



# The MESSENGER

## ➤ Bible Study

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

## ➤ Gifts for Another Table

Don't forget food items! Non-perishable food items brought to church during September will be given to St. Vincent De Paul food pantry. Suggestions are: boxed rice dinners, pasta & sauce, potato dinners & sauce, Hamburger Helper, instant mashed potatoes, and canned vegetables & fruit.

## ➤ Fall Schedule Resumes



- Youth Sunday School, Sept. 17, 10:15 AM
- Youth Groups Sunday, Sept. 17, 5 PM meal



Our Sunday School Teachers and Youth Group Coaches are excited and ready to start!

### Preschool – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teachers:

Heather Damery, Stacey Erickson  
Substitutes: Jenny Henneberg,  
Michelle Kiesewetter

### 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers:

Patti Jamerson, Stephanie Kiesewetter  
Substitutes: Amy Nichols, Kim Janvrin

### 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers:

Todd Chapman, Ryan Newton  
Substitutes: Kathie Chapman, Becky White

Youth Group will meet as a group together rather than splitting up into age-groups. Youth Group Coaches are Gregg Kiesewetter, Naomi Kosier, Kim Cox, and Ted Logan with Holly Irvin.

## ➤ The King's Carpenters Fundraiser

A percentage of the food purchased at Monical's Pizza on Sept. 19 will be given to The King's Carpenters. If you would like to participate in this fundraiser, please take a flier from the Information Center with you to Monical's on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

## ➤ Wednesday Supper Club

SEPTEMBER 20 5:30 PM



AVANTI'S on EAST EMPIRE

Please note number attending on a Sunday attendance pad or phone our FCC office (829-9327) before 4:30 PM Monday, September 18.

## ➤ Start Fresh

The "Start Fresh" men's prison clothing ministry is holding a "Share the Warmth" drive from September 1-December 1 to collect new or gently used men's outerwear. This includes coats, hats, scarves, and gloves. There is a collection box by the Information Center. We appreciate all the help you have already provided and thank you in advance for help to collect warm items for the men. If you have questions, please contact Michele Pugh or Sarah Trefzger (Reach Out Ministry Chairs). *Together as The Body of Christ we will serve those in need and share God's love (Matthew 25:36).*

## ➤ Operation Santa



Disciples Women's Ministries is making Christmas stockings for our military men and women, filling them with a variety of useful items, and then taking them to a central processing location mid-October. Suggested items to donate and leave at the Information Center are: travel size deodorant, travel size foot powder, individually wrapped hard candy (no chocolate), beef jerky, and individual packets of hot cocoa. 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 in the shipping of stockings.

## ➤ *We're Going Back*



Washington Park Cemetery in St. Louis October 20-22. This time with chainsaws and more people! We want YOU to go on Mission with us. See Holly Irvin for more information.

### *Witness of the Faithful*

**Attendance:** 9/3: 135, 45 9/10: 28, 110 (park)

**Offering:** \$36,217.29

### *Prayer Concerns*

**Advocate BroMenn:** Rita Fisher, Gene Murray, Marilyn Thompson **Treatment:** Sharon Warren

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

**Hospice:** Darlene Bethel, 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, Roger Harweger (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)

**Birth:** Marshall Alan Hieronymus was born Sept. 7 to Ryan & Marie Hieronymus of Chicago. Grandparents are Ralph & Linda Lehmann.

### *Thank You*

Notes posted on the Information Center bulletin board have been received from Helen Joyce Barclay and Phyllis L. Miller (birthdays).

## ➤ *Extravagant Generosity - The weekly*

*Bible verse from the Stewardship Committee*

**September 17** - Matthew 6:2-4 - So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

**September 24** - Romans 12:13 - Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.



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

## ➤ *Disciples Women's Ministries*

The September meeting of the Disciples Women's Ministries was held September 7. The new Moderator, Sue Brumme, opened the meeting with a devotional reading. She also gave everyone her contact information.

Following her agenda, Sue introduced Tamara Shields and a discussion followed about if and how to continue our "coloring project." Cards and pictures are colored and sent with a message to shut-ins, fellow parishioners, and those needing a friendly note. It was decided to evaluate over the next 6 months whether to set a specific time for coloring or let members color on their own.

Shirley Wotherspoon told members the reservations are set for the Christmas luncheon on December 7 at Westminster Village. Mary Helen Haskell is checking on a mandolin group as a possible entertainment group for that day.



The Spring Women's Event will be on May 5. Sue Brumme reported the "Tea Ladies" will be appearing that day. She paid our deposit for their appearance.

Our financial report was given by Mary Helen Haskell. There was discussion about possible donations to hurricane victims. Julie Robinson told of a need for "cleaning buckets." The cost for each bucket is about \$50. Also, personal hygiene kits are needed. The kits can be prepared by individuals using gallon zip lock bags. If you bring in some kits, she will make sure they get to where they are needed. Items such as tooth brushes, tooth paste, soap, combs, and first aid items are samples of things to put in the bags. Questions? Please contact Julie (838-4335).

The last item on the agenda was Julie's presentation on a possible study for the upcoming year. This was the first of three choices. She showed us a video that accompanied the book: "God - As He Longs For You To See Him" by Chip Ingram. Our perception of God is the most important thing about us. This study consists of 10 sessions.

After this presentation, Sue adjourned the meeting. When we begin our next year's study, our new time will be on the first Thursday of the month from 1:00 to 2:30 PM. At our next meeting on October 5 Leslie Frizzell will present an overview of our second choice for the 2018 study. Her program is called "Thrive." Everyone is welcome. Please join us!

## Discernment Process Begins



What challenges does our church face? Where is our church headed? What does the future hold for our church? These are some of the questions the Trustees have been discussing over the last couple of months. At its July meeting,

the Board authorized the Trustees to take the lead in designing and implementing a process of discernment about the future of our church. Since then, the Trustees along with Ryan Newton, Holly Irvin, Jim Warren, and Teresa Dulyea-Parker, our Regional Minister, have been meeting to discuss what shape that process will take. Jim Warren reported on the group's work at Monday's Board meeting.

This group has reflected on our church and the larger church in this day and age. They've been reading several books about how the American religious landscape is changing significantly and rapidly. They've had long and interesting conversations about how these changes are affecting our church.

The group looked at a recent engineering study that found the oldest part of our church building needs close to \$700,000 in repairs and updates to maintain its usability. They've also heard that maintenance needs in the rest of the building could easily bring that number to over a million dollars. And they've pondered whether our church, as it exists today, needs as much space as we have.

**Now it's time, the group has decided, to bring what they've learned and discussed to the congregation. To that end, they have scheduled two approximately half day, Sunday afternoon sessions on October 29 and November 12.**

The purpose of the first session on October 29 will be to share what they've learned. They'll go into detail on the building issues we're facing, report on membership trends in our church and in the broader American church, and look into the state of our church finances.

The second session on November 12 will be a time to listen. They'll want to hear your reactions to what was presented at the first session, ask about your dreams for our church, and decide what our next steps should be. You are invited to be among those present.

These two sessions are vitally important to the future of our church, and you are asked to do whatever you need to do to attend both. The church will provide child care.

Sign-up for these sessions will take place in the near future. For now, please make sure you can be available those two Sunday afternoons.

Jim Warren closed his report by telling the board members that the Greeks had two words for time: *chronos* and *kairos*. *Chronos* time is chronological, sequential, clock time. It's how we usually think of time. *Kairos*, the other Greek word for time, means the right, critical, opportune time. He said this is a *kairos* moment in the life of our church. It's a crucial time, and he asked all of us to pray for our church and its future, that we may together capture God's vision for us.

### Books

As mentioned in the article titled "Discernment Process Begins," 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.

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

## *Our Turn to Give*



A week ago we went to the Bloomington/Normal Labor Day Parade. It featured all of the usual parade participants: high school bands, politicians, civic organizations, labor unions, police cars, fire trucks, churches, and lots and lots of candy. The kids brought home bags filled with their parade plunder.

There was a little girl sitting next to us who must have been around five or six. She was a bit reserved and shy. As the parade started, she hung back when the candy came crashing toward us. She didn't want to venture too far away from the curb and her parents.

Here's what our kids did. Without any prompting, they started sharing their spoils with her. When the abundance of candy rained down on us, they'd pick up as much as they could hold and give some of it to the little girl. I was proud of our kids for being aware of her and taking care of her.

As the parade continued, the little girl became more adventurous. She started to go after the candy eagerly just like our kids were. AND, just like our kids had done for her, she shared her candy with them. She'd grab a handful and offer some of it to our kids.

Our kids shared their loot with her, and pretty soon she was sharing, too.

That's the way these things work, isn't it? Somebody does something nice for us, and we want to do something nice for someone else. Somebody shares what they have with us, and we want to share what we have with someone else in turn. We want to pass on the good that's been done for us.

This is definitely a time when we need to be sharing the abundance with which God has blessed us. Hurricane Irma ripped through the Caribbean and Florida just a few days ago, and it's not been that long since Hurricane Harvey devastated parts of Texas. Mexico suffered an earthquake and a hurricane of its own recently.

And don't forget the flooding in Bangladesh and Nepal that left many dead.

People in our country and around the world have suffered devastating losses; some have lost everything, even loved ones. The level of pain endured by the victims of these natural disasters is beyond anything we can imagine.

Against the catastrophic destruction brought about by these natural disasters, our ability to help seems small, insignificant, hardly worth our trouble. What any one of us can do feels like the proverbial drop in the bucket.

But it takes many drops to fill a bucket. As we've been told repeatedly over the past couple of weeks, these are times when Americans come together to help those who are in need. Each of us, doing what we can, can make a difference in the lives of those who've been affected. We can show that we are truly a compassionate, caring nation.

The Red Cross is always a good place to contribute. You know they'll be present to help people through the immediate crisis and they'll use the money well. I also recommend our church's Week of Compassion (WoC). WoC exists to provide both immediate relief and long-term re-building. It's been around for a long time and has a stellar reputation. You can donate to WoC by going to:

<http://www.weekofcompassion.org/>

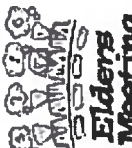



or by writing a check to the church with WoC in the memo.

We've been blessed with so much, and now it's time to share what we have with those who are in need. I think the girl who sat next to us at the parade learned a lesson in giving. She discovered that when someone gives to you, you want to give readily and generously to others. It's our turn to give to help those who are suffering from natural disasters in our country and around the world.

As has been given to you, may you give to others.

-- Jim Warren

# SEPTEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>27</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Worship Service            10:15 AM Adult Sunday School            10:15 AM One and All Worship            2:00 PM Christian Motorcycle Association</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>  <p><b>Elders Meeting</b>            10:30 AM Bridge            5:00 PM PPR            5:30 PM Elders' Meeting            7:00 PM Unity in the Community</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Staff Meeting            5:00 PM NA            6:30 PM Prairie Fire</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>  <p><b>Choir Rehearsals</b>            12:00 PM Bible Bunch            5:30 PM Choir Meal            6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal            7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons            6:30 PM Prairie Fire</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>5:00 PM Nehrt/Orendorff Wedding Rehearsal            7:00 PM Square Dance</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>3:00 PM Nehrt/Orendorff Wedding</p>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Gifts for Another Table            9:00 AM Worship Service            10:15 AM Adult Sunday School            10:15 AM One and All Worship</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>  <p><b>Office Closed Today</b>            10:30 AM Bridge            11:30 AM CCIW            5:45 PM Bridge            6:30 PM Prairie Fire</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Staff Meeting            5:00 PM NA            6:30 PM Prairie Fire            6:30 PM Seedling Staff Meeting</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>12:00 PM Bible Bunch            12:30 PM Bridge            5:30 PM Hand Bells            6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal            7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>1:00 PM Disciples Women's Ministries            5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons            6:30 PM Prairie Fire            7:00 PM Community Band Fellowship</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Seedling Meeting            2:00 PM Bridal Shower</p>
<p><b>10</b></p>  <p><b>Worship Park</b>            8:30 AM Worship Service            10:00 AM Worship in Fairview Park</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>10:30 AM Bridge            1:00 PM CCIW            4:30 PM Seedling            5:30 PM Board Meeting            5:45 PM Bridge            7:30 PM Prairie Fire</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Staff Meeting            4:30 PM Seedling            4:30 PM Worship Meeting            5:00 PM NA            7:30 PM Prairie Fire</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>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><b>14</b></p> <p>4:30 PM Seedling            5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons            7:30 PM Prairie Fire</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Square Dance</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>
<p><b>17</b></p> <p>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 - Cook out &amp; Water Games</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>10:30 AM Bridge            5:45 PM Bridge            7:30 PM Prairie Fire</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Staff Meeting            4:30 PM Seedling            5:00 PM NA            7:30 PM Prairie Fire</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>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><b>21</b></p> <p>4:30 PM Seedling            5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons            7:30 PM Prairie Fire</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>5:30 PM Roper/Houk Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>3:00 PM Roper/Houk Wedding</p>
<p><b>24</b></p> <p>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</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>10:30 AM Bridge            5:00 PM PPR            5:30 PM Elders' Meeting            5:45 PM Bridge            7:30 PM Prairie Fire</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Staff Meeting            4:30 PM Seedling            5:00 PM NA            7:30 PM Prairie Fire</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>12:00 PM Bible Bunch            4:30 PM Seedling            5:30 PM Hand Bells            6:30 PM Choir Christmas Intro Party            6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal            7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>10:00 AM CCIW            4:30 PM Seedling            5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons            7:30 PM Prairie Fire</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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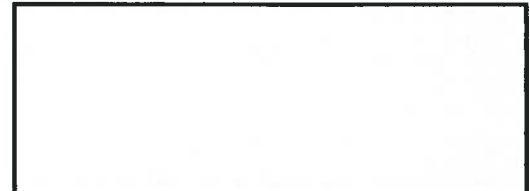


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## Serving Sunday, September 17

**Acolyte:** Ethan Rocke  
**Child Care:** Trish Logan, Marcia Christensen  
**Deacons:** 9:00 Martin & Sue Ross  
10:15 Brian Metz, Holly Rocke  
**Jr. Deacons:** Madison Varner, Jaden Eft  
**Driver:** Ryan Newton  
**Elders:** Art & Camille Taylor  
**Homebound Elders:** Becky White, Sharon Warren  
**Fellowship Host:** Robyn Loftin  
**Fill Candles:** Mark Gramley  
**Greeters:** Pete Whitmer, Cindy Rousey  
**Information Center Host:** Nancy Guither  
**Scripture:** Holly Rocke  
**Sound Tech:** James Nussbaum  
**Time for Children:** Patty Thompson  
**Video Tech:** Chip Jamerson  
**Worship & Wonder Greeter:** Karen Crusius  
**Pulpit:** Holly Irvin

*Mailed: September 13, 2017*

## Serving Sunday, September 24

**Acolyte:** George Davis  
**Child Care:** Trish Logan, Amy Nichols  
**Deacons:** 9:00 Dan & Amy Naughton  
10:15 Tom Crutchley, James or Libby Nussbaum  
**Jr. Deacons:** Austin Metz, Gabe Warren  
**Driver:** Gary Thompson  
**Elders:** Al & Beverly Leight  
**Homebound Elders:** Art & Camille Taylor  
**Fellowship Host:** Tamara Shields  
**Fill Candles:** Mark Gramley  
**Greeters:** Bill, Susan, and Tom Chaney; Art & Camille Taylor  
**Information Center Host:** Vicki Hall  
**Scripture:** Camille Taylor  
**Sound Tech:** Dave Phillis  
**Time for Children:** Tamara Shields  
**Video Tech:** James Nussbaum  
**Worship & Wonder Greeter:** Heather Damery  
**Pulpit:** Jim Warren -- Exodus 16:2-3, 9-15 -- "Enough, and More than Enough." This is the story of God providing food for the Israelites as they wandered in the wilderness. God gives us enough, and more than enough. Ours is a God of abundance.

**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**

Holly Irvin, Director of Music & Youth Ministries  
[hirvin@blmfcc.org](mailto:hirvin@blmfcc.org)  
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  
[tloqan4@hotmail.com](mailto:tloqan4@hotmail.com)

**Office .....(309) 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**