it isn't the question so much as the answers that we need to look at. Three answers were given. The first two were wrong. Jesus brushed them aside and supplied the right answer himself.

"Who touched me?" **The crowd said, "Nobody."** Luke's exact words are **"all denied,"** The sad truth is, where that crowd was concerned the woman was a nobody. She isn't named. She had no friends. She had no money. Everyone she sought help from had been unable to give it. **Nameless, friendless, moneyless, and helpless,** that is about as near nobody as you can be.

Watch for part 2 in next issue November 22 to complete the most inspiring story SOMEBODY.

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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a Congregational Meeting following services on Sunday, November 19 to vote on the 2024 nominees and budget. All members are asked to stay after to vote on that day.

Thanksgiving Offering

Sunday, Nov. 12, will be the Minute for Mission for the Thanksgiving Offering. The Thanksgiving Offering supports Disciples colleges, universities and theological institutions. Disciples have a long history of post-secondary and theological education. This offering provides a direct connection to 15 colleges and universities, 7 seminaries and theological programs. Gifts from this offering continue the Disciples tradition of developing leaders for our communities and the Church. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) counts on fifteen colleges & universities providing ample opportunity for students to get involved in the community, explore personal faith, and connect to new ideas and perspectives. You'll find diverse student groups on our campuses: Democrats, Republicans, Tea Party members, Independents; Asian Student Associations, Black Student Unions, Latino Student Associations, International Student Organizations; Gay-Straight Alliances and LGBT groups; and faith-based groups representing Muslim, Jewish, Mormon, Catholic, Episcopal, Baptist, and other denominations. What does it mean to be a college or university of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)? That's a reasonable question. The 15 schools, while diverse, have a number of things in common: A commitment to academic excellence and the liberal arts; An environment of open inquiry; An inclusive, welcoming community that respects all people and cultures; A focus on character, service, and leadership; and A passion for social justice. You'll find students and faculty with strong values and faith. You'll also notice a philosophy of faith paired with reason: The best learning and personal growth occur when the intellectual and spiritual are combined.



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

Home from Rehab: Chantell Whitezel

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



-- Nels Kasey for the Children's
Sermon;
-- Barbara Dick & Candi Milam for
leading Children's Church;
-- Steve & Ellen Webb for the birthday and 40th
Anniversary flowers; the Jim Mathis family and
Glenda Berry for the memorial flowers.

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

"For the Lord himself will descend from heaven
with a cry of command, with the archangel's
call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God.
And the dead in Christ will rise first; ¹⁷ then we
who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up
together with them in the clouds to meet the
Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with
the Lord." - I Thessalonians 4:16-17

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.

Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving church family!



S'MORES at CHRISTMAS IN PARIS

FCC plans to have a "S'more's" booth at
Christmas in Paris on Nov. 25. They will be at
the Pure Paris building from 1:00-3:00 PM. To
make the s'mores the Community Outreach
Committee is requesting Keebler Fudge Stripe
cookies and bags of regular size marshmallows.
A collection container will be 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.
Please help anyway you can and thank you!

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. 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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Board Meeting, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 7:00 PM
- Congregational Meeting, Sunday, Nov. 19, for
all members following worship to vote on the
2024 Nominees and Budget.

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 are
at 7:00 PM at the Presbyterian Church for the
following dates: Monday, Nov. 13th, Tuesday,
Nov. 28th and Thursday, Nov. 30th. Additional
singers are still needed! It's not too late to join.
The Advent Service will be on Sunday, Dec. 3.

FCC T-SHIRT ORDER

Thank you to those who responded to the FCC t-
shirt order. The order has been turned in and we
will let you know when the t-shirts come in!

DONATIONS

Thank you for your recent donations of candy for
Scare on the Square. The extra was given to
God's Gang. Also for the "Sock-It-To-Me" sock
donations - outstanding! They will be distributed
to all pre-schoolers in Paris!

Christian Women's Fellowship

NOVEMBER CIRCLES

CIRCLE OF PRAYER: meets the second Thursday, Nov. 9, 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

Nevins Christian Church, located 5 miles south of town on the Lower Terre Haute road, is hosting the Community Thanksgiving Service this year at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 21. Believing that everyone ought to give thanks, we are going to explore "The Ripple Effect" of thanksgiving. After you've thanked for one thing, what do you thank for next? There is always a "next". Come and be a part of this adventure into Continuing Thanksgiving. Come be a shar-er in blessing God for what He has done.



SALVATION ARMY BELL-RINGING

There is an opportunity for you, with a few friends or family, to ring bells for the Salvation Army to collect holiday donations on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM at the Paris Walmart. A sign-up sheet is out on the hall desk for you to choose your desired time. Thank you for volunteering!



Hello from 412 Youth!! Winter is upon us and with that are sign-ups for the youth winter retreat for SpringHill. Sign-ups are going on now until November 30th. See Faith for more details on cost and detailed plans.

God's Gang is going well and the kids are having so much fun. We have a good junior high group that is learning from Rev. Mike and the elementary kids are learning from the talented Mary K. Bradford and Barbara Dick for their lessons. We are so blessed to have so many people in this church who are invested in the youth. Thank you to all of those who serve in God's Gang.

Upcoming Events:

November 12- Youth group at the church 6-8pm

November 19 - Youth group at the church 6-8pm

November 26 - 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 set up on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 26th.

LETTER FROM TRUSTEES

A mass mailing will be going out this week to the congregants concerning the heated sidewalk project. Please be looking for it in your mail and be sure to read it. Enclosed in the mailing will be a form for you to cut out and return to the church. Thank you, in advance, for helping FCC be good stewards for the future.



THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

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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

Non-Profit

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. 29: 9:00-118 Nursery-3 Online-views 79/119*

TOTAL 240* SS = 20

Nov. 5: 9:00-128 Nursery-3 Online-23/35*

TOTAL 166* SS = 24

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

OFFERING TOTAL

	Oct. 29	Nov. 5, 2023
General Fund	\$4,771.25**	\$4,999.25
Sunday School		16.00
Food Pantry		50.00
Emergency Fund		10.00
T-shirt Fund	120.00	136.00
Disciples Missions	550.00*	50.00
Week of Compassion	75.00*	
Life Center	140.00*	125.00
Heated Sidewalk	1,320.00	695.00
Building Fund	1,210.00*	695.00
TOTAL	\$8,186.25**	\$6,776.25

*Includes *Electronic Giving & *Pay Pal*

HOLIDAY HOURS

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SERVING SCHED.: November 12, 2023

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

9:00 AM: GREETER: Donna Garver

WORSHIP ELDER: Pete Templeton

BREAD ELDER: Ellen Webb

DEACONS: Team 1, Dustin Whitezel, Capt.

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

DEACONESS: Emily Thomas

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Emily Thomas

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Steve Webb

PROJECTION/SOUND: Tony Peel

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Cathy Clawson

NOV. USHERS: Pam Lobb, Nick Sanders

NOV. FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Joe Gleckler

SCRIPTURE: John 4:5-15

SERMON: "First Impressions Can Change"

by Pastor Jim Blue

SERVING SCHEDULE: November 19, 2023

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

9:00 AM: GREETERS: Doc & Donna Moody

WORSHIP ELDER: Barbara Dick

BREAD ELDER: David Dick

DEACONS: Team 2, Kenny Milam, Capt.

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

DEACONESS: Jennean McDaniel

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Cassie Boatman

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Mary K. Bradford

SCRIPTURE: Luke 18:1-14

SERMON: "God's Attitude Toward Our Request"

by Pastor Jim Blue

There's
always
SOMETHING
TO BE
thankful
FOR