



# The MESSENGER

## ➤ *Let's "Fall" into Prayer...*



**What is this all about?** The Discernment Team, under the guidance of Scott Woolridge from our Regional Office, is launching an opportunity for one and all of us to meet in small groups to share scripture, prayer, thoughts, and hopes with one another. We will be guided to listen to God, to know Him more deeply, and to see where He is leading us as we travel along His path together.

Get ready to **SPRING** into action this Sunday, August 5. You are encouraged to sign up for a Prayer Group. **LQOK** in the Sunday bulletin for sign-up forms to fill out and place in the offering basket or return to the church office. There will be sign-up forms at the Information Center, also.

**LISTEN** to Don Mahannah's announcement in church on August 5. He will be talking about the Prayer Group process.

**SEE** an example of Lectio Divina during "Time for Children" by Linda Lehmann. This type of prayer will be used on occasion during the 8-week Prayer Group sessions.

**HEAR** Jim's sermon on August 5 concerning listening to God through scripture.

**REACH OUT** to the Discernment Team between services on Sunday, August 5. They will be in the Centrum to listen, talk with you, answer questions, and hear your thoughts and/or concerns. Those on the Discernment Team are: Alan Chapman, John Dailey, Holly Irvin, Linda Lehmann, Don Mahannah, Doug Reed, Marty Sallee, Jim Warren, and Becky White.

**SPRING** into **FALL** and Listen to God with your church family and friends!

➤ *Ribbon Cutting* – The McLean County Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon cutting for INtegrity Counseling on Friday, August 3, at 11:00 AM. We will serve cookies and beverages and host a public open house until 1:00 PM. You are invited to come to the ribbon cutting, tour our offices, and learn more about our work. We are located at 502 S. Morris St. Suite D, Bloomington. INtegrity serves to provide counseling, outreach services, and programs to all, without barriers, from Bloomington's West Side. Since we opened in 2014, we have provided hope to over 340 individuals, held over 3,400 appointments, and delivered over \$450,000 worth of services, all through mental health providers who donate their time to see clients. We hope you can come to celebrate with us!

## ➤ *Block Party* –



*This Saturday, August 4, 9:00 AM - noon,  
in the church parking lot*

*School kits, food, games, entertainment,  
social service agencies, and health screenings*

➤ *Gifts for Another Table* – Non-perishable food items brought to church during August will be given to a very worthy food pantry by the name of Ministry & More. Needed items are canned fruit and vegetables, boxed meals such as Hamburger Helper and macaroni and cheese, canned soup, crackers, cookies, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, and instant mashed potatoes.

## ➤ *Blessing of the Backpacks* –



Students: Please bring your backpacks with you to church on Sunday, August 12.

➤ *Board Retreat* – Saturday, August 18, 9:00 AM – noon, in Fellowship Hall

➤ *Abundant Life Meal* – We served over 50 meals of chicken & dumplings at Abundant Life Church last Sunday. Our next noon meal will be August 19. Please contact Julie Robinson if you would like to help with the meal (838-4335).

➤ *Scholarship Available* – Former First Christian Church members Dr. Richard and Lois Manahan have generously donated \$1,000 to be awarded as a scholarship to a church member who attends Illinois State University. Full-time and part-time students attending ISU for the 2018 Fall semester are eligible to apply. Consideration will be given to active participation in the ministries and programs of the church. Please submit a letter of interest and your class schedule to the First Christian Church office by Monday, August 20. All applicants will be interviewed by a committee of the Trustees.



➤ *Brown Bag Bible Bunch* – Jim Warren leads this weekly study group on Wednesdays 12:00-1:00 PM in the Conference Room. We are studying the Apocryphal books -- currently 4 Maccabees. Come join us!

➤

**Worship  
in the park**  
Sunday, September 9, Fairview Park  
801 N Main St. Normal  
Worship-10:15 a.m. Lunch-11 a.m.  
Softball 12-p.m.  
Bring lawn chairs and a covered dish to share.  
Invite friends and family.  
Brief worship service at 9:00 a.m. at  
First Christian Church, Bloomington

➤ *Promotion Sunday – September 16*



➤ *New Day Retreat* – The Christian Church in IL/WI will be holding a “New Day Retreat” at our church from noon on Friday, September 14, to 5:00 PM on Saturday, September 15. You are invited to an opportunity to go deeper in our relationships with God and one another. Many who have attended these retreats in the past would witness to the benefit of being away for a little while to relax and renew. Questions? Contact Scott Woolridge at [scott@cciwdisciples.org](mailto:scott@cciwdisciples.org).

### *Witness of the Faithful*

Attendance -- 7/22/18: 152, 27                      7/29/18: 128, 27  
Offering -- \$16,041.49

### *Prayer Concerns*

**St. Francis, Peoria:** Sue Brumme  
**Aftercare:** Rita Hensley, Hazel Kuhn, Kaleigh Menken, Peggy O’Neal, Connie Rapp, Sid & Mary Smart, John Trefzger, Pam Yerkes  
**Hospice:** Harold & Helen Goyen, Virginia Warren  
**Treatment:** Mary Moran, Sharon Warren  
**Assisted Living:** Mickey Armstrong (Luther Oaks), Alma Samuels (Taylors’ home)  
**Nursing Homes:** Blm. Rehab – Marilyn Thompson  
Heritage, Blm. – Merle Murray, Virginia Warren  
Heritage, El Paso – Sonna West  
Heritage, Normal – Harold Goyen  
Liberty, Clinton – Corena Meyer  
Martin Health – Myrna Cable, Dave Dungan, Carol Kline, Marlyn Mahannah, Lois Murray, Barbara Thatcher  
McLean County – Darlene Bethel  
**Military:** Chris Kavanaugh (Marines, CA); Harley Scott (Phillis niece/Navy, VA)

### *Thank You*

Posted on the Centrum bulletin board is a note received from: Seedling Theatre (building use).

*A long obedience in the same direction...*



## *God's Time*

Sometimes I wish God worked on my schedule. When I have a question, I wish God would answer me right away. However, God doesn't work that way.

We all know that. We have our questions for God, and the replies aren't always forthcoming. Sometimes we have to wait, and wait, and wait for God to answer us. God responds in God's time, at the right time, not in our time.

I feel this way about this period of discernment we're currently going through. We're searching for God's will for our church. We're asking, "What is God calling our church to be and do in the next season of our life together?" I'm ready for some answers!

We all know this is an important time in our life together. Our society is changing rapidly, and the church is facing significant challenges. We don't know for sure where all of these changes will take us, but we do know we have to become something different. If we are going to continue to spread the gospel faithfully, we need to allow God to transform us into the church God wants us to be.

Although we know we have to change, we don't know what those changes will be. We're still waiting on God to answer us. I believe God *will* answer us in God's time, at the right time. For now, we need to be faithful in prayer and continue to wait on God.

To that end, the Discernment Team and I are calling on us to enter into a period of prayer. We are forming prayer groups that will start shortly after Labor Day. You can read more about those prayer groups elsewhere in this issue of the *Messenger*.

The prayer groups will meet over ten weeks from mid-September through early November. We ask that you commit to making these groups a priority and attending each session if at all possible. Sign-up for the groups begins this Sunday, August 5.

These groups will afford us the opportunity to listen more intently to God. Through scripture, prayer, and discussion we'll seek to be more attentive to God's Spirit in and among us. We'll also become better acquainted with one another in these groups as we share our lives and listen to others share theirs. I know these groups will benefit each of us individually, and all of us together as a church.

Prayer is about opening ourselves humbly and faithfully to God. Sometimes we want to rush God into answering our prayers when we want them answered. Be patient. In God's time, and at the right time, we'll know what path to take into the next season of our life together.

*-- Jim Warren*



## Changes in the Office

Last Friday was Dawn Craig's last day with us after five years as our Administrative Assistant. We will miss her very much!

Her departure has occasioned several changes in the church office. PPR, our church's personnel committee, has made some changes in responsibilities and titles.

This Monday, August 6, **Maggie Burton** will begin her duties as our Receptionist. She will work Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, with noon to 1:00 PM off for lunch. Among her responsibilities are answering the phone and email, greeting those who come to church, coordinating building use, working with office volunteers, and providing office support to staff and ministry stewards. Maggie comes to us with excellent credentials. She has been the Bookkeeper and Administrative Assistant at a Lutheran Church in Palatine, IL for almost 16 years. She and her husband are moving to Bloomington/Normal to be closer to their daughter and her family. It will be a blessing to have her on our office staff. Make sure you introduce yourself to Maggie soon!

**Jen Petri**, our Communications Coordinator, has added some duties to her responsibilities. She will put bulletins together for both worship services and will prepare *The Messenger*, our biweekly church newsletter. This will be in addition to her ongoing responsibilities of doing the Sunday morning slide presentations, maintaining our website and Facebook presence, and designing advertising.

**Debbie Stumm**, our Financial Secretary, will now maintain the church's prayer list, keep up the church's vital statistics, and answer the phone and greet visitors when Maggie isn't here. She will continue to perform all of her financial duties.

Our office hours will change slightly. The office will be open Mondays from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Tuesday through Friday. The office will be closed for lunch from noon to 1:00 PM every day. The best times to contact the church office will be while Maggie is here, from 9:00 AM to noon, and 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

To help you know who to contact, please consult the following list:

- General questions ..... Maggie
- To contact Jim Warren or Holly Irvin ..... contact them directly or Maggie
- Building use ..... Maggie
- Church calendar ..... Maggie
- Changes in serving schedules ..... Maggie
- The Messenger* newsletter ..... Jen
- Worship bulletins ..... Jen
- Sunday worship slides ..... Jen
- Friday email ..... Jen
- Website or Facebook ..... Jen
- Financial questions ..... Debbie
- Prayer list ..... Debbie

Please call the church office (309-829-9327) to contact Maggie, Debbie, Holly, or Jim, (Jen primarily works from home), or you may contact them through email:

- Maggie Burton.....[office@blmfcc.org](mailto:office@blmfcc.org)
- Debbie Stumm.....[dstumm@blmfcc.org](mailto:dstumm@blmfcc.org)
- Jen Petri.....[info@blmfcc.org](mailto:info@blmfcc.org)
- Holly Irvin.....[hirvin@blmfcc.org](mailto:hirvin@blmfcc.org)
- Jim Warren.....[jwarren@blmfcc.org](mailto:jwarren@blmfcc.org)



## AUGUST 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship	<b>30</b> 10:30 AM Bridge	<b>31</b> 9:30 AM Staff 5:00 PM Making School Kits 5:00 PM NA 5:00 PM PPR	<b>1</b> 12:00 PM Bible Bunch 4:00 PM Making School Kits 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	<b>2</b> 10:00 AM CCIW 1:00 PM Disciples Women's Ministries 4:30 PM Trustees	<b>3</b> Camp Walter Scott Post High Weekend 7:00 PM Square Dance	<b>4</b>  9:00 AM Block Party
<b>5</b> Gifts for Another Table 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship	<b>6</b> 10:30 AM Bridge	<b>7</b> 9:30 AM Staff 4:30 PM Worship Committee 5:00 PM NA 6:30 PM Theatre Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 12:00 PM Bible Bunch 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 6:30 PM Theatre Rehearsal	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>  Blessing of the Backpacks 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship	<b>13</b> 10:30 AM Bridge	<b>14</b> 9:30 AM Staff 5:00 PM NA 6:30 PM Theatre Rehearsal	<b>15</b> 12:00 PM Bible Bunch 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 4:30 PM Trustees 6:30 PM Theatre Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 7:00 PM Square Dance	<b>18</b> 9:00 AM Board Retreat
<b>19</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship 12:00 PM Meal for Abundant Life Church	<b>20</b> 10:30 AM Bridge	<b>21</b> 9:30 AM Staff 5:00 PM NA 6:30 PM Theatre Rehearsal	<b>22</b> 12:00 PM Bible Bunch 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 10:00 AM CCIW 6:30 PM Theatre Rehearsal	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM One and All Worship	<b>27</b> 10:30 AM Bridge 5:00 PM Elders' Circle	<b>28</b> 9:30 AM Staff 5:00 PM NA 6:30 PM Theatre Rehearsal	<b>29</b> 12:00 PM Bible Bunch 5:30 PM Choir Dinner 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 6:30 PM Theatre Rehearsal	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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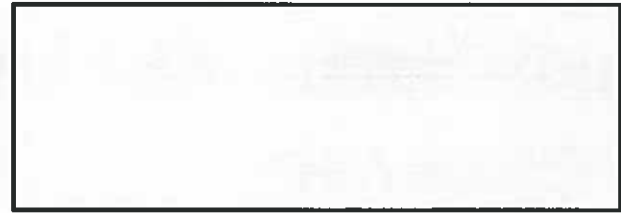


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## Serving Sunday, August 5

**Acolytes:** Ellie Chapman, Maddie Chapman  
**Child Care:** Trish Logan, Heather Damery  
**Deacons:** 9:00 Martin & Sue Ross  
10:15 Valerie Fisher, Stephanie Reed  
**Jr. Deacons:** Abby Logan, Drew Logan  
**Drivers:** Rich Crusius, Frank Lipscomb  
**Elders:** John Hensley, Nancy Trefzger  
**Homebound Elders:** Al & Beverly Leight  
**Fellowship Host:** Brenda Phillis  
**Fill Candles:** Mark Gramley  
**Greeters:** Mark & Michelle Gramley, Brian Metz, Austin Metz  
**Information Center:** Nancy Guither      **Recycle:** Given Harper  
**Scripture:** Marla McElroy      **Time for Children:** Linda Lehmann  
**Sound Tech:** Brian Metz      **Video Tech:** James Nussbaum  
**Pulpit:** Jim Warren Luke 18:9-14; "Did You Hear the One About ... the People Praying?" Jesus talks about a Pharisee and a tax collector going up to the Temple to pray. The tax collector humbly prays and earns Jesus' approval.

## Serving Sunday, August 12

**Acolytes:** Bekah Warren, Gabriel Warren  
**Child Care:** Trish Logan, Naomi Kosier  
**Deacons:** 9:00 Justin & Kim Cox  
10:15 Holly Rocke, Robyn Loftin  
**Jr. Deacons:** Gabe Warren, Teagan Gramley  
**Drivers:** Ralph Lehmann, Ryan Newton  
**Elders:** Tamara Shields, David Bradbury  
**Homebound Elders:** John Hensley, Nancy Trefzger  
**Fellowship Hosts:** Cindy Rousey, Wannie Beard  
**Fill Candles:** Mark Gramley  
**Greeters:** Justin & Kim Cox, Doug & Stephanie Reed  
**Information Center:** Vicki Hall      **Recycle:** Given Harper  
**Scripture:** Patty Thompson      **Time for Children:** Patty Thompson  
**Sound Techs:** Austin Metz, Brian Metz      **Video Tech:** Nate Damery  
**Pulpit:** Jim Warren -- Matthew 25:31-46; "Did You Hear the One About ... the Sheep and the Goats?" To treat people, especially the least of these, with compassion and mercy is to receive God's praise and be welcomed into the kingdom. To ignore those same people is to be condemned.

Mailed: August 1, 2018

**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](mailto:jwarren@blmfcc.org)

### Minister Emeritus

John Trefzger

### Music

Holly Irvin, Dir. Music & Youth Ministries  
[hirvin@blmfcc.org](mailto:hirvin@blmfcc.org).....1-864-921-4874  
Lou Ann Fillingham, organ/piano  
[lafillingham@comcast.net](mailto:lafillingham@comcast.net)  
Bill West, One and All Music Coordinator  
[billwest211@gmail.com](mailto:billwest211@gmail.com)

### Communications Coordinator

Jenifer Petri.....808-1181  
[info@blmfcc.org](mailto:info@blmfcc.org)

### Office Administrator

Dawn Craig  
[office@blmfcc.org](mailto:office@blmfcc.org)

### Financial Secretary & Editor

Deborah Stumm  
[dstumm@blmfcc.org](mailto:dstumm@blmfcc.org)

### Custodian

Wally Calvert  
[calvert62@comcast.net](mailto:calvert62@comcast.net)

### Child Care Coordinator

Trish Logan  
[tlogan4@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.blmfcc.com)