

THE MESSENGER

Believing, Behaving, Becoming Like Christ

August 2, 2023

GOD SURPRISES - PART 3

Genesis 28:11-22

Focus Genesis 28:12-13 "Behold The Lord"

"BEHOLD THE LORD" provides the third part of this inspiring thought for today's brief message for FCC Messenger

"Behold The Lord " ...here is a surprising presence. Why should the Lord be with Jacob? Jacob was on aim of keeping his brother. Esau, from killing him. Jacob was a crook from head to heels, a con man who had victimized his own family. That is lower than a grub worm's instep! And yet, here was God, full of promise to such an undeserving sinner!

God is merciful, and we are grateful for that. We are no better than Jacob. Some of us are just less successful in our schemes. "All have sinned" (Rom. 3:23) and our only hope is the mercy of God.

God is faithful, just listen to His promise to Jacob: "Behold, I am with you, and will keep you in all places whither you go" (v. 15). He is a covenant-keeping, promise-filling God. He never lets us go and never lets us down. This is all the security anyone needs for the future.

A Simple Prayer... O God, we thank you for Your love and for Your Ladder. Keep the angels coming. We cannot make it without Your forgiveness and blessings.

Another page from Pastor Jim's "Old Library Book file

TAKE A BIBLE BREAK W.E McCumber
(More brief messages to follow stay tuned.)



FCC Women's Overnight Retreat

Ladies of FCC - the Koinonia Circle has organized a one-night retreat at Camp Walter Scott for Friday-Saturday, September 8-9. The theme for the retreat is, "Praying the Psalms" and will be led by Kim Trine, co-owner of the Christian bookstore in Paris called, "The Cross Walk". The schedule for the retreat is as follows:

Friday, September 8

Leave from FCC at 5:00 PM and have supper in Effingham

That evening will be Group Building / "Psalm Session" / Campfire (if not too hot out)

Saturday, September 9

Morning devotions / Breakfast / "Psalm Session"

Lunch / Free time / "Psalm Session" / Closing (4:30 PM)

Supper in Effingham (?)

The cost is \$20 each and you should bring bedding, toiletries, a healthy snack to share, and your Bible. We can take the church bus or you can drive. Bus seating is limited to 14. Saturday the breakfast and lunch will be provided, but Friday and Saturday suppers will be the individual's responsibility.

A signup sheet is out in the hallway. Retreat participation is limited to 19, so sign-up soon! If you have any questions, see Peg Dixon.



Paris Healthcare: Martha Stephen,
Richard Melendez

Pleasant Meadows: Dorothy Waltz,
Brandon Bell, Linda Driver

Twin Lakes: Irma Julian

Continue prayers for: Janice Nicholson,
Louise Bridwell, Carol Winemiller, Randy
Creech, Chuck Bradford, Greg Terry



-- Mary K. Bradford and Tammy
Terry for the Children's Sermons;

-- Barbara Dick and Cassie
Boatman for leading Children's

Church;

-- Avoree Gore and Kirsten Webb for their
Special Music;

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

-- Tony Peel for driving the bus and all those
who went to the Cardinal/Cub baseball game;

-- Dan Dayton and Roseann Moss for keeping
the yard and borders looking so nice;

-- the family of C.K. Nay for flowers in his
memory.

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

"When I thought, 'My foot slips,' Thy steadfast
love, O LORD, held me up. When the cares
of my heart are many, Thy consolations cheer
my soul."

- Psalm 94:18-19

PRAYER

AUGUST PRAYER

Heavenly Father, the Scripture says, "Every
good and perfect gift is from above." Thank You
for Your life-altering gifts and sacrifices by
offering us forgiveness, mercy, and everlasting
life. May we practice Your gift-giving in our
daily lives by living, loving, and spreading Your
Word. 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>

CIRCLE NEWS

Koinonia Circle 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.

CCC UNDERGARMENT DRIVE

The Compassionate Clothing Closet is holding
their adult undergarment drive through the month
of 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
be meeting while the teacher is still in
recuperation mode. Please keep Greg Terry in
your prayers.

DISCIPLE MEN'S BREAKFAST

Signup to come to the Disciple Men's Breakfast
at 8:00 AM on Saturday, August 19!

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Thank you to all who donated items or
contributed money towards purchasing items for
Dove, Inc. of Decatur. The total amount received
monetarily was: \$1,120. These funds will go to
purchase needed items on the list provided by
Dove. They are sorting through the donated
items this week and will decide what items to
buy. Thank you again for your generosity to the
Christmas in July offering!



SCARECROW DONATIONS

It's that time again to go through the old fall and
winter clothes and prepare for the start of another
school year. While you are doing that, we ask
that you save out the kid's clothes that are too
small, stained, ripped, or have holes - nothing is
too raggedy! These are just the type of items we
need for putting together the Scarecrows at our
FCC Booth during the Honeybee Festival! All kid
sizes and small adult sizes are welcome. We are
in need of long sleeve shirts and pants to stuff
with straw. We also need hats to put on the
scarecrow's plastic-sack head! Please bring your
items to the church where there will be a
donation container set up! Thank you!



Hello from 412 Youth! It has been a busy summer and it is slowly winding down. I am thankful for all this church does to support the youth and to give them opportunities to make great memories. Vacation Bible School was a great success and I am just amazed at what this church puts on every year to share the Gospel with children.

The youth have made wonderful memories at Holiday World, special events, and just through regular youth group lessons throughout this summer. I am anticipating what this fall and winter will hold for us. I have some lessons planned that I am really looking forward to sharing with the kids and I have a few new volunteers in order so things in the future are looking bright.

God's Gang will be in process soon, so go ahead and plan for a planning meeting on August 23rd at 4pm. If you are interested in helping with this great program, please call or text Faith at 217-264-3795 or come see me at church!

Upcoming Events:

August 6 - swim & light dinner at David & Barbara Dick's - leave the church at 3:45pm. return to church at 6pm
August 13 - youth group at church 6-8pm
August 20 - youth group at church 6-8pm
August 27 - combined youth group at Lake Ridge, silent disco 5:30-7:30
September 3 - youth group at church 6-8pm
SAVE THE DATE - SPRINGHILL WINTER TEEN RETREAT - JAN 12-14, 2024 - secure your spot now with Faith!!

- Faith Milam, Youth Director

ITEMS FOR FOOD PANTRY

At the present time, the Food Pantry will take the 12-count/dozen egg cartons in both the paperboard and Styrofoam material. (They prefer the Styrofoam though.)

Also, they are no longer accepting the plastic Walmart bags. Please do not bring them in as we have no place to store them. You can take those bags back to Walmart where they have a recycle collection at the exit door. Thank you!

WORSHIP SCHEDULES for the last two Sundays of August

SERVING SCHED: August 20, 2023

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

9:00 AM: GREETER: Candi & Sammy Milam

WORSHIP ELDER: Pete Templeton

BREAD ELDER: Steve Webb

DEACONS: Team 1, Dustin Whitezel, Capt.

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

DEACONESS: Jenneane McDaniel

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Sammy Milam

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Taylor Shewey

PROJECTION/SOUND: Tony Peel

SPECIAL MUSIC: Mike Lindsey

SCRIPTURE: I Thess. 3:6-13

SERMON: "Growing into Your Crown"

by Pastor Jim Blue

SERVING SCHEDULE: August 27, 2023

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

9:00 AM: GREETERS: Steve & Ellen Webb

WORSHIP ELDER: Dennis Thiel

BREAD ELDER: Troy Sanders

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

SPECIAL MUSIC: Kay Bellerud & Jenny McMahan

SCRIPTURE: I Thess. 4:13-18

SERMON: "The Next Great Event" by Pastor Jim Blue

Thank You!

Linda Driver called in thank everyone for all the times they gave their time to remember her with cards and prayers. She appreciates all the updates. It's wonderful to be a part of a loving, caring Christian family.

Greg Terry would like to thank all for the prayers, cards, and phone calls he received during his recent surgery. They were much appreciated!

VANDERBLOEMEN TO VISIT

On Sunday, August 27, Rick Callahan, representative from Vanderbloemen, will be in Paris and attending the worship services. He will be here to observe, talk with the congregation, and get a feel for what the First Christian Church is looking for in a senior minister.

Please remain in prayer for this important endeavor as the search for the right person to fill this position continues.



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

July 23: 9:00-104 Nursery-4 Online-views 64/96*

TOTAL 204* SS = 10

July 30: 9:00-96 Nursery-1 Online-views 27/41*

TOTAL 138* 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 SCHEDULE: August 6, 2023

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

9:00 AM: GREETER: Steve & Faye Eitel

WORSHIP ELDER: Daniel Smittkamp

BREAD ELDER: Dennis Thiel

DEACONS: Team 2, Kenny Milam, Capt.

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

DEACONESS: Emily Thomas

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Edna Creech

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Carter Fox

PROJECTION/SOUND: Tony Peel

AUG USHERS: Pam Lobb, Randy Creech, Nick Sanders

AIG FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Edna Creech

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Cathy Clawson

SPECIAL MUSIC: Aubrey Lawson

SCRIPTURE: I Thess. 2:13-16

SERMON: "Food for Vital Living" by Pastor Jim Blue

SHUT-IN COMMUNION: Candi Milam, Troy Sanders

SERVING SCHEDULE: August 13, 2023

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

9:00 AM: GREETERS: Nels & Autumn Kasey

WORSHIP ELDER: Barbara Dick

BREAD ELDER: Cody Vaughn

DEACONS: Team 3, Patty Waters, Capt.

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

DEACONESS: Steve Webb

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Jenny McMahan

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Jacob Thomas

SPECIAL MUSIC: Justin Gardner

SCRIPTURE: I Thess. 2:17-3:5

SERMON: "Motivations of Ministry" by Pastor Jim Blue

OFFERING TOTAL

	July 23	July 30, 2023
General Fund	\$2,799.25*	\$5,818.25**
Sunday School	6.00	7.00
Youth Fund	100.00	
Disciples Missions	100.00	500.00*
Week of Compassion*		75.00*
Christmas in July		480.00
Life Center	200.00	145.00
Church Fence	225.00	
Church Nursery	100.00	100.00
Church Bus Fund	40.00	125.00
Memorial / Scholarship	760.00*	100.00
Permanent Fund		1,500.00
Building Fund	115.00	900.00
TOTAL	\$4,445.25*	\$9,750.25**

~ Includes PayPal* & Electronic Giving* ~

NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter is set to mail out on Wednesday, August 30th, therefore, the Serving Schedules for Sundays, August 20th and 27th can be found on page 3 of this mailing.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are free on Friday afternoons and like to do things in peace and quiet, there is a need for a two bulletin folders! Call the office and let us know if you would like to be added to the list for approximately an every two-month rotation.