



The MESSENGER

Faith, Fellowship, & Flip Flops

This Sunday, July 23
11:30 AM in
Major Hall



Chicken salad sandwiches & chips provided
Please bring a side dish to share

Bingo (with prizes!),
volleyball, and children's games

- *You are welcome to leave your food in the Major Hall kitchen refrigerator while attending worship.*
- *There will be trivia questions in the Centrum following 9:00 AM worship until time for the fellowship event.*
- *Everyone will receive a ticket for a chance to win this popcorn machine door prize!!*
- *This Bingo prize includes a free lunch with the Office Staff!!*



➤ *Summer Bible Study*

Brown Bag Bible Bunch is reading through the short Letters of Paul this summer beginning with the books of Ephesians and Philippians. Come join us on Wednesdays at noon in the Conference Room. Jim Warren leads the study. (We will not meet July 26 and August 2.)

➤ *Gifts for Another Table*

We are off to a good start! During July, please continue to bring to church the following non-perishable food items for Home Sweet Home Ministries: boxed rice dinners, pasta & sauce, potato dinners & sauce, Hamburger Helper, instant mashed potatoes, and canned vegetables & fruit. – *Pete Whitmer and Jim & Nancy Guither*

➤ *Volunteer Opportunities*

INtegrITy Counseling offers donation-based counseling with master's level counselors and social workers who give their time to meet client needs. We are looking for counselors, front desk workers, and fundraising coordinators who can give one hour or more per week to our agency. We are flexible with scheduling and allow time off for students, retirees, and others. For more information, call Luella Mahannah at 827-9100 or email integritycounseling@frontier.com.

➤ *Disciples Women's Ministries*

DWM is busy planning for the 2017-18 year. At the August meeting, a decision will be made on the choice of study for next year. The purpose, and/or mission statement of our group will also be discussed as will future projects and special events. Be sure to attend Thursday, August 3, at 1:00 PM, and help plan the new year. After three years, this will be the last "Women of the Bible" study. Brenda Phillis will be discussing two women – **Anna and Delilah**. A special thank you to all the ladies who have shared their study of some amazing women of the Bible. DWM meets the first Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM in the Conference Room by the elevator. Our meetings normally last about an hour and a half. Opportunities for spiritual growth, service, and fellowship are given each month. Please join us in August.
– *Marcia Christensen*

A long obedience in the same direction...

Silence



I made a silent retreat last week, and several of you have asked me what it was like. Were you completely silent for a whole week? What did you do all day? Were you even silent at meals? Why would you do that? Those are just some of the questions I've heard, and here are a few answers for you.

The retreat began on a Friday evening and went through the following Friday. It was held at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Milford, OH, which is just outside of Cincinnati, OH. There were a little over 20 retreatants and five retreat leaders. It was a mix of Catholics and Protestants, and there were priests, Catholic religious, Protestant clergy (there were three of us), and laypeople. We had a wide range of ages, and both men and women made the retreat.

The day began with morning prayer at 7:45 AM, and breakfast followed. Yes, we ate all of our meals in silence. There were usually four or five of us at a table, and we didn't speak to each other. Some of you have remarked that eating in silence with other people would seem odd. It doesn't for me. I find myself able to eat more slowly. I really taste and savor my meal, and I attend more completely to what's in front of me.

I met with a spiritual director for an hour after breakfast. A spiritual director listens with the directee for the movement of the Holy Spirit, asks questions about what God is doing, helps to clarify what the directee is experiencing, and provides suggestions for topics to be reflected on. I had an excellent director at this retreat.

Spiritual direction was one of three times when we could talk, along with morning prayer and Eucharist in the afternoon. The retreat, then, was not one of absolute silence. Although we were requested to keep silent, there were no talk police rapping us on the knuckles if we did speak.

Outside of lunch, nothing was scheduled during the day until the Eucharist at 5:00 PM. My personal daily schedule consisted of going to the exercise room in the morning, and then spending time in the chapel praying. I usually took a walk after lunch, intentionally using that walk as a time of prayer. I also read and wrote in my journal before 5:00 PM worship.

Because this was a Catholic retreat center, the afternoon worship service was a Catholic mass. I am happy to say the retreat leaders made a point of including those of us who were Protestants and welcoming us to receive communion. I really appreciated their inclusiveness.

After supper I spent more time writing in my journal and reading, and then returned to the chapel to pray before going to bed. The days went very quickly and felt very full.

I have discovered that I am a person who needs silence, and not just because I have ten kids. Silence nourishes and sustains me. It opens me to experiencing God's presence more fully and to knowing myself more completely. I also feel more connected with other people in silence. Although those of us on the retreat didn't talk to one another all week, a very deep sense of community formed among us in the silence.

All of us live in a world that's very noisy and busy. We have so much to do that we can never get it all done. We're pulled in a thousand different directions. Once we go inside of silence, much of that noise and busyness fade away, and we see what's truly important.

I know that silence may not bring everyone closer to God, but I would guess that more would profit from silence than currently enter into it. Deep silence does not come easily, and it takes practice to know. Nevertheless, I encourage you to carve out time to be silent and listen for God.

Whatever your path to God, follow it often. You'll find that the God whom you seek is already with you. Stay true to God's way, and you will know God.
-- Jim Warren

► *Block Party*



Saturday, August 12

9:00-12:00

Church Parking Lot

Opportunities to help: bake cakes or cookies for lunch or the cake walks, volunteer to help, donate money or school supplies. Sign-up sheets are available at the Information Center. Envelopes are available in the pews.

Witness of the Faithful

Attendance: 7/9: 148, 45 7/16: 188, 34
Offering: \$18,593.49

Prayer Concerns

OSF St. Joseph: Rita Bell, Kaylee Menken
Treatment: Sharon Warren
Aftercare: Mickey Armstrong, Lori Craig, Dave Eyman, Mary Smart
Hospice: Darlene Bethel, Roger Harweger, Virginia Warren
Assisted Living: Alma Samuels (Taylors' home)
Nursing Homes: Merle Murray, Virginia Warren (Heritage, Blm.); Sonna West (Heritage, El Paso) Harold Goyen, Marilyn Thompson (Heritage, Normal); Corena Meyer (Liberty, Clinton); Dave Dungan, Marlyn Mahannah, Lois Murray, Barbara Thatcher (Martin Health); Eugene Hunter (McLean Co.); Roberta Blomgren (Sugar Creek)
Military: Chris Kavanaugh (Marines, CA); Harley Scott (Phillis niece/Navy, VA)
Sympathy to: ... the family and friends of Sean Mountjoy on his death July 2
 ... Connie (Bob) Trefzger, Sarah Trefzger, and Hunter Trefzger on the July 13 death of their mother/grandmother/great-grandmother, Marilyn Brummet. Marilyn is also the sister-in-law of Jane Brummet, and the aunt of Kathy (Chuck) Smalley.

Thank You

... Thank you to the "Pew Pocket Cleaners" who give of their time keeping our pew racks neat
 ... A note from Suzanne Summers is posted on the Information Center bulletin board

Dedication/Baptism

... Jack Alexander Larson (son of Adam & Tierney Larson and grandson of John & Peg Larson) was dedicated Sunday, July 16
 ... Samantha Dyanne Foster (granddaughter of Al & Beverly Leight) was baptized July 16

Happy 90th Birthdays




... to Phyllis L. Miller on July 26. The congregation is invited to her birthday open house 2:00-4:00 PM on Sunday, July 30, at Eastland Suites Conference Center.

... to Darlene Bethel on July 27. If you would like to participate in a card shower, her address is Bickford House, 14 Heartland Drive Apt. #324, Bloomington 61704.

... also to Virginia Warren who will be 96 on July 29. Her address is Heritage Healthcare, 700 E. Walnut Room #104, Bloomington 61701.

AUGUST 2017

		Saturday		Friday		Thursday		Wednesday		Tuesday		Monday		Sunday	
30	9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship	5	9:30 AM CCIW MLT Committee Meeting	4	7:00 PM Square Dance	3	1:00 PM Disciples Women's Ministry 5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons	2	7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	1	9:30 AM Staff 5:00 PM NA	31	10:30 AM Bridge 5:45 PM Bridge	6	9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship
6	Gifts for Another Table 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship	12	 9:00 AM Block Party	11		10	5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons	9	12:00 PM Bible Bunch 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	8	9:30 AM Staff 5:00 PM NA 5:30 PM Block Party Meeting	7	10:30 AM Bridge 11:30 AM CCIW 5:45 PM Bridge	7	9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship
13	9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship	19		18	7:00 PM Square Dance	17	5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons	16	12:00 PM Bible Bunch 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	15	9:30 AM Staff 5:00 PM NA	14	10:30 AM Bridge 1:00 PM CCIW 5:45 PM Bridge	13	9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bloomington's Oldest Continuing Congregation - Founded 1837

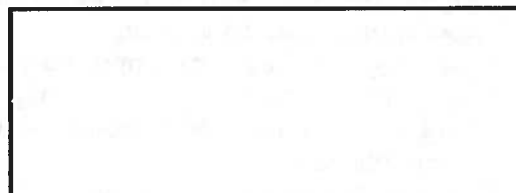


**401 West Jefferson Street
Bloomington, Illinois 61701**

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Bloomington, IL 61701



Serving Sunday, July 23

Acolytes: Carson Damery, Campbell Damery
Child Care: Logan family
Deacons: 9:00 Martin & Sue Ross
10:15 Ryan Newton, Robyn Loftin
Jr. Deacons: Madison Varner, Jaden Eft
Driver: Darrell Arvik
Elders: Beverly & Al Leight
Homebound Elders: Camille & Art Taylor
Fellowship Host: Susan Cleaver
Fill Candles: Ryan Newton
Greeters: Art & Camille Taylor; Bill, Susan, and Tom Chaney
Information Center Host: Pat Bozarth
Scripture: Darrell Arvik
Sound Tech: James Nussbaum
Time for Children: Tamara Shields
Video Tech: Nate Damery
Pulpit: Jim Warren - II Timothy 3:16-17
"You Asked for it Again: How Can I Believe Everything in the Bible?"

Mailed: July 19, 2017

Serving Sunday, July 30

Acolytes: Ellie Chapman, Maddie Chapman
Child Care: Logan family
Deacons: 9:00 Justin & Kim Cox
10:15 Brian Metz, James Nussbaum
Jr. Deacons: Mason Janvrin, Abby Logan
Driver: Frank Lipscomb
Elders: Susan Cleaver, John Hensley
Homebound Elders: Beverly & Al Leight
Fellowship Host: Nancy Pool
Fill Candles: Ryan Newton
Greeters: Brian Metz, Austin Metz, Mark & Michelle Gramley
Information Center Host: Susan Chaney
Scripture: Marla McElroy
Sound Tech: Dave Phillis
Time for Children: Holly Irvin
Video Tech: Todd Chapman
Pulpit: Joe Culpepper

Sunday Traditional Worship 9:00 AM
One and All Worship 10:15 AM
Sunday School for Adults 10:15 AM

Senior Pastor

James Warren.....212-6873
jwarren@blmfcc.org

Minister Emeritus

John Trefzger

Music

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