



# The MESSENGER

## ➤ *Discerning God's Vision for FCC*



Our church has faced many changes since it was founded 180 years ago. Some of those changes have been major, others relatively minor. Change keeps happening.

To help our church navigate through the significant changes taking place around us, the Trustees have called on us to enter into a process of discernment. They are asking the congregation to come together to understand God's vision for us and ask what God wants us to do and be at this time in our life together. (Jim Warren has written about discernment in his column in this *Messenger*.)

The Trustees have planned two meetings to begin the process of discerning. On October 29 and November 12, both Sundays, we'll gather from 1:00-5:00 PM to ponder the future of our church.

The October 29 meeting will focus on hearing about the status of our church and the challenges we're facing. We'll talk about our building and what repairs and updates need to be done, our finances and long-term projections, and our membership and how it is changing. We'll also spend some time discussing themes that arise out of this information and introduce ways in which the church at large is addressing change.

The November 12 session will focus on reacting to what we heard October 29, listening to one another's questions and insights, and dreaming about our future. We'll also plan our next steps.

These two sessions are vitally important to the future of our church. Please do whatever you need to do to attend both sessions. If you can only make one session, you are still encouraged to attend.

You may sign up to attend on the Sunday morning attendance pad, at the Information Center in the Centrum, by calling the church office, and through our website and Facebook pages.

Your presence ensures our faithful response to the changes taking place in our church and in our world.

## ➤ *Bible Study*

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

## ➤ *Gifts for Another Table*

During September we brought 113 pounds of non-perishable food items to church for St. Vincent De Paul. Let's do even better during October as we bring items for Salvation Army. Suggestions are: boxed rice dinners, pasta & sauce, potato dinners & sauce, Hamburger Helper, instant mashed potatoes, and canned vegetables & fruit.



## ➤ *Pet Blessing*

Centennial Christian Church (1219 E. Grove, Blm.) is holding a "Pet Blessing" service at 4:00 PM this Sunday, October 1.

## ➤ *Music News*

Our Chancel Choir will be singing at Westminster Village on Wednesday, November 29, at 7:00 PM.

Youth Sunday School 10:15 AM

Youth Group 5:00 PM



- On the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, Kids for Christ (K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade) meets at 5:00 PM, too
- Also on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, Youth Group begins with a meal. If you would like to provide part of a meal some time, please call Holly Irvin (1-864-921-4874).
- Upcoming Special Event: Youth Group Bonfire October 29, 5:30 PM, at the Efts' (Kim Cox's parents)



## Witness of the Faithful

**Attendance:** 9/17: 136, 42      9/24: 133, 32  
**Offering:** \$11,159.06

### Prayer Concerns

**OSF St. Joseph:** Eugene Hunter

**Treatment:** Sharon Warren

**Aftercare:** Deb Bomeli, Lori Craig, Dave Eyman, Rita Fisher, Nicole Lanham, Richard Malone, Kaleigh Menken, Peggy O'Neal, Neil Sallee, Mary Smart, Joe Violano

**Hospice:** Linda Harweger, Virginia Warren

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

**Nursing Homes:** Marilyn Thompson (Blm. Rehab); Erma McDaniel, Merle Murray, Virginia Warren (Heritage, Blm.); Sonna West (Heritage, El Paso); Harold Goyen (Heritage, Normal); Corena Meyer (Liberty, Clinton); Dave Dungan, Marilyn Mahannah, Gene & 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)

**Birth:** Grace Renea Irwin was born September 12 to Chris & Stacy Irwin. Grandparents are Jim & Deb Underhill.

**Sympathy to:** ... Brenda (Dave) Phillis family on the Sept. 17 death of her cousin, Troy Cooper ... family and friends of Cleo Colaw on her death September 22

### Thank You

A note posted on the Information Center bulletin board has been received from Art & Camille Taylor (new grandchild).

### ➤ We're Going Back



To Washington Park Cemetery in St. Louis October 20-22. We will leave Friday at 5:00 PM and return Sunday at 4:00 PM. We would especially welcome adults who could operate (and bring) chainsaws. Trip is for junior high and up. Cost is \$35. We will spend Saturday clearing and cleaning up areas of Washington Park Cemetery. Questions? See Holly Irvin.

### ➤ Disciples Women's Ministries



At our September 7 meeting Julie Robinson gave a talk and video presentation called "God - As He Longs for You to See Him." This will be a candidate for our 2018 study. On October 5 a presentation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> option for next year's study will be given by Leslie Frizzell. Her program is called "Thrive." Also, there will be updates about ongoing project plans. It is early, but be thinking of college students and military folks to whom we will be sending Love Boxes after the first of the year. We would love to have you join us!

- DMW meets in the Conference Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month 1:00 - 2:30 PM.
- Our Christmas Luncheon will be December 7 at Westminster Village. A mandolin group is the possible entertainment for the day.
- Our Spring Event will be May 5. The "Tea Ladies" will be appearing that day.

### ➤ Start Fresh



The "Start Fresh" men's prison clothing ministry is holding a "Share the Warmth" drive through November to collect new or gently used men's coats, hats, scarves, and gloves. There is a collection box by the Information Center.

### ➤ Operation Santa



Disciples Women's Ministries is sewing 40-50 Christmas stockings for our military men and women and filling them with a variety of useful items which will be collected through mid-October. Ideas are: travel size deodorant, travel size foot powder, individually wrapped hard candy (no chocolate), beef jerky, and individual packets of hot cocoa. There is a collection box by the Information Center. 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.

## Books



The Trustees and others have been reading several books on how the contemporary church is changing significantly and rapidly. These books offer suggestions on what churches need to do in response to these changes. The four books are:

*Thrive: Spiritual Habits of Transforming Congregations*, Ruth A. Fletcher, 2015

*Shift: Three Big Moves for the 21st Century Church*, Mark E. Tidsworth, 2015

*Weird Church: Welcome to the 21st Century Church*, Beth Ann Estock and Paul Nixon, 2016

*Captured by Vision: 101 Insights to Empower Your Congregation*, George W. Bullard, Jr., 2017

Several copies of these books are making their way around the congregation, so if you see someone with one of them ask to have it passed on to you next. You can also let Holly Irvin know you're interested in these books, and she'll get one to you when it's available. All four are available as well on Amazon in both print and Kindle editions.

Learn more about the change churches, including ours, are experiencing today, and what we can do in response to those changes.

The weekly Bible verse from the Stewardship Committee

**October 1**

**I Corinthians 16:2** -- On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.



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



The weekly Bible verse from the Stewardship Committee

**October 8**

**II Corinthians 8:12** -- For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.



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



## Discernment



Expect to hear a lot about "discernment" in the next couple of months. Prompted by the Trustees, our church is entering into a process of discernment as we seek God's vision for our future together. We have meetings scheduled for October 29 and November 12. Both are Sundays, and we'll meet from 1:00-5:00 PM. You can read more about those meetings elsewhere in this *Messenger*. I really encourage you, if at all possible, to attend both sessions. It's vitally important for our church.

Our church is beginning this process to help us understand what God is saying to us and what God wants us to do and be at this time in our life together. We're asking that the Holy Spirit guide us into our future, and that we have the courage and faith to follow.

When I've sought the Holy Spirit's guidance, I've often wished God would give me a clear cut, definitive path to follow. Wouldn't it be wonderful if God would just tell me what to do! But that's never happened to me.

More often than not, discerning God's ways is an involved and messy business. God rarely zaps us from beyond to tell us exactly what to do. Discerning God's will takes patience, close attention, and hard work.

To help us prepare for this time of discernment, I'd like to share some principles for discerning God's will:

1. **Prayer.** Discernment needs to be bathed in prayer. I encourage all of us to be praying now that we will come to see God's vision for us. Discernment begins and ends in prayer.
2. **Humility.** Before we can hear God's word for us, we need to let go of what we want. We need to enter this process desiring only God's will for our church, not demanding that our way triumph.
3. **Openness.** In a spirit of humility, we need to listen to each other and seek to understand one another's viewpoints. We need to pay close attention to what's said, and not said. We may disagree with some of what we hear, but it's our responsibility to be open to everyone's thoughts and opinions. We need to approach this process as non-judgmentally as possible.
4. **Patience.** Discernment happens on God's schedule, not ours. We need to wait on God and receive God's answers at the right time.
5. **Hard Work.** Most often God's will emerges *after* we've done our homework. We need to pray, sort through the facts, ask the hard questions, listen to one another, vet some possibilities, and sometimes start all over again. God expects us to do our part if we really want to know God's vision for us.
6. **Community.** God will work through our whole church community; this is not something one person or a small group can decide. Each person's contribution is vitally important, but it is together we will discern God's will.
7. **Trust.** We have to trust God to guide us through this process and be willing to support whatever paths emerge from it. It may not be my way, but it will be our way.

I'm excited about the directions God will give us. I know that we are a strong, healthy church, and we can do whatever God asks of us. Keep praying for God's vision for us!

-- Jim Warren

# OCTOBER 2017

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday  |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Communion</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Worship Service<br/>10:15 AM Adult Sunday School<br/>10:15 AM One and All Worship<br/>10:15 AM Youth Sunday School<br/>5:00 PM KFC &amp; Youth Group</p> <p>9:00 AM Worship Service<br/>10:15 AM Adult Sunday School<br/>10:15 AM One and All Worship<br/>10:15 AM Youth Sunday School<br/>5:00 PM Youth Group WILL NOT MEET</p> | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>10:30 AM Bridge<br/>11:30 AM CCIW<br/>5:30 PM Elders<br/>5:45 PM Bridge</p>  | <p><b>3</b></p> <p>9:00 AM CCIW<br/>9:30 AM Staff Meeting<br/>4:30 PM Seeding<br/>4:30 PM Trustees<br/>5:00 PM NA</p>  | <p><b>4</b></p> <p>12:00 PM Bible Bunch<br/>4:30 PM Seeding<br/>5:30 PM Hand Bells<br/>6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal<br/>7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal</p>  | <p><b>5</b></p> <p>1:00 PM Disciples<br/>Women's Ministries<br/>4:30 PM Seeding<br/>5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons</p> | <p><b>6</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Square Dance</p>   | <p><b>7</b></p>   |
| <p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Worship Service<br/>10:15 AM Adult Sunday School<br/>10:15 AM One and All Worship<br/>10:15 AM Youth Sunday School<br/>5:00 PM Youth Group</p>  | <p><b>16</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Trustees Meetings</i></p> <p>10:30 AM Bridge<br/>4:30 PM Trustees<br/>5:45 PM Bridge</p> | <p><b>17</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Staff Meeting<br/>4:30 PM Seeding<br/>5:00 PM NA<br/>6:00 PM Ryan Newton</p>   | <p><b>18</b></p> <p>12:00 PM Bible Bunch<br/>4:30 PM Seeding<br/>5:30 PM Hand Bells<br/>6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal<br/>7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal</p> | <p><b>19</b></p> <p>4:30 PM Seeding<br/>5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons</p>   | <p><b>20</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Mission Trip</i></p> <p>St. Louis Mission Weekend<br/>7:00 PM Square Dance</p> | <p><b>21</b></p> <p>St. Louis Mission Weekend<br/>2:00 PM Zeta Eta Chapter of Delta Omicron</p>   |
| <p><b>22</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Heritage</i></p> <p>St. Louis Mission Weekend<br/>9:00 AM Worship Service<br/>10:15 AM Adult Sunday School<br/>10:15 AM One and All Worship<br/>10:15 AM Youth Sunday School<br/>2:00 PM Christian Motorcycle Association<br/>5:00 PM Youth Group WILL NOT MEET</p>  | <p><b>23</b></p> <p>10:30 AM Bridge<br/>5:00 PM PPR<br/>5:45 PM Bridge</p>  | <p><b>24</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Blood Drive</i></p> <p>9:30 AM Staff Meeting<br/>2:00 PM Blood Drive<br/>4:30 PM Seeding<br/>5:00 PM NA</p> | <p><b>25</b></p> <p>12:00 PM Bible Bunch<br/>4:30 PM Seeding<br/>5:30 PM Hand Bells<br/>6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal<br/>7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal</p> | <p><b>26</b></p> <p>4:30 PM Seeding<br/>5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons</p>   | <p><b>27</b></p> <p>2:30 PM Jenny Churchman (Eureka Church)</p>   | <p><b>28</b></p> <p>Richard Satonius Funeral &amp; Luncheon<br/>10:00 AM CCIW Regional Church Council<br/>10:00 AM CCIW Summit Planning<br/>12:00 PM Illinois Theatre</p> |
| <p><b>29</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>YOUTH GROUP BONFIRE</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Worship Service<br/>10:15 AM Adult Sunday School<br/>10:15 AM One and All Worship<br/>10:15 AM Youth Sunday School<br/>1:00 PM Visioning Session<br/>5:30 PM Youth Group - Bonfire</p>  | <p><b>30</b></p> <p>10:30 AM Bridge<br/>5:45 PM Bridge</p>  | <p><b>31</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Staff Meeting<br/>5:00 PM NA</p>   | <p><b>1</b></p> <p>12:00 PM Bible Bunch<br/>4:30 PM Seeding<br/>5:30 PM Hand Bells<br/>6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal<br/>7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal</p>  | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>1:00 PM Disciples<br/>Women's Ministries<br/>4:30 PM Seeding<br/>5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons</p> | <p><b>3</b></p> <p>4:30 PM Seeding<br/>7:00 PM Square Dance</p>   | <p><b>4</b></p> <p>10:00 AM CCIW</p>  |

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

*Bloomington's Oldest Continuing Congregation - Founded 1837*

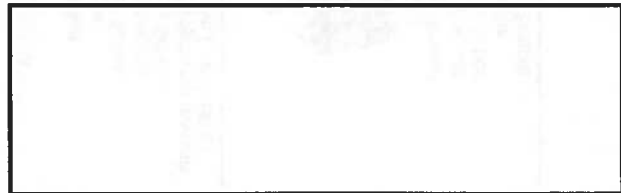


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## Serving Sunday, October 1

**Acolytes:** Evan Nichols, Alexis Nichols  
**Child Care:** Trish Logan, James Nussbaum  
**Deacons:** 9:00 Martin & Sue Ross  
10:15 Todd & Corin Chapman  
**Jr. Deacons:** Seth Newton, Sabrina Campos  
**Driver:** Rich Crusius  
**Elders:** John Hensley, Susan Cleaver  
**Homebound Elders:** Al & Beverly Leight  
**Fellowship Host:** Bill Chaney  
**Fill Candles:** Connie Rapp  
**Greeters:** Mark & Michelle Gramley, Brian Metz, Austin Metz  
**Information Center Host:** Susan Hinrichsen  
**Recycle:** Hank & Linda Sur  
**Scripture:** Tamara Shields  
**Sound Tech:** Brian Metz  
**Time for Children:** Heather Damery  
**Video Tech:** Chip Jamerson  
**Worship & Wonder Greeter:** Jessica Davis  
**Worship Leader:** Karen Crusius  
**Pulpit:** Holly Irvin - World Communion Sunday

*Mailed: September 27, 2017*

## Serving Sunday, October 8

**Acolytes:** George Davis, Vincent Pozo  
**Child Care:** Trish Logan, Corin Chapman  
**Deacons:** 9:00 Vicki Hall, Ted Logan  
10:15 Peg Larson, Libby Nussbaum  
**Jr. Deacons:** Bryce Reed, Bren Reed  
**Driver:** Darrell Arvik  
**Elders:** Joe & Sue Bandy  
**Homebound Elders:** John Hensley, Susan Cleaver  
**Fellowship Hosts:** Betty Steinlicht, Susan Hinrichsen  
**Fill Candles:** Connie Rapp  
**Greeters:** Justin & Kim Cox, Doug & Stephanie Reed  
**Information Center Host:** Shelley Hunt  
**Recycle:** Hank & Linda Sur  
**Scripture:** Heather Damery  
**Sound Techs:** Brian Metz, Austin Metz  
**Time for Children:** Camille Taylor  
**Video Tech:** Todd Chapman  
**Worship & Wonder Greeter:** Chip Jamerson  
**Pulpit:** Jim Warren; I Timothy 6:17-19  
"Extravagant Generosity: Ministry Flows from the Heart"

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

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

**Minister Emeritus**  
John Trefzger

**Music**  
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[hirvin@blmfcc.org](mailto:hirvin@blmfcc.org).....1-864-921-4874  
Lou Ann Fillingham, organ/piano  
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