

THE MESSENGER

Believing, Behaving, Becoming Like Christ

July 6, 2023

GOD SURPRISES

Have you had any strange dreams lately? Dreams are intriguing. Their cause can be from too much pizza...to God. THAT'S RIGHT! God can speak to people in their dreams.

One man who experienced such a dream was Jacob. Check out his dream and story in Genesis 28:11-22. Let's just focus on verses 12 and 13, ***"And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon you lie, to you I give it, and to your seed."***

Note the phrase BEHOLD and let's focus on it briefly.

Behold a ladder. Here is a surprising union. Heaven and earth joined. God was in touch with man. And Jacob was learning that the connection could be made anytime, anywhere. Not just back home, where Papa Isaac and Mama Rebekah prayed around the family altar, but also amid the rocks and sand of the desert.

Jacob could not reach God, but God could reach him. Jacob had no ladder for climbing up to heaven. His works could never gave him access to God. But God had a ladder for reaching down to earth. He made the linkup on His own initiative. He is the God who is gracious to sinners.

Friends, the ladder still stands. The name of the ladder is Jesus. Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you. Hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man" (John 1:51). Jesus is the union between God and man. No man comes to the Father except by Him. "There is one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus (I Timothy 2:5).

Interim Pastor Jim, sharing from one of his old study books,
Take A Bible Break, by W.E.McCumber (More to follow)

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## Vacation Bible School

VBS is next week!!! Monday through Friday, July 10-14 - starting at 9:00 AM each day for kids finishing pre-school, age 4 through grade 5. Registrations forms are in the hallway and on the church website at: <https://fccparis.org/vbs-current/> If you can help with needed items, there is a list for snacks on the large posterboard in the hallway. Empty paper towel rolls are also needed for VBS crafts and are being collected in a basket under the sign-up desk. Also, if you have medieval / castle decorations that can be loaned for décor during the week, please let Candi or Sammy Milam know. Volunteers are welcome for the week, please see Candi Milam for information. Set-up and decorating will be done on Sunday afternoon, July 9; removal of most decorations will be Friday of VBS, but the sanctuary decor will remain for VBS Sunday, July 16. Thank you for helping, praying, and sending your children to reach the next generation for Jesus!



Paris Healthcare: Martha Stephen,  
Richard Melendez

Pleasant Meadows: Dorothy Waltz,  
Brandon Bell, Linda Driver

Home from Rehab: Dorothy McGee

Home from the Hospital: Nancy James  
Bob Martin

Our sympathies to the friends and families of:  
Pat Schaich; Madonna Meeks, services will be  
this Saturday; and Linda Tucker, services are  
pending.

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



-- Kim Woods and Nels Kasey for  
the Children's Sermons;

-- Jenny McMahan for leading  
Children's Church;

-- the Scholarship Recipients, Peg Dixon,  
Templeton boys, and Ellen Webb for Special  
Music in June; and to the Paris Brass Quintet  
for Special Music this last Sunday;

-- Barb Free and the Worship Committee for the  
Patriotic decorations;

-- all those who helped out during the recent  
storm, especially those who reached out to  
others without food and electricity;

-- Nancy Weger for pulpit flowers in memory of  
her mother's birthday.

### **BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

"You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to  
thee, O LORD, for though thou wast angry with  
me, thy anger turned away, and thou didst  
comfort me." - Isaiah 12:1

## **PRAYER**

### **JULY PRAYER**

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

### **WE'RE HIRING**

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>



### **ALL-CHURCH PICNIC!**

After that storm, we all need a break - a time to  
relax, fellowship with others, not worry about  
what to make for dinner! So, come on out to the  
East Lake Pavilion this Sunday, July 9, at 4:00  
PM for the All-Church Picnic. Everything will be  
provided, you can bring a lawn chair if you wish,  
no sign-up required.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- ◆ Elders meeting Thursday, July 6, at 5:00 PM.
- ◆ Trustees meeting Thursday, July 6, at 6:00 PM.
- ◆ Board meeting Tuesday, July 11, at 7:00 PM.

### **THE SECRET PLACE**

Secret Place devotionals are available and at the  
entryways for you to pick one up.

### **LOST AND FOUND**

The Lost and Found basket is full of items and  
there are so many jackets and sweaters that they  
are hung on the coat rack above the lost and  
found basket. Please stop by and check for  
items that may belong to you or your child. If not  
picked up this week, we will be donating the  
items to the Compassionate Clothing Closet.

### **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!

### **MUSICIANS / SINGERS**

To all musicians, whether you write music, play  
an instrument, sing as a soloist or in the choir: on  
July 15 at 2:00 PM at the New Beginnings  
Church (526 Clay Street), we will be having a  
Musician's Roundtable Fellowship. Anyone who  
does music ministry on any level is welcome. The  
purpose is to give all musicians a chance to  
share informally with others what they are doing  
and encourage one another, not as an  
organization, just a gathering. Call Kevin Levelie  
217-264-1999 for further information.

## CIRCLE NEWS

The Circle of Prayer has made a new, redwood Prayer Requests box and it is located on the hallway table. Cards to submit prayer requests are located at the side of the box.



## 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!

## BABY BOTTLE BLESSINGS

The Baby Bottle Blessings Campaign for Choices raised a total of \$364.90! Your spare change makes a difference! Thank you!

## CHRISTMAS IN JULY

This coming Sunday, July 9, will be the "Christmas in July" Minute for Mission. This year's outreach is for Dove, Inc. and Joyce Kirkland will be here to give a short presentation on their ministry. FCC will be collecting items for Dove over the course of this month. The items will be noted in the bulletin insert and you can bring them to Faith's office during VBS or to the sanctuary following VBS. There will be a Christmas tree out this week, but removed for VBS, then put up afterward to remind us of the special "Christmas in July" outreach. Thank you in advance for your gifts.

## CCC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Compassionate Clothing Closet (CCC) needs FCC volunteers this month at 211 N. Central (1 block north of the square). The CCC is open every Monday from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM for drop off & sorting of clothes and we need 1 or 2 helpers for Mondays this month. You will be needed to receive and sort clothing. Masks are optional at this point, so you may do whatever is comfortable for you. Please sign up for as many days/hours as possible, but you may also give us part of a day.

- Cathy Melendez

## Thank You!

Dear FCC, Thank you for continuing to help me grow and further my education. - Chloe Waltz



Hello from 412! The youth are headed to Holiday World on Friday. Please pray for safe travels, a clear weather forecast, and for Dan Smittkamp & I's sanity (just kidding, kind of!) We are destined to have fun and enjoy each other's company, no matter what!

During Sunday nights, we have started a new series, The Slight Edge. This series focuses on our daily habits and routines and how small choices are truly what make the biggest difference in life over time. We are looking at certain Biblical principles and how choosing to do small acts of obedience each day can really change your life! I encourage you to ask the students which Biblical principle they are committing to.

Vacation Bible School is also next week and I can't wait to see what the Lord will do! Please pray for many kids who are ready to hear the Gospel.

## Upcoming Events:

July 9 - all church picnic, youth encouraged to attend!

July 16 - youth group 4-5:30pm

July 23 - youth group 4-5:30pm

July 30 - youth group trip to Steak n Shake - depart church at 6pm

- Faith Milam, Youth Director



## MAN OF THE YEAR

Man of the Year ballots are available for you to turn in your nominee for this year. Forms can be picked up in the hallway.





# 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

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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*

June 25: 9:00 - 111 Nursery-2 Online-views 31/47\*

**TOTAL 160\*** SS = 28

July 2: 9:00 - 116 Nursery-3 Online-views 24/36\*

**TOTAL 155\*** SS = 20

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### OFFERING TOTAL

|                       | June 25           | July 2, 2023        |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund          | \$2,355.25        | \$7,941.57*         |
| Sunday School         | 22.00             | 6.00                |
| Baby Bottle Blessings | 286.37            | 78.53               |
| Food Pantry           |                   | 50.00               |
| Youth Fund            | 200.00            |                     |
| Disciples Missions    | 320.00            | 500.00*             |
| Wk of Compassion*     |                   | 75.00*              |
| Life Center           | 220.00            | 360.00*             |
| Church Fence          | 225.00            |                     |
| Church Nursery        | 100.00            | 100.00              |
| Church Bus Fund       |                   | 3.00                |
| Memorial Fund         | 250.00            | 200.00              |
| Building Fund         | 640.00            | 855.00              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>\$4,618.62</b> | <b>\$10,169.10*</b> |

*\*Includes Electronic Giving*

### SERVING SCHED: July 9, 2023 Christmas in July!

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

**9:00 AM: GREETER:** TBD

**WORSHIP ELDER:** Kim Woods

**BREAD ELDER:** Nels Kasey

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

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

**DEACONESS:** Connie Bean

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Barbara Dick

**CHILDREN'S SERMON:** David Dick

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** Elite Harmony Choir

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 27:13-26

**SERMON:** "Friend, You Can Make It" by Pastor Jim Blue

### SERVING SCHEDULE: July 16, 2023 VBS Sunday!

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

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

**WORSHIP ELDER:** Troy Sanders

**BREAD ELDER:** Ellen Webb

**DEACONS:** Team 2, Kenny Milam, Capt.

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

**DEACONESS:** Gloria Magers

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Sammy Milam

**CHILDREN'S SERMON:** Steve Webb

**PROJECTION/SOUND:** Tony Peel

**JULY USHERS:** Roger Faulk, Tammy Terry, Bill Young

**JULY FRIENDSHIP VISITOR:** Dustin Whitezel

**NURSERY ATTENDANT:** Cathy Clawson

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** VBS Children's Choir

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

**SERMON:** "When You Cannot Understand, Trust God"

by Pastor Jim Blue

### A PRAYER FOR ALL AMERICANS

*"O God, Whose name was on the lips of the men who founded this nation, and on the lips of men who died for it... be with us yet."*

*"Guide us through this period of crisis, confusion and insecurity. Keep us steadfast in remembering the truths our forefathers lived by."*

*"Restore our innocence, renew our vision, enter our hearts and keep us brave."*

*"Give us, as Americans, the strength to do Your work and to make this country worthy of Your blessing. Amen."*

Exchange Quarterly, Cathedral Press