

GOD'S AMAZING LOVE - PART 3

"Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. (1 John 3:1)

God's Amazing LoveYou cannot measure it. You cannot describe it. You cannot analyze it. You cannot define it, but you can experience it.

What manner of love! **It's an adopting love.** "Beloved, now we are the sons of God" (3:2) As sinners... we now have been adopted, forgiven, and accepted into the family of God as His children. He adopts us in love.

His pardoning and adopting love changes our relationship to God: "Now we are the sons of God."

His adopting love changes our relationship to the world, to the church, and to others.

His adopting love also is involved in changing our relationship to the future.

"Behold" look at the Cross! Look at the change it makes in life. Oh, what love! Greater than a mother's love for her child. Greater than a patriot's love for his country. Greater than all other loves!

This amazing divine love is so high it cannot be scaled, so deep that cannot be fathomed, a love so broad that it embraces the whole world and so long that it endures for ever.

Our Father, we marvel at Your love. The cross overwhelms and inspires our hope.

BEHOLD WHAT MANNER OF LOVE THE FATHER HAS BESTOWED UPON US.

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



October is Pastor Appreciation Month and the Membership Committee is planning a special Pastor Appreciation Day on Sunday, October 8! There will be refreshments served following the service in the Fellowship Hall with a time to honor Pastor Blue and his wife, Chris, for their service to FCC. Plan to join in and stay after services on that day.

Reconciliation Offering

(Numbers 10:4-7) The Reconciliation Ministry is an invaluable part of our church as we strive to faithfully follow Jesus Christ. When we encounter the perils of systemic racism, we sound the trumpet. In every expression of the Church, we sound the alarms so that we may be the hands and feet of Christ in the face of racial inequity and injustice. Just like the camps of the east and south in Israel, called together at the sound of the trumpets in the book of Numbers, Disciples are called together as an anti-racist and pro-reconciling faith movement. Your gift to Reconciliation Ministry strengthens our church's witness to God's unending love for all of humanity. The goal for the Reconciliation Offering this year is \$1,000.



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

Twin Lakes: Irma Julian

Home from Hospital: Chantell Whitezel
Carol Winemiller

Continue prayers for: Janice Nicholson,
Louise Bridwell, Randy Creech, Cathy Melendez

Congratulations to Louise Bridwell, who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on Oct. 2nd and to Vera Pratt on her 102nd birthday Oct. 8th!



-- Cindy Mathis & Cody Vaughn for the Children's Sermons;

-- Barbara Dick & Cassie Boatman for leading Children's Church;

-- Tony Peel for driving the bus to the Beef House for the Men's Outing;

-- Deena Hasler, Coralie Smittkamp, Peggy Barath and the volunteers for helping at the Scarecrow Booth during Honeybee;

-- Saunny Preston, the Evangelism Committee, Sammy Milam and volunteers for putting together the Honeybee parade handouts and walking, driving, or riding in the parade;

-- Troy Sanders for the Reconciliation Minute for Mission.

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

"Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is good for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear." - Ephesians 4:29

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.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is David Dick, Peg Dixon, Nels & Autumn Kasey and Donna Moody. They are working on nominees for 2024. You are welcome to give them suggestions for members to fill the open leadership positions. Letters will be mailed out soon, so be praying about where God wants you to serve.

CHANCEL & BELL CHOIR COOKOUT

There will be a cookout for the Chancel and Bell Choir members and their families at David & Barbara Dick's on Sunday, October 22, starting at 4:30 PM. Bring a side dish to share and a lawn chair. Hot dogs, buns, drinks, and table service will be provided.

NEW STAFF MEMBER

Please welcome Paula Coombes to the FCC Staff. She will be taking over the Assistant Financial Secretary position in October. Special thanks to Vickie Blair for her good work this year and best wishes on her new adventure.

SPAGHETTI DRIVE-THRU

Faith In Action is holding their annual Spaghetti Dinner Drive-Thru at Lake Ridge Christian Church on Friday, Oct. 13, from 4:00-6:30 PM. The dinner will include spaghetti, garlic bread, salad and dessert - for a donation. All proceeds go to Faith In Action of Edgar County.

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Faith In Action is requesting FCC donate 10 dozen cookies or brownies to be packed in plastic baggies - 2 lg. cookies or 3 small; 1 lg. brownie or 2 small per baggie. If you are willing to help, please contact Donna Moody.

SCARECROW BOOTH REPORT

The FCC Scarecrow Booth at the Honeybee Festival was yet another success!! We built 81 scarecrows this year, all going to new homes in Kansas, Chrisman, Danville, Terre Haute - and two drove all the way to their new home in Chicago!!!! We continue to be a festival favorite - and it's all because of YOU!!! Thank you all for your clothing donations, your monetary donations, and your love and prayers. Special thanks to Roseann and Moss Farms for their continued hay sponsorship!! Another thank you to our crew: Dean & Coralie Smittkamp, Deena Hasler, Peggy Barath, Daniel Smittkamp, Mya Smittkamp, Tammy Terry, Ellen Webb, Chris & Candi Milam, and Pastor & Chris Blue - we were all such a "happy tired"!! *Remember to save all those old, worn out clothing pieces for us - see you next year!*

Christian Women's Fellowship

OCTOBER CIRCLES

CIRCLE OF LIGHT: meets the first Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 5:00 PM in the church kitchen. Lisa Young is hostess with Carol Winemiller bringing the lesson.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER: meets the second Thursday, Oct. 12, at 6:00 PM in the church parlor.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: meets the third Tuesday, Oct. 17, at 2:00 PM in the church parlor.

KOINONIA CIRCLE: meets the third Thursday, Oct. 19, at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen.

DISCIPLE MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Disciple Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, October 21, at 8:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Sign-up if you can attend!



PHS FOOTBALL DINNER

This year FCC will host the Paris High School Football Team on Thursday, October 12, at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Donna Garver is coordinating the event, so see her for information or questions.

PLEASANT MEADOWS FAMILY DAY

Pleasant Meadows Senior Living invites you to a Family Fun-filled Day this Saturday, Sept. 30 from 9:30-3:30 PM located at 400 W. Washington St. in Chrisman. There will be kid's games, car show, basket raffle, 50/50 drawing, craft and bake sale and more! All proceeds go toward Christmas gifts, daily activities and trips for their residents. Car show entry will be \$20 with prizes awarded to the Top 3. Contact Amy Bennett-Luttrell, Activity Director, with any questions: 217-269-2396 or by email at: ad@pleasantmeadows.org

Thank You!

I'd like to send out a big thank you to everyone who sent me get well wishes, cards and prayers during my recent hospitalization and illness. A special thanks to Faye Eitel, Lisa Young and Cathy Clawson for all the good food. My church family means everything to me and I send my love to all of you. God bless, Cathy Melendez



Good day from 412 Youth!! Thank you to all of those who attended the youth fundraiser dinner this past Sunday. The kids always do a wonderful job serving those who attend and thank you to their parents who made much of the meal and silent auction items, too!! The event is one I always look forward to.

The fall is settling in (at least it's supposed to be, I wish the weather would cooperate and cool off just a bit!!) and fall always reminds me how change is necessary and good for our souls. I hope you will bask in the changes God is setting in place amongst us and instead of dreading it, you will enjoy it!!

The youth group will be back to normalcy for a bit with normal youth group and I hope that we will be back to our usual group as I have really missed seeing them week to week. God's Gang is also in the swing of things and is going well, too.

Upcoming Events:

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

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

Oct 15 - 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)

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Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8 AM-12 NN, 1-5 PM

Pastor Jim Blue, Interim Minister • Faith Milam, Youth Director

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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

Sept. 17: 9:00-105 Nursery-3 Online-views 44/66*

TOTAL 174* SS = 19

Sept. 24: 9:00-1 Nursery- Online-views 4/6*

TOTAL 1* SS = 1

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

OFFERING TOTAL

	Sept 17	Sept. 24, 2023
General Fund	\$1,516.25	\$3,577.03
Sunday School	11.00	8.00
Food Pantry	50.00	
Youth Fund	25.00	
God's Gang		100.00
Youth Fund		1,000.00
Scarecrow Fund		455.00
Disciples Missions	50.00	260.00
Reconciliation Offering		165.00
Life Center	100.00	200.00
Heated Sidewalk	20.00	120.00
Permanent Fund		1,500.00
Building Fund	983.06	1,475.00
TOTAL	\$2,755.31	\$8,860.03

INVITATION

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 SCHED.: Oct. 1, 2023 World Communion

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

9:00 AM: GREETERS: TBD

WORSHIP ELDER: Nels Kasey

BREAD ELDER: Dan Smittkamp

DEACONS: Team 1, Dustin Whitezel, Capt.

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

DEACONESS: Kathy Peel

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Edna Creech

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Chris Milam

PROJECTION/SOUND: Tony Peel

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Cathy Clawson

OCT. USHERS: Roger Faulk, Tammy Terry, Nick Sanders

OCT. FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Bill & Lisa Young

SCRIPTURE: Mark 4:35-41

SERMON: "Stormy Weather, Steadying Hand"

by Pastor Jim Blue

SHUT-IN COMMUNION: David & Barbara Dick

SERVING SCHEDULE: October 8, 2023

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

9:00 AM: GREETERS: TBD

WORSHIP ELDER: Ellen Webb

BREAD ELDER: Kim Woods

DEACONS: Team 2, Kenny Milam, Capt.

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

DEACONESS: Lisa Young

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Jenny McMahan

CHILDREN'S SERMON: David Dick

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:38-42

SERMON: "Sitting at the Feet of Jesus"

by Pastor Jim Blue