



The MESSENGER

➤ *Gifts for Another Table*

This Sunday, May 28, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for Ministry & More food pantry. In June our gifts will be given to Center of Hope food pantry which has the following suggestions: rice dinners, pasta & sauce, potato dinners & sauce, Hamburger Helper, boxed mashed potatoes, and canned vegetables & fruit.

➤ *????? You Asked for It – Again*

By the end of May you are invited to submit to Jim Warren a question or topic you would like to see addressed in a sermon this summer.

➤ *Mission Trip*



We have 17 youth, college students, and adults going on mission to St. Louis May 27-June 1. They will stay at the Urban Mission Inn, a ministry of Union Avenue Christian Church, and do mission work in St. Louis. A prayer guide will be available online and in worship to assist you in praying for their work and play in St. Louis! You may keep up with their progress on the church's Facebook page.

➤ *Brown Bag Bible Bunch*

All are invited to come study the Bible Wednesdays at noon in the Conference Room. Jim Warren leads the group.

➤ *Disciples Women's Ministries News*

DWM welcomes all who are interested in study, fellowship, and ways to serve their Lord in our church. We meet the first Thursday of each month. Currently we are studying *Women of the Bible*, and our June 1 program will be on *Leah*, presented by Gail Corbett at 1:00 PM in the Conference Room.

➤ *Wear Red for Pentecost*



On Pentecost Sunday, June 4, you are invited to wear the color red to church as we remember " ... a sound like the rush of a violent wind ... Divided tongues, as of fire ... rested on each of them ... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit ... (Acts 2:2-4).

➤ *Planting Churches*

Our Pentecost Offering will be celebrated Sundays, June 4 and June 11. Each year, half of the Pentecost Offering is designated to the local Christian Disciples Region/Area in an effort to start and sustain new churches. The other half is used by Hope Partnership to support the recruitment, assessment, training, and coaching of new church leaders at events like the Leadership Academy.

➤ *Vacation Bible School*



Keeping with tradition, we will join with Centennial Christian Church, this year at Centennial. The week of June 5-9 children can enjoy the "Maker Fun Factory" VBS. It is for age 3 – 5th grade. It starts at 5:30 PM with dinner, 6:00 PM opening, and ends at 8:30 PM. This year we are trying online registration, so please see: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/5fe280> VBS children will sing in worship June 11.

➤ *Noisy Change*

Please bring coins with you to church on June 11 for a Block Party fundraiser.

➤ *INteGRity Counseling Fundraiser*

On June 12 between 5:00-10:00 PM Jason's Deli will give 15% back to INteGRity Counseling when you mention you are there for the fundraiser.

➤ *Help us Celebrate Fathers (6/18) & Silver & Gold Anniversaries (6/25)*

Please send pictures (hard copy or via email) to the church office by June 14 for use on the screen as we celebrate fathers during worship. Also, please make us aware and send a picture by June 21 if you are celebrating a 25th or 50th+ wedding anniversary this year.

➤ *Seeing your Dentist?*

Beg some dental floss for our Aug. 12 Block Party

➤ Service Opportunities

Please call Linda Merrill (828-7356) at Home Sweet Home Ministries if you would like to help with a "family picnic" on July 1 or as a Fresh Market Errand Driver on 1st & 3rd Sundays.

➤ Diversity of our Region at the GA

The CCIW region is looking for 6 young adults between 20-30 who represent the diversity of our region and would like to attend the General Assembly in Indy October 19-20. The region will pay your registration (as voters) & hotel. The requirements: meet together ahead of time; attend the GA; come back and help promote Young Adult Ministry locally and regionally. Contact Teresa at Teresa@cciwdisciples.org if you would like to go or have someone to recommend.

Witness of the Faithful

Attendance: 5/14 167, 48 5/21 179, 16
Offering: \$22,822.00



Prayer Concerns

Advocate BroMenn: Mary Helen Haskell
Aftercare: Mickey Armstrong, Lori Craig, Forrest Kaufman, Connie Rapp, Mary Smart, Cathlin Stuntz
Awaiting Tests/Surgery: Richard Malone
Hospice: Darlene Bethel, Virginia Warren
Treatment: Dave Eyman, Sharon Warren
Assisted Living: Alma Samuels (Taylors' home)
Nursing Homes: Dave Eyman, Danny Harmon, Merle Murray, Virginia Warren (Heritage, Blm.); Sonna West (Heritage, El Paso); Harold Goyen (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: ... Larry Feezor and family on the May 12 death of his wife, Judy Feezor
 ... Jim (Nancy) Guither and family on the May 17 death of his mother, Evangeline Guither, of Walnut, IL

Congratulations Graduates

Evan Craig (NCWHS - Plans to attend Heartland Community College and finish at ISU)
 Taylor Gramley (NCWHS - Plans to attend Heartland Community College / Physical Therapy Assistant)
 Tommy Bravos (Drexler Singer IWU - Chicago Symphony Orchestra summer internship)
 Carolynn Warren (Heartland / Associates Degree - Plans to attend Methodist School of Nursing in Peoria)
 Katie Pugh (August 2016 Purdue University Honors College Political Science Major)
 Marianne Dungan (2016 Master of Science in Nursing and Healthcare Administration)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship 2:00 PM Christian Motorcycle Association 6:30 PM New Route Rehearsal	29  OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 AM Bridge 5:45 PM Bridge	30 9:00 AM Building Use 9:30 AM Staff 5:00 PM NA 7:00 PM Illinois Theatre	31 12:00 PM Bible Bunch 7:00 PM Illinois Theatre 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	1 5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons 7:00 PM Illinois Theatre	2 7:00 PM Extended Sceptre Ministries 7:00 PM Square Dance	3 6:00 AM Extended Sceptre Ministries
4 Gifts for Another Table Pentecost 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship	5 VBS at Centennial 8:00 AM CCIW 10:30 AM Bridge 5:45 PM Bridge 7:00 PM Illinois Theatre	6 VBS at Centennial 9:00 AM Building Use 9:30 AM Staff 5:00 PM NA 7:00 PM Illinois Theatre	7 VBS at Centennial 12:00 PM Bible Bunch 7:00 PM Illinois Theatre 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	8 VBS at Centennial 5:00 PM TOPPS 5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons 7:00 PM Illinois Theatre	9 VBS at Centennial	10
11  Noisy Coin Collection 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship	12 10:30 AM Bridge 1:00 PM CCIW 5:45 PM Bridge 7:00 PM Illinois Theatre	13 9:00 AM Building Use 9:30 AM Staff 5:00 PM NA 5:30 PM Block Party Meeting 7:00 PM Illinois Theatre	14 12:00 PM Bible Bunch 7:00 PM Illinois Theatre 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	15 5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons	16 8:00 AM CCIW 7:00 PM Square Dance	17 9:00 AM NA Speaker Event 10:00 AM CCIW



Why Read Revelation?

The Brown Bag Bible Bunch, which meets for Bible study every Wednesday at noon and to which you are invited, finishes its study of Revelation this week. Revelation, written by John 65 years after Jesus' death and resurrection, is a difficult book to read. Filled with strange creatures and obscure symbols, it's sometimes hard to understand the book's message. But if you work at it and read it with others, here are some of the lessons you'll learn:

1. **God ultimately wins.** Evil may seem very strong and powerful, but it's already been conquered by Jesus' death and resurrection. It's obvious from the beginning of the book that God will be victorious. The outcome is never in doubt.
2. **Christians aren't spared from suffering.** Evil is allowed to seem dominant for a while, and Christians will suffer hardship, pain, and death. We are caught up in the travails of the world just like everyone else.
3. **Revelation clearly takes the side of the poor and disenfranchised.** John describes Rome as being powerful, beautiful, and cultured, but that power, beauty, and culture come at a great price. The people on the bottom, the people in John's community, were the ones who were ultimately paying for Rome's extravagance and wealth. Those who did Rome's bidding, kings and merchants, profited greatly from Rome's excess. Revelation roundly condemns Rome and its allies, and they will be destroyed in the end. The oppressive greed and materialism of the Roman Empire, and of every empire before and since, comes under God's judgment. God stands up for those on the economic, social, and religious margins.
4. **Revelation is a book of encouragement.** Even though the book is filled with images of judgment and wrath, John is writing to his community, not to scare them, but to encourage them to remain faithful. Life was very hard for many of John's contemporaries, and John wants them to endure. He is reminding them that God has already defeated evil, and if they keep on being faithful they will share in God's victory.
5. **Revelation is also a book of hope.** There is hope for those who have forsaken God. God will give life to those who had chosen to ally themselves with evil but who now repent and turn toward God. John urges us to decide to be faithful while we still can.
6. **John admonishes us to choose what is right.** John sees the world in black and white. Something is either right or wrong, and there's little middle ground. Consequently, John calls on us to do what is right and persist in it. We're faced with decisions every day that test our faith, and we have to choose the right path without fail. John has harsh words for the "cowardly," those who are afraid to choose God's way. Only those who stand up to evil and do not participate in it will conquer and share in God's victory.
7. **Revelation is immanently practical.** This book helps us identify evil in our world and its manifestation in cruel and unjust systems. Revelation also shows us how to live faithfully while in a world of suffering and pain. John's book is a guidebook for his contemporaries – and for us – on how to endure and share in God's already-won victory.

Revelation is not a book to fear, or one to avoid. If you can see beyond the strange creatures and obscure symbols you'll discover a rich treasury of God's truth. Revelation is as relevant a book today as it was when John wrote it. Sit down with Revelation some time, read it closely and carefully, and you'll find a timeless message for your life, and for our world.

-- Jim Warren

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Serving Sunday, May 28

Acolyte: Evelyn Kosier
Child Care: Trish Logan, Michelle Kiesewetter
Deacons: 9:00 Scott & Valerie Fisher
10:15 James & Libby Nussbaum
Jr. Deacons: Sadie Newton, Abby Logan
Driver: Frank Lipscomb
Elders: May Jackson, Faith Russell
Homebound Elders: Madonna Courtright, Darrell Arvik
Fellowship Host: Bill Chaney
Fill Candles: Connie Rapp
Greeters: Brian Metz, Austin Metz, Mark & Michelle Gramley
Information Center Host: Cindy Rousey
Scripture: Don Mahannah
Sound Tech: James Nussbaum
Time for Children: Jim Warren
Video Tech: Nate Damery
Worship & Wonder Greeters: --
Pulpit: Jim Warren - Psalm 68:4-10, 32-35 "Father of Orphans and Protector of Widows." This Psalm lists those whom God loves and protects. Do we, like God, provide for the needy?

Serving Pentecost Sunday, June 4

Acolytes: Kenley Nichols, Mackenzie Nichols
Child Care: Trish Logan, Marcia Christensen
Deacons: 9:00 Nancy Guither, Vicki Hall
10:15 Ted Logan, Tom Crutchley
Jr. Deacons: --
Driver: Rich Crusius
Elders: Marla McElroy, May Jackson
Homebound Elders: Brenda Phillis, Faith Russell
Fellowship Host: Kathy Dailey
Fill Candles: Marla McElroy
Greeters: Doug & Stephanie Reed, Justin & Kim Cox
Information Center Host: Betty Steinlicht
Recycle: Marty Sallee
Scripture: Tamara Shields
Sound Tech: Dave Phillis
Time for Children: Heather Damery
Video Tech: James Nussbaum
Worship & Wonder Greeters: --
Pulpit: Jim Warren - Acts 2:1-21 "It's Complicated"
The appearance of the Holy Spirit made life complicated for the first disciples. The Holy Spirit continues to complicate our lives so we can be more faithful Christians.



Mailed: May 24, 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
iwarren@blmfcc.org

Minister Emeritus
John Trefzger

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