

# THE MESSENGER

Believing, Behaving, Becoming Like Christ

August 30, 2023

## GOD'S AMAZING LOVE - PART 1

Let's take a quick look at an exciting chapter in the Bible, I John 3 and center on verse 1 "Behold what matter of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God."

Neighbor, some things defy description or definition. They are too big, too majestic, too beautiful to capture in words. All you can do is look at them and marvel. For example, a sunset over the Pacific. Or an American Beauty rose with dew on its petals. Or the view from Alpine peak with sun flashing across the snow and green valleys stretching for miles below.

The love of God is like that. You cannot measure it. You cannot describe it. You can't analyze it. You can't define it. All the categories of thought and language break down.

Try to put the love of God into words, and those words will crawl away with broken backs. They were never invented to haul that much freight.

John doesn't attempt it. He just exclaims, "Behold what matter of love." Stand and gaze and wonder with your eyes bulging out and your mouth hanging open.

What manner of love! **It is a sacrificing love.** Look at verse 16: "Hereby perceive we the love of God because he laid down his life for us."

The best place to view God's love is the cross of Jesus Christ. The holiest and noblest life ever lived was laid down for us. The Just died for the unjust. The Sinless died for the sinful. The Son of God died for the sons of men. Think of it... and wonder and weep!

Look for the next Messenger to continue reading the rest of the story God's Amazing Love.

From Pastor Jim's book shelf of old books  
"Take A Bible Break" by W.E. McCumber



## **THANK YOU from the DIXONS**

We recently returned from an awesome river cruise – thanks to you. Upon Mike's retirement, you (FCC) presented us with a financial love gift that had been deposited with a travel agency for our future use. Due to my mobility issues, we delayed taking advantage of it until this summer.

We chose to cruise on the Snake and Columbia rivers in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon – the finale of the famous Lewis and Clark expedition to the coast. We saw wondrous landscapes, learned more of our history, experienced modern technology, and made friends from all over the country – while being spoiled and pampered on the cruise itself. We chose to go on a paddlewheeler that looked old-fashioned, but was very modern and comfortable. We were very pleased! If you are interested, Peg has pictures.

And we are very, very grateful to you for making it possible through your gifts. We would not have experienced it without you! For over 30 years we have been blessed by your love, support, prayers, generosity – and we still are today.

Thank you again.

Rev. Mike and Peg Dixon



Paris Healthcare: Martha Stephen,  
Richard Melendez

Pleasant Meadows: Brandon Bell,  
Linda Driver

Twin Lakes: Irma Julian

Our sympathies to Betty Swanson on the passing of her husband; Marsha Thomey on the loss of her mother, member Dorothy Waltz; and Shirley Yeargin on the death of her brother.

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



-- Carter Fox, Jacob Thomas, and Sammy Milam for the Children's Sermons;

-- Edna Creech, Jenny McMahan Sammy Milam, and Emily Thomas for leading Children's Church;

-- Aubrey Lawson, Amy Horton, Mike Lindsey, and Will McMahan for their Special Music;

-- David & Barbara Dick for hosting the youth group at their house for a swim party;

-- Ken & Mary Helen Hamilton, the Blue family, and the Mary Mathis family for pulpit flowers.

### BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

"I love the LORD, for He heard my voice; He heard my cry for mercy. Because He turned His ear to me, I will call on Him as long as I live."

- Psalm 116:1-2

### SEPTEMBER PRAYER

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons. As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest. May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation. May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life. May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others. May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal. We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.

### SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH

Please continue to keep the search process in your prayers, asking for wisdom and God's guidance in the weeks ahead.

### PROMOTION SUNDAY

September 10 is the FCC Promotion Sunday when Sunday School classes for all ages will resume and promotional Bibles will be given to all FCC first grade and fifth grade students. Those we have listed for first grade are: Kaelan Brown and Cecilee Craig. The fifth graders we have are: Krayton Dunn, Brady Sanders, Carter Steele, Jaci Tapscott, Mason Webb, and Samuel Weir. Please have the children here to receive their Bible on that day. If we have missed anyone, please let us know.

### PROGRESSIVE DINNER

The Membership Committee invites you to the All-Church Progressive Fast-Food Dinner on Sunday, September 10, leaving from FCC at 5:00 PM. The first stop will be Arby's. From there all will go to the park Pavilion for coffee by Stagecoach and homemade ice cream by the Moody's. No sign-up is required. If you have any questions, see Barbara Dick.



### SCARECROW DONATIONS

The Honeybee Festival will "bee" September 22-24, and FCC will have the Scarecrow booth up on the square. We are asking for donations of kid's clothes that are too small, stained, ripped, or have holes to dress the little scarecrows. All kid sizes are welcome! We need long sleeve shirts and pants to stuff with straw (no socks or underwear please). We also need hats or scarves to put on the scarecrow's plastic-sack head! Accessories like necklaces, belts or small strap purses are also welcome. Please bring your items to the church and place in the donation container under the sign-up desk! Thank you!

### HONEYBEE PARADE HELPERS

The Honeybee Parade is Saturday, Sept. 23, and the line-up starts at 10:30 AM. We won't know where the bus will be until the last minute, but we do need walkers and a couple of people to help on the bus. There is a sign-up sheet out for those walkers and riders. The parade route goes from the old high school to Union Ave. at the railroad, comes back up Central Ave. and ends at Dollar General - so not a long route. Those who cannot walk are welcome to ride the bus.

## SEPTEMBER CIRCLES

CIRCLE OF LIGHT: meets Tuesday, Sept. 5, at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Paula Coombes is the hostess, with Cathy Melendez bringing the lesson.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER: meets Thursday, Sept. 14, at 6:00 PM in the church parlor.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: meets Tuesday, Sept. 19, at 2:00 PM in the church parlor.

KOINONIA CIRCLE: meets Thursday, Sept. 21, at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen.

## DISCIPLE MEN'S OUTING

The Disciple Men's Outing for September will be Sunday, the 17th. They will be going to the Beef House in Covington at 3:00 PM. Sign-up to ride the bus or carpool/drive on your own.

## NEW HORIZON'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

The New Horizon's Sunday School class is back in session, meeting upstairs at 10:15 AM with teacher, Greg Terry.

## NOTE FROM THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees have received a request to heat the sidewalk on the north side so it will clear off quickly in the winter. We have checked with an engineer and have an estimate of \$35,000 to heat the sidewalk. At this time we have decided to postpone the work so we can do some further research and raise more money for the project.

Jim Bennett, Chair

## *Thank You!*

Dear First Christian Church Friends,

Thank you so much for choosing Dove Inc. for your Christmas in July collection. We were thrilled and touched by the amazing array of items from our wish list. Your gifts will provide so many blessings for our shelter residents and their families. We appreciate your support of Dove's mission. May God bless your ministry and congregation! - Janice Kirkland, Program Director

I would like to personally thank you for your kind donation towards my college education! I would also like to thank the congregation for their never-ending support. Sincerely, Aubrey Sanders

Dear FCC, Thank you so much for always believing in me and now awarding me a scholarship to pursue my future. The memories here will last a lifetime. - Claire Young

Thank you to everyone who sent cards and prayed for me. - Chuck Bradford



Hello from 412 Youth!! School is back in session. This past week we didn't have any kids show up for youth group. We miss your kiddos and I know it's a busy season with sports, school, and jobs, but encourage your kids to come to youth group!! This is something that will serve them well for the rest of their lives.

God's Gang planning meeting is this Wednesday, August 30th at 4pm at the church. I hope anyone who has the availability to help with this important program will plan to attend. The official start of God's Gang programming will be Wednesday, September 13th. I know the kids will be looking forward to it! I have sent out registration forms to all of our previous students and VBS goers.

The youth dinner fundraiser is Sunday, September 24th at 5pm. Please make plans to attend and sign up on the sheet on the desk outside of the sanctuary. This is a big fundraiser for the kids so we can continue all of our yearly activities. The dinner will consist of chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, dinner roll, dessert, and drinks. There will also be a silent auction with items up for bid, as well. We hope you will join us!!

## Upcoming Events:

Sept 3 - youth group at the church 6-8pm

Sept 10 - fast food progressive dinner with church members

Sept 17 - youth group at the church 6-8pm

Sept 24 - youth dinner fundraiser in the church basement - 5pm

Oct 1 - youth group at the church 6-8pm

- 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.)

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 the bags back to Walmart where they have a recycle collection at the exit door. Thank you!



# 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

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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*

Aug. 6: 9:00-110 Nursery-3 Online-views 38/57\*

**TOTAL 167\*** SS = 10

Aug. 13: 9:00-108 Nursery-3 Online-views 31/47\*

**TOTAL 158\*** SS = 22

Aug. 20: 9:00-114 Nursery-4 Online-views 54/81\*

**TOTAL 199\*** SS = 22

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

<b>OFFERING TOTAL</b>	<b>Aug. 6</b>	<b>Aug. 13</b>	<b>Aug. 20, '23</b>
General Fund	\$3,291.25	\$2,393.25	\$2,007.65
Sunday School	4.00	6.00	7.00
Food Pantry		50.00	250.00
Emergency Fund	10.00		
Choices	300.00		200.00
Disciples Mission	290.00	100.00	50.00
Week of Compassion		50.00	
Wk of Compassion-Ukraine			208.00
Wk of Compassion-Hawaii			50.00
Life Center	720.00	195.00	335.00
Church Fence	350.00	250.00	100.00
Church Nursery	100.00		
Church Bus Fund	100.00		100.00
Scholarship Fund	300.00		
Memorial Fund		130.00	
Building Fund	855.00	315.00	600.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,320.25</b>	<b>\$3,489.25</b>	<b>\$3,907.65</b>

### INVITATIONS

**RIGHT TO LIFE OF EDGAR COUNTY** - is hosting a table at Chrisman Days (Sept 8-9) & needs volunteers to hand out pro-life literature & talk to visitors, Fri. 10 am-4 pm / Sat. 10 am-3 pm. Volunteers can serve whatever time they want. Call or text Mary Taylor at 217/264-5342, or email: rtlec.il@gmail.com

**FAITH IN ACTION** - will be celebrating 20 years of serving the residents of Edgar County with an Open House on Friday, Sept. 15, from 12:00-2:00 PM. The location is: 239 W. Wood St.; stop by for light refreshments and fellowship!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### SERVING SCHEDULE: September 3, 2023

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

**9:00 AM: GREETERS:** Nels & Autumn Kasey

**WORSHIP ELDER:** Kim Woods

**BREAD ELDER:** Pete Templeton

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

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

**DEACONESS:** Glenda Berry

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Faith Milam

**CHILDREN'S SERMON:** Chantell Whitezel

**PROJECTION/SOUND:** Tony Peel

**SEPT USHERS:** Steve Cochran, Dan & Dean Smittkamp

**SEPT FRIENDSHIP VISITOR:** Autumn Kasey

**NURSERY ATTENDANT:** Cathy Clawson

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** Ethan Vice & Aubrey Lawson

**SCRIPTURE:** I Thess. 5:1-11

**SERMON:** "Is Your Passport Ready?" by Pastor Jim Blue

**SHUT-IN COMMUNION:** Dan Smittkamp, Pete Templeton

### SERVING SCHEDULE: September 10, 2023

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

**9:00 AM: GREETERS:** Joe Gleckler

**WORSHIP ELDER:** Cody Vaughn

**BREAD ELDER:** Dennis Thiel

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

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

**DEACONESS:** Gloria Magers

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Candi Milam

**CHILDREN'S SERMON:** Angel Templeton

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 19:1-10

**SERMON:** "Picking Fruit from a Strange Tree"

by Pastor Jim Blue