



The MESSENGER

Holy Week 2018

Palm Sunday, March 25

9:00 a.m. Worship with Instrumental Ensemble
10:15 a.m. One and All Worship
Children will process with palms
Combined children/youth
Sunday School with crafts and games in Major Hall.
Youth group will not meet in the evening.

Maundy Thursday, March 29

at Centennial Christian Church
(1219 E. Grove, Blm.)
Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, March 30

at First Baptist Church
(2502 E. College, Blm.)
First Christian, Wesley Methodist, First Baptist, and
Second Presbyterian Churches participating
Worship at 12:10 p.m. with Combined Choir
Lunch following

Easter Sunday, April 1

7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service
8:00 a.m. Breakfast throughout the
morning in the Centrum
Fifteen minutes before the 9:00 and
10:15 a.m. services you are invited to
place flowers (provided) on an Easter cross.
Baptisms at the 9:00 service.
Combined children/youth Sunday School
with crafts and games in Major Hall.
Youth group will not meet in the evening.



➤ *Appalachia Mission Trip* – The dates are Sunday, June 24-29. If you could not attend the informational meeting, you can still join us. Cost is \$325 + gas and meals on the way down. We will be doing fundraising to help offset that cost for you. See Mike or Julie Robinson for details. The first fundraiser is Tuesday, March 20, 4:00-9:00 PM, at Gill Street Bar & Grill. Please mention you are there for The Kings Carpenters, and the mission trip will receive 20% of proceeds on food that night.

➤ *Wednesday Supper Club* –

March 21, 5:30 PM, at Tony's Diner

(former Pizza Hut Restaurant at corner of S. Main & Oak Creek Plaza across from State Farm Park). Please note number attending on a Sunday attendance pad or phone FCC office before 4:15 PM on Monday, March 19.

➤ *Desserts for Maundy Thursday Meal*

If you could provide a dessert for the meal on March 29 to be held at Centennial Christian Church, please sign up at the Information Center.



April 8

Let us gather
for lunch and to discern!



We will review and summarize October and November discussions regarding the current state of our building and finances, as well membership trends at FCC and in the broader church.

Mark your calendar now! Details will follow.
11:30 to 1:00 at First Christian Church

We've met to share facts and figures, hear about new ways of worshipping in the 21st century, listen to questions, discuss concerns, and consider options for the future of First Christian Church. On April 8 we'll get together again to learn about the next steps on our path of discernment. Lunch will be provided in Fellowship Hall at 11:30 AM followed by a brief review of where we've been and a discussion of where we are going next. Please plan to attend and participate in this important dialogue. Indicate your attendance by signing up at the Information Center, calling the church office, or through Facebook or our website.

- *Bake Sale* – Remember this lovely Granny just pulling her rolls from the oven? She’s reminding you the **BAKE SALE**, one of the 2 best fundraisers for school kits, is fast approaching. Note **Friday, May 11**, on your calendar, the day to bring your goodies to FCC. This is **YEAR 20** for the Block Party, so let’s have a really successful bake sale. Look for **sign-up sheets and guidelines** at the Information Center beginning **April 1 – no foolin’**. Get out your tried and true recipes and be ready to contribute.



Witness of the Faithful

Attendance -- 3/4/18: 137, 36 3/11/18: 142, 27
Offering -- \$30,656.03

Prayer Concerns

Treatment: Sharon Warren
Aftercare: Betty Beer, Bob Corbett, Dave Eyman, Peggy O’Neal
Hospice: Harold Goyen, Marilyn Thompson, Virginia Warren
Assisted Living: Mickey Armstrong (Luther Oaks), Alma Samuels (Taylors’ home)
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)
Birth: Keegan Phoenix Quinn-Sprague was born January 22 to John Sprague and Heather Quinn. Grandparents are Martin and Sue Ross.

Thank You

Posted on the Centrum bulletin board are notes received from Frank & Lois Lipscomb (family health) and Gene Fowler and Larry Fowler (sympathy).

- *Disciples Women’s Ministries* ~ Our



March 1 meeting was a busy one. After Mary Helen Haskell gave the Treasurer’s Report, there was a discussion of plans for the DWM Spring Program. The next item on the agenda was our continuing study of “Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts.” Leslie Frizzell led us in our discussion of Session 2. This was a very interesting and enlightening hour. Julie Robinson and Nancy Trefzger will be leading our discussion of Session 3. Even if you have not been there for earlier sessions, please feel free to join us for our next meeting on Thursday, April 5, at 1:00 PM in the Conference Room.



The DWM Spring Event will be May 5, 9:30-11:30 AM. This will begin with a delicious brunch followed by “Treasure Thy Friends” program presented by The Tea Ladies. Sign-up (at the Information Center) will begin March 25. The deadline to sign up is April 29. Reservations will be limited to 100 persons. A goodwill offering will be accepted. Please feel free to bring a guest(s). Child care will be provided. See you on May 5.

- *Gifts for Another Table* – Non-perishable food items brought to church during March will be given to Home Sweet Home Mission. Suggestions are: boxed rice dinners, pasta & sauce, potato dinners & sauce, Hamburger Helper, instant mashed potatoes, and canned fruits & vegetables.

- *Bible Study* – You are welcome to come read through the short Letters of James, Peter, John, and Jude (currently I Peter) on Wednesdays at noon in the Conference Room. Jim Warren leads the study.

- *Called with a Purpose* – Hosted by Disciples Women’s Ministry Leadership Team of CCIW Saturday, May 5, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM, at The Chiara Center, Springfield. To register see: <https://cciwdisciples.org/2018/01/called-with-a-purpose-the-gathering/>

- *Youth Mission Trip to St. Louis*
 Dates: July 22-28. See Holly Irvin for information.

A long obedience in the same direction...

Expecting Different Results



An old saw says that the definition of insanity is doing the same things over and over again and expecting different results. How often have you found yourself caught in that trap? You want something different

for your life, but you're not willing to change anything, and then you wonder why everything stays the same.

Here's a small personal success story. I wrote in the last *Messenger* that one of my Lenten disciplines is to take an e-course from an organization called Spirituality and Practice. In order to do that e-course, I had to carve out time from my daily schedule. My calendar is full, just like yours, and if I didn't change something I couldn't participate fully in the e-course.

The good news is that I was able to make some changes and created enough space to do the e-course. I know this isn't a huge victory, but it does show that in order for something to be different (having sufficient time to take an e-course), you have to make changes (rearranging my daily schedule).

What's true for individuals is also true for institutions. If an organization wants to be or do something different, it has to change. It can't keep doing the same things over and over again and expect different results.

Churches frequently face this dilemma. They want something different to happen in their lives, but they aren't willing to make the necessary changes.

For example, let's say a church wants to increase its outreach ministry. In order for that to come about, the church may have to change the way it budgets: increasing its giving to outreach and decreasing its giving to other areas. It may have to change staff job responsibilities: increasing the amount of time the church expects staff to work in outreach and decreasing the amount of time staff spend in other areas. It may even have to change the culture of the church: from a church that's very focused on itself to a church that's more focused on people outside of the church. None of those changes will happen easily.

I wonder what First Christian will have to do differently in response to the many changes happening in the world around us. I'm convinced that North American Christianity is going through major changes right now; some have called these changes "seismic." Everything I've seen and read indicates that the world around us is shifting significantly. What worked twenty

or thirty years ago doesn't seem to be working nearly as well today.

One of the challenges we face is how will we respond to our changing world. We can keep doing what we've always done and being the church we've always been, or we can change by following God's direction into our future. Which of these two paths is more likely to position us to be more effective in proclaiming the good news of God's love in today's world?

In the discernment process we began last fall and will continue April 8, we're asking what God wants us to do and be in the next season of our life together. How is God leading us to respond to all of the changes occurring around us? What will we need to change in order to be different and more faithful?

We wish we had all of the answers and could plot out a clear and definite course for our church, but we don't and we can't.

I believe when we are ready, when we are truly open to hearing and following the Holy Spirit's still, small voice, we will know the direction God wants us to take. God's way will emerge for us, but perhaps slowly, in tiny baby steps.

Let's keep asking what God's vision for our church is. Let's keep seeking God's will for us. Let's be willing to change to become the church God wants us to be. And let's come together April 8 at 11:30 AM to continue to discern what God is asking of us in this time and in this place.

-- Jim Warren

Greetings from the Legacy Circle -



We happily announce another individual has joined the Legacy Circle at First Christian by designating a future gift to our church. Thank you, *Shirley Wotherspoon*, for your faithful stewardship and for extending a gift to future generations. If you are considering such a gift, please contact one of the Church Trustees (Alan, Marty, Don, Linda, and Becky). We will be happy to meet with you, listen to your wishes, and discuss various possibilities.

-- The Trustees

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bloomington's Oldest Continuing Congregation - Founded 1837



401 West Jefferson Street
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

Return Service Requested



If you would like to provide a lily for the Sanctuary on Easter, please complete and return this form to the Church Office along with \$12.

Name: _____

Given In honor or memory of (circle choice):

__ In lieu of a lily, I would like my donation to be given to the Easter Offering.

Serving Sunday, March 18

Mailed: March 14, 2018

Acolytes: --

Child Care: Trish Logan, Jenny Henneberg

Deacons: 9:00 Justin & Kim Cox 10:15 James & Libby Nussbaum

Jr. Deacons: Mason Janvrin, Logan Janvrin

Drivers: Gary Thompson, Ralph Lehmann

Elders: Sue & Joe Bandy

Homebound Elders: Susan Cleaver, John Hensley

Fellowship Hosts: Ron & Nancy Gramley

Fill Candles: Connie Rapp

Greeters: Pete Whitmer, Cindy Rousey

Information Center Host: Shelley Hunt

Scripture: James Nussbaum

Time for Children: Scott Fisher

Sound Tech: Brian Metz

Video Tech: Nate Damery

Worship & Wonder Greeter: Patti Jamerson

Pulpit: Jim Warren – Acts 16:11-15 *God's Will and Our Response*

Lydia was "a worshiper of God" in Philippi. When she heard Paul preach, she and her household were baptized. She quickly and decisively responded to the word of God.

Serving Palm Sunday, March 25

Acolytes: --

Child Care: Trish Logan, James Nussbaum

Deacons: 9:00 John & Kathy Dailey 10:15 Pat & Jenny Lawler

Jr. Deacons: Drew Logan, Austin Metz

Drivers: Frank Lipscomb, Rich Crusius

Elders: Naomi Kosier, Kathie Chapman

Homebound Elders: Sue & Joe Bandy

Fellowship Host: Nancy Pool

Fill Candles: Connie Rapp

Greeters: Bill, Susan, and Tom Chaney; Art & Camille Taylor

Information Center Host: Martha Hunter

Scripture: Todd Chapman

Time for Children: Tamara Shields

Sound Techs: Brian Metz, Austin Metz

Video Tech: Todd Chapman

Worship & Wonder Greeter: Jenny Hall

Pulpit: Jim Warren – Philippians 2:1-11 *God's Will and Jesus' Example*

This passage encourages us to have the same mind as Jesus Christ, and it describes what a life patterned on Jesus looks like. Our lives are to conform to Jesus' humble, loving example.



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

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