



The MESSENGER

Block Party



Saturday, August 12

9:00-12:00

Church Parking Lot

**school kits / games / food / entertainment
social service agencies / health screenings**



Opportunities to help:

- ✓ bake cookies or cakes for lunch or cake walks
- ✓ volunteer to help
- ✓ donate money or school supplies

Donation envelopes are available in the pews

Volunteer sign-up sheets are available
at the Information Center or

www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b4eafae2caa8-volunteer1

➤ 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.

➤ Gifts for Another Table

The Boys & Girls Club does a great job working with young people. They are in need of the following items: tall white kitchen garbage bags, 55 gallon garbage bags, toilet paper, latex gloves, band aids of all sizes, ziplock bags (sandwich, quart, gallon), and quality ice cube trays. Please bring your donations to church during the month of August.

➤ Disciples Women's Ministries

DWM (Disciples Women's Ministries) will meet this **Thursday, August 3, at 1:00 PM** in the Conference Room by the elevator. All ladies are encouraged to attend. The program will be our last on *Women of the Bible*. Brenda Phillis will be discussing two women - **Anna and Delilah**. Thank you to Brenda and the 14 women who have shared their study of 24 amazing women over the past three years. It takes a lot of time to research and put together a program like this from scratch. We are most fortunate to have willing, knowledgeable, and talented women in our group who have shared these stories with us. The August meeting is the last of the 2016-17 meeting year. In the past DWM has run from September through August. It has been suggested we coordinate our schedule with the church's (January-December). We will make a decision on this as well as what course of study we will have for the upcoming year. Projects and special events are also on the agenda. "*Many hands, lighten the work!*" Come now and help with the plans for the upcoming year.

➤ Blessing of the Backpacks



All children/youth are invited to bring their backpacks with them to church on August 13 for a "Blessing of the Backpacks" during the worship service.

➤ Annual Worship in the Park



Please mark your calendars and plan for our annual "Worship in the Park" on September 10, 10:00 AM, at FAIRVIEW PARK PAVILION. Bring a dish to share. Fried chicken, paper products, and water will be provided. **PLAN TO STAY AND PLAY SOFTBALL OR BEAN BAG TOSS!!! FUN FOR EVERYONE!** A sign-up sheet will be at the Information Center. Come join the fun!

A long obedience in the same direction...

Gullywumping



In her book *Thrive: Spiritual Habits of Transforming Congregations*, Ruth A. Fletcher tells about the time she and her husband hiked up Mt. Baldy. They could see the mountain from their dining room window, but they'd never attempted to climb it.

They packed a lunch, drove to the trailhead, and started walking the easy trail that followed the stream. The path went through a forest, and the way was clear. But after a couple of miles the trail entered a meadow and disappeared. Fletcher and her husband could no longer see the trail.

The only thing they knew was that their destination was in the upward direction, so they kept climbing. Fletcher said this was what her dad used to call "gullywumping," finding the way where there is no way. They continued up the slope and kept their goal in sight. Eventually they gullywumped to a place where they had a magnificent view of the whole valley.

Fletcher likens their trip up Mt. Baldy to the position in which many churches find themselves today. These churches have reached a place where they can no longer see their way. They can sort of tell where they should be heading, but the path has disappeared, and they aren't sure of what they need to do.

I've been saying this about our church for a while now. In *Messenger* columns, sermons, and conversations, I've pointed out how much the American religious landscape has shifted in general, and how much FCC has changed in particular. Some observers of the contemporary church scene have labeled this change "seismic."

We, like almost every other American church, are facing significant challenges, but no one is really sure how to respond to those challenges. I was heartened that the Board recently voted to begin a process of discernment about our church's future and how the needed repairs of the 1931 portion of our building play into that. I'm excited that this process will help us gullywump our way forward. We'll hear more about this process as some structure is put in place.

I recommend Fletcher's book to you. In her list of the 12 spiritual habits of transforming congregations, Fletcher lists prayer as number one. That's what I encourage all of us to be doing. We need to pray for our church, its leaders, and one another as we seek God's will for our future together.

I close with these words of one of my favorite writers, Wendell Berry:

It may be that when we no longer know what to do that we come to our real work, and that when we no longer know which way to go, we have begun our real journey.

-- Jim Warren

Witness of the Faithful

Attendance: 7/23: 138, 35 7/30: 142, 40
Offering: \$17,848.88

Prayer Concerns

Treatment: Sharon Warren

Aftercare: Mickey Armstrong, Rita Bell, Lori Craig, Dave Eyman, Kaleigh Menken, 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: Jane Brummet, Kathy (Chuck) Smalley, Connie (Bob) Trefzger, and family on the July 24 death of their brother-in-law/uncle, Lee Brummet



Birth: Andie Quinn, daughter of Drew & Jenny Henneberg & sister of Charleigh, was born July 26

Thank You

... Notes from Peggy Penn, Harry & Bettie Schultz (health), and Seedling Theatre (building use) are posted on the Information Center bulletin board.

... Thank you to all those who helped with and participated in our *Faith, Fellowship, & Flip Flops* event July 23. Sid Smart won the prize of lunch with the staff, and Tamara Shields won the popcorn machine.

AUGUST 2017

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

Extravagant GENEROSITY

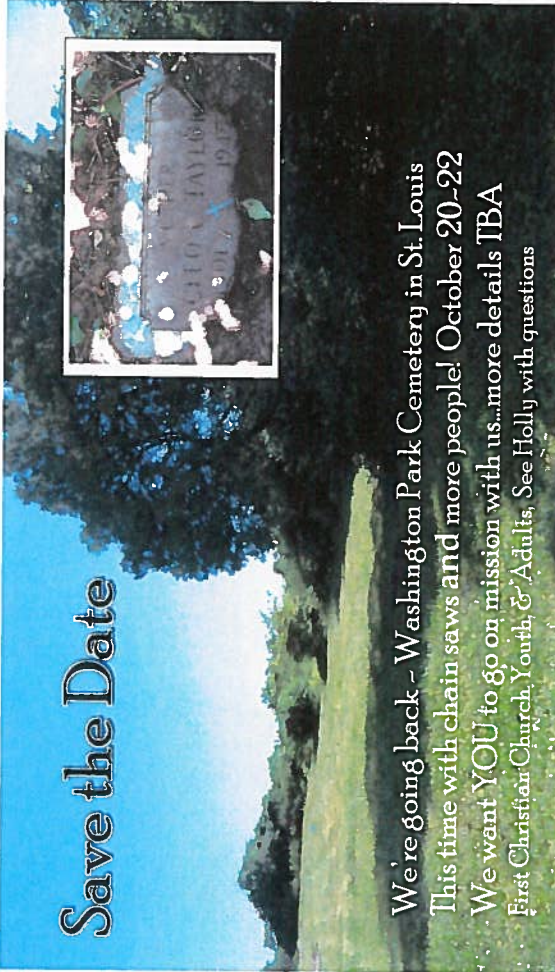
The Heart of Giving

Weekly Bible Verses from the Stewardship Committee

August 6 – (Genesis 14:18-20) Then Melchizedek King of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High and he blessed Abram saying "Blessed be Abram by God Most High Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

August 13 – (Exodus 35:29) All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the Lord freewill offering for all the work the Lord through Moses had commanded them to do.

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



Save the Date

We're going back - Washington Park Cemetery in St. Louis
 This time with chain saws and more people! October 20-22
 We want YOU to go on mission with us...more details TBA
 First Christian Church, Youth, & Adults, See Holly with questions

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bloomington's Oldest Continuing Congregation - Founded 1837

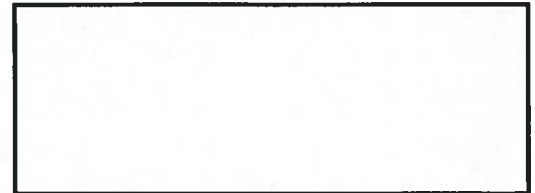


**401 West Jefferson Street
Bloomington, Illinois 61701**

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Serving Sunday, August 6

Acolytes: Bekah Warren, Gabriel Warren
Child Care: Logan family
Deacons: 9:00 Stacey Erickson, Vicki Hall
10:15 Ryan Newton, Libby Nussbaum
Jr. Deacons: Austin Metz, Alea Cleaver
Driver: Ralph Lehmann
Elders: Sue & Joe Bandy
Homebound Elders: Susan Cleaver, John Hensley
Fellowship Host: Brenda Phillis
Fill Candles: Becky White
Greeters: Doug & Stephanie Reed, Justin & Kim Cox
Information Center Host: Kathy Dailey
Recycle: Given Harper
Scripture: Patty Thompson
Sound Tech: Brian Metz
Time for Children: Heather Damery
Video Tech: Austin Metz
Pulpit: Lloyd Hult – Matthew 18:21-35
"The Limits of Forgiveness"

Serving Sunday, August 13

Acolyte: Charlie Campos
Child Care: Trish Logan, Kim Cox
Deacons: 9:00 Martin & Sue Ross
10:15 James or Libby Nussbaum, Tom Crutchley
Jr. Deacons: Teagan Gramley, Seth Newton
Driver: Ryan Newton
Elders: Naomi Kosier, Kathie Chapman
Homebound Elders: Sue & Joe Bandy
Fellowship Host: Bill Robitske
Fill Candles: Becky White
Greeters: Nate & Heather Damery, John & Kathy Dailey
Information Center Host: Karen Crusius
Recycle: Given Harper
Scripture: Ryan Newton
Sound Techs: Austin Metz, Brian Metz
Time for Children: Matt Chapman
Video Tech: James Nussbaum
Pulpit: Jim Warren – I Corinthians 5:9-13
"You Asked for it Again: Who's Left?"

Mailed: August 2, 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

Minister Emeritus

John Trefzger

Music

Holly Irvin, Director of Music & Youth Ministries
hirvin@blmfcc.org

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

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