



# The MESSENGER

Sunday School at 10:15 AM and  
Youth Groups (3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) at 5:00 PM



resume this Sunday, January 22

## ➤ Gifts for Another Table

Non-perishable food items brought to church during January will be given to St. Vincent de Paul and in February to Salvation Army. Suggestions are canned fruits & vegetables, box meals (such as Hamburger Helper or macaroni & cheese), canned soup, crackers, peanut butter & jelly, and cereal. Bringing even one or two items will help make this a successful effort.

## ➤ Disciples Women's Ministries

In spite of the cold and illnesses, 14 women met January 5 for study and to discuss our plans for the new year. Thank you to Kim Rott for her presentation of **Miriam - Moses' Sister**. All women are invited to join us Thursday, February 2, at 1:00 PM in the Conference Room by the elevator. Julie Robinson will be bringing the program on **Mary, Mother of Jesus**, as we continue our study of **Women of the Bible**.

The Love Boxes for our college students and military families will be packed following the lesson. Please be sure we have the names and addresses of your military families and college students.



If you would like to participate in this project, there are cut-away reminders on the Love Box poster near the Information Center. Donations are also needed for postage. Please mark your donation "Love Boxes." If you have already agreed to provide something, please be sure it is at the church by Thursday morning, February 2. The FCC women have sponsored this project for many years. It reaffirms to these young people the love and concern their FCC family extends to them.

## ➤ Jason Gray in Concert

Saturday, January 21, 7:00 PM at First United Methodist Church (211 N. School Street, Normal). Christian artist Jason Gray's music brings hope, light, and joy to the everydayness of life. This intimate concert setting of Jason, his guitar, and his witness are not to be missed. Suggested donation: \$15 adults, \$5 children.

## ➤ Meet & Greet

For new members and visitors who want to learn more about the church - "drop-in" Sunday, January 22, 10:15 AM, in the Founders' Room.

## ➤ Onward Class Reunion

Sunday, January 22, 11:30 AM, Fellowship Hall.

## ➤ Brown Bag Bible Bunch

Jim Warren is leading a 4-month study comparison of the 4 Gospels on Wednesdays at noon in the Conference Room. All are welcome. Our subject on January 25 will be "Post-Resurrection" Matthew 28:11-20, Mark 16:9-20, Luke 24:13-53, John 20:19-21:25.

## Witness of the Faithful

### Attendance:

1/8: 144, 52  
1/15: 265

### Offerings:

General Fund	12,284.00
Capital Campaign	74.00
Other	<u>975.87</u>
Total:	\$13,333.87

## Prayer Concerns

**OSF St. Joseph:** Betty Beer

**Aftercare:** Susan Cleaver, Gail Corbett, Jeff Courtright, Mickey Drexler, Gene Fowler, Luella Mahannah, Joe & Jan Violano

**Treatment:** Dave Eyman

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

**Hospice:** Darlene Bethel, Marsha Reeves

**Nursing Homes:** Judy Feezor (Aperion); James Fry, Marilyn Kopp, Merle Murray, Virginia Warren (Heritage, Blm.); Sonna West (Heritage, El Paso); Harold Goyen (Heritage, Normal); Corena Meyer (Liberty, Clinton); Niola Daily, Dave Dungan, Lois Murray (Martin Health); Roberta Blomgren (Sugar Creek)

**Military:** Chris Kavanaugh (Marines, CA); Harley Scott (Phillis niece/Navy, VA)

## Thank You

Dear First Christian Church Family and Friends,  
"Kindness is ... anything that lifts another person" – Plato. Throughout the year we are lifted regularly, in so many ways, by your acts of support and encouragement. First Christian Church is not just a workplace for us; it is a place of love. Knowing we are serving a congregation that cares ABOUT us makes every task, large or small, a pleasure to carry out. And you care FOR us, as well. Your generous Christmas gift has



lifted the spirits of each staff member! As we reflect on the holiday season, your light and love have shone brightly and now guide us into another year. We pray each of you will enjoy a year of happiness and health in 2017!

Thank you all! -- *Your First Christian Church Staff*

## From the President's Desk ...

Thank you to everyone who shared their time, energy, thoughts, feelings, memories, and gifts with Kelley. Last Sunday was a memorable send-off, and we wish Kelley and John the best on their westward journey to Oklahoma. I heard people mention they could really feel the love in the room at Kelley's last service as our FCC pastor.

In other news, our 2017 Stewardship Campaign is officially over! Thank you to everyone who turned in pledge cards, and a sincere thank you to everyone who pledged to contribute to FCC in 2017. We have met and even slightly exceeded last year's pledge amount. As of 1/16/2017, \$460,681 has been pledged. The 2017 budget will be finalized soon and thereafter brought to the congregation for a final approval. If you still wish to turn in a 2017 stewardship pledge card, please contact the office.

Welcome Holly Irvin! Holly is our new Director of Music Ministry and Director of Youth Ministry. She has relocated here from sunny South Carolina. So next time you see her, greet her with a WARM smile and introduce yourself! Also, if you have not had the chance to attend Youth Groups or Sunday School, then start 2017 with a resolution of getting more involved in our youth programs. You never know, your kids might LIKE it!!

Blessings to all!

*Ryan Newton, FCC Board President*

## Where There Is Vision, the People Flourish

Proverbs 29:18a (KJV) reads, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." So, "where there *is* vision, the people flourish." God's people flourish when they see and live by God's vision. This sermon series will ask: What is God's vision? Are we being faithful to that vision? How can we live more fully into God's vision? We'll explore God's vision for individuals, relationships, community, the world, and the church. The first sermon in the series invites us to see as God sees.

### Seeing Through God's Eyes

**January 22 - Psalm 33**

The psalmist declares that the Lord, whose word created all of creation, delivers us from evil and death. The Lord sees us with faithfulness, righteousness, and justice. This is God's perspective on God's creation. Do we dare to see our world through God's eyes?

### God's Vision for Humanity

**January 29 - Jeremiah 1:4-10**

God tells Jeremiah that God knew him before he was born. God created Jeremiah - and each of us - for service to others.

### God's Vision for Relationships

**February 5 - John 13:34-35**

Jesus tells us to love one another as He has loved us. Divine love is the hallmark of all of our relationships.

### God's Vision for Community

**February 12 - Selections from Exodus 22:21 - 23:9**

These verses outline the social obligations of God's people. Take care of the poor, be honest and compassionate, and love your neighbors. This is the community that God envisions.

### God's Vision for the World

**February 19 - Isaiah 11:6-9**

God imagines the world as a place of peace where unity reigns. The earth will be full of the Lord.

### God's Vision for the Church

**February 26 - Acts 2:37-47**

These verses describe the church as it came into existence after Pentecost. God envisions the contemporary church including similar qualities. How well does FCC embody these qualities? What do we need to do?

*A long obedience in the same direction...*

## *Praying for Donald Trump*



Donald Trump will be inaugurated as our 45<sup>th</sup> president this week. The campaign between him and Hillary Clinton was often bitter and divisive. Since his election, many in our country have expressed a deep fear of what the Trump administration may do. With the inauguration just a few days away, we hear about entertainers who won't perform, politicians who won't attend, and protesters who will be present. Given this level of anxiety in our nation, what are we as Christians asked to do?

Let me say something first to those who are profoundly upset that Trump will be our next president. We need to *pray*.

Scripture certainly admonishes us to pray for our leaders. I Timothy 2:1-2 advises us to pray for government officials "so that we may live a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity." We Christians have prayed for our leaders, both good and bad, since the earliest days of the church.

Such prayer follows in the way of Jesus Christ. He said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven." He also cried out from the cross, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they are doing." As God's beloved children, we are to love our enemies and pray for those who hurt us, even for those who condemned an innocent man to death on the cross.

Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, writes that our elected leaders need our prayers. We pray for "their well-being, for they too are children of God." We pray that "they will lead in the ways of wisdom, justice, and truth," and that their leadership "will truly serve not partisan interest but the common good." When we pray for our leaders, Curry points out, "we are actually praying for our nation, for our world, indeed we are praying for ourselves."

Curry continues:

Prayer is not a simplistic cheer or declaration of support. Prayers of lament cry out in pain and cry for justice. Prayer can celebrate. Prayer can also ask God to intervene and change the course of history, to change someone's mind, or his or her heart. When we pray for our enemies, we may

find that we are simultaneously emboldened to stand for justice while we are also less able to demonize another human being.

Curry's experience as an African American from Chicago who grew up in a historically black church is especially poignant:

We prayed for leaders who were often lukewarm or even opposed to our very civil rights. We got on our knees in church and prayed for them, and then we got up off our knees and we marched on Washington. Following the way of Jesus, we prayed and protested at the same time. We prayed for our leaders who were fighting for our civil rights, we prayed for those with whom we disagreed, and we even prayed for those who hated us. And we did so following the Jesus, whose way is the way of unselfish, sacrificial love. And that way is the way that can set us all free.

I don't mean to minimize the fears of those who don't support Trump's presidency. I know that his election has occasioned much turmoil and anxiety. Rather, I'm calling us to pray for Donald Trump, his presidency, and all of our government leaders. Prayer is powerful and can change our world, even ourselves.

Now for those who support Trump's presidency and applaud his actions thus far. We need to *pray*.

We can join our Christian sisters and brothers in humble prayer, asking God to instill in Trump's presidency divine wisdom, peace, justice, love, and compassion. We can also seek to understand the anxiety and fear that some are experiencing and stand beside them to ensure that no one is ever forgotten. We can pray as a people united in Jesus Christ.

May the next four years bless our nation, that we in turn may share our blessings with all of the nations of the world. -- *Jim Warren*



### *Welcome New Member*

Welcome to Holly Irvin, our new Director of Music & Youth Ministries, who joined our church family on January 8 by transfer of letter from Morningside Baptist Church in SC.

### *Inclement Weather*

Please check the church website, Facebook, email, church answering machine, and WJBC 1230 AM radio during inclement winter weather for church service and meeting cancellations.

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bloomington's Oldest Continuing Congregation - Founded 1837



401 West Jefferson Street  
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #41

Bloomington, IL 61701



## Serving Sunday, January 22

**Acolyte:** Mason Janvrin  
**Child Care:** Logan family  
**Deacons:** Justin & Kim Cox  
**One and All Deacons:** Ryan Newton, Matt Davis  
**Jr. Deacons:** Averie Kieseewetter, Teagan Gramley  
**Driver:** Darrell Arvik  
**Elders:** Karen & Rich Crusius  
**Homebound Elders:** Faith Russell, Art Taylor  
**Fellowship Time:** --  
**Fill Candles:** Marla McElroy  
**Greeters:** Brian Metz, Austin Metz, Mark & Michelle Gramley  
**Information Center Host:** Pat Bozarth  
**Scripture:** Holly Rocke  
**Sound Tech:** Brian Metz  
**Time for Children:** Tamara Shields  
**Video Tech:** Nate Damery  
**Worship & Wonder Greeters:** Naomi Kosier, Corin Chapman  
**Pulpit:** Jim Warren – Psalm 33 – *Seeing Through God's Eyes*  
The Lord sees us with faithfulness, righteousness, and justice.  
Do we see our world through God's eyes?

## Serving Sunday, January 29

**Acolytes:** Kenley, Mackenzie, Evan, and Alexis Nichols  
**Child Care:** Trish Logan, Rich & Karen Crusius  
**Deacons:** Ted Logan, Doug Reed  
**One and All Deacons:** John & Kathy Dailey  
**Jr. Deacons:** Chloe Varner, Emily Varner  
**Driver:** Ralph Lehmann  
**Elders:** Brenda Phillis, Marla McElroy  
**Homebound Elders:** Karen & Rich Crusius  
**Fellowship Time:** --  
**Fill Candles:** Marla McElroy  
**Greeters:** Doug & Stephanie Reed, Justin & Kim Cox  
**Information Center Host:** Susan Chaney  
**Scripture:** Camille Taylor  
**Sound Techs:** Brian Metz, Austin Metz  
**Time for Children:** Jim Warren  
**Video Tech:** Todd Chapman  
**Worship & Wonder Greeters:** Kim Cox, Patti Jamerson  
**Pulpit:** Jim Warren – Jeremiah 1:4-10 – *God's Vision for Humanity*  
God created Jeremiah and each of us for service to others.

Mailed: January 18, 2017

**Sunday Traditional Worship** ..... 9:00 AM  
**One and All Worship** ..... 10:15 AM  
**Sunday School for All Ages** ..... 10:15 AM  
**Youth Groups**..... 5:00 PM

**Senior Pastor**

James Warren.....212-6873  
[jwarren@blmfcc.org](mailto:jwarren@blmfcc.org)

**Minister Emeritus**

John Trefzger

**Music**

Holly Irvin, Director of Music & Youth Ministries  
[hirvin@blmfcc.org](mailto:hirvin@blmfcc.org)

Lou Ann Fillingham, organ/piano

[lafillingham@comcast.net](mailto:lafillingham@comcast.net)

Bill West, One and All Music Coordinator

[billwest211@gmail.com](mailto:billwest211@gmail.com)

**Communications Coordinator**

Jenifer Metz Petri.....808-1181  
[info@blmfcc.org](mailto:info@blmfcc.org)

**Office Administrator**

Dawn Craig  
[office@blmfcc.org](mailto:office@blmfcc.org)

**Financial Secretary & Editor**

Deborah Stumm  
[dstumm@blmfcc.org](mailto:dstumm@blmfcc.org)

**Custodian**

Wally Calvert  
[calvert62@comcast.net](mailto:calvert62@comcast.net)

**Child Care Coordinator**

Trish Logan  
[tlogan4@hotmail.com](mailto:tlogan4@hotmail.com)

**Office** .....(309) 829-9327

401 W. Jefferson, Bloomington, IL 61701

M-F 8:00-4:30; Closed Noon-1:00

**FAX**.....829-2865

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