

THE MESSENGER

Believing, Behaving, Becoming Like Christ

July 19, 2023

GOD SURPRISES - PART 2

Genesis 28:11-22 Focus...

Genesis 28:12-13 Note the phrases BEHOLD

"Behold the angels" Here is a surprising traffic. Jacob saw them going up and down the ladder. It wasn't a matter of fun and games. They were not taking physical therapy or doing their calisthenics, Those were God's messengers. They were operating a heavenly delivery service, bringing the blessings of God down to the lives of men.

The New Testament tells us that angels are "ministering spirits" who minister to the "heirs of salvation" (Heb.1:14). God was letting Jacob know that His delivery service reached the fringe areas and operated in hard times. Jacob didn't have to be snug in the family nest to get help from God.

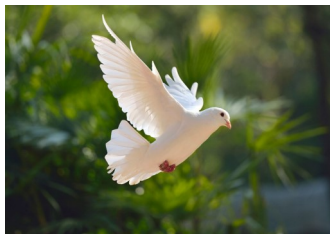
Anywhere, anytime, the messengers of mercy could reach him. Wherever you are, God has your address. He can reach you in His love and with His help from New York's Central Park to the Australia's Outback.

Another page from Pastor Jim's, "Old Book File",
Take A Bible Break, by W.E.McCumber (More to follow)



Vacation Bible School Report

Last week the "Keepers of the Kingdom" VBS was held at FCC. The attendance was as follows: Monday - 42, Tuesday - 51, Wednesday - 46, Thursday - 40, and Friday - 50. The offering was designated again this year to Hopes & Dreams and totaled \$752.76. Special thanks to all those who volunteered their time and effort to make God's Word come alive for all the kids last week and thank you to all the parents/grandparents/friends and caregivers who brought the children! (And many thanks to Corby Dayton for the much-appreciated and timely coffee gift-cards!)



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

The Disciples Outreach Committee is promoting "Christmas in July" this month. This year's outreach is for Dove, Inc. FCC will be collecting items for Dove over the course of this month. The items are noted on the handouts located on the sign-up desk. These items should be placed under the Christmas tree in the sanctuary in the collection containers provided.



Paris Healthcare: Martha Stephen,
Richard Melendez

Pleasant Meadows: Dorothy Waltz,
Brandon Bell, Linda Driver

Twin Lakes: Irma Julian

Home from the Hospital: Chuck Bradford
Greg Terry

Our sympathies to Greg Kelly on the passing of his mother, and to Irma Julian on the loss of her son.

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



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

-- Barbara Dick and Sammy Milam for leading Children's Church;

-- Amy Horton and the VBS Children's Choir for Special Music;

-- all the volunteers who decorated, taught, fed, led, acted, sang, helped, supported VBS;

-- the Membership Committee for the All-Church picnic & those who attended;

-- the Disciples Outreach Committee for the "Christmas in July" decorations;

-- the Lanker family for flowers in memory of Carolyn Lanker's birthday.

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

"You're blessed when you stay on course, walking steadily on the road revealed by God. You're blessed when you follow his directions, doing your best to find him."

- Psalm 119:7a (The Message)



JULY PRAYER

Dear Lord, You are the Light of the world. Thank You for shining Your Light in us and through us. Amen.

SENIOR MINISTER POSITION OPEN

Interested applicants for the Senior Minister position must apply through the online link. Go to: <https://www.vanderbloemen.com/job/first-christian-church-paris-senior-minister>



"SPLINTERS" FROM THE BOARD

At the July meeting of the Executive Board it was reported by the:

- Youth Director that sixteen youth and two adults made a trip to Holiday World; the fall session of God's Gang will start September 13 and run through December 6;
- Christian Education Committee that Promotion Sunday will be September 10;
- Disciples Outreach Committee that \$1,335 was received for the Pentecost Offering which exceeded the goal; Christmas in July gifts will go to Dove, Inc.
- Evangelism Committee that participation in the Shrine Parade was very successful; volunteers are needed for the Hospitality Booth at the Fair; ideas are being sought for gifts to pass out during the Honeybee Parade;
- Staff Relations Committee that annual staff reviews will be held in September;
- Trustees that new concrete walks and steps and enlarged handicap area will be replaced in August by Teamworx; shingles were lost during the recent storm and issues with the roof are being addressed;
- Membership Committee that the successful church picnic was attended by 65, and plans are underway for the next event on Sept. 10;
- Worship Committee that new baptismal robes were purchased;

Also,

- The Board voted to give \$225 to the Fire Department for their fire and burn prevention program for ages three to twelve;
- Plans are being made for an active shooter program; a security committee will be appointed.

THE SECRET PLACE

Secret Place devotionals are available and at the entryways for you to use.

PRAYER FOR MINISTER SEARCH

We are very grateful for Pastor Blue filling in during this interim. He is a joy to be around and an encourager. But interim means, "intervening time", so during this period we should be intervening in prayer for the full-time minister that will be coming to lead this congregation, grow it in wisdom and pure character, and help FCC in fulfilling the Great Commission that Christ asked His followers to do. Keep praying! Thank you!

CIRCLE NEWS

Koinonia Circle is the only Circle having an activity coming up. They will be going to Sullivan to the Little Theatre to see "A Second Helping of the Church Basement Ladies" on Wednesday, August 23. They will be leaving FCC at 10:30 AM that morning.



GOING AWAY - OPEN HOUSE PARTY

The Circle of Light and friends are having a "Going Away" Open House Party for Cindy Robinson on Saturday, July 22, from 2:00 to 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Cindy will be moving out-of-state the first of August, so come wish her a fond farewell!



HOSPITALITY FAIR TENT

The Paris Ministerial Fellowship is asked to work at the Edgar County Fair each year in the Hospitality Tent. They, in turn, ask their church members to volunteer. This outreach is done through our Evangelism Committee. A sign-up is out for help on Tuesday, July 25, from 5-8 PM.

CCC UNDERGARMENT DRIVE

The Compassionate Clothing Closet is holding their adult undergarment drive this month through August. They need donations of new underwear, bras and socks. A donation box will be out under the sign-up desk. Thank you!



NEW HORIZON'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

The New Horizon's Sunday School class will not meet on Sunday, July 23. The teacher is still in recuperation mode and may not be able to have class on the following week either. As information comes available, we'll let you know. Please keep him in your prayers.



Hello from 412!! We are coming to the end of summer (sadly!!) and the students will be back in school before we know it. Will you join me in praying for a great school year filled with memories, academic success, and peace of mind? The things these students today face are much different and more difficult than the things I faced when in school (and that wasn't even that long ago!)

We are still in the Slight Edge series and we will continue that until shortly after school returns in session. We have one more special summer event coming up with a trip to Steak n Shake in Terre Haute.

Upcoming Events:

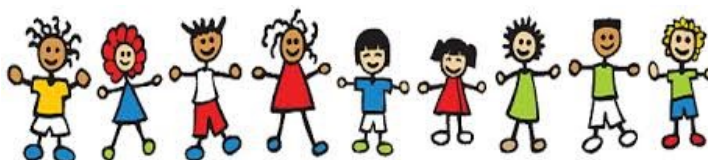
July 23- Youth group 4-5:30pm

July 30- Youth group 6-8pm

Aug 6- Youth group 6-8pm

Aug 13- Steak n Shake trip - leave the church at 5pm

- Faith Milam, Youth Director



CARDINALS / CUBS BASEBALL GAME

For those who signed up and paid for this outing, the date is soon approaching. This is your reminder that the church bus will be leaving from FCC at 3:00 PM on Thursday, July 27. If you have any questions, contact Tony Peel.



THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

201 S. Main St., Paris, Illinois 61944

Phone: (217) 466-3255 • E-mail: 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

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

July 9: 9:00 - 114 Nursery-5 Online-views 24/36*

TOTAL 155* SS = 26

July 16: 9:00 - 143 Nursery-2 Online-views 48/72*

TOTAL 217* SS = 11

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SERVING SCHED: July 23, 2023

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

9:00 AM: GREETER: TBD

WORSHIP ELDER: Pete Templeton

BREAD ELDER: Dennis Thiel

DEACONS: Team 3, Patty Waters, Capt.

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

DEACONESS: Bev McCain

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Barbara Dick

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Mary K. Bradford

SPECIAL MUSIC: Avoree Gore

SCRIPTURE: John 3:1

SERMON: "His Great Love Lavished On Us"

by Pastor Jim Blue

SERVING SCHEDULE: July 30, 2023

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

9:00 AM: GREETERS: TBD

WORSHIP ELDER: Barbara Dick

BREAD ELDER: David Dick

DEACONS: Team 1, Dustin Whitezel, Capt.

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

DEACONESS: Lisa Young

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Cassie Boatman

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Tammy Terry

PROJECTION/SOUND: Tony Peel

JULY USHERS: Roger Faulk, Tammy Terry, Bill Young

JULY FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Dustin Whitezel

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Cathy Clawson

SPECIAL MUSIC: Kirsten Lutes

SCRIPTURE: Mark 5:35-42

SERMON: "Why Bother Jesus Anymore"

by Pastor Jim Blue

<u>OFFERING TOTAL</u>	<u>July 9</u>	<u>July 16, 2023</u>
General Fund	\$4,191.25	\$2,854.25
Sunday School	8.00	10.00
Emergency Fund	10.00	
Food Pantry		50.00
VBS		25.00
Disciples Missions	150.00	50.00
Christmas in July	100.00	540.00
Life Center	85.00	250.00
Church Fence	250.00	207.00
Church Nursery	100.00	100.00
Church Bus Fund		225.00
Memorial Fund	300.00	415.00
Building Fund	495.00	215.00
TOTAL	\$5,689.25	\$4,941.25



Stewardship
a way of life