

The CHRISTIAN



 FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ) *Visitor*

Committed in Story and in Giving

First Christian Church has a rich history of providing much needed and meaningful ministry for our community. We recently kicked off our new First Friday Jazz Vespers ministry that offers a unique worship opportunity which combines readings of poetry and psalms with jazz music. We welcomed over 70 to our second Jazz Vespers service on October 6. Many of those who came were new to FCC.

Meanwhile, our beloved Gathering Place Breakfast ministry moved from our Great Hall to the Shalom Community Center, where we will continue to cook and serve a hot breakfast on the second Sunday of each month.

These are exciting times at FCC as we continue to develop and introduce new ministries while watching established ministries grow in our community. We will continue to worship, sing, pray and serve together; be nurtured by the warmth of fellowship, spiritual growth, and learning that comes from small group participation; offer hospitality of our space to our community; provide pastoral care; and share our talents through gifts of music, story telling, and personal outreach.

As our FCC Story continues to unfold, what ministries will you connect with, participate in and share with others? This year's stewardship emphasis will tell the stories of ministries that provide support for individuals, families, and the Bloomington community. Please consider your commitment to FCC ministries in 2018 as we move toward Consecration Sunday, November 12, and plan to join us for a celebration brunch following worship.

The Gathering Place Breakfast Ministry to be Honored on October 29

For nearly a dozen years, First Christian Church has welcomed the Bloomington community with a hot, home-cooked breakfast and hospitality every Sunday morning, serving more than 100 in our Great Hall each week. Although the ministry will continue at the Shalom Community Center, we served our last breakfast here at FCC on October 1st. Please, join us in worship on Sunday morning, October 29, as we lift up all who have shopped, planned, cooked, served, cleaned, welcomed and visited with our guests at the Gathering Place Breakfast.

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PASTOR'S PEN

Making Room for Hope

A couple of weeks ago, I named the reality that we're living in an age of heightened tension in this world; and I listed four ways that we, as Christians, can bring hope to the increasingly fragile culture around us. (See my introductory article in the Sept 13 newsletter). Today, I'll talk about one of those ways: **Be a confessor in a culture of blame.**

In this very messed up world, it is easy to point a finger of blame because (face it!) it is so easy to believe that you are right and that everyone else is wrong. In a way, this is normal, for all of us have a need to be grounded in something that we hold true to its core. But...you are not always right. Nor am I. Each of our perspectives is flawed. As people of faith--**grounded in the love of God**--we know that none of us can claim a monopoly on truth, because none of us loves perfectly or deeply enough.

When we name this fact, we are able to model what it means to be confessors in a culture of blame. We are able to more clearly see that when we point one finger outward in blame, we are also pointing three fingers inward toward ourselves. When we are able to truthfully confess that we are part of the problem we are pointing to, solutions become clearer. **Indeed, it is next to impossible to address a wrong that we don't first confess.** My own finger pointing has helped me to confess (and begin to address) these wrongs:

First, When I point a finger of blame at my spouse for leaving piles of "stuff" stacked

around the house, my other three fingers point to the truth that I do the exact same thing! (So, now I am reminded to practice patience!)

Second, When I point a finger of blame at someone whom I consider to be sexist or racist or homophobic, my other three fingers point to my own self-righteousness as well as to the "isms" that have served me all too well over the years. (So, I am intentionally seeking out and listening to others' stories and perspectives.)

Third, When I point a finger of blame at church folks who don't support our fabulous **(and I do mean fabulous!)** ministries as I think they ought, my other three fingers point to my own hypocrisy when it comes to sharing my financial resources. (So, Bruce and I have made the decision to increase our 2018 giving from 11% to 12% of our income.)

I still have a long way to go, but *this confession stuff is really freeing*, for it is grounded in an unwavering trust in God's unconditional love for all, a love that receives us "as we are" and summons out all that we can be—for the sake of this beautiful and fragile world. See you Sunday!



Pastor Helen



Joyful Noise Choir to Debut during Worship on October 15

FCC's Intergenerational Choir *The Joyful Noise* will make its debut during worship this Sunday, October 15. The choir will perform following the opening hymn and before the Children's Moment. They will sing in a round following the first verse of the song that will be sung in unison. A final rehearsal will take place before Sunday worship at 9:30 am on the chancel. Anyone who has participated in any of the rehearsals is welcome to sing. We hope everyone else will enjoy the music of this fun, new choir!

Interfaith Winter Shelter Benefit Concert on October 20

This year our benefit concert for the Interfaith Winter Shelter will be in collaboration with instrumentalists and singers from all over the community, including members of our Sanctuary Choir, First Presbyterian, the Universalist Unitarian Church as well as other community musical organizations. The concert, organized by and featuring the music of local classical guitar virtuoso Sulaiman Zai, will be a combination of delightful vocal and choral music and interesting chamber music, including multiple guitars, strings, solo trombone, and a solo cellist David Pereira from Australia. A freewill offering to benefit the Interfaith Winter Shelter will be taken, so come out and enjoy this unusual and entertaining evening while supporting the important continuing work of the Shelter.



Come for an Evening of Inspiring Instrumental & Vocal Music
Freewill offering benefitting the Interfaith Emergency Winter Shelter

Friday October 20 at 7:00 PM
St. Thomas Lutheran Church
3800 E 3rd Street

Please note the time change for
Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Tuesdays from 6:30 pm – 7:15 pm





Blessing of the Animals

Bring your pet (leashes please) or a picture of your pet and join us on Sunday, October 15 for a Blessing of the Animals. We'll gather at 4:00 pm on the lawn for a brief service in celebration of all animals. **The Monroe County Humane Association** will be on hand with therapy animal teams from their **VIPaws** program and a fun craft for families to enjoy. You can support the important work of this organization by bringing donations of dog and cat food, treats and toys for their low income pet food pantry.

This will be the first of a series of events on our lawn.
And a fun way to introduce friends to FCC!
All are welcome!

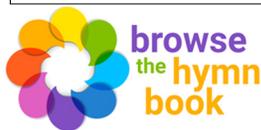
Sunday, October 15 @ 4:00 pm
(In case of rain, the event will be cancelled.)

Getting to Know FCC's Youth

by Mark Knowles, Director of Service and Youth Ministries

In just the past few weeks I have seen our youth reading poetry in the new Jazz Vespers service, working on the church Board, helping move pews in the sanctuary, and serving at our Sunday Breakfast both on its final day at FCC and its first day at Shalom; I have seen youth meet after the worship service in a small group to discuss faith, and go in a larger group on a weekend trip of fun and sharing to Holiday World; and I have had many (adult) church members inquire as to how they can encourage youth to know that they are full, sharing members of this church. And those three areas are exactly what youth will be pursuing this year: integration into current church ministry, faith growth and fun with other youth, and finding a way to contribute something distinctive to the larger church body. So while there are upcoming activities that are primarily for youth—a (tentative) trip to a fall corn maze, hanging out at a family home, continued discussion time after worship services—we are also beginning a process to see what distinct contribution youth can bring to the larger church, and you will continue to see youth in different areas of church life. When you see that, and if you find it meaningful, simply let them know! (It's a good, simple way of encouraging others, no matter what age they may be.)

Did you know? Offering collected during small groups and Sunday School classes is used for many things including purchasing gifts for our MCUM families at Christmas. Each year a portion of our Sunday School offerings are set aside to purchase Christmas gifts for families in need who are recommended by our partners at Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM). Our children and youth have fun doing most of the shopping, working off of a wish list that includes things like toys and books, coats and pajamas. Children select just the right things to make someone else's Christmas more joyful!



**browse
the hymn
book** We hope you've noticed something different about your hymnal last Sunday morning. For many months now, the Women's Arts & Crafts group has been creating the new bookmarks you see in each book. Feel free to mark each hymn (and even the doxology) when you settle into your pew each Sunday morning. It's a great job for the younger members of the family!

Sanctuary Seating

Have you taken the opportunity to try out the sample chairs in the sanctuary? We value your input, so try please try out each of the chairs and write down your feedback. Let us know which is your favorite, and why, or rank them from most favorite to least favorite. **A comment box with comment cards is located in the Chapel Gathering Space.**

Thank you!

October Birthdays

| | | | | | | |
|-------|---------|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------|----|-------|
| 10/01 | Dan | Goins | 60 Bailliere Dr. | Martinsville | IN | 46151 |
| 10/03 | Ann | Moore | 3308 S. Snoddy Road | Bloomington | IN | 47401 |
| 10/03 | Andrew | Donham | 5900 N. Maple Grove Rd. | Bloomington | IN | 47404 |
| 10/04 | Rebecca | Klein | 723 Olde Mill Circle | Bloomington | IN | 47401 |
| 10/09 | Story | Bolton | 8841 S. Morning Glory Ct. | Bloomington | IN | 47401 |
| 10/10 | Olivia | Walsh | 3006 S. Olcott Blvd. | Bloomington | IN | 47401 |
| 10/11 | Regina | Niyonsaba Gasana | 4199 Innisbrooke Dr. | Bloomington | IN | 47408 |
| 10/11 | Lindsay | Stafford | 1427 E. 38th Place, Unit A | Tulsa | OK | 74105 |
| 10/12 | Jerry | McIntosh | 2455 Tamarack Trail Apt.8 | Bloomington | IN | 47408 |
| 10/12 | Riley | Curry | 1107 Azalea Lane | Bloomington | IN | 47401 |
| 10/14 | Maya | Jackson | 3693 S. Sowder Square | Bloomington | IN | 47401 |
| 10/15 | Ethan | Fletcher | 5678 W. Vinca Lane | Ellettsville | IN | 47429 |
| 10/16 | David | Austin | 3040 N. Ramble Road West | Bloomington | IN | 47408 |
| 10/16 | Nancy | Brinegar | 2673 S. McCartney Lane | Bloomington | IN | 47401 |
| 10/17 | Mike | Rampley | 2228 Autumn Drive | Bloomington | IN | 47401 |
| 10/17 | Susan | Calvert Rosenberger | 309 Connel St. | Springfield | TN | 37172 |
| 10/20 | Matthew | Moore | 3308 S. Snoddy Road | Bloomington | IN | 47401 |
| 10/20 | Roger | Heimer | 2455 Tamarack Trail Apt. 115 | Bloomington | IN | 47408 |
| 10/21 | Jane | Zebendon | 2309 Sussex Drive | Bloomington | IN | 47401 |
| 10/22 | Caleb | Norris | 3194 N. Dahlia Lane | Bloomington | IN | 47404 |
| 10/24 | Susan | Jenkin | 3476 S. Knight Ridge Road | Bloomington | IN | 47401 |
| 10/25 | Scott | Cripe | 3930 W. Tapp Rd. | Bloomington | IN | 47403 |
| 10/25 | Rachel | Rosolina | 200+ Grovesnor Pl. | Bloomington | IN | 47401 |
| 10/26 | Cindy | Kvale | 1212 Skylark Ct. | Bloomington | IN | 47401 |
| 10/26 | Jerry | Spore | 901 S. Hastings Drive | Bloomington | IN | 47401 |
| 10/27 | Maurice | Biggs | 1213 S. Brooks Drive | Bloomington | IN | 47401 |
| 10/29 | Mia | Walsh | 3006 S. Olcott Blvd. | Bloomington | IN | 47401 |
| 10/29 | Jo | Weddle | 5390 W. Shadybrook Dr. | Bloomington | IN | 47403 |

Please, let us know if we have missed someone's birthday.



FCC is participating in Downtown Bloomington's 2017 Trick or Treat Walk on **Friday, October 27th from 5-8 p.m.** You can help in so many ways, but first and foremost, by donating candy treats. We're expecting up to *1200 kids*, so bring your sweet treats as soon as possible and place them in the donation boxes in the Chapel/Gathering Space or the Narthex. Thanks for your generosity!

If Halloween's your thing, then put on your best (family-friendly) costume and help us pass out candy! Or, if you sympathize with the kids who get a little freaked out by the Halloween (scary) spirit, we'll need volunteers in our tent who can be calm presences as we offer kids alternative activities like coloring pages, stickers, etc.



UPCOMING EVENTS...

Friday, October 13

5:30 pm *Listening to God meditation*

Sunday, October 15

9:00 am *Learning Session I*
 10:00 am *Worship with Children*
Worship & Wonder
 11:15 am *Learning Session II*
 12:15 pm *Board Meeting*
 4:00 pm *Blessing of the Animals*

Monday, October 16

6:00 pm *Garshaw book study*

Tuesday, October 17

6:00 pm *Handbell Choir rehearsal*

Wednesday, October 18

7:00 pm *Men's Book Group*

Thursday, October 19

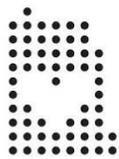
4:00 pm *Book Bunch*
 6:15 pm *Sanctuary Choir rehearsal*

Friday, October 20

5:30 pm *Listening to God meditation*
 7:00 pm *Interfaith Winter Shelter benefit concert at St. Thomas Lutheran Church*

Sunday, October 22

9:00 am *Learning Session I*
 10:00 am *Worship with Children*
Worship & Wonder
 11:15 am *Learning Session II*



2017 MCUM Challenge

2017 Goal: 2,000 pounds
Most recent trip: 113 pounds
Year-to-date: 1,546 pounds

Canned Veggie Call-Out!

MCUM is in need of canned vegetables this month! They received fewer canned vegetables than usual in their recent Each One, Feed One food drive. Please, consider donating canned vegetables in October. **Be sure to check the expiration dates!** MCUM cannot accept expired canned goods or other food items.

Thank you for showing how much you care.

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Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule

October 15: Cambellite Class

October 22: Book Bunch & Men's Book Group

October 29: Emmaus-Interpreters Class



**Scripture Readings
for Sunday Worship**

October 15
Ruth 1:1-17

October 22
2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5
Psalm 150

October 29
1 Kings 12:1-17