



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

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

*“Believing in Christ,
Behaving as Christ,
Becoming like Christ”*

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

July 8 Meeting

The Board met on **July 8** but did not have the required quorum (12 members), so no votes were taken. Minutes from May were reviewed and will be approved at the September meeting.

Pastor's Report: new community office hours at Stagecoach (well-received!), plus fall plans for **GriefShare** and a **Pastor's Bible Study**.

Youth: Youth continue to meet this summer, and Faith will lead Bible stories at VBS.

Membership: We welcomed 8 new members! Dean & Cindy Muchow, Thad & Melissa Cary, Kaitlyn & Maverick Gutierrez, and Madelyn Swingle by transfer. Theresa LaBaume joined by baptism. We also mourn the passing of **Janice Nicholson**.

Treasurer: Giving is strong, but expenses have outpaced giving by about **\$23,000** in the General Fund. (Last year: \$14,000 behind; two years ago: \$39,000 behind.) Other funds remain strong.

Christian Ed: Busy preparing a wonderful VBS. (Thanks to all who helped!)

Community Outreach: July is FCC's month to staff the **Compassionate Clothing Closet**.

Disciples Outreach: Christmas in July offering will go toward **Texas flood relief** through our denomination.

Evangelism: Good turnout for the **Shrine Parade** (thank you for popsicle donations!). FCC also helping with the **Fair Hospitality Tent**. New church T-shirts being discussed.

Membership Events: Recent bowling outing was a hit. Upcoming: **Picnic in July, Swimming & Card Tourney in August, Tailgate Party in September**.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD CONTINUED

Staff Relations: Welcomed **Sammy Milam** as new Administrative Assistant. A task force to review committee job descriptions was suggested. Need quorum to vote.

Investments: Transfers complete and investments continue to do well.

Elders: Continuing to meet and pray regularly for our congregation.

Trustees: Building sealing/waterproofing completed, roof replacement scheduled. Insurance helped cover some storm damage. Looking into upgrading the office copier.

New Building Committee: Rich Hamilton's **new building plans** (southside expansion) are available to view.

Congregational Reps: Announcements have been moved back to the **beginning of the service** by popular request.

CWF: Circles are on summer break. Leadership kickoff set for **August 7**.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS:

- Sept 1: Labor Day (**Office Closed**)
- Sept 7: Tailgate Party & Fall Registration
- Sept 8: CWF: Circle of Light 5:00 PM
- Sept 9: GriefShare Starts at 10AM

THE MESSENGER

Believing, Behaving, Becoming Like Christ

August 21, 2025

PASTORS CORNER

What an incredible summer it has been at First Christian Church! From our Summer Playlist sermon series to the church picnic, the pool party, family bowling, and even our presence at the Shrine Parade—it has been a season full of joy, connection, and community. VBS was a highlight with more than 60 kids filling our building with laughter, songs, and Scripture, and the 60 volunteers who worked so hard to make it happen! On top of that, we have been blessed with a freshly sealed building, a brand new roof, and a church home that continues to be beautified by Kim's touch with paint, décor, and a warm, welcoming feel. Phew! God has truly been at work, and I'm so grateful to be part of such a living and active church.

Now, as we look ahead, the fall brings with it a whole new season of opportunities for growth, fellowship, and renewal. Beginning the week of **September 7th**, our fall programming relaunches with the return of the choir, God's Gang, Club 3-5, and more. Along with those, we're excited to launch several new Bible studies that I believe will be a blessing to many. We kick all of this off with our Tailgate Sunday, on the 7th, and you can read more about that here in the newsletter as well!

Starting on September 9th, we will be meeting **Tuesday mornings at 10AM**, to offer a brand-new ministry called **GriefShare**. This is a 13-week, video-based study designed to help those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. This nationally recognized program is filled with practical tools for coping with grief, grounded in hope, and offered in a safe, welcoming space. No one is ever pressured to share, but everyone is invited to participate. Each week brings a different theme and encouragement for the journey toward healing.

Did you know our Kids are beginning a brand-new curriculum in both Gods Gang, K-2 Crew and Club 3-5 called The Greatest Story, and it will walk the kids through the entire Bible over the next 3 years! This is such a cool new approach to our kids Christian Education, and I am really excited about it.

In that Spirit we are also beginning a **Pastor's Bible Study** with two different time options: **Monday nights at 6:30PM** or **Wednesday mornings at 10AM**. We want to walk alongside the kids and learn the “meta narrative” or overarching story of the whole Old Testament, starting in Genesis just like them. We won't walk verse by verse, but more major event by major event. It will help put all the pieces together into one cohesive story of God! We'll meet through Thanksgiving, take a break for the holidays, and then pick back up again in the new year. You don't have to attend every week, so join us whenever you can.

And, on **September 14th**, we'll begin a brand-new **sermon series on the Parables of Jesus** that will carry us through the fall. These timeless stories will give us fresh insight into the Kingdom of God and how to live as Christ's disciples today.

Summer has been full of blessings, but I believe fall will be just as rich—maybe even more so—as we dive back into God's Word, deepen our faith, and continue to live as a church family on mission together. I hope you'll find your place in what God is doing this fall. Whether through worship, a Bible study, or serving in ministry, there is room for you here.

I can't wait to see what God has in store for us next as we step out of the boat and follow where the Spirit is leading us as a church!

In Christ,
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 for: Paula Shepherd, Carol Winemiller, Linda Chittick, Rev. Mike Dixon, Brad Farnham, Marge Houghland, Roy Rogers, Sue Bennett, Russ Adams, Kenny McCain, Maloree Shewey & Brandon Moss.

BELIEVING LIKE CHRIST

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”
1 John 1: 8-9

AUGUST PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,
We confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed: Lord , forgive us.
For our insensitivity to the needs of others, and for our over-sensitivity when we are hurt by them, in your mercy: Lord, forgive us.
For becoming consumed in the business of life, and for losing faith in your sovereignty and power, in your mercy: Lord, forgive us.
For consenting to wrong practices by our cool silence, and for listening to scandal, in your mercy: Lord, forgive us.
Reform our will, reinforce our courage. Create in us a new heart, O God, and put your righteousness in us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

GRIEF SHARE

Come join Pastor Isaac at our grief share group that starts on Tuesday, September 9th at 10AM. A sign-up sheet available on the desk in the hall. Please call the office for more information.

ATTENDANCE

We count because YOU count!

Aug 10th: 118/ Nursery:3/ Online:37/56*SS:18
TOTAL: 177 *
Aug 17th: 125/ Nursery:2/ Online:56/84*/SS:13
TOTAL: 211*

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

GIVING

OFFERING	July*	YTD*
General Fund	\$ 14,364.30	\$ 123,414.58
Missions Fund	\$ 2,219.00	\$ 10,620.00
Building Fund	\$ 2,831.00	\$ 128,268.00
Memorial/Scholarship	\$ 150	\$ 12,197.00
Permanent Fund	\$ 0	\$ 750.00
TOTAL	\$ 39,128.60	\$ 274,249.58

*Month to Date, As of Date of Publication

TAILGATE SUNDAY!

On September 7th, we celebrate the relaunch of something very special.... no, it's not just week 1 of NFL football, it's also the relaunch of all our fall programming! We welcome back the Choir, Bell Choir, Club 3-5 Sunday school, the Pastors Bible study, Gods Gang, a new support group called grief share, and a new sermon series on the Parables of Jesus! So, to celebrate, we are having a tailgate party in the church parking lot after church. Wear your favorite team's Jersey to church, and stick around for hamburgers, hot dogs and bring your favorite tailgate treat to share. If you have a questions, please contact the office.

THANK YOU!

We want to give a big thank you to Jim & Sue Bennett for hosting the pool & card Party. Several swimmers and many card players enjoyed the afternoon.

-The Membership Committee

CIRCLE NEWS

Circle of Light, returns, Monday, September 8th at 5:00 PM in the Fellow ship Hall. This is a day change for the month of September only. **Koinonia** resumes their meetings on Thursday, September 18th at 9:00 AM in the Church Kitchen. **Circle of Prayer** will meet at 6:00 PM on Thursday, September 11th.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



The monthly blood drive will be held Monday, September 22nd from 11:30AM- 5:30PM at the VFW Hall.

FUNERAL DINNER DIRECTORS NEEDED

When it's time to plan a funeral dinner, who can we call on to plan and carry out the meal? For years we had the people, but it's time for new leadership. Talk to your friends about joining forces and let us know who would be willing to take up this worthy cause. Sue Bennett said she'd be happy to text with amounts of food needed for various sized groups. A book was kept with all information about meals planned in the past. If you are interested, please contact the office

GOD'S GANG

We are excited for our fall semester of God's Gang that Begins on September 10th! If you enjoy the company of children and are available any time from 2:30 to 6:00 on Wednesdays, we have opportunities for you. Watch for a volunteer sign up in Sunday's bulletin! For more information, contact Kim Woods or Angel Templeton.

DISCIPLE'S MEN'S OUTING

The men will meet on Sunday, September 21st at 3:00PM at the Church to go to the Beef House for dinner. A sign up sheet is on the desk in the hall.



Hey from 412 Youth!

The big fall transition is almost here. With school starting, you'll see some changes here at church too. We will soon welcome incoming 6th graders to youth group, starting on Sunday, September 7th! Club 35 on Sunday mornings will also be starting back up for the school year on this day, along with the continuation of K2 crew. We hope you'll join us for the fun!

My family is also hosting a baby shower for me on Saturday, September 27th from 2-4pm at Betty Jane's Kitchen in Paris to celebrate the upcoming arrival of our baby boy. All church ladies are invited to attend. I have been asked by a few people so I am registered with an Amazon baby registry, but gifts are not expected.

Upcoming Events:

- Aug 24 - Youth Group 6 pm at Church
- Aug 31 - No Youth Group, Happy Labor Day weekend!
- Sept 7 - Youth Group 6 pm at Church, incoming 6th graders welcome!
- Sept 14 - Youth Group 6 pm at Church

~ Faith Milam, Youth Director

SCARECROW PROJECT



Our FCC Scarecrow Project takes place Honey Bee weekend, September 26th & 27th. We are looking for a few volunteers to help. We are in need of long sleeve shirts and pants. Please bring your items to the church where there will be a donation container set up. For any further information, see Coralie Smittkamp.

Date	Worship Elder	Bread Elder	Deacons	Deaconess	Jr. Deacons	Ushers
August 24,2025	Barb Free	Troy Sanders	Team #3	Janeane G.	Team #2	Team #3
August 31, 2025	Troy Sanders	Kim Woods	Team #1	Kathy Peel	Team #1	Team #1
September 7, 2025	Tammy Terry	Cindy Mathis	Team #2	Connie Bean	Team #2	Team #2
September 14, 2025	Pete Templeton	Daniel Smittkamp	Team #3	Jill Coombes	Team #1	Team #3
September 21, 2025	Nels Kasey	Angel Templeton	Team #1	Faye Eitel	Team #2	Team #1