

# The CHRISTIAN



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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
*(Disciples of Christ)*

# Visitor

## **Consecration Sunday brings Opportunity for Bold Aspirations**

*Join us on Sunday, November 12 as We Receive Our Commitments to FCC's Ministries*

The final letter of the 2018 Stewardship campaign "Committed in Story and Giving" has been mailed, but the work of FCC's caring community has only begun. Over the course of this campaign, you have heard about a bold and exciting vision for this church at the corner of Kirkwood and Washington. The FCC Story is beginning to unfold with new ministries such as First Friday *Jazz Vespers* and *Spiritual Practices for a Fragmented World*. We've welcomed guests to our beautiful sanctuary to share their ministries and talents. Last summer, we welcomed the *Ripple Effect Choir* from the South Bend area and this fall our neighbor First Presbyterian Church brought "Story Church".

We continue to provide a home cooked breakfast each and every Sunday for those who are hungry or looking for rest and a friendly face. Although the location of our breakfast has changed, FCC hospitality continues. We continue to support the Interfaith Winter Shelter in its new location on Friday evenings. We will expand our outreach in the future to include mission trips and community partnerships.

These ministries (and so many more) fill a critical need in our community while giving us the opportunity to do God's work. Yes, FCC has always been and will continue to BOLDLY provide support for our community and opportunities to connect with God.

This Sunday we will individually commit to continued and new ministries here at FCC. Bring your commitment card with you. We will fill them out during worship as we lift up the ministries of FCC.

## **Celebration All Church Brunch**

**November 12 at 11:15 am**

Join us for a pitch-in brunch following worship this Sunday as we celebrate our commitment to the ministries of FCC. We will provide a delicious ham and drinks, you can choose to bring your favorite side or dessert to share.

### **Inside This Issue**

**Page 3:** Winter Shelter  
Volunteers Needed!

**Page 4:** Important  
Announcements

**Page 7 :** MCUM drive update!

*Volume 59, number 20 November 8, 2017*

## PASTOR'S PEN Crossing the Finish Line

Well, he persevered for 26.2 grueling miles; that is to say, Jonathan takes commitment seriously. Last spring, when he told me that he had committed to running a marathon, I must admit that I had my doubts. After all, he has never been a runner. He's not built like a runner. He's always said that he sees no "point" in running. When he suffered a serious bone bruise last summer that interrupted his training program for 5 weeks, and when he suffered *another* bone bruise 3 weeks before the race, I thought for sure that he would wait out the marathon and perhaps try again next year.

But (as I said), Jonathan had committed, and he was going to follow through. On Saturday, as he crossed the finish line of Indy's Monumental Marathon, tears of pain and triumph came flowing, rendering him speechless for a number of minutes. For the next couple of days, he (quite literally) was unable to move his body more than a few inches at a time.

Surprisingly, on his Facebook page the very next day, he posted: *I accomplished something that I thought I would never do. In 26.2 miles, I felt so many emotions, but the one that stuck with me is gratitude ... I am so thankful and so lucky. This was the hardest thing I've ever done, but I cannot wait to do it again next year.* (In the middle of his post, he lifts up names those who supported him through his journey.)

Jonathan's comment has led me to realize that **there is an extremely close connection between commitment, hard work that perseveres, and gratitude to God.**

Looking back over this past year—as we stuck with our commitment to run the marathon that led to the creation and early stages of implementing the FCC Story—

gratitude to God is at the top of list of emotions I am experiencing. I thank God for giving us a process that invited wide-spread congregational input from the very beginning. I thank God for blessing us with a faithful vision that focuses on sharing the inclusive love of Christ. I thank God for providing the superb lay leadership that is faithfully and prayerfully implementing the story. I thank God for the energy and excitement we are feeling as we allow ourselves to try new things and go deeper in our relationships with God, each other, and the community.

Because I want to express my gratitude in ways that will make a difference, I have committed to increasing my financial support to First Christian Church, and I invite you to join me in this commitment. If all of us can increase our giving (whether by a little or by a lot), I am positive that we will be able to carry out our bold aspirations for next year.

*As together we challenge ourselves to deepen our commitments to the life of FCC, I am absolutely certain that our gratitude to God will grow exponentially. Wouldn't it be great if—at this time next year—we will be able to say "This was the hardest thing we've ever done, but we cannot wait to do it again!"*

See you Sunday! Please bring your 2018 Commitment to Giving Card with you. I can't wait to see what God is going to do through FCC next year!!!!

Pastor Helen



PS. Please plan to stay for the All-Church ham brunch that will follow Sunday's service of worship.

**Fulfilling our Commitment to Our Neighbors**  
*Volunteers Needed to Support the Interfaith Winter Shelter*

A lot has happened in a week. Just a week ago, we received the call that the new location for the Interfaith Winter Shelter was not quite ready. FCC and neighboring congregation Trinity Episcopal Church responded without hesitation by quickly preparing our buildings and recruiting volunteers to welcome those who needed shelter from the cold on Thursday and Friday night. By Saturday, the transition from our Great Hall to the new site at Wheeler Mission took place.

That commitment to being part of a caring community continues here at FCC. We will continue to support the Interfaith Winter Shelter at its new location, but that support only happens with a small army of volunteers who, together, provide a safe a warm place for anyone who needs it. We have committed to providing volunteer support for the next 21 Fridays. *We need 12 volunteers each Friday* to cover the three overnight shifts. **We still have many empty shifts to fill, and we need to fill them quickly.**

Consider filling one shift per month (through March) or filling in for one of our regular volunteers. No commitment is too small. Contact Jo Weddle, Dave Schilling or Mark Knowles with questions or to sign up.

**Thank you!**



**FROM THE CHOIR LOFT**  
**Gratitude for the Sanctuary Choir**

A word of gratitude for the Sanctuary Choir members' hours of devotion and commitment to the preparation of the Fauré Requiem for the All Saint's Day service last week. What a joy to experience such great and inspiring music with such wonderful people!

We invite anyone interested in joining this wonderful group of people for preparation of music for our upcoming Advent and Christmas worship season to come sing with us as we begin new repertoire. Rehearsals are 6:15 to 7:30 Thursday evenings. To take the leap from experiencing the joy of music in worship by simply listening to the enrichment that comes from participating as a singer can be a life enhancing moment. Take that leap!

*Jan Harrington and Jihye Choi*

### Joyful Noise Choir Change in Performance Date

The Joyful Noise Choir **will be singing on Sunday, November 26th** instead of the previous Sunday. We will continue to practice for about 10 minutes after church each week. On November 26, we will meet at 9:30 am for a final rehearsal. Please see page 5 for the two pieces that we will be singing.

### Youth Group on November 12

FCC's Youth Group will meet at the Trippel's home this Sunday, November 12 at 6:00 pm. **This is a meeting that you won't want to miss.** We will be formalizing some *exciting plans* for the next year. Pizza will be provided. Call the Trippels if you need directions.

**See you there!**



### Holiday Card Class By Bess Lee

Join us for a fun art class with Christmas twist as we learn to make creative and beautiful holiday cards. FCC's very own Bess Lee will lead this class on **Saturday, December 2 from noon-2:30pm**. Participants will learn several different techniques and take home at least five cards and the knowledge to make as many as you need.

A sign-up sheet is available at the reception desk at FCC. Space is limited, so don't wait to sign up. A small fee of \$5.00/person will help cover costs. Light refreshments will be served.

### Cardinal Stage Company Rehearsing at FCC

A new partnership with Cardinal Stage Company began this week as the cast of Peter Pan began rehearsals in FCC's Great Hall. The partnership grew out of discussions with FCC Story's Openings team. Rehearsals will run through early December. So, if you are at FCC and hear music upstairs in the Great Hall, it's probably the cast of Peter Pan preparing for opening night!

If you're wondering how FCC will benefit from this partnership (other than showing our support of the arts in our community), we will also be featured on the cover of their playbill as a sponsor, we will receive a full page advertisement for our Jazz Vespers service inside the playbill and will receive special recognition on opening and closing night! Additionally, FCC will receive a monetary donation from Cardinal Stage Company for building use.

**THE JOYFUL NOISE CHOIR – for EVERYONE**

(These pieces are about GRATITUDE)

Here are the two pieces we are learning for November 26<sup>th</sup>. You may like to use them for blessings at home!

Here are the words and music to the first one: **Sing and Rejoice**

1. Sing and rejoice. Sing and rejoice, Let all things living now sing and rejoice.
2. Alleluia. Alleluia. Peace and goodwill to all, peace and good will.

**Sing and Rejoice**

42

Musical notation for 'Sing and Rejoice' in 3/4 time. The first line contains two phrases: 'Sing and re-joice, Al-le-lu-ia,' and 'sing and re-joice, al-le-lu-ia,' with circled numbers 1 and 2 above them. The second line contains two phrases: 'let all things liv-ing now sing and re-joice!' and 'peace and good-will to all, peace and good-will!' with circled numbers 3 and 4 above them.

*May be sung as a round*

WORDS: Traditional, alt.  
MUSIC: William B. Bradbury (19th century)

SING AND REJOICE  
Irr.

Here are the words and music to the second one: **All Praise to You, Creator God:**

All praise to you, Creator God, for all your blessings giv'n with love:  
for friends and food, for life renewed, we give you thanks, O God.

**All Praise to You, Creator God**

43

Musical notation for 'All Praise to You, Creator God' in 4/4 time. The first line contains the phrase 'All praise to you, Cre-a-tor God,' with circled number 1 above it and chords F and C7 above the notes. The second line contains the phrase 'for all your bless-ings giv'n with love; for friends and food,' with circled number 2 above it and chords F, C, and F above the notes. The third line contains the phrase 'for life re-newed, we give you thanks, O God.' with chords C7, F, C7, and F above the notes.

*May be sung as a round*

WORDS and MUSIC: Margery Maple, 1993  
© 1995 Chalice Press

ADM BLESSING  
88.86



### 2017 Thanksgiving Special Offering November 19 & 26

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, consider giving to the Disciples Mission Fund Thanksgiving Offering on November 19 and 26. The Thanksgiving Special Offering benefits the colleges, universities and graduate theological institutions affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These learning institutions are an extension of the church, challenging students to understand and respond to God's call to serve.

From the very beginnings of the movement, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning, encouraging students in their intellectual pursuits. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps underwrite the education of students attending one of our fourteen undergraduate institutions and our seven seminaries or divinity houses. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering you are investing in our students and helping keep education costs down. A special envelope is included in this newsletter.

#### Celebration of Life Reception for Wayne Johnson

The Johnson family invites you to celebrate the life of Wayne Johnson at an informal reception on **November 25 from 2:00-4:00 pm in Great Hall**. A short "Toast to Life" program will take place at 2:30 pm. Join us as we share stories, fond memories and celebrate as we give thanks for the life of Wayne Johnson.

#### Correction:

#### Welcome Donna Richards!

Please accept our apologies for misspelling Donna Richards last name. We incorrectly printed "Richardson."

Donna joined FCC by transfer of membership from Stinesville Church of the Nazarene, where she grew up and spent much of her adult life involved in a variety of church activities.

For the latest newsletter, upcoming church events, or to give a financial gift online, visit our website: [www.fccbloomington.org](http://www.fccbloomington.org)





*Hanging of the Greens  
Sunday, November 26 at 11:15 am*

*Join us as we prepare for the  
Advent season by decorating our  
beautiful church.  
All are welcome!*



**2017 MCUM Challenge**  
**2017 Goal:** 2,000 pounds  
**Most recent trip:** 100 pounds  
**Year-to-date:** 1,811 pounds

**Canned Veggie Call-Out!**  
 MCUM's shelves are nearly empty! They are in need of canned vegetables and fruit! They received fewer donations than usual in their recent Each One, Feed One food drive. Please, consider donating what you are able! **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.*

**Thanksgiving Office Hours at FCC**

Monday, November 20

9:00 am-5:00 pm

Tuesday, November 21

9:00 am-5:00 pm

Wednesday, November 22

9:00 am-noon

Thursday and Friday, November 23-24

Closed

**UPCOMING EVENTS...**

**Sunday, November 12**

Consecration Sunday

9:00 am Learning Session I

10:00 am Worship with Children

Worship & Wonder

11:00 am All Church Brunch

**Tuesday, November 14**

6:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal

**Wednesday, November 15**

7:00 pm Men's Book Group

**Thursday, November 16**

4:00 pm Book Bunch

6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

**Friday, November 17**

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

**Sunday, November 19**

9:00 am Learning Session I

10:00 am Worship with Children

Worship & Wonder

11:15 am Joyful Noise Choir

11:15 am Learning Session II

12:15 pm Board Meeting

**Tuesday, November 21**

6:00 pm Handbell choir rehearsal

**Wednesday, November 22**

FCC Office closes at noon

**Thursday-Friday, Nov. 23-24**

FCC offices closed for the holiday.

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Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule

November 12: Sanctuary Choir &  
Handbell Choir

November 19: Cambellite class

November 26: Men's Book Club &  
Book Bunch



**Scripture Readings  
for Sunday Worship**

November 12

1 Kings 18:20-39

November 19

Hosea 11:1-9

Thessalonians 5:16-21

November 26

2 Kings 22:1-10

Guest Preacher Bruce Ervin