



# The MESSENGER

## ➤ Bible Study

Brown Bag Bible Bunch is reading through the short Letters of Paul (currently in Colossians) on Wednesdays at noon in the Conference Room. Jim Warren leads the study. Come join us!

## ➤ Gifts for Another Table

Thank you for bringing gifts during August for The Boys & Girls Club. Non-perishable food items brought to church during September will be given to St. Vincent De Paul food pantry. Suggestions are: boxed rice dinners, pasta & sauce, potato dinners & sauce, Hamburger Helper, instant mashed potatoes, and canned vegetables & fruit.

## ➤ Disciples Women's Ministries

Our August meeting was a very busy one. We began with a presentation by Brenda Phillis about Delilah and Anna. It was informative as well as entertaining. A purpose statement was adopted: "The purpose of Disciples Women's Ministries (DMW) is to provide opportunities for spiritual growth, enrichment, education, and creative ministries to enable women to develop a sense of personal responsibility for the whole mission of Christ's Church thru First Christian Church Disciples of Christ." Next we went over the projects on our agenda for the upcoming year:

- **"Operation Santa"** is being chaired by Jan Dyer. We will be making Christmas stockings for our military men and women, filling them with a variety of useful items, and then taking them to a central processing location mid-October. Suggested items to donate are: travel size deodorant, travel size foot powder, individually wrapped hard candy (no chocolate), beef jerky, and individual packets of hot cocoa. Also, if you have a loved one serving overseas, please give the church office his/her name, address, and how many are serving in his/her company so they will be included in the shipping of stockings.
- We will have a **Christmas Luncheon** at Westminster Village. Shirley Wotherspoon is chairing this. Save the date of December 7.
- Pam Yerkes will be chairing our **"Love Box"** project this February. Be gathering your college and military names and addresses for those mailings.
- Kim Rott will chair the **"Flowers for Shut-ins"** project in May.
- Also, save the date of May 5 for a 9:30 AM breakfast and **"Treasure Thy Friends"** program featuring the "Tea Ladies." Sue Brumme is chair of this event.



Also, 8:30-9:00 Worship at FCC  
9:00 Sunshine Unlimited Class at FCC

## ➤ Fall Schedule Resumes



- Handbell Choir Wednesday, Sept. 6, 5:30 PM
  - Youth Sunday School, Sept. 17, 10:15 AM
  - Youth Groups Sunday, Sept. 17, 5 PM meal
- Our Sunday School teachers and Youth Leaders are excited and ready to start!

## ➤ We're Going Back

Washington Park Cemetery in St. Louis October 20-22. This time with chainsaws and more people! We want YOU to go on Mission with us. See Holly Irvin for more information.

And finally three studies were purposed for next year's programs. Samples of these will be presented by Leslie Frizzell, Mary Helen Haskell & Kim Rott, and Julie Robinson, and then we will vote on their selection. We are looking forward to planning for next year. Please join us on Thursday, September 7, at 1:00 PM in the Conference Room.

A long obedience in the same direction...

## Unity in Community



Our church hosted an interfaith gathering Monday night in response to the recent events in Charlottesville. The full title of the event was *Unity in Community: An Interfaith Service of Lament and Hope*.

All of us were horrified and sickened by what happened in Charlottesville. Charlottesville was another indication that the wounds of racism in America are deep and are a long way from being healed. Several of us met on a Friday morning a week and a half ago to ask how we, as religious leaders in Bloomington/Normal, could best respond to this ugly tragedy. Thus was born the interfaith service.

Everything about the service was well done, and I thank all of you who made the service happen on such short notice. I especially thank Holly Irvin for helping to plan the service and for coordinating all of the music.

There was a brief moment early in the service that stood out to me in particular. The representatives of each faith community offered a brief word of peace. Rabbi Rebecca Dubowe from Moses Montefiore Temple in Bloomington extended *shalom* to all of us. She explained that "shalom" means peace in Hebrew.

The next person to bring us a word of peace was Sheik Khalid Herrington, who is from the Masjid Ibrahim and Islamic Center of Bloomington-Normal. He gave us *salam*, which is the Arabic word for peace. He commented on the similarity of the words *shalom* and *salam* and said their two languages, Hebrew and Arabic, come from the same place.

That seemed a fitting way to summarize the evening. We were from several different religious traditions: Muslim, Jewish, Unitarian Universalist, Hindu, and Christian. We hold different beliefs and worship in vastly different ways, but we were all coming from the same place.

Our evening together affirmed that all of us hold life, justice, and peace to be sacred. And we affirmed that we can all work side-by-side to help our community live these values.

White supremacy, neo-Nazism, and racism are not just wrong, but they are sinful. Monday evening's service powerfully reminded us that we must stand up and confront racism wherever it manifests itself.

And we must practice the values we hold so close to our hearts and souls. Life, justice, and

peace should guide our actions and permeate our community. I have hope that, because of this interfaith service, God will strengthen our hearts and cause us to intensify our efforts to see that God's will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

The interfaith choir closed the service with a song based on these words from Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Take these words of hope with you:

*Goodness is stronger than evil;  
love is stronger than hate;  
light is stronger than darkness;  
life is stronger than death.  
Victory is ours, victory is ours  
through God who loved us.*

-- Jim Warren

### Witness of the Faithful

**Attendance:** 8/20: 135, 37      8/27: 147, 30  
**Offering:** \$8,651.09

### Prayer Concerns

**Advocate BroMenn:** Gene Murray

**Treatment:** Sharon Warren

**Aftercare:** Mickey Armstrong, Rita Bell, Deb Bomeli, Lori Craig, Dave Eyman, Taylor Gramley, Art Gregg, Kaleigh Menken, Carol Morgan, Mary Smart

**Tests/Surgery:** Richard Malone

**Hospice:** Darlene Bethel, Virginia Warren

**Assisted Living:** Alma Samuels (Taylors' home)

**Nursing Homes:** Marilyn Thompson (Blm Rehab); Merle Murray, Virginia Warren (Heritage, Blm.); Sonna West (Heritage, El Paso) Harold Goyen, Roger Harweger (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)

**Wedding:** Zachary Lutz & Elianna Stone were married August 26 in Washington, Maine. Zachary is the grandson of Frank & Lois Lipscomb.

**Birth:** Jeremiah Lee was born August 16 to Rich & Kimberly Stewart. Grandparents are Art & Camille Taylor.

### Benediction

I (Jim Warren) used a Trinitarian benediction in my sermon last Sunday, and several of you have asked for a copy of it:

*May the love of the Father enfold us,  
the wisdom of the Son enlighten us,  
the fire of the Spirit inflame us;  
and may the blessing of the Triune God rest on  
us, and abide with us, now and evermore.*

*The weekly Bible verse from the Stewardship Committee*

**September 3** – Proverbs 11:24-25: One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

**September 10** – Proverbs 22:9: A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.



What is God asking us to do for the stewardship of His Church?

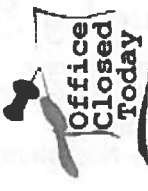



*Block Party Recap*

1,050 kits given out  
 (rest taken to Irving School and The Baby Fold)  
 1,000 hot dog lunches (and we ran out)  
 50 dental exams and another 20 checks  
 42 BP and weight checks  
 172 adult tooth brushes  
 244 adult tooth paste  
 288 child tooth brushes and floss  
 210 child tooth paste  
 Extra items will be given to "Operation Santa."  
 We had a great year! Thanks to all who participated in any way. One more thing ... we are still short about \$1,600 to pay all our bills. If you can help, please mark your donations for Block Party. Thanks, *Block Party Committee*



**SEPTEMBER 2017**

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
3	Gifts for Another Table 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship	 10:30 AM Bridge 11:30 AM CCIW 5:45 PM Bridge 6:30 PM Prairie Fire	5 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM NA 6:30 PM Prairie Fire 6:30 PM Seeding Staff	6 12:00 PM Bible Bunch 5:30 PM Hand Bells 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	7 1:00 PM Disciples Women's Ministries 5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons 6:30 PM Prairie Fire 7:00 PM Community Band Fellowship	8	9 2:00 PM Bridal Shower	
10	 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship in Fairview Park	11 10:30 AM Bridge 1:00 PM CCIW 4:30 PM Seeding 5:30 PM Board Meeting 5:45 PM Bridge 7:30 PM Prairie Fire	12 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM Seeding 5:00 PM NA 7:00 PM Square Dance 7:30 PM Prairie Fire	13 12:00 PM Bible Bunch 4:30 PM Seeding 5:30 PM Hand Bells 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	14 4:30 PM Seeding 5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons 7:30 PM Prairie Fire	15 7:00 PM Square Dance	16	



# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

*Bloomington's Oldest Continuing Congregation - Founded 1837*

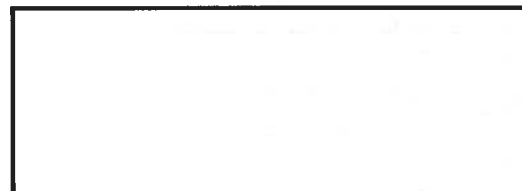


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## Serving Sunday, September 3

**Acolytes:** Ellie Chapman, Maddie Chapman  
**Child Care:** Trish Logan, Stephanie Reed  
**Deacons:** 9:00 Stacey Erickson, Ted Logan  
10:15 Ryan Newton, Robyn Loftin  
**Jr. Deacons:** Bekah Warren, Sadie Newton  
**Driver:** Darrell Arvik  
**Elders:** David Bradbury, Brenda Phillis  
**Homebound Elders:** Chip & Patti Jamerson  
**Fellowship Host:** Pam Yerkes  
**Fill Candles:** Mark Gramley  
**Greeters:** Ron & Nancy Gramley, Jim & Carolyn Hepperly  
**Information Center Host:** Mary Ellen Gottselig  
**Scripture:** Art Taylor  
**Sound Tech:** Brian Metz  
**Time for Children:** Matt Chapman  
**Video Tech:** Todd Chapman  
**Pulpit:** Jim Warren – Exodus 20:1-17  
"You Asked for It Again: The Ten Commandments"

## Serving Sunday, September 10

**Acolytes:** Bethany Warren, Lydia Warren  
**Child Care:** Trish Logan, Michelle Kiesewetter  
**Deacons:** 8:30 Kenny & Penny Bland  
10:00 Peg Larson, James & Libby Nussbaum  
**Jr. Deacons:** --  
**Driver:** Frank Lipscomb  
**Elders:** Becky White, Sharon Warren  
**Homebound Elders:** David Bradbury, Brenda Phillis  
**Fellowship Host:** -- (Picnic)  
**Fill Candles:** Mark Gramley  
**Greeters:** May Jackson, Shirley Wotherspoon  
**Information Center Hosts:** Ron & Nancy Gramley  
**Scripture:** Bob Trefzger  
**Sound Techs:** Brian Metz, Austin Metz  
**Time for Children:** Scott Fisher  
**Video Tech:** Austin Metz  
**Pulpit:** Jim Warren

*Mailed: August 30, 2017*

**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](mailto:jwarren@blmfcc.org)

### Minister Emeritus

John Trefzger

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