

THE MESSENGER

Believing, Behaving, Becoming Like Christ

January 17, 2024

WHY READ THE BIBLE? (Part Two)

"But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law does he meditate day and night." (Psalm 1:2)

Today we continue Part 2 of our thought, "Why Read The Bible?"

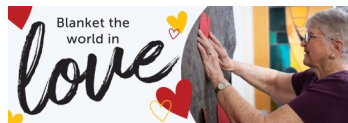
Some, however, like the Psalmist, read the Bible joyfully. It is their meat and drink. In it they hear God speak, and their fellowship with God is enlightened and deepened.

The wise Christian reads the Bible to commune with God. He reads to learn of Jesus. The Scriptures, Jesus once said, "testify of me" (John 5:39). They should be read to keep life genuinely Christian.

According to this Psalm, a right use of the Word does three things: **First, it keeps life clean.** The man who delights in the teaching of God will avoid "the counsel of the ungodly," "the way of sinners," and "the seat of the scornful" (v.1). **Second, it makes life fruitful.** The Word-soaked man is like a well-watered tree, producing a good harvest of fruit. "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth his fruit in his season." (v.3) The Christian who really believes and practices the Bible will become increasingly Christlike. **Third, it prepares life for judgment.** The righteous man will stand when the ungodly falls, "for the Lord knows the way of the righteous; but the way of the ungodly shall perish" (v.6).

Read the Word of God. Do not read it as a religious charm, nor as a dreary duty. Do not read it in a negative spirit. Read it to hear God speak to your heart. Read it to get acquainted with Jesus Christ. Read it to give power and purpose to your life.

Another page from one of Pastor Jim's old library books...
"TAKE A BIBLE BREAK" by W.E. McCumber



Blanket Sunday

The Blanket Sunday presentation and offering has been moved to February 11 due to special Sunday events coming up (see pg. 2). Church World Service has been helping people of faith bring God's hope and healing to people in the U.S. and around the world. When difficult times happen, (ie. hurricane/tornado/flooding/displaced people) a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blanket program was created—a blanket when there is nothing else, provides warmth, a cover, bedding, privacy, and shelter. Blankets are \$10 each.

Program Committee Meetings

On Sunday, January 28, at 2:00 PM all the Program Committees will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall to go over their yearly ministry responsibilities. All Program Chairs of the Christian Education, ~~Community Outreach~~ (has already met), Disciples Outreach, Evangelism, Membership, Stewardship & Finance, and Worship Committees will need to have their committee member list turned in to the office by this Friday, January 19.

Chairs - please follow through by contacting your committee members to make sure they will be attending the meeting. Board Chair, Jacob Thomas, will be leading the meeting and handing out yearly calendars to all the Committee Chairs. It is vitally important that every Chair and every committee member attend as committee schedules will need to be turned in to the office the following Monday, January 29. Thank you all for volunteering and supporting FCC ministries!



Paris Healthcare: Martha Stephen,
Ron Odle
Pleasant Meadows: Brandon Bell,
Linda Driver
Twin Lakes: Irma Julian

Home from the Hospital: Chris Blue

Continue prayers for: Janice Nicholson,
Louise Bridwell, Randy Creech, Bob Martin,
Marge Houghland, Carol Marlowe, Chantell
Whitezel, Diana Rogers, Leah Gobin, Al
Englebright



-- Jacob Thomas and Angel
Templeton for the Children's
Sermons;

-- Cassie Boatman and Edna
Creech for leading Children's Church;
-- Cody Vaughn for taking down the Holiday in
the Park display;
-- the Trustees for clearing the walks and
checking the heat for services;
-- Troy Sanders for giving the devotion at the
Board meeting.

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

"I fed you with milk, not solid food; for you were
not ready for it; and even yet you are not ready,
for you are still of the flesh. For while there is
jealousy and strife among you, are you not of
the flesh, and behaving like ordinary men?"

- I Corinthians 3:2-3

PRAYER

JANUARY PRAYER

Dear Lord, In this time of new beginnings, help
me rededicate myself with joy and love to
serving You and others. Amen.



2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please check the hall table for your 2024
Offering Envelope box. If you do not receive
offering envelopes and would like to, or you
would like to give electronically this year, please
see Patty Waters.

2024 DESK CALENDARS

You may pick up a 2024 FCC Desk Calendar at
the entryways for you or a friend. Supplies are
limited and there are no extras!



"SPLINTERS" from the BOARD

At the January meeting of the Executive Board,
Edna Creech led in Jacob's absence:

- Pastor Blue's report was read, noting his busy
schedule;
- Youth Director reported the youth are studying
the New Testament; a winter retreat to Ewart,
MI is planned for Feb. 9-11; Youth Sunday is
Feb. 4; God's Gang will begin Jan. 31 and end
Apr. 24;
- Treasurer reported giving to the General Fund
is down considerably;
- Community Outreach committee met Dec. 10 to
discuss yearly plans;
- Disciples Outreach reported money raised for
DOVE and special offerings;
- Evangelism is monitoring attendance and
sending cards to visitors;
- Staff Relations reported handing out love
offering;
- Elders met Jan. 2 for schedules and
instructions;
- Deaconesses met Dec. 18 for schedules and
instructions;
- Trustees met Dec. 18; thanked Roger Faulk &
team for bus work; much discussion was made
on the heated sidewalk; moved to proceed with
heating coils and install boiler as more funds
are collected;
- Disciples Men will meet on Jan. 20;
- Search Committee reported on visit with
prospective new minister, after much
discussion, it was approved to move forward.

SPECIAL SUNDAY EVENTS

This Sunday, January 21, has been changed to
the Dedication of Leaders Sunday so more may
be in attendance. January 28 will be recognized
as Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. February 4
will be Youth Sunday. February 11, will be
designated for Blanket Sunday.



2024 SCHEDULES

All 2024 schedules have been emailed or sent by
postal mail. If you did not receive your schedule
or you need a hard copy, please request one
from the office.

Christian Women's Fellowship

CIRCLE NEWS

KOINONIA CIRCLE: meets at 9:00 AM on Thursday, January 18, in the church kitchen.

CIRCLE OF LIGHT NEWS

We regret to report that there will not be a Soup Luncheon this year due to illnesses. Thank you for your participation in the past. We hope to see you next year!
- Cathy Melendez



DISCIPLE MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Disciples Men are meeting this Saturday, January 20, at 8:00 AM in the church kitchen. Tony Peel will bring the devotion and breakfast. Please sign-up if you will be attending.

FROM THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees would like to thank the Board for passing the recommendation for heating the sidewalk. This may need to happen in two parts, as we have the resources to pay for the sidewalk and coils, but we need to raise the funds to purchase the boiler. An additional \$40,000 is needed to complete the project.



EMAIL INFORMATION

If you would like to receive the Monday congregational email - (it's like a mini newsletter) - please send your email address to:
office@fccparis.org

Be sure to add the above email in your contact list and if it comes in marked SPAM, be sure to choose that it is SAFE.

LOST AND FOUND

The Lost & Found basket under the hall coatrack is filling up. There is a necklace hanging on the bulletin board over the sign-up desk. Please claim any item/s that are yours!

WINTER SECRET PLACE

"The Secret Place" devotionals for the winter quarter are available if you would like to pick one up and/or share with others.



Hello from 412 Youth!

The youth of 412 has been journeying through the books of the New Testament and looking forward to our winter retreat to SpringHill, which is coming up in the next few weeks!! I am anxious to see what the youth will learn and take away from this important weekend.

God's Gang had a planning meeting earlier this week and will kick off the semester on January 31st. We could still use some extra bodies to make the program run smoothly so if you would be interested in helping, we would greatly appreciate it, just reach out to Faith! We already have 23 students registered between God's Gang & Crossroads.

Upcoming Events:

Jan 20 - no youth group

Jan 28 - youth group at the church 6-8pm

Feb 4 - youth Sunday

Feb 9-11 - SpringHill winter retreat

Faith Milam, Youth Director

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## GOD'S GANG / CROSSROADS

This semester of God's Gang and Crossroads is set to begin on Wednesday, January 31. Helpers are asked to arrive by 2:00 PM at the church.

Parents - this semester no registration forms will be mailed out unless there is a change in the information. If there is a change, please see Faith Milam. Payment for the semester is \$30 and may be made to "God's Gang" and turned in to Faith Milam or the office.

## 2024 CHURCH KEYS

Those going off of committees from 2023 with church keys, please bring them to the office or give them to the 2024 committee chair. If you pass them on to the new Chair, please email or call the office to update the information.





## 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*

Jan. 7: 9:00-119 Nursery-3 Online-48/72

**TOTAL 194\*** SS = 16

Jan. 14: 9:00-68 Nursery-? Online-78/117\*

**TOTAL 185\*** SS = 8

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### OFFERING

|                    | Jan. 7             | Jan. 14, 2024     |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| General Fund       | \$8,234.75         | \$1,906.00        |
| Sunday School      | 6.00               |                   |
| Envelopes          | 85.00              | 6.00              |
| Disciples Men      |                    | 20.00             |
| Food Pantry        | 50.00              | 50.00             |
| Disciples Missions | 250.00             | 50.00             |
| Blanket Sunday     |                    | 40.00             |
| Life Center        | 190.00             | 70.00             |
| Heated Sidewalk    | 470.00             | 395.00            |
| Scholarship Fund   | 1,000.00           |                   |
| Building Fund      | 805.00             | 100.00            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>\$11,090.75</b> | <b>\$2,637.00</b> |

### SERVING SCHEDULE: Jan. 21, 2024

#### "Dedication of Leaders"

**9:00 AM: GREETERS:** TBA

ACOLYTES: Conner Rhoads, Joseph Thomas

WORSHIP ELDER: Pete Templeton

BREAD ELDER: Angel Templeton

DEACONS: Team 3, Patty Waters, Capt.

JR. DEACONS: Team #1, Morgan Coombes, Capt.

DEACONESS: Emily Thomas

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Jenny McMahan

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Cindy Mathis

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 11:8-12

SERMON: "Three Lessons Learned from Abraham"

by Pastor Jim Blue

### SERVING SCHEDULE: January 28, 2024

**9:00 AM: GREETERS:** TBA

ACOLYTES: Zavian Jones, Brady Sanders

WORSHIP ELDER: Steve Webb

BREAD ELDER: Dan Smittkamp

DEACONS: Team 1, Dustin Whitezel, Capt.

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

DEACONESS: Haley Sanders

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Faith Milam

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Chris Milam

PROJECTION/SOUND: Tony Peel

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Cathy Clawson

JAN. USHERS: Mary Carriere, Tammy Terry

JAN. FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Jacob & Emily Thomas

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 13:1-13

SERMON: "Roads That Lead Away From God"

by Pastor Jim Blue

