

THE MESSENGER

Believing, Behaving, Becoming Like Christ

February 12, 2026

PASTORS CORNER

As we settle into the early weeks of 2026, I want to take a moment to reflect honestly on where we've been—and where God continues to lead us as a church family. The start of this year has not been an easy one.

In a short span of time, we have said goodbye to several long-time, faithful members of our church family. Many others have been navigating ongoing health challenges, hospital stays, and uncertain diagnoses. Add to that the brutal cold and snow, along with unexpected sanctuary repairs, and January asked a lot of us. It required flexibility, patience, and more than a little grace. It was a hard month.

And yet—even in the middle of grief, disruption, and inconvenience—there were also moments of real beauty. Worshiping together in the basement forced us to sit a little closer, listen a little harder, and hear voices we don't always hear. There was an intimacy to that Sunday that reminded me what church is really about. We saw a powerful outpouring of love and support as so many from our church community gathered to care for grieving families. And amid all of this, we relaunched our youth group and God's Gang programs for the semester—clear reminders that God is still at work, still forming faith, still calling the next generation forward.

Our current sermon series, *From the Cradle to the Cross*, has been calling us back to the heart of our faith—not just what we believe about Jesus, but how closely we follow Him. In seasons like this, it matters more than ever that we come together as one body, united by Christ alone and our shared desire to become more like Him. Our mission statement says it simply and well. We want to grow disciples who:

Believe in Christ. Behave as Christ. Become like Christ.

That kind of faith doesn't happen by accident. It grows when we are anchored in God's Word, when we know our Bibles, and when we follow so closely in the footsteps of Jesus that there's little room for fear, division, discouragement, or distraction to take hold.

As we look ahead, Lent is right around the corner, and with it come several opportunities to walk that path together. On **Ash Wednesday, February 18, at 6:00 PM**, we'll gather for worship to begin the Lenten season and set our hearts toward Holy Week and Easter. All are welcome, and I hope you'll join us.

The CWF ladies have once again prepared their **Blessing Calendars**, inviting us to slow down and notice the gifts we often overlook, while supporting the ongoing ministry of CWF. We'll also be assembling **Lenten Prayer Packets**, encouraging us to pray for one another by name—a simple but powerful reminder that we are connected and held together through prayer. I invite you to participate in one—or all—of these opportunities as we journey through Lent together.

On a personal note, thank you for your continued support, flexibility, and grace—especially over the past few weeks. Ministry is never done alone, and I am deeply grateful for the way this church continues to show up for one another, often quietly and faithfully. I look forward to continuing this journey with you, walking with Jesus from the cradle to the cross, trusting that even in hard seasons, God is still at work among us. Oh—and go Superbowl Champion Seahawks!

With Love, Pastor Isaac



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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: FCC Paris

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

Pastor Isaac Mahler, Senior Minister

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"**

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

Executive Board Meeting – January 13, 2026

- Youth & Children's Director Positions**

Approved – Part-time roles approved and posted: Youth Director (avg. 8 hrs/week) and Children's Director (avg. 12 hrs/week) at **\$17.50/hr**. Interviews will begin as applications are received.

- Strong Financial Position** – General

Fund: **\$282,385** | Operating: **\$130,771** | Investments: **\$1.48M** | New Building Fund: **\$432,548 total** (**\$343,540 currently liquid**).

- New Building Update** – Latest design revisions will be presented to the Board in **March**, with a **Congregational Meeting** to follow to share the updated layout and plans.

- Christian Education** – Youth Group meeting time adjusted following parent input; **12 members** committed to the 2026 CE Committee; VBS theme/dates coming soon.

- Evangelism & Guest Hospitality** – Visitor mugs will be distributed by the morning's **Elder**, with a bulletin note inviting guests to connect.

- Facility & Operations** – Elevator recertified; church phone/internet service updated (saving **~\$200/month**); new communion table microphones installed.

- Leadership Notes** – **3 new Elders** serving in 2026; Dennis Thiel appointed Disciples Outreach Chair; committee roster for 2026 is being finalized.

CALENDARS!

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS:

Feb 18th: Ash Wednesday Service

Feb 19th: Koinonia

Feb 21st: Disciples Men Breakfast

Mar 1st: Soup Luncheon

Mar 1st: Evangelism Meeting

Mar 3rd: Circle of Light

Mar 5th: Elders 5 PM Trustees 6 PM

Mar 9th: Staff Relation Mtg

Mar 10th: Board Meeting

Mar 12th: Circle of Prayer

Mar 19th: Koinonia 9 AM

Mar 29th: Egg Hunt 10:15 AM

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NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Paris Healthcare: Martha Stephen, Ron Odle, Chuck McClarey & Chuck Dean

Pleasant Meadows: Linda Driver

Twin Lakes: Irma Julian, Brandon Bell

Continued Prayers: Carol Winemiller, Linda Chittick, Rev. Mike Dixon, Brad Farnham, Marge Houghland, Roy Rogers, Sue Bennett, Russ Adams, Theresa Emerson, Nancy Weger, Betty Swanson, Karen Jobst, Dorothy Farnham & Cynthia Faulk.

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

FEBRUARY PRAYER

Lord, help us to have complete confidence that our future is utterly, finally and joyously assured. Amen.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



The monthly blood drive will be held Monday, February 23rd from 11:30AM -- 5:30PM at the VFW Hall.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

We will have our Ash Wednesday Service on February 18th at 6 PM. Join us as we begin the holy season of Lent.



DISCIPLE'S MEN BREAKFAST

The men will meet at the Main Street Cafe at 8:00 AM on Saturday, February 21.

2026 CHURCH KEYS

Those going off of committees from 2025 with church keys, please bring them to the office or give them to the 2026 committee chair. If you pass them on to the new Chair, please email or call the office to update the information.

GOD'S GANG

The spring semester of God's Gang is here!! We began by celebrating Super Bowl night on February 4, followed by the incredibly popular "fancy night" on the 11th! Special thanks to Deena Hasler and her wait staff, as well as to Amy Horton for providing dinner music. Next week we will observe Ash Wednesday, followed by Birthday night on the 25th. It's not too late to join the fun!!

-Kim Woods, God's Gang Director

EGG HUNT

The Christian Education & Membership Committees are asking for donations of plastic Easter eggs & individually wrapped candy for our upcoming Family Egg Hunt happening on Sunday, March 29th! Please bring donations to the Church Office by Sunday, March 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Megan Mahler @ (262) 475-4527

Date	Worship Elder	Bread Elder	Deacons	Deaconess	Jr. Deacons	Ushers
February 15, 2026	Dennis Thiel	Tammy Terry	Team #3	Evie G	Team #1	Team #2
February 18, 2026	Cindy Mathis	Angel Templeton	Team #1	Connie R		Team #2
February 22, 2026	Ellen Webb	Steve Webb	Team #2	Joel G	Team #2	Team #2
March 1, 2026	Lisa Young	Barb Free	Team #3	Emily T	Team #1	Team #3

CIRCLE NEWS

Circle of Light will meet Tuesday, March 3rd at 5:00 PM.

Circle of Prayer will meet at 6:00 PM on Thursday, March 12th.

Koinonia will meet on Thursday, February 19th at 9:00AM.

CIRCLE OF LIGHT SOUP LUNCHEON

Circle of light will be holding their annual soup luncheon on Sunday, March 1st following the morning Worship Service. There is a sign-up sheet on the registration desk. Please specify whether you plan to dine in or carryout or both? This will help us decide the amount of soup to prepare. There will be several types of soup to choose from as well as grilled cheese sandwiches.

CIRCLE OF LIGHT BLESSING CALENDAR

The Circle of Light is In Charge of this years Blessing donation. The calendar is enclosed. Please keep this handy during the month of March for your daily donation. All Money collected will go to the Helping Hands Soup Kitchen at the First Baptist Church.

FCC JOB POSITIONS

We are hiring two part-time directors to lead our children and youth. One position is for a Children's Director, overseeing programs for preschool through fifth grade. The other position is for a Youth Director, working with kids from sixth grade through high school. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

ENVELOPES PICK UP

There are several offering envelopes that need to be picked up. Please stop by the desk and pick up your envelopes. If you are able to hand-deliver any others to members' homes, your help would be greatly appreciated.

412 YOUTH



Upcoming Dates

Feb 15th:	Middle School, High School Youth Group, & Club 3-5
Feb 22nd:	Middle School & High School Youth Group
Mar 1st:	Middle School, High School Youth Group, & Club 3-5
Mar 8th:	Middle School & High School Youth Group

If you have any questions, please contact the office.

FUTURE DATES

We have many fun events for all ages planned this year at FCC! Please **SAVE THESE DATES** on your calendar & we will give more information about each event as the dates get closer! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the Church Office, Faye Eitel or Megan Mahler!

Sunday, March 1: Soup Lunch Fundraiser after Sunday Service

Sunday, March 29th: Palm Sunday Brunch & Family Indoor Egg Hunt @ 10:30am

Sunday, April 5th: Easter Breakfast @ 8am

Sunday, May 31st: Bowling at Iron Pin @ 11am-1pm, \$5/ Person

June: Event TBD

Monday - Friday, July 13th - 17th: Vacation Bible School

Sunday, July 19th: All Church Picnic / 11:30am @ Twin Lakes Park Pavilion

Sunday, August 30th: Pool Party & Card Tournament / 1-4pm @ the Bennett's

Sunday, September 13th: Tailgate Party & Fall Kick-Off / FCC Parking lot after Sunday Service.

Sunday, October 11th: Pastor Appreciation Sunday @ 10:30am

Saturday, November 21st: Trivia Night & Crockpot Cook-off @ 6pm (Childcare will be provided)

Sunday, November 29th: Advent Kick Off / Cookies, Hot Cocoa & Decorating Classrooms for Christmas @ 10:30am

Sunday, December 20th: Birthday cake for Jesus / 10:30am in FCC Parlor