



THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

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Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 9 AM-2 PM

Pastor Isaac Mahler, Senior 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 • WORSHIP AT 9:00 AM • SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:15 AM

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

First Christian Church's mission is to grow disciples who are:

*"Believing in Christ,
Behaving as Christ,
Becoming like Christ"*

SPLINTER FROM THE BOARD

Here are the key highlights from September Board meeting, offering a glimpse into our church's recent activities and future plans.

- The Christmas in July offering of \$1,540.00 was sent to Texas for flood relief through our week of compassion.
- FCC will be participating in the Harry Potter extravaganza on October 11th.
-VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
- A pastor appreciation reception will be held October 12th after the service.
- A Trivia night will be held on November 7th.
- Faith Milam has submitted her letter of resignation effective November 30th.
- The cross and candelabras have been polished. It was noted that they are showing a great deal of wear and may need to be replaced in the near future.
- Committee job descriptions are being reviewed with plans to update them.
- The nominating committee of Joe Gill, Evie Gill, Ellen Webb, Emily Thomas, Megan Mahler, Isaac Mahler & Troy Sanders was approved.

Pastor Appreciation Month

Pastor Appreciation month is October. Please show your appreciation to Pastor Isaac.

There will be a basket out for anyone wanting to put an appreciation card in for Pastor Isaac on Sunday. The Membership Committee is hosting a Pastor Appreciation Reception in Fellowship Hall immediately following the Worship Service, Sunday October 12th. We hope to see you all there!

CALENDARS!

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS:

Oct 9th: Circle of Prayer 6:00 PM

Oct 11th: Potter Fest

Oct 13th: Office Closed

Oct 16th: Koinonia 9:00 AM

Oct 26th: Investment/ Stewardship &
Finance Committee Mtg 10:15 AM

THE MESSENGER

Believing, Behaving, Becoming Like Christ

October 8th, 2025

PASTORS CORNER

A Season of Gratitude and Growth

As we move deeper into the fall season, our church is experiencing both celebration and transition. This month, I want to take a moment to express deep gratitude for our Youth Director, Faith, who has faithfully served First Christian Church for the past four years.

When Faith arrived at FCC, so much was different—both in the church and in her own life. Over these past four years, she has seen multiple pastors, guided and encouraged a wonderful group of students (many of whom have since graduated and moved on to college), and helped shape our Children and youth ministry into a wonderful community. Personally, these have also been years of incredible transformation and blessing for her. During her time here, Faith got married to Kenny and together they raised and adopted their beautiful daughters whom we have all grown to love. Now they are joyfully preparing to welcome a baby boy in December. It has been a season filled with change—both personal and professional—and through it all, Faith has served with steady faithfulness, compassion, and grace and for that we are sincerely grateful!

Faith's last day on staff will be at the end of November. She preached a wonderful message this past Sunday and will have the opportunity to preach once more in November as we celebrate and send her off with love. While she will be deeply missed, we are filled with joy as she enters this new and exciting chapter of life. Please keep Faith and her growing family in your prayers during this special time.

In many ways, this is also a season of reflection and evaluation for the entire church. Each of our committees is reviewing its charter, discussing what's working well, identifying areas for improvement, and dreaming about what's next. These conversations are vital to the health and future of our church as we continue to serve God and our community with excellence.

At our November Board Meeting, we'll bring together insights and recommendations from each committee to discuss how we can best strengthen and support the incredible ministry already taking place here at FCC. This church is full of passionate, dedicated people doing amazing things in Christ's name, and these moments of reflection help ensure that our ministries remain strong and fruitful for years to come.

As always, I want to say thank you—to our members, our committees, our volunteers, and all who call FCC home. You are the heartbeat of this congregation, and I am continually inspired by your faith, generosity, and love for one another. It's a joy and an honor to serve alongside you.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Isaac

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Paris Healthcare: Martha Stephen & Ron Odle

Pleasant Meadows: Linda Driver

Twin Lakes: Irma Julian, Brandon Bell & Sherill Perry

Continued Prayers: Paula Shepherd, Carol Winemiller, Linda Chittick, Rev. Mike Dixon, Brad Farnham, Marge Houghland, Roy Rogers, Sue Bennett, Russ Adams, Kenny McCain, Theresa Emerson, Brandon Moss, Madelyn Swingle, Troy Sanders & Megan Mahler

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

“And we all...are being transformed in his image with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord” 2 Corinthians 3:18

OCTOBER PRAYER

Dear God,
Forgive us when we fail to express our gratitude for all you have done for us. Help us set our hearts and eyes on You.
Amen.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

A huge thank you to each and every one of my church family who have been praying for me, calling, texting, sending cards, driving me to doctor appointments and all the other acts of kindness over the past month. I couldn’t have recovered this fast without your prayers, love and support.

Special THANK YOU to Kim Woods for setting up the meal train...what a blessing that has been. To each one of you who participated with VERY DELICIOUS MEALS, please feel my gratitude and love.

In God’s love,
Donna Garver

ATTENDANCE

We count because YOU count!

Sept 28th: 104/ Nursery: 2 Online:28/42* SS:14
TOTAL: 148*

Oct 5th: 90/ Nursery: 1 Online:28/42* SS: 11
TOTAL: 133*

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

GIVING

OFFERING	September*	YTD*
General Fund	\$ 16,377.46	\$ 164,487.74
Missions Fund	\$ 1,112.00	\$ 13,406.00
Building Fund	\$ 2,538.00	\$ 134,362.00
Memorial/Scholarship	\$ 0.00	\$ 12,197.00
Permanent Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 750.00
TOTAL	\$ 20,027.46	\$ 325,202.74

**Month to Date, As of Date of Publication*

SCARE ON THE SQUARE

On Saturday, October 25th, the Evangelism Committee will have a booth to pass out candy to the kids. They are requesting donations of individually wrapped candies to be handed out. Please bring donations in by Sunday, October 19th. Thank you!

POTTER FEST

The community is hosting a new event called Potter Fest on October 11th. This event brings wizarding fun to Edgar County. There will be many activities for ALL ages. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Pastor Isaac.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Faith in Action Spaghetti Dinner is on Friday, October 10th from 4PM to 6PM. The dinner is being hosted at Lake Ridge Christian Church. It will include spaghetti, garlic bread, salad and dessert. The price is by donations, with proceeds going to Faith in Action of Edgar County. We hope to see you there!

CIRCLE NEWS

Circle of Light will meet Tuesday, November 4th at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Theresa Emerson and Connie Rhoads will be the hostesses and Connie will give the lesson.

Circle of Prayer will meet at 6:00 PM on Thursday, October 9th in the Church Kitchen.

Koinonia will meet on Thursday, October 16th at 9:00 AM in the Church Kitchen. Coralie Smittkamp and Peg Barath will be the Hostesses and Saunny Preston will give the lesson.

REMINDER

C.W.F. continues to collect stamps to be sent to the American Philatelic Society in Pennsylvania for use in their educational youth program and collector's interest. All stamps, cancelled, non-cancelled, flags, and seasonal are accepted. Leave at least a ¼ inch edge on all stamps. A labeled box in the closet by the fireplace is provided for our collection of your stamps. Thank you.

GOD’S GANG

Wednesday afternoons are bustling each week at FCC with God's Gang and Crossroads! We currently have 23 God's Gang students and 7 Crossroads students attending. We are so grateful for the help from our volunteers each week, and for the numerous donations we have received for the program. We could not do it without you! On Sunday, October 19 the God's Gang children will be sharing special music along with the Chancel Choir during worship. You won't want to miss it!

Kim & Angel, Co-directors

DISCIPLE’S MEN’S OUTING

The men will meet at the Paris Family Restaurant 8:00 am Saturday October 18th.

BLANKETED BY LOVE

The Compassionate Clothing Closet sponsors a Blanket drive every year in October/November. Donations of good used or new blankets, any size, are requested. There will be a box under the sign up desk for donations.

412 YOUTH



Hello from 412 Youth! By now, I’m sure most of you have heard that I have put in my resignation notice for my youth director position here effective November 30, 2025. I am so grateful for the time I’ve been on staff here over the past 4 years so this is definitely a bittersweet transition for our family. I am excited to end well these next few weeks in youth group and to preach one more time on a Sunday morning in November.

Youth group is meeting weekly, we just finished a sermon series on 1 Timothy 4:12 (the verse behind our group’s name) and this week, we started a series called Counter Culture that talks about how the way Jesus encourages us to live is often different from the way the culture around us tells us to live.

Upcoming Events:

- Oct 12 - Youth group 6-8 PM
 - Oct 19 - Youth group 6-8 PM
 - Oct 26 - Club 35 youth group 5-6 PM
 - Oct 26 - Youth group 6-8 PM
- ~ Faith Milam, Youth Director

THANK YOU

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped at the Scarecrow Booth! It is such a fun activity, and we even had one gentleman ask to just stand and “listen” to the laughter! It is such a great way to reach out to our community and serve them a few moments of pure happiness!! Also a big thank you as always to Moss Farms for their continued support with the straw donations- keep saving those old clothes, hats, purses and we’ll see you all next year!!

SOCKATOME MONTH!

October is Sockatome! Tiny little feet get cold. To help them stay warm, we collect socks for the preschoolers of Paris. During the month, you have the opportunity to help fill the large socks in front of the sanctuary. We will deliver them in November, before the snow falls. If you have any questions, see Tammy Terry. Thank you in advance for your help!

Date	Worship Elder	Bread Elder	Deacons	Deaconess	Jr. Deacons	Ushers
October 12, 2025	Steve Webb	Tammy Terry	Team #1	Evie Gill	Team #1	Team #1
October 19, 2025	Cindy Mathis	Steve Webb	Team #2	Nicole B	Team #2	Team #3
October 26, 2025	Angel Templeton	Barb Free	Team #3	Bev McCain	Team #1	Team #3
November 2, 2025	Chris Milam	Cindy Mathis	Team #1	Megan M	Team #2	Team #1
November 9, 2025	Kim Woods	Troy Sanders	Team #2	Cathy C	Team #1	Team #1