

The MESSENGER

➤ *Gifts for Another Table* – Items brought to church during April will be given to The Boys & Girls Club. If you have not participated yet, please do so we can help this group. The following items are needed: tall white kitchen garbage bags, 55 gallon garbage bags, toilet paper, latex gloves, band aids, ziplock bags (sandwich, quart, gallon), and quality ice cube trays.

➤ *Brown Bag Bible Bunch* – Jim Warren leads this Bible study at noon on Wednesdays.

➤ *Blood Drive* – Tuesday, April 17, 2-6 PM in Major Hall. Please sign up at the Information Center.

➤ *Thrive* – On Saturday, April 21, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, you are invited to Parkway Christian Church in Springfield, IL. Ruth Fletcher, the Disciples Regional Minister in Montana, will be with us to talk about nurturing the lives of congregations.

➤ *Disciples Women's Ministries* –



All who were there last Thursday surely enjoyed our study at Disciples Women's Ministries presented by Julie Robinson and Nancy Trefzger. It was the 3rd session of our study on Spiritual Gifts. Please join us next time for Session 4 on May 3. Also, don't forget to sign up by April 29 for the Spring Event on May 5 at 9:30 AM. It will include brunch and a program by The Tea Ladies on "Treasure Thy Friends." We hope to see you there!

➤ *VBS* – Vacation Bible School is Sunday, June 3 – Thursday, June 7 at First Christian. Please plan to help lead!

➤ *Camp* – Summer camp registration is happening now! Don't miss it. Schedules are available on the youth board.

➤ *Wednesday Supper Club*



April 18 5:30 PM

MONICAL'S PIZZA
on Eldorado Road just south
of Red Lobster

Note number attending on a Sunday attendance pad
or
phone FCC Office (829-9327)
before 4:15 PM Monday, April 16
~ all are welcome ~

➤ *Congregational Meeting* –

Sunday, April 29, 10:00 AM, in the Sanctuary, for the purpose of electing Board Officers & Ministry Stewards.



IT'S BAKE
SALE TIME

SUPPORT BLOCK PARTY & SCHOOL KITS

Bring items to FCC
FRIDAY, MAY 11, 7:15 AM - 12:45 PM
Sign-up sheet & Guidelines
at Information Center

A long obedience in the same direction...

Practicing Easter



I took an e-course during Lent, and the final session put forward the idea of “practicing Easter.” The authors of the e-course didn’t mean that Easter is some commodity to manipulate and use. Rather, practicing Easter means cooperating with and participating in Easter after the day of Easter has long passed. Practicing Easter means living Easter in our daily lives.

Two ways we can practice Easter are (1) carrying within our hearts a trust in the availability of fresh possibilities, no matter what situation we find ourselves in, and (2) risking the hope that, for us and for everyone, there is a continuing journey after death.

Easter shows us that something new and different is always possible. Just when the religious and political leaders thought they had eliminated Jesus by crucifying Him on Good Friday, God raised Jesus from the dead on Easter Sunday. When everything seemed lost, God brought about something entirely new and different.

I mentioned in the sermon last Sunday that I had noticed in our yard a brave little flower bud making its way through the cold earth and snow. This bud was a harbinger of spring at a time when nothing around me felt spring-like. I saw the bud as a sign that, all evidence to the contrary, spring would come, and God would enliven the world again. Practicing Easter means that we trust God to bring about fresh possibilities in the darkest and most difficult situations.

Practicing Easter also means that we maintain our hope that life continues beyond death. This life is not the end of our existence; there is more waiting for us. Who we are and what we do now extend into eternity.

This means that our lives, and the lives of every other human being, have eternal significance. We need to treat ourselves and each other as the precious and invaluable children of God that we are. We cannot regard anyone as unimportant or worthless because all human beings are children of God, whom God cherishes completely and unconditionally.

We are an Easter people whose lives have been forever changed by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. God asks us to practice Easter in each moment of each day of our lives. Easter means:

at the very least, the presence of fresh possibilities for new life in this very life. Easter is this presence. It is God in the form of fresh possibilities. We can receive Easter into our lives, moment by moment, as we remain open to the freshness.

But Easter is also more than this. It is also an invitation to hope for a continuing journey after death for ourselves and others: all others. We can hope that in this journey people enjoy a beauty, a harmony, and intensity that they may have lacked in this life.

Let’s make Easter more than a pleasant memory of lilies and thrilling music. Let’s make Easter a way of life. Let’s practice Easter.

-- Jim Warren

Witness of the Faithful

Attendance -- 4/1/18: 32, 269, 51 4/8/18: 159, 19
Offering -- \$43,605.01

Prayer Concerns

Aftercare: Bob Corbett, Dave Eyman, Peggy O’Neal, Connie Rapp

Hospice: Harold Goyen, Marilyn Thompson, Virginia Warren

Assisted Living: Mickey Armstrong (Luther Oaks), Alma Samuels (Taylors’ home) **Treatment:** Sharon Warren

Nursing Homes: Blm. Rehab – Marilyn Thompson

Heritage, Blm. – Merle Murray, Virginia Warren

Heritage, El Paso – Sonna West

Heritage, Nrm. – Harold Goyen

Liberty, Clinton – Corena Meyer

Martin Health – Myrna Cable, Dave Dungan, Marlyn Mahannah, Lois Murray, Barbara Thatcher

Military: Chris Kavanaugh (Marines, CA); Harley Scott (Phillis niece/Navy, VA); Luke Pool (Fire Academy City of Bloomington)

Sympathy to: family & friends of Roger Harweger on his death April 5

Birth: Madison was born March 30 to Stacey Erickson. Grandparents are Kim Erickson and Rick & Debra Erickson.

Thank You

Posted on the Centrum bulletin board are notes received from Mickey Armstrong (100th birthday) and Neil & Dorothy Sallee (cards).



2018 Mortgage Retirement Appeal

Our ongoing Discernment Process is clearly about more than building and finances. However, we do have some pressing issues that require our immediate attention. Our current mortgage loan is due on July 2. The balance at that time is expected to be \$25,000. In addition, we have a number of significant maintenance needs that are challenging our efforts to keep our facility in the best possible condition.

At our April 8 Discernment session, we announced an appeal to retire the existing mortgage debt. We already have a significant pledge committed toward that obligation. Please prayerfully consider making a contribution as your resources permit. If possible, please make your contribution by May 15; of course, contributions at any time will be gratefully accepted. All contributions should be designated to "2018 Mortgage Retirement."

Any funds raised in excess of the mortgage balance will be used on a pay-as-we-go basis to address the most immediate maintenance needs in the Sanctuary portion of our facility.

Blessings and thank you for your faithful service to and support of First Christian Church!

Trustees:

*Alan Chapman
Linda Lehmann
Don Mahannah
Marty Sallee
Becky White*



Abundant Life Meal

We will be serving a meal once a month at Abundant Life Church similar to what we did at Jesus House. We will serve there every 3rd Sunday of a month. That means that we will serve on April 22. The time will be around 1 o'clock. If you are interested in helping by donating for the cost of the meal, serving, or providing a dish, please contact Julie Robinson at 838-4335 or jerobinson21409@yahoo.com. Mike will also be the lead Contractor to help them get their building up to code for the city. This provides another opportunity to serve if you would like to do some manual labor. Thanks for helping. A sign-up sheet for making a food item or helping will be at the Information Center.



Appalachian Mission Trip

The Mission Trip to Appalachia is coming up quickly -- June 24-29. The King's Carpenters relies on our faith and mission to care for the "least of His" to operate. So far there are 6-7 people going on the trip to Paintsville, KY, to help the very poorest in the United States. The cost of the trip is \$325 per person. We have had several donations and a good fundraiser. However, we are asking you to prayerfully consider sponsoring our trip. We will have gas and travel expenses. We are also trying to help our participants with the cost of the trip. Our deposit is due April 16, and the final payment is due in May. If you can help and be a part of this trip by donating, it would be so greatly appreciated. Please pray about how you can help.

*-- Mike and Julie Robinson,
The King's Carpenters, NFP*

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bloomington's Oldest Continuing Congregation - Founded 1837



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Bloomington, Illinois 61701**

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Serving Sunday, April 15

Acolytes: --

Child Care: Trish Logan, Rich & Karen Crusius

Deacons: 9:00 Todd & Corin Chapman 10:15 Pat & Jenny Lawler

Jr. Deacons: Gabe Warren, Averie Kieseewetter

Drivers: Rich Crusius, Frank Lipscomb

Elders: David Bradbury, Brenda Phillis (9:00)/Art Taylor (10:15)

Homebound Elders: Chip & Patti Jamerson

Fellowship Host: Julie Robinson

Fill Candles: Ryan Newton

Greeters: John & Kathy Dailey, Nate & Heather Damery

Information Center: Cindy Rousey **Recycle:** John & Debbie Schultz

Scripture: Patty Thompson **Time for Children:** Linda Lehmann

Sound Tech: Brian Metz **Video Tech:** Chip Jamerson

Worship & Wonder Greeter: Kim Cox

Pulpit: Jim Warren – Genesis 1:28-31 “Honoring God’s Creation.” God created the world and everything in it. God has made us stewards of God’s creation, and we are to care for it. God’s grace will overflow into creation through us.

Mailed: April 11, 2018

Serving Sunday, April 22

Acolytes: --

Child Care: Logan family

Deacons: 9:00 Dan & Amy Naughton 10:15 Pat & Jenny Lawler

Jr. Deacons: Abby Logan, Brennon Reed

Drivers: Darrell Arvik, Ryan Newton

Elders: Art & Camille Taylor

Homebound Elders: David Bradbury, Brenda Phillis

Fellowship Hosts: Don & Luella Mahannah

Fill Candles: Ryan Newton

Greeters: Vicki Hall, Alan & Kathie Chapman

Information Center: Betty Steinlicht **Recycle:** John & Debbie Schultz

Scripture: Ryan Newton **Time for Children:** Jim Warren or Holly Irvin

Sound Techs: Brian Metz, Austin Metz **Video Tech:** Nate Damery

Worship & Wonder Greeter: Karen Crusius

Pulpit: Jim Warren – II Corinthians 9:10-12 “Honoring Community and Culture.” We are stewards of the communities and cultures in which we live, and God calls each of us to contribute generously to society out of our abundance. We are to build deep and genuine relationships. God’s grace will overflow into the lives of others as we do so.

Sunday Traditional Worship 9:00 AM
One and All Worship 10:15 AM
Sunday School for all ages 10:15 AM
Sunday Youth Group 5:00 PM

Senior Pastor

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

Minister Emeritus

John Trefzger

Music

Holly Irvin, Dir. Music & Youth Ministries
hirvin@blmfcc.org.....1-864-921-4874
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M-F 8:00-4:30; Closed Noon-1:00

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Website & Calendar.....www.blmfcc.com