

# THE MESSENGER

Believing, Behaving, Becoming Like Christ

September 14, 2023

## GOD'S AMAZING LOVE - PART 2

John exclaims "BEHOLD, what manner of love." Stand and gaze and wonder, with your eyes open wide and your heart ready to respond.

What manner of love! **It's a forgiving love.** Chapter 4 verse 10 declares, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

Propitiation, that is a jawbreaker word. John means that the atoning death of Jesus makes possible the forgiveness of our sins and our reconciliation to God. That's why he can say, "I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name sake." (John 2:12)

What manner of love! **It's a conquering love.** Look at verse 8: "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil." The cross was love's duel with sin. There Jesus judged sin, defeated sin, abolished sin. When we yield to His love, sin's power is broken in our lives, and we are transformed by His love.

Watch for the next issue with Part 3 of God's Amazing Love.

Pastor Jim sharing from his old library book shelf  
"Take A Bible Break" by W.E. McCumber



Meet Amy Horton, our pianist and organist. Amy was born in Indianapolis, Indiana. At a young age, she and her family moved to Tipton, Indiana where she went to school and took piano lessons. She has two sisters and one brother. She became acquainted with a piano instructor. He was quite a remarkable and talented man who taught piano at Goshen College in Goshen, Indiana. Upon high school graduation, she went to Goshen College and studied piano under him. At the end of her Freshman year, he accepted a position in the Eastern states and moved there. Even though she was disappointed to no longer study under him, she continued her love of the piano. Amy moved to Terre Haute, Indiana to complete her education at Indiana State University where she continued the study of the piano as well as giving lessons. She graduated with a Liberal Arts Degree in 2004. In 2013, she moved to Paris. She has worked for a blood center located in Terre Haute for ten years. She recruits individuals with a specific blood type to be a donor for a same type blood recipient. She also has a full schedule of piano students. Amy is the mother of three sons. Ross is 21 and lives in Indianapolis. He will moving back to the area this fall. Joshua is 15 and is adopted from Haiti. He has his black belt in Taekwondo. He attends Paris High School and is interested in football. Eli is 13. He attends Mayo School and plays baseball six months out of the year and is involved in JFL. He will be trying junior high basketball this year. During our visit, Amy and I discovered we have special ties to a family in Tipton which made our visit even more interesting. Our church is very blessed to have such a talented pianist and organist on staff. Thank you Amy for the joy we receive from your gift of music. Welcome to FCC Amy!

- by Roseann Moss

## **PLEASANT MEADOWS BASKET RAFFLE**

Pleasant Meadows Senior Living is sponsoring a basket raffle with the profits to go to Christmas gifts for the residents. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. You can choose from a list of approximately 18 baskets. Buy from Donna Moody or Audrey Stickler following worship service on Sept. 24. Drawing will be at the Craft & Bake Sale on Sept. 30. Everyone is also invited to attend and support their Craft & Bake Sale at 400 W. Washington St., Chrisman.



Paris Healthcare: Martha Stephen,  
Richard Melendez  
Pleasant Meadows: Brandon Bell,  
Linda Driver

Twin Lakes: Irma Julian

Hospitalized: Chantell Whitezel, Union  
Home from Hospital: Cathy Melendez

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



-- Taylor Shewey, Tammy Terry,  
and Angel Templeton for the  
Children's Sermons;  
-- Sammy Milam, Emily Thomas,  
and Candi Milam for leading Children's Church;  
-- Ethan Vice & Aubrey Lawson for their Special  
Music duet;  
-- Candi Milam, Teachers & the Christian  
Education Committee for Promotion Sunday;  
-- all who helped & participated in the  
Progressive Fast Food outing;  
-- all the volunteers who helped with Lunch On  
the Lawn at PHS!

### **BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All  
authority in heaven and on earth has been  
given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of  
all nations, baptizing them in the name of the  
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
and teaching them to obey everything I have  
commanded you. And surely I am with you  
always, to the very end of the age.'"

- Matthew 28:18-20

### **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.

### **"SPLINTERS" FROM THE BOARD**

At the September meeting of the Executive  
Board committees shared the following:

- Community Outreach: gave \$500 to Hopes & Dreams for back-to-school shoes; plans are underway to serve the PHS football team on Oct. 12;
- Disciples Outreach: \$1750 of items from Christmas in July were delivered to Dove, Inc.;
- Membership: refreshments will be served after services on Oct. 8 for Pastor Appreciation;
- Staff Relations: evaluations have been completed; the Assistant Financial Secretary, Vickie Blair, submitted her resignation, anyone interested in this position should contact Troy Sanders;
- Trustees: the Board authorized the Trustees to proceed with plans to install heated concrete on the Washington St. sidewalk and steps and to determine an exact cost as well as a plan for payment;
- Search: Vanderbloemen has submitted three candidates for consideration, the Search Committee is conducting interviews with two of the candidates;
- Evangelism: is making plans to participate in the Honeybee Parade on Sept. 23 and Scare on the Square on Oct. 28;
- Youth: Jacob Thomas, Cody Vaughn, & Kenny Milam are helping with youth group; there is still a need for helpers for God's Gang;
- This year's Nominating Committee was approved; members are: David Dick, Peg Dixon, Donna Moody, Nels & Autumn Kasey; they will be working to fill next year's leaders, please be praying for how you can serve!

### **"CONGRATULATIONS"**

Congratulations to the FCC Woman of the Year, Edna Creech, and the FCC Man of the Year, Cody Vaughn. They were recognized and presented their award letter in worship and will have their names engraved on the plaque in the hallway. Pictures and an article should be in the Prairie Press soon! Again, Congratulations!

### **PROMOTION SUNDAY FOLLOW-UP**

If your child is in 1st or 5th grades and did not receive their Bible, you can pick it up Sunday or come to the office during the week.

### **POSITION OPEN**

The Assistant Financial Secretary position will be open soon and FCC is taking applications from within to fill it. If you are interested, have a financial background, and are available on Monday mornings, please see Troy Sanders.

## SEPTEMBER CIRCLES

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 4:00 PM. Sign-up to ride the bus or carpool/drive on your own.

## 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.

## *Thank You!*

Dear FCC, I'm honored and humbled to be chosen as your Woman of the Year. Please know that this award would not be possible to achieve without the love and support of the congregation and staff. I appreciate all of you!

Blessings, Edna Creech

Church Family, Thank you for all your thoughts, cards, and prayers for Mother. She enjoyed them all.

- Garry, Olin Roy & Marsha  
(Dorothy Waltz Family)



Good day from 412 Youth!! We don't have much of an update from youth group. Please continue to pray for the growth of our youth group and that kids will continue to show up to learn more about their faith. Students are so busy these days with sports, academics, and other extracurricular activities, but church is so important and will be with a kid for the rest of their life if they will let it be something they continue to pursue.

The youth fundraiser dinner is on September 24th at 5pm. Please sign up and plan to attend this dinner. The sign up form is on the desk outside of the sanctuary. The cost is by donation and there will also be a silent auction.

God's Gang starts this week and I am excited to say that we have 15 kids registered for God's Gang and 4 registered for Crossroads. I am hopeful that this will be a great semester. Please pray for those who help with this program and that they will find it as fulfilling as the kids do who benefit from this program.

## Upcoming Events:

Sept. 17- Youth group at the church 6-8pm

Sept. 24- Youth dinner fundraiser at the church 5pm

Oct. 1 - Youth group at the church 6-8pm

Oct. 8- Youth group at the church 6-8pm

- Faith Milam, Youth Director

## CWF INFORMATION

(From the CWF Leadership Meeting)

Although we are no longer having CWF Workshops in the fall and spring as in the past, we are still collecting items to be recycled. The items we are collecting are: plastic bottle caps of any size, pop tabs, used postage stamps (any kind, but please tear around the stamp leaving some space around the stamp), and used cell phones with their chargers. Please bring these items into the church as you collect a supply of them. Thank you.

Cathy Meledez, CWF Representative



# 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

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*

Aug. 27: 9:00-136 Nursery-2 Online-views 38/57\*

**TOTAL 195\* SS = 24**

Sept. 3: 9:00-141 Nursery-4 Online-views 47/71\*

**TOTAL 216\* SS = 16**

Sept. 10: 9:00-124 Nursery-2 Online-views 46/69\*

**TOTAL 195\* SS = 19**

*\*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. 27</b>	<b>Sept. 3</b>	<b>Sept 10, 23</b>
General Fund	\$3,412.25*	\$8,338.59*	\$3,843.66
Sunday School	11.00	6.00	6.00
Head, Hands, Heart	500.00		
Food Pantry		250.00	
Emergency Fund		110.00	
Choices		100.00	
Lunch On the Lawn		350.00	125.00
Youth Fund			100.00
Disciples Mission	220.00	450.00*	250.00
Week of Compassion*		75.00*	
Wk of Comp. Hawaii fires			50.00
Life Center	135.00	225.00*	475.00
Church Bus Fund		200.00	
Building Usage		100.00	
Memorial Fund			20.00
Building Fund	660.00	1,260.00*	750.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,938.25*</b>	<b>\$11,664.59*</b>	<b>\$5,619.66</b>

*Includes: \*PayPal ~ \*Electronic Giving*

### INVITATIONS

**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!

**RIGHT TO LIFE OF EDGAR COUNTY** - invites you to join their "40 Days For Life" prayer vigil. It is Sept. 27-Nov. 5. To sign up and participate go to 40daysforlife.com, email Sandy Ostrowski at sostrow@mchsi.com or call/text Mary Taylor at (217) 264-5342 for further information. There is a printable or online prayer guide provided.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### SERVING SCHEDULE: September 17, 2023

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

**9:00 AM: GREETERS:** Kevin & Kim Woods

**WORSHIP ELDER:** Ellen Webb

**BREAD ELDER:** Steve Webb

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

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

**DEACONESS:** Emily Thomas

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Barbara Dick

**CHILDREN'S SERMON:** Cindy Mathis

**PROJECTION/SOUND:** Tony Peel

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

**SEPT FRIENDSHIP VISITOR:** Autumn Kasey

**NURSERY ATTENDANT:** Cathy Clawson

**SCRIPTURE:** John 6:1-14

**SERMON:** "How Can We Do the Impossible"

by Pastor Jim Blue

### SERVING SCHEDULE: September 24, 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:** David Dick

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

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

**DEACONESS:** Steve Webb

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Cassie Boatman

**CHILDREN'S SERMON:** Cody Vaughn

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 14:22-33

**SERMON:** "Four Principles About Bold Venturing"

by Pastor Jim Blue