



The MESSENGER

A long obedience in the same direction...

Praying

How do you respond when something frightens or threatens you? What do you do when you're worried or grieving? How do you handle anxiety in your life?

Ruth Fletcher states, "In order to cope with anxiety, people living today often fall back on two coping strategies their cave-dwelling ancestors used when their stress level was raised by the threat of a large beast: fight or flight." Fletcher is the author of *Thrive: Spiritual Habits of Transforming Congregations*, one of the books we're encouraged to read in preparation for the October 29th and November 12th discernment sessions.

Fletcher goes on to say that we tend to manage our stress-induced anxiety by either trying to control it, or by trying to escape it. We may attempt to control our stress by working harder, worrying incessantly about our future, and micro-managing the lives of those around us. Or we may try to escape stress by giving up, deciding that there's nothing we can do about it, and continuing on as if nothing were wrong.

Churches, like individuals, can respond to anxiety by either fighting it or fleeing from it. Churches that choose to respond to stress by fighting it may decide that simply working harder at what they've already been doing will make everything okay. Or they may become very controlling, focusing so much on rules, policies, procedures, and the correct way of doing things that they end up micro-managing everything and everyone.

Those churches that invoke the flight response simply ignore whatever is causing them stress. They become very inwardly focused and lose touch with the bigger world around them. They want everyone to be happy so they seek to cater to whatever anyone wants. These churches pretend everything is fine and won't do anything that might rock the boat.

One of the primary ways that we, as individuals and as a church, can address stress and anxiety in our lives is through prayer. Fletcher names praying as the first of the twelve spiritual habits she finds in transforming, healthy congregations. She concludes her chapter on praying with these words:

Making intentional time to connect with the power and presence of the Spirit, both corporately and individually,

allows transforming congregations to rest in God without having to control anything. It teaches them to trust the leading of the Spirit, even when they do not have all of the answers. It allows them to reframe their understanding of what it means to be human. When they take time to pray, they learn to see themselves not just as those who ... seek comfort, but also as those who are called and sent for the sake of the world.

When transforming congregations take time for prayer they ... reduce the stress in their life Prayer allows transforming congregations to let go of the anxiety that causes them to choose the safe, the expedient, and the comfortable. It helps them make bold decisions in order to become the people they believe God is calling them to be. It allows them to say yes to God's future, even before they know what that future will bring.

For a congregation to be transformed and transforming, and to be the church God wants it to be, it needs to surround everything it does with prayer.

I encourage you to pray for our church. We currently have two emphases for which I especially urge you to pray. One is our stewardship campaign, *Extravagant Generosity: The Heart of Giving*. Use the devotional book mailed to you last week to help you, and all of us together, become more extravagantly generous.

The other emphasis is our discernment process. You can read more about the October 29th and November 12th discernment sessions elsewhere in the *Messenger*. We are seeking to discern God's vision for our church, and only through the openness cultivated in prayer will we come to glimpse that vision. Included in this *Messenger* is a calendar of prayers I recommend you use to prepare for the discernment sessions. My suggestion is that you take the one page calendar of discernment prayers, slip it inside your *Extravagant Generosity* devotional, and include both in your daily prayers.

Let me add that I hope you'll be able to attend the discernment sessions. This is an exciting time for our church. We're opening ourselves to God's vision for us. No one yet knows what that may mean, and these two sessions certainly won't answer all of our questions. I'm sure that our work to discern God's vision for our church will continue into next year.

So pray. Pray for our church that, in God's time, we'll be ready to see and follow God's vision for us.

-- Jim Warren



“The Church’s One Foundation ...”

The most important element of worship is not **where** we gather and yet, the building plays a vital part in the ministry of any church. For 160 years a church building at Jefferson and Roosevelt has housed the congregations and ministries of First Christian Church. No matter how long you’ve been attending, there may be some things you don’t know about our building and its history.

Did you know that:

- Our current sanctuary, built in 1959, is the third structure to occupy this same corner; the first built in 1857 and the second in 1890. The lot for the original building was purchased in 1856 for \$1,500 in gold.
- Our church building has a little more than 36,000 square feet. More than half of this square footage is unused, used for storage, or only used for special occasions.
- Based on average worship attendance, our church is twice as large as we currently need.
- Our Education Wing, dedicated in 1931, was built to handle a growing education ministry. All 3,000 square feet on the third floor are currently unused except for storage. Only 3 rooms on the basement level of the Education Wing are used.
- The 86 year old slate roof on the Education Wing needs to be replaced due to decay of some of the tiles that compose it. Cost of replacement would be between \$150,000 to \$350,000 depending on the materials selected.
- Our first organ was controversial as some didn’t think the Lord should be worshipped with “hollow sticks.” Today our pipe organ has a replacement value over \$750,000.
- More than a dozen heating, ventilating, and air conditioning units operate to make the building comfortable for our use. Over the next 20 years all will need to be replaced one or two at a time at a cost of \$15,000 each.
- Almost half of the building has floor tiles that contain asbestos or asbestos in the glue used. There is about \$200,000 of asbestos abatement that would be done on an as-needed basis when renovation projects are initiated.
- Major Hall, once home to a day-care center founded by FCC, is in need of remodeling and updating to make it an inviting space. Leaks on the Roosevelt side of the wall is causing damage to the paneling and bathrooms.

The trustees invite you to learn more about our building, its current condition, and possibilities for the future at the discernment gatherings on Sundays, October 29th and November 12th (1:00-5:00 PM). The trustees are also available anytime to listen to questions or ideas you may have about the physical property of the church. It is the membership that will, with God’s guidance, determine our future.

Trustees: Alan Chapman, Linda Lehmann, Don Mahannah, Martin Sallee, Becky White

Preparation for our October 29th and November 12th discernment gatherings begins with our openness to what God is doing among us. To help us be ready and open, I've prepared the following thoughts and prayers. For each day between now and October 29th, there is a statement and a prayer about openness. I encourage you to reflect and pray on these as we seek to discern God's vision.

Jim Warren

I am open to...

<p>October 9 ...what God is doing at First Christian Church. Generous and loving God, I am open to what you are doing at our church. You work in powerful and transforming, but often mysterious and hidden, ways. Help me to see what <i>you</i> are doing. Amen.</p>	<p>October 10 ...the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Creative and creating God, I am open to the guidance of your Holy Spirit. Our church wants to follow you faithfully. Please help us heed your Spirit's direction. Amen.</p>	<p>October 11 ...attending both the October 29th and November 12th discernment gatherings. God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, give me the desire to attend these gatherings so that I can be part of our church's future. Amen.</p>	<p>October 12 ...hearing the opinions of others, even when I disagree. God of extravagant love, I am open to the opinions of others, even when I disagree. I tend to cling tenaciously to my opinions, so help me let go of them and genuinely listen to others. Amen.</p>	<p>October 13 ...God's vision for FCC. Everlasting and ever-present God, I am open to your vision for our church. Working together, help us to know where you want us to go and who you want us to be. Amen.</p>
<p>October 14 ...the changes God is asking of FCC and me. God of imagination, I am open to the changes you ask of our church and of me. Change is very difficult, and we often resist change. Grant that we come to accept, and even embrace, the changes you ask of us. Amen.</p>	<p>October 15 ...the hope God gives us in Jesus Christ. Abundant God, no matter what may happen, you give us hope in Jesus Christ. Though we may not know our way, give us the hope that our future with you is secure, in Jesus Christ. Amen.</p>	<p>October 16 ...letting go of what's no longer needed. Living God, I am open to letting go of what's no longer needed. I know I will have to give up something to embrace your future. Help me to know what I no longer need, and give me the courage to let go of it. Amen.</p>	<p>October 17 ...waiting for God to act. God of wisdom, I am open to waiting for you to act. I grow impatient at times and want something to happen now. Give me the patience to allow you to act in your time. Amen.</p>	<p>October 18 ...listening deeply and attentively to others. Most patient Lord, I am open to listening deeply and attentively to others. Quiet me and create in my soul a place where I can hear what others are trying to say. Amen.</p>

➤ *Wednesday Supper Club*

OCTOBER 18 5:30 PM
GARDEN OF PARADISE



To attend note number attending on a Sunday attendance pad OR phone FCC office (829-9327) by 4:15 PM Monday, October 16.

➤ *Bible Study*

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

➤ *Gifts for Another Table*

During October non-perishable food items brought to church will be given to Salvation Army. We need more first-time participants in this mission project. Thank you to those who have been bringing the following items: boxed rice dinners, pasta & sauce, potato dinners & sauce, Hamburger Helper, instant mashed potatoes, and canned vegetables & fruit.

➤ *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. The trip is for junior high and up. Cost is \$35. We will spend Saturday clearing and cleaning up areas of the cemetery, and we will stay at and worship with Union Avenue Christian Church. The deadline to sign up is October 15. Questions? See Holly Irvin.

➤ *Heritage Sunday*

Sunday, October 22, during worship we will honor those who have 50 and more years of membership at this church. This year Carol Cable, Michael Murray, and Shirley Wotherspoon are joining this honored group. Special name badges will be available that Sunday at the Information Center for all our Heritage Members.

➤ *Blood Drive*

Please sign up for our Tuesday, October 24, 2:00-6:00 PM, Blood Drive at the Information Center or by calling the Church Office.

➤ *Youth Group*



Youth Group meets on Sundays at 5:00 PM. Upcoming Special Event: Bonfire October 29, 5:30 PM, at the Efts' (Kim Cox's parents).

➤ *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, & gloves. A collection box is by the Information Center.

➤ *Music News*

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

Witness of the Faithful

Attendance: 10/1: 132, 32 10/8: 166, 32
Offering: \$22,619.72

Prayer Concerns

OSF St. Joseph: Kaleigh Menken

Treatment: Sharon Warren

Aftercare: Betty Brandt, Lori Craig, Dave Eyman, Rita Fisher, Myra Komnick, Marilyn Kopp, Peggy O'Neal, Mary Smart, Joe Violano

Hospice: Linda Harweger, Virginia Warren

Assisted Living: Alma Samuels (Taylors' home)

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

Military: Chris Kavanaugh (Marines, CA); Harley Scott (Phillis niece/Navy, VA)

Sympathy to: ... Martha Hunter and family on the October 4 death of her brother, Eugene Hunter
... Harold (Helen) Goyen and family on the October 5 death of his brother, Dale Goyen, of Pekin

Weddings: ... Sara Roper and William Houk were married September 23 in our Sanctuary. The bride's mother is Linda Roper ... Emily Schultz and Max Cassidy were married by Jim Warren September 30 in Missouri. The bride's parents are John & Debbie Schultz.

Thank You

A note posted on the Information Center bulletin board has been received from Marilyn Thompson (birthday).

➤ *Disciples Women's Ministries*



Our October 5 meeting began with a short talk and opening prayer from May Jackson. Then Sue Brumme called on Tamara Shields for a report on our coloring project for those who are home-bound. The next item on the agenda was Jan Dyer's report on "Operation Santa." October 15 is the deadline for donations to fill the stockings.

Mary Helen Haskell told us about the musical group we have selected for our Christmas luncheon. After that she gave us our financial report. A discussion followed as to how, when, and for what we want to use our funds. A committee was formed to bring a suggested agenda to the group for voting. Mary Helen, May Jackson, and Marcia Christensen will serve on this committee. They will report back next month.

Julie Robinson gave updates on Block Party deficit and items that had been sent to storm victims. It is time again for the conference dinner at the Alternative School. Julie requested some funds to help with the dinner for the high school students. \$100 was given to help fund the dinner.

Sue thanked Julie for her presentation last month. Then Leslie Frizzell gave a talk about the book titled "Thrive." It deals with the condition of the "church" today. It was very informative and thought-provoking. Leslie did an excellent job in showing us the second choice for next year's study.

Sue welcomed again our new attendees and then adjourned the meeting. Afterwards several folks stayed to help sign 250 cards to be included in our "Operation Santa" stockings. Next month's meeting will be on November 2.

COME JOIN US!

To show Jim and Holly how much they are appreciated, let us now...

Thank you, Jim and Holly!

— Pastor —
APPRECIATION
MONTH

SAY it with words or DO it with actions.

Say it with words by sending them a prayerful note, card, email, etc., in the mail, in the offering basket, or in person!
and/or

Do it with actions by giving your TLC to FCC. While you are at church indicate on a "TLC to FCC" slip (and place in offering basket) how you can help out around FCC! Ideas: help out at Youth Group, volunteer at Start Fresh Ministries, help make phone calls, etc.

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.

October 15

The weekly Bible verse from the Stewardship Committee

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7



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




Stewardship Sundays

October 8: I Timothy 6:17-19
"Extravagant Generosity: Ministry Flows from the Heart"


October 15: Deuteronomy 6:4-6 and John 13:34-35
"Extravagant Generosity: Relationships are Matters of the Heart"

October 22: Joel 2:28, Colossians 3:1, and Matthew 6:33
"Extravagant Generosity: Vision and Hope are Inspirations of the Heart"

October 29: John 3:16 and II Corinthians 8:24
"Extravagant Generosity: The Expression of Your Heart"



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



October 22

The weekly Bible verse from the Stewardship Committee

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.





Hebrews 13:16



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



OCTOBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>15 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship 10:15 AM Youth Sunday School 5:00 PM Youth Group</p>	<p>16  Trustees Meeting 10:30 AM Bridge 1:00 PM Deep Discipleship 4:30 PM Trustees 5:45 PM Bridge 5:45 PM Voice Lesson</p>	<p>17 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM Seedling 5:00 PM NA 5:15 PM Music Connections 6:00 PM Ryan Newton</p>	<p>18 12:00 PM Bible Bunch 4:30 PM Seedling 5:30 PM Hand Bells @ Garden of Paradise 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal</p>	<p>19 4:30 PM Seedling 5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons</p>	<p>20  St. Louis Mission Weekend 7:00 PM Square Dance</p>	<p>21 St. Louis Mission Weekend 2:00 PM Zeta Eta Chapter of Delta Omicron</p>
<p>22  St. Louis Mission Weekend 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship 10:15 AM Youth Sunday School 2:00 PM Christian Motorcycle Association 5:00 PM Youth Group WILL NOT MEET</p>	<p>23 10:30 AM Bridge 5:00 PM PPR 5:45 PM Bridge 5:45 PM Voice Lesson</p>	<p>24  Blood Drive 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM Blood Drive 4:30 PM Seedling 5:00 PM NA 5:15 PM Music Connections</p>	<p>25 12:00 PM Bible Bunch 4:30 PM Seedling 5:30 PM Hand Bells 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal</p>	<p>26 4:30 PM Seedling 5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons</p>	<p>27 2:30 PM Jenny Churchman (Eureka Church)</p>	<p>28 Richard Satorius Funeral & Luncheon 10:00 AM CCIW Regional Church Council 10:00 AM CCIW Summit Planning 12:00 PM Illinois Theatre</p>

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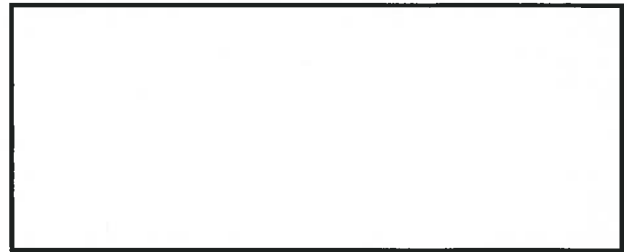
Bloomington's Oldest Continuing Congregation - Founded 1837



401 West Jefferson Street
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

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Return Service Requested



Serving Sunday, October 15

Acolytes: Carson Damery, Campbell Damery
Child Care: Trish Logan, Kathie Chapman
Deacons: 9:00 Dan & Amy Naughton 10:15 James or Libby Nussbaum, Tom Crutchley
Jr. Deacons: Mason Janvrin, Logan Janvrin
Driver: Frank Lipscomb
Elders: Kathie Chapman, Naomi Kosier
Homebound Elders: Joe & Sue Bandy
Fellowship Hosts: John & Kathy Dailey
Fill Candles: Connie Rapp
Greeters: John & Kathy Dailey, Nate & Heather Damery
Information Center Host: Martha Hunter
Recycle: Hank & Linda Sur
Sound Tech: James Nussbaum
Time for Children: Holly Irvin
Worship & Wonder Greeter: Naomi Kosier
Worship Leader: Faith Russell
Pulpit: Holly Irvin – Deuteronomy 6:4-6, John 13:34-35
"Extravagant Generosity: Relationships are Matters of the Heart"

Mailed: October 10, 2017

Serving Sunday, October 22

Acolytes: Ellie Chapman, Maddie Chapman
Child Care: Trish Logan, Rich & Karen Crusius
Deacons: 9:00 Martin & Sue Ross 10:15 James & Libby Nussbaum
Jr. Deacons: Averie Kieseewetter, Tyler Chapman
Driver: Ralph Lehmann
Elders: Joe & Sue Bandy
Homebound Elders: Kathie Chapman, Naomi Kosier
Fellowship Host: Heritage Sunday Reception
Fill Candles: Connie Rapp
Greeters: Vicki Hall, Alan & Kathie Chapman
Information Center Host: May Jackson
Recycle: Hank & Linda Sur
Sound Tech: Dave Phillis
Time for Children: Linda Lehmann
Worship & Wonder Greeter: Jenny Hall
Pulpit: Jim Warren – Joel 2:28, Colossians 3:1, Matthew 6:33
"Extravagant Generosity: Vision and Hope are Inspirations of 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

Minister Emeritus

John Trefzger

Music

Holly Irvin, Director of Music & Youth Ministries

hirvin@blmfcc.org.....1-864-921-4874

Lou Ann Fillingham, organ/piano

lafillingham@comcast.net

Bill West, One and All Music Coordinator

billwest211@gmail.com

Communications Coordinator

Jenifer Petri.....808-1181

info@blmfcc.org

Office Administrator

Dawn Craig

office@blmfcc.org

Financial Secretary & Editor

Deborah Stumm

dstumm@blmfcc.org

Custodian

Wally Calvert

calvert62@comcast.net

Child Care Coordinator

Trish Logan

tlogan4@hotmail.com

Office 829-9327

401 W. Jefferson, Bloomington, IL 61701

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

FAX.....829-2865

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