

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

2019 Stewardship Campaign says, “I’m *IN!*” *INvited, INcluded, INvested, INspired*

This year’s stewardship campaign calls on us to reflect on what it means to be part of the FCC community. What does it mean to be Invited, Included, Invested, and Inspired?

- our invitation to full and rich lives in the body of Christ
- our inclusion as members of the body of Christ
- our investment of personal time and resources to build up the body of Christ
- our inspiration to attain new heights in commitment as Disciples of Christ

Several years ago, we embarked on a new journey with the *Future Story* that led to a bold vision we now call *FCC Story*. We are now seeing that vision come to life with new ministries that provide opportunities for spiritual growth such as “Journeying Together Through a Fragmented World” with a focus on practicing various spiritual disciplines. “Made to Create” provides the opportunity to reflect on our relationship with God through the creation of water color art. We have opened our doors and invited our community to get to know us through our Lawn Ministry during special events such as PrideFest and the Lotus Festival. Our First Friday Jazz Vespers continues to grow with the Stefan Lenthe Trio leading music during this informal, contemplative service that provides a place and time of reflection and meditation.

FCC continues to honor our rich history of outreach and community support with ongoing ministries such as the Gathering Place Breakfast (now served at Shalom Center) and the Interfaith Winter Shelter. A group from FCC will be traveling to Cuba next month for a second people-to-people pilgrimage where they hope to continue building relationships through projects with partner organizations there. We continue to support our church family with opportunities for everyone at every stage of life and spiritual growth.

As we move toward All-Saints and Consecration Sunday on November 4, consider what drew you to FCC. How were you *invited*? Did you feel *included*? What *inspires* you to continue to support the ministries of FCC? How are you *invested*?

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Pastor's Pen

Can We Talk?

This was the theme of the Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana, held Oct 5-6, at Light of the World Christian Church in Indianapolis. Our congregation was well represented by Amy Hoover, Bob Orr, Sharon Robinson, Jean Thompson, and Sarasopa Enari, who was elected to a second term on the Regional Board. Three things in particular were highlights for me.

First, Friday's keynote speaker, Episcopal Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, challenged us to have those hard, necessary, and potentially life-giving conversations about things that matter—with people that matter. Calling them *Fierce Conversations* (based on a book of the same title by author Susan Scott), she offered helpful guidelines designed to foster healthy relationships through (Guess what!?) talking *and* listening to each other.

The **second** highlight occurred at Saturday morning's business session, when the entire Assembly prayed for own Mark and Danielle Murry-Knowles. On the church's behalf, Rev. Rick Spleth (Regional Minister) and Julia Brown Karimu (President of Division of Overseas Ministries and Co-Executive of Global Ministries) laid hands on Mark and Danielle as Dr. Sue Cardwell (age 100), long time Disciples missionary in the Congo and the first woman professor at Christian Theological Seminary, offered a powerful and Spirit filled prayer of blessing. You can see a photo of the moment on our facebook page.

The **third** highlight was reading through the Assembly docket and discovering that our congregation is among the Region's "Top 20" in all areas of giving to Disciples outreach in 2017! During the business session, I admit to feeling proud (and competitive!) as my eyes I skimmed down the lists and discovered our church's name on each one. Here is how we "rank" out of the 160 congregations in the Indiana Region:

- #19: Per capita Disciples Outreach (\$98.53): let's shoot for \$100+ for the upcoming year!
- #11: Increase to Disciples Outreach Giving from 2016-2017 (\$2,976): well done!
- #6: Disciples Mission Fund Giving (\$27, 651): this represents 7% of our pledged giving. Let's increase that percentage for the upcoming year!
- #7: Special Day (Over and Above) Giving (\$5,350): with two Special Day Offerings coming up, let's shoot for the top 5 (an extra \$10 per gift would do the trick!)

The only list that did not contain FCC's name was the one that listed the "Top 5" in new member additions for 2016 & 17 (based on congregational size). In the coming year—and with renewed energy, commitment, and intention---let's work together to get on *that* list, not to feed my admittedly prideful ego, but to reach out to others with a genuine invitation to be part of a community of faith that takes seriously what it means to share the inclusive love of Christ with all!

See you Sunday! It will be a big day, filled with several surprises!

Helen Thompson

Pastor Helen

So Glad I Was Invited!

A Presentation by Sharon Robinson

I'm so happy to be HERE, to be a part of the family of God and to be a part of First Christian Church at the corner of Kirkwood and Washington.

How did I get here? That's easy! I WAS INVITED! I have been friends with Amy Hoover for years and she had invited me to FCC many times. Every time there was something special going on, she invited me. If we were talking about spiritual beliefs, she invited me. One day she invited me to a Sunday school class that she was going to be a part of: a book study, the Richard Rohr book, *Breathing Underwater*. Because I wanted to grow spiritually, I was intrigued about this book and decided I would, indeed, come to FCC and attend the class. I was hopeful that it would encourage my growth. So in February of 2017 I came to an FCC service and I've never wanted to be anywhere else.

I immediately felt at home here! I loved the messages from Pastor Helen, my book study class, the people I met. I saw there were other opportunities available, like different discussion groups, meditation classes, art, music, craft classes and of course, *The Future Story!* I could become part of this fellowship of believers; make a deeper connection with God, with others, and our community. The congregation drew me in and before I knew it I was participating in many of the activities here. I really felt that I wanted to be a part of this congregation, so when Pastor Helen asked me about joining FCC, I instantly knew that it was exactly the right move for me. I am now a part of this congregation, worshipping, learning, growing, & connecting. Since I am an introvert at the core, I am definitely being challenged by the activities I've become involved with since joining FCC, like speaking in front of large groups! I have become a part by sharing the gifts that God has given me, such as my talents, my time, and, of course, my finances. I have a great deal to be grateful for and want to give back to my church. FCC is helping me to grow by leaps and bounds and I hope I AM being of service to my church and my fellow believers with my giving.

And do you know what? It's been one of the best decisions of my life. I am SO GLAD I WAS INVITED! Thanks Amy!

(Sharon Robinson shared this presentation during Sunday Worship at FCC on October 14, and for the record we're glad you were invited too!)

New Disciples Women's Group "Voices of Faith"

Voices of Faith is an exciting new group for women at FCC. On October 10, this group welcomed Pat Honahoo with Disciples Women for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Maribeth Westerfield Blackman with the Indiana Region of the church for an organizational meeting. *Voices of Faith* will strive to connect and empower women to engage in dialogue and advocacy as they do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. (Micah 6:8) Please pray for this group as they develop action plans for their work. Their next meeting is November 14 from 11:45 am - 1:15 pm. If you are interested in joining, contact Sandy Bate or the FCC church office.



Preaching from the Choir
Festive Bach with Orchestra This Sunday
Excerpts From His Cantata 147

I am struck by the many ways in which different styles of music can speak to us in worship, uplifting our hearts, calming our spirits, urging us to action, and, reinforcing scripture, and challenging our minds. In the past few weeks at First Christian we have thrilled to the amazing playing of Jihye Choi in her choice of organ preludes and postludes from the 19th Century (the German Mendelssohn and French Guillaume) and 18th century mastery of J.S. Bach. We treasure the opportunity to worship and meditate to the pure Jazz artistry of the Stefan Lenthe Trio and singer Elena Escudero at Jazz Vespers, to majestic hymn anthems from 20th century Anglican tradition like last Sunday's rendition of the uplifting hymn tune JERUSALEM with saxophone and handbells, the rugged impact of our American folk hymns, or more modern anthems and hymns from the 21st Century.

This Sunday we will be accompanied in worship by an orchestra as the choir sings two movements from J.S. Bach's brilliant Cantata 147: **Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben** ("**Hearts and Lips and Deeds and Living**"). Our scripture this week is from 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10, which speaks of Samuel's birth, God's answer to the prayers of the aging Hannah who sings of God's inclusive care. Cantata 147 was originally composed to celebrate the Visitation of Mary to aging Elizabeth, pregnant with John the Baptist, in which Mary and Elizabeth, similarly to Hannah, sing praise for the gift of God's inclusive love ("My soul doth Magnify the Lord"). The cantata concerns itself with the acceptance of Jesus as part of this response. The text of the joyous **Opening Chorus** brilliantly sets the text:

Hearts and lips and deeds and living, all to Christ thy witness giving;
falter not, nor doubt, nor fear. Claim Him, God and Savior dear.

The movement includes an opening section with dazzling high trumpet and virtuosic choral *fugato* entrances (melodies entering successively through the individual voice parts) with runs symbolizing the word "*living*"; a second section with joyous hopping figures on the words "*Hearts and lips and deeds and living*"; and a sermon-like third section in *chordal* style to impart clear instruction to the faithful to courageously "*claim Him*".

Also included Sunday will be the famous **Chorale Fantasia** from the cantata – popularly known as "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" – which is one of the most beloved of all Bach's works. In its proper context in the cantata the chorale fantasia's true impact can be appreciated. Abounding in triplets and richly harmonized, the movement occurs twice in the cantata, each time after an individual's response, so that the sense of peace and joy becomes not only a thing of beauty, but a glimpse of the peace of God's inclusive love. Our final congregational hymn this Sunday will repeat that chorale melody with a new text, which urges us out into the world with commitment to devotion and service.



We are delighted to welcome four new members, all of whom placed their membership with FCC on Sunday October 14.

Debbie White comes to First Christian Church from Eastwood Christian Church in Nashville, TN. She was also a longtime member of Lindenwood Christian Church in Memphis, TN and was baptized at Rosemont Christian Church in Dallas, TX. She moved to Bloomington this past summer with her husband, Charles Bernsen, who is a visiting professor at Indiana University. Their son and his family also live in Bloomington. Debbie is a retired journalist and enjoys exercising, photography, and sewing. Debbie has already joined our Sanctuary Choir and is also participating in Sunday School and Bible Study.

Susan Engert comes to FCC by transfer of membership from First Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor, MI. An IU grad, she grew up in Indianapolis and South Bend. Susan is a retired pediatrician who, with great intention, moved back to Bloomington and found FCC where she has worshipped for the past year. Susan has already joined our volunteer team working on the FCC reception desk. She enjoys our Jazz Vespers service and is also one of the leaders of the new Disciples Women's Group, *Voices of Faith*. Susan has a daughter, Kate, who lives in Houston.

Erv and Sue Fettchenhauer joined FCC by transfer of membership from the First Congregational Church of San Jose, California where they were married and worshipped for some 40 years. Erv is retired from a high tech career in Silicon Valley. Sue, also retired, enjoyed a career in education that spanned choral music teacher to Assistant Superintendent and leadership coach in Northern California. They have two sons, Scott and Steve. Sue and Erv moved to Bloomington this summer to be closer to their son Scott and his wife Jennifer (our FCC Administrator) and their son Max. Erv and Sue enjoy the company of their two Westies, Kiddo and Emma.

We are so glad to welcome these new members to the FCC Family! Please take a moment to introduce yourself as you see them in church.

Preparing for the Journey

Members of our People-to-People Pilgrimage are preparing for their trip to Cuba over Thanksgiving next month. This group will build upon relationships established during FCC's inaugural trip to Cuba in 2016. They will join with two partner organizations, Christian Pentecostal Church of Cuba and Centro Memorial Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to share time and talents in order to build ongoing sustainable collaborations between FCC and the Cuban people. Together they will participate in multi-day art workshops aimed at youth and senior community members. The group raised almost \$500 in a raffle at the All-Church Feast on Oct. 7. They are hoping to raise another \$500 for supplies. You can support the pilgrimage by making a donation at church or online at <http://www.fccbloomington.org/cuba-2018/>.



**Monroe County Church Women United
2018 World Community Day**

**Friday November 2 at 11:00 am
at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
4235 W. 3rd St, Bloomington
*A light lunch follows the program.***

Your donation of items for the Shalom Center will be welcome. These items may include, but are not limited to: white crew socks for men and women, travel-size toothpaste and deodorant, razors, briefs for men and women, winter coats. Donations may be brought to the lunch or can also be brought to FCC where a labeled box can be found near the entrance to the reception area.

Monroe County Church Women United supports and sponsors Opportunity House, which is a thrift shop (your donations and/or patronage accepted) and Monroe County United Ministries, of which you are well aware!

Please contact Mary Polk if you are interested in attending or have questions. Hope to see a great turnout on Friday November 2!

Winter Clothing Drive

With the temperatures now dipping into the 30s over night, it feels as though we've skipped over fall and into winter! Each year, our neighbors at Trinity Episcopal Church coordinate a Winter Clothing drive. This year, we are supporting their drive by collecting donations here at FCC during the month of October. If you would like to contribute, you will find a box just outside of the Fireside Study doors. So, if you're cleaning out the closets... and have gently worn coats, scarves or gloves, consider donating them to this important cause. Thank you!

**Join your FCC Family at the Annual
Habitat for Humanity Breakfast**

Carole and John Ambler are hosting the FCC table for the annual Habitat for Humanity breakfast on November 8 at 7:30 am. We hope you will consider attending. It is an opportunity to represent FCC as we have a long history with Habitat. FCC will be honored at the breakfast this year for our commitment to this important organization. Also Pastor Helen will bring the invocation. If you are interested in attending, please contact John or Carole Ambler or call the FCC office.

Volunteers Still Needed for the Interfaith Winter Shelter

As the weather turns colder outside, our preparations for the Interfaith Winter Shelter season have begun. We are still in need of volunteers for evening and morning clean-up shifts. We are also needing volunteers to provide food. If you are interested in joining this important ministry, please contact Dave Schilling or Joanne Weddle for information on training. Thank you!



First Friday Jazz Vespers

Quiet

The Lenthe Trio
with vocalist
Elena Escudero

November 2 at 6:30 pm

Communion Prep and Clean-up

Help Needed for November & December

Volunteer spots are still open for Communion prep and clean-up in November and December. You can sign-up by adding your name to the sign-up sheet at the reception desk, or you can call the FCC office during the week. If you would like to join this volunteer group, please contact Peggy Stafford. This is an important task that doesn't take very much time to do. Thank you!

FCC Represented at IU Opera

Poulenc's Dialogues of the Carmelites

On Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm in the Musical Arts Center there is another chance to hear Poulenc's intense and moving opera "Dialogues of the Carmelites" about the persecution of Carmelite nuns during the French Revolution. Our choral scholar Liz Culpepper has a pivotal role in the opera and is singing Friday night.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Friday, October 19

4:00 pm *At Home in This Life*

Sunday, October 21

8:30 am *Mediation group*

9:00 am *Learning Session I*

10:00 am *Worship*

11:15 *Learning Session II*

11:15 am *Handbell rehearsal*

12:15 pm *FCC Board Meeting*

6:30 pm *CreatureKind*

Tuesday, October 23

12:00 pm *Living the Story Bible Study*

1:30 pm *Caregivers Create*

5:30 pm *Listening to God meditation*

6:30 pm *Made to Create*

Thursday, October 25

4:00 pm *Book Bunch*

6:16 pm *Sanctuary Choir rehearsal*

Friday, October 26

4:00 pm *At Home in This Life*

Sunday, October 28

8:30 am *Mediation group*

9:00 am *Learning Session I*

10:00 am *Worship*

11:15 *Learning Session II*

11:15 am *Handbell rehearsal*

6:30 pm *CreatureKind*

Tuesday, October 30

12:00 pm *Living the Story Bible Study*

1:30 pm *Caregivers Create*

5:30 pm *Listening to God meditation*

6:30 pm *Made to Create*



Downtown Trick or Treat October 26, 5-8 p.m.!

As we live into our FCC Story, our Lawn Ministry continues to reach out and make connections with our downtown community. YOU are needed to be part of this connection!

Here are three ways you can participate:

Donate treats (candy and other small treats, including nut-free) – drop them off in the box in the reception area;

Volunteer to hand out treats from 5-8 on October 26th; (costumes are optional but fun!) – offer Hospitality!;

Trick or Treat us! Bring the kiddos and join the fun!

For more information, please contact the church office. Thank you!

All are Welcome! All means All!

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The Christian Visitor

Vol. 60, no. 19



Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule

October 21:
Book Bunch & Men's Book Group

October 28:
Emmaus Interpreters Class

November 4:
Grades K-12 and Sharing Table

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

October 21
I'm Included!
1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:7-8

October 28
I'm Invested!
2 Samuel 7: 1-17

November 4
I'm Inspired!
All Saints & Consecration Sunday
1 Kings 17:1-16