



# The MESSENGER

*"Building, Bodies, Budgets, Bridges, ... and Beyond"*

## **A review of the October 29 Discernment Gathering**

The first of our Discernment Gatherings was held on October 29 in Fellowship Hall. Almost 80 people joined with the Trustees to share information about the state of our church and the changes taking place within the broader church. Topics included:

- Condition of the physical properties of our church (Buildings)
- Membership, attendance, and demographic data (Bodies)
- Financial position and trends (Budgets)
- Decline of mainstream, denominational churches, and new ways of looking at worshipping in the future (Bridges)

In addition to a building tour and PowerPoint presentations, there was time for discussion around the tables. At the conclusion of the afternoon, those present were asked to reflect on these questions:

- What did I hear?
- What additional information do I need?
- What am I feeling?
- What am I hearing from others?
- What are my dreams for FCC? (Beyond)

If you were not able to attend on the 29<sup>th</sup>, a virtual building tour and the PowerPoint slides are available on the church's website. (Details on how to access those are provided in the accompanying article.) You are also invited to consider the question about your dreams for our church.

This Sunday, November 12, 1:00-5:00 PM, will bring us back together to continue discussing information, sharing ideas, and dreaming about the future of our church. It promises to be another productive, spirit-filled time together. Your presence at this meeting and your prayers for our church are important as we move forward.

## **Building Tour and October 29 Slideshow Available For Your Review**

If you weren't able to attend the Discernment Gathering on October 29, there is a way for you to review what was covered! A tour of the building that was given is now "virtual" and available on the FCC website. It includes pictures of the places and equipment in our building that need repair and the estimated costs of those repairs or replacement. The PowerPoint slideshow containing information about our building, membership, budget, and questions about decline in the broader church is also available on the website. Both of these are accessible on the "Events Led by FCC" page.

Here's how to get there:

- Go to [www.blmfcc.org](http://www.blmfcc.org)
- On the Home page click on the Discernment graphic
- On the "Events Led by FCC" page click on the blue buttons to view either the Discernment Slideshow or the Virtual Building Tour



A long obedience in the same direction...

## In Remembrance



I needed to be in church last Sunday. I didn't have to be there. John Libert was preaching, and everything else in the service was covered. I just needed to be there. To say that it had been a tough week would be a huge understatement. Sharon's spinal stroke and subsequent hospitalization in Northwestern Memorial Hospital had thrown our world completely upside down. I had come home Friday to be with the kids and was returning to Chicago the next day - Monday.

For those couple of hours Sunday morning I needed to be around people whom I knew cared deeply about Sharon and my family. Thank you so much for your love, support, and prayers. John Libert preached a wonderful sermon on remembering. He focused on the communion table where we gather each Sunday "in remembrance" of Jesus Christ. One of the points I took away from John's sermon was that when we share communion in remembrance of Jesus Christ, we are remembering everything that Jesus did.

The table brings together Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. At the table we recall Jesus' gracious acts of love and compassion, the mercy and forgiveness he offered so freely, and his willingness to give of himself completely for others. We remember Jesus' death and resurrection at the table, and we remember so much more.

I feel like you've reached out to Sharon, me, and our family in remembrance of Jesus Christ. By providing meals, looking after our children, taking care of my responsibilities at church, and so much more, you are practicing Christ's love.

I often brag about our church. We are a caring and compassionate community and a strong and healthy church, and it's a privilege for me to serve you. I needed to be with you. Thank you for being in church Sunday and inspiring me.

I also needed to hear our faith proclaimed, which I did most clearly in one of the songs we sang at One and All. I needed to sing this:

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death  
Your perfect love is casting out fear  
And even when I'm caught in the middle of the storms of this life  
I won't turn back  
I know you are near  
And I will fear no evil  
For my God is with me  
And if my God is with me*

*Whom then shall I fear?  
Whom then shall I fear?  
Oh no, You never let go  
Through the calm and through the storm  
Oh no, You never let go  
In every high and every low  
Oh no, You never let go  
Lord, You never let go of me*

Thank you very much for what you've done for my family and me. Thank you very much for the faith you never fail to remind me of. -- Jim Warren

## Witness of the Faithful

**Attendance:** 10/29 132, 30      11/5 154, 34

**Offering:** \$26,141.50

**2018 General Fund Pledge Campaign Update:**

99 pledges received to date for a total of \$378,046

## Prayer Concerns

**Shirley Ryan Ability Lab:** Sharon Warren

Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, Room 2236,

355 E. Erie St., Chicago, IL 60611

**OSF St. Joseph Hospital:** Harold Schultz

**Awaiting Tests/Surgery:** Jackie Hux

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

**Aftercare:** Lori Craig, Dave Eyman, Scott Fisher, Frank Lipscomb, Peggy O'Neal, Brenda Phillis, Mary Smart, Betty Steinlicht

**Nursing Homes:** Marilyn Thompson (Blm. Rehab); Paul Cope, Merle Murray, Virginia Warren (Heritage, Blm); Sonna West (Heritage, El Paso); Harold Goyen (Heritage, Nrm); Corena Meyer (Liberty, Clinton); Niola Daily, Dave Dungan, Marlyn Mahannah, Gene & Lois Murray, Barbara Thatcher (Martin Hlth); Roberta Blomgren (Sugar Creek)

**Military:** Chris Kavanaugh (Marines, CA);

Harley Scott (Phillis Niece/Navy, VA)

**Sympathy to:** ... Roger Harweger family on the October 25 death of his wife, Linda

... Helen Joyce Barclay family on the October 31 death of her cousin, Dorothy Kurth Baar, of Scottsdale, AZ

**Wedding:** Jessica Mahannah and Brian Doty were married October 28. Jessica is the daughter of Don & Luella Mahannah.

## Thank You

A note from Bobbie Blomgren's son is posted on the Centrum bulletin board (her cards & visits).

## ➤ *Disciples Women's Ministries*

The November 2 meeting of the Disciples Women's Ministries was busy, informative, and entertaining. Sue Brumme began the meeting by passing cards around for all to sign and send their best wishes to Sharon Warren. There was a discussion about things that could be done to help the Warren family during this time.

Marcia Christensen passed around an updated membership list and asked if there were any corrections. She will be emailing a copy to all of us.

Mary Helen Haskell and Kim Rott gave a presentation about the book *Rediscovering our Spiritual Gifts* by Charles V. Bryant. This study will help us discern what our gifts are and how we might use them. These are spiritual gifts from God and the Holy Spirit. There is an accompanying workbook for use in the study. Kim talked about how the effect of these gifts may extend beyond our time.

A report about our financial status was prepared by Mary Helen Haskell, May Jackson, and Marcia Christensen. We have selected five ongoing projects that we will support with our donations and maintain a discretionary fund. These are Kings Carpenters, Youth, Member Cause, Integrity Counseling, Regional Alternative School. In addition, we support the Love Boxes and give occasional honorariums. Overall our group uses 84% of our donations for charity work. The rest is to maintain a working balance. Speaking of Love Boxes, please begin letting us know addresses of college students and military personnel to whom you would like to send a Love Box. February always seems to sneak up on us. Details will follow later.

DWM will have a Christmas Luncheon on December 7 at Westminster Village at 12:00. A musical program will be presented by a Mandolin group. Please sign up at the Information Center by December 3. All church women are invited. The cost for the luncheon is \$10 and will be collected at the luncheon.

The three studies that were presented for consideration for the upcoming year's study were: *God - as He Longs for us to See Him*, *Thrive - Status of the Church*, and *Gifts of the Spirit*. After a vote, the study about *Gifts of the Spirit* was selected as our choice for 2018. Marcia Christensen will order the books for this study. The cost will be about \$12. If you were not at the November 2 meeting, please let her know if you would like to be included in our study.

The meeting was closed with a prayer for Sharon Warren and our church. Please join us on December 7 for our Christmas luncheon and on January 4 as we kick off our new year.

## ➤ *Meals for the Warrens*



If you would like to help provide meals for the Warren family while Sharon is recovering, please follow these steps. Go to the website: [takethenameal.com](http://takethenameal.com). Family name: Warren. Password: Godisgood. Sign up for the time when you would like to supply a meal, and just follow the simple steps for delivery. Please contact Kathy Smalley (527-2105), who is the go-to person for the meals, if you have questions or do not have internet access.

## ➤ *Bible Study*

You are welcome to read through the short Letters of Paul (currently I Timothy) on Wednesdays at noon in the Conference Room.

## ➤ *Wednesday Supper Club*



November 15, 5:30 PM, Pizza Ranch. Please note number attending on a Sunday attendance pad or phone FCC Office (829-9327) by 4:30 PM Monday, November 13.

## ➤ *Gifts for Another Table*

Let's continue the good work we have done in the past. During November our gifts will be given to Regional Alternative School. Their needed items are: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothpaste, lotion, chap stick, and diapers. All sizes are needed – including travel size – and many are available at Dollar Tree or Dollar General. "Believing that all students are capable of change, the mission of RAS is to provide students with high quality, innovative, and relevant education, in a safe and positive learning environment that allows all students to identify their goals to achieve personal success. This mission is obtained through partnering with parents/guardians and the community to prove academic, vocational, and technical opportunities."

## ➤ *Advent Decorating*



Sunday, November 26, 10:00 AM-noon. Undecorating Sunday, January 7, 10:00 AM-noon. The Worship Committee would welcome your helping hands!

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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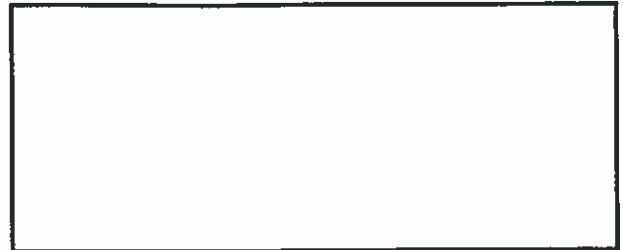
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401 West Jefferson Street  
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

Bloomington, IL 61701

Return Service Requested



## Serving Sunday, November 12

**Acolytes:** Evelyn Kosier, Given Kosier  
**Child Care:** Trish Logan, Heather Damery  
**Deacons:** 9:00 Justin & Kim Cox 10:15 Brian Metz, James Nussbaum  
**Jr. Deacons:** Teagan Gramley, Abby Logan  
**Driver:** Ryan Newton  
**Elders:** Art Taylor, Becky White  
**Homebound Elders:** Brenda Phillis, David Bradbury  
**Fellowship Host:** Doug Reed  
**Fill Candles:** Ryan Newton  
**Greeters:** Shirley Wotherspoon, May Jackson  
**Information Center Host:** Betty Steinlicht  
**Scripture:** Todd Chapman  
**Sound Tech:** James Nussbaum  
**Time for Children:** Scott Fisher  
**Video Tech:** Todd Chapman  
**Worship & Wonder Greeter:** Sue Bandy  
**Worship Leader:** Beverly Light  
**Pulpit:** Lloyd Hulit

Mailed: November 8, 2017

## Serving Sunday, November 19

**Acolytes:** Kenley Nichols, Mackenzie Nichols  
**Child Care:** Trish Logan, Naomi Kosier  
**Deacons:** 9:00 Todd & Corin Chapman  
10:15 James or Libby Nussbaum, Tom Crutchley  
**Jr. Deacons:** Madison Varner, Jaden Eft  
**Driver:** Ralph Lehmann  
**Elders:** Camille & Art Taylor  
**Homebound Elders:** Art Taylor, Becky White  
**Fellowship Hosts:** Ron & Nancy Gramley  
**Fill Candles:** Ryan Newton  
**Greeters:** Cindy Rousey, Pete Whitmer  
**Information Center Host:** Nancy Trefzger  
**Scripture:** Darrell Arvik  
**Sound Tech:** Dave Phillis  
**Time for Children:** Tamara Shields  
**Video Tech:** Austin Metz  
**Worship & Wonder Greeter:** Ryan Newton  
**Worship Leader:** --  
**Pulpit:** Herb Knudsen

**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)

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John Trefzger

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Lou Ann Fillingham, organ/piano  
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**Website & Calendar**.....[www.blmfcc.com](http://www.blmfcc.com)