

THE MESSENGER

Believing, Behaving, Becoming Like Christ

November 13th, 2025

PASTORS CORNER

As we turn the calendar toward November, my heart is full of gratitude. October was Pastor Appreciation Month, and I want to sincerely thank you for all the cards, notes, and kind words of encouragement. This month marks my twentieth here at FCC, and I can honestly say my love for this congregation—and my gratitude for the opportunity to serve as your pastor—has only grown deeper with time. You have welcomed my family, supported our ministries, and shown what it means to be the body of Christ in both word and action. So I once again want to express my appreciation for the love and care shown during Pastor Appreciation Month—it truly means more than you know.

Speaking of appreciation, we also want to take a moment to recognize **Faith Milam** for her four years of dedicated service to our children and youth ministries. Her creativity, joy, and heart for helping young people grow in their faith have made a lasting impact on our church family. As Faith and Kenny prepare to welcome Baby Milam in just a few short weeks, we invite you to join us this **Sunday, November 16th, immediately after the worship service** for a special **reception and celebration in her honor**. Please bring a card or note of encouragement, and stick around for cake as we thank Faith for all she has done and pray for this next chapter in her life.

November also marks our **Stewardship Season**, a time when we prayerfully consider how we give of our *time, talent, and treasure*. In the coming weeks, you'll receive pledge cards, giving envelopes and a volunteer form as we prepare for the year ahead. My prayer is that each of us will take time to reflect on the ways God has blessed us, and how we might use those blessings to serve others and strengthen the mission of our church in 2026. Stewardship is not just about budgets—it's about gratitude, purpose, and faithfulness.

At the same time, we celebrate the incredible generosity that made this past year such a success. Every outreach effort, building update, children's lesson, worship service, and community event has been made possible through your giving and your willingness to serve. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ here at FCC. Your faithfulness truly makes a difference.

Finally, a quick note on scheduling: I'll be on **vacation during the week of Thanksgiving—from Monday, November 24th through Friday, November 28th**. I won't miss a Sunday, but during that week there will be **no Community Coffee Hours, Bible Study, or GriefShare meetings**. As we move into the Advent season, Community Coffee Hours will pause for December, **GriefShare will conclude on December 9th**, and our **final Bible studies of the year** will meet on **December 8th and 10th**. Bible Study will resume again in the new year after the holidays.

Thank you for being a church that loves well, gives generously, and serves faithfully. I'm so grateful to walk this journey with you.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Isaac



THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

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Web page: www.fccparis.org • Facebook: FCC Paris

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

Pastor Isaac Mahler, Senior Minister • Faith Milam, Youth Director

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"**

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS - NOV MEETING

The full *"Splinters from the Board"* report from this week's meeting will appear in next month's newsletter, but we wanted to share a few important updates right away:

- 1. Annual Congregational Meeting** – Mark your calendars! Our annual meeting will be held **Sunday, December 14th** immediately following worship.
- 2. 2026 Budget** – The proposed budget for 2026 was presented and approved by the Board and will now go before the congregation for a final vote at the annual meeting.
- 3. 2026 Leadership Slate** – The slate of church officers and committee chairs for 2026 was also approved by the Board and will be presented to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting.
- 4. Committee Charter Task Force** – A new task force has been approved to work with each committee to update and realign committee charters to ensure long-term, effective ministry.
- 5. Youth Ministry Steering Committee** – A steering committee made up of members from Staff Relations, Christian Education, and additional voices has been approved to evaluate options for replacing our Youth Pastor position.
- 6. New Building Progress** – The New Building Committee received approval to use designated funds to hire a professional to draw architectural plans for the proposed new facility, which will be used to solicit official bids.
- 7. Copies of the proposed budget, and leadership slate for 2026 will be available at the church or can be requested via email.**

More details from the board meeting will follow in next month's *Splinters from the Board*!

FCC BELL RINGING

Join us in supporting the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 6th. There are still some volunteer spots available. The sign-up sheet is located on the sign-up desk under the Welcome sign.

CALENDARS!

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS:

Nov: Blanketed By Love-CCC
Nov 13th: Circle of Prayer
Nov 16th: Faith Milam Retirement Reception
Nov 18th: Choral Advent Rehearsal
Nov 20th: Koinonia
Nov 29th: Christmas in Paris
Dec 1st: Choral Advent Rehearsal
Dec 4th: Circle of Light
Dec 4th: Choral Advent Rehearsal
Dec 7th: Choral Advent Service at Presbyterian Church 3PM
Dec 14th: Congregational Meeting
Dec 24th: Christmas Eve Service

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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, Theresa Emerson, Nancy Weger, Betty Swanson, Pete Templeton, Karen Jobst & Unspoken.

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2
Be Thankful in Prayer. It is good to give thanks to the Lord.

NOVEMBER PRAYER

Lord,

Thank you for your provisions...for food, shelter, clothing and every material blessing. I thank you for opportunities to work, to serve, to grow and make a difference. Help me to continue to see your blessings and to always have a grateful heart.

Amen.

PERSONAL INFO CARDS

You will find a card enclosed in this month's Messenger. This card is designed to help the church office keep your family's information up-to-date. Kindly fill it out with your details. For any additional family members who are also part of our church, please provide their information on the back of the card, where it says "Additional Same Household Information". Once completed, you can either mail the card back to the church or drop it off at the Church. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

| Date | Worship Elder | Bread Elder | Deacons | Deaconess | Jr. Deacons | Ushers |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|------------|-------------|---------|
| November 16, 2025 | Daniel Smittkamp | Kim Woods | Team #3 | Jenneane G | Team #2 | Team #2 |
| November 23, 2025 | Troy Sanders | Daniel Smittkamp | Team #1 | Kathy P | Team #1 | Team #2 |
| November 30, 2025 | Pete Templeton | Chris Milam | Team #2 | Connie B | Team #2 | Team #2 |
| December 7, 2025 | Tammy Terry | Angel Templeton | Team #3 | Jill C | Team #1 | Team #3 |
| December 14, 2025 | Nels Kasey | Cindy Mathis | Team #1 | Faye E | Team #2 | Team #3 |

ATTENDANCE

We count because YOU count!

Oct 26th: 145 Nursery: 1 Online: 35/53* SS: 14
TOTAL: 199*
Nov 2nd: 129/ Nursery: 2 Online: 33/50* SS: 18
TOTAL: 181*
Nov 9th: 114/ Nursery: 2 Online: 40/60* SS: 11
TOTAL: 176*

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

GIVING

OFFERING

October*

YTD*

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| General Fund | \$ 37,405.14 | \$ 201,892.88 |
| Missions Fund | \$ 1,275.00 | \$ 14,681.00 |
| Building Fund | \$ 6,991.96 | \$ 141,353.96 |
| Memorial/Scholarship | \$ 0.00 | \$ 12,197.00 |
| Permanent Fund | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 5,750.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 50,672.10 | \$ 375,874.84 |

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



CIRCLE OF LIGHT GIVING TREE

The Circle of Light will once again be setting up Giving Trees for Christmas gifts for our members in Nursing Homes, Brookstone, Austin House, Highland Manor and Tanner Place.

Trees will be set up on November 30th, so please consider taking a name from our Giving Tree and purchasing a gift for one of the recipients. Please remember the gift ideas are suggestions only. You do not need to purchase all items for the resident but you can if you want to. Gift tags will have 2 pieces fastened together. **Please return the gift with the name tag attached to the gift no later than Wednesday, December 15th.**

Thank you!

CIRCLE NEWS

Circle of Light will meet Tuesday, December 4th at 5:00 PM at the Paris Family Restaurant for our annual Christmas dinner. Everyone is welcome.

Circle of Prayer will meet at 6:00 PM on Thursday, November 13th in the Church Kitchen.

Koinonia will meet on Thursday, November 20th at 9:00 AM in the Church Kitchen. Mary K Bradford will be the Hostess and Audrey Stickler will give the lesson.

BLANKETED BY LOVE CONTINUES

The **Compassionate Clothing Closet** continues Blanket drive throughout November. Donations of good **used** or **new** **blankets**, any size, are requested. There is a box under the sign up desk for donations.

DISCIPLE'S MEN'S OUTING

The men will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 7:45 AM on Saturday November 15th. The cook will be Joel Gleckler.

LOVE OFFERING

The congregation at FCC is quite blessed to have such a talented and dedicated staff. We appreciate all of their work and efforts. We, the congregation, have an opportunity, through our Love Offering, to show our appreciation to the staff. Your Love Offering may be given anytime now through Monday, December 15th.

Use the Love Offering envelope in your envelope packet or use one of the pew envelopes. If you use a pew envelope make sure you designate your giving to the Love Offering. The offering will be totaled and distributed to the staff prior to Christmas. Your Love Offering can be made to all or you may designate your offering to staff individuals by writing the individuals name on your offering envelope. All undesignated money will be divided evenly among all of the staff. We thank you for your support and Merry Christmas!

-Staff Relations Committee



Hello 412,

The time has come for my last entry into the newsletter. It is certainly bittersweet to be transitioning off of staff here to enjoy this next season in my family's life. I just want to take a moment to thank this church and all of the people who have given me the opportunity to serve here over the past 4 years. It has been filled with sweet memories, precious people, and so many learning experiences. From Sunday morning sermons to organizing youth Sundays to wild youth group trips to leading kids ministry volunteers, I have loved it all. Thank you all for caring about the youth of this church and for all you have invested in me, too. I pray for nothing but the best for the future of this ministry and this church.

~ Faith Milam, Youth Director

GOD'S GANG

God's Gang has "gone to the dogs" as we had a special visit on Alaska night from Chris Clawson and one of her rescue huskies! The children loved learning about the Iditarod race and husky sled teams. It's hard to believe we have just five more weeks to go this semester. Plan to join us in December for a special mini Christmas concert by the children. More details will follow soon. As Thanksgiving approaches, we express our sincere thanks to all of our volunteers!

-Kim and Angel

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The monthly blood drive will be held Monday, November 17th from 11:30AM -- 5:30PM at the VFW Hall.

