

The CHRISTIAN



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

New Creative Opportunity for Caregivers Begins at FCC!

Caregivers  **Create!**

Do you or does someone you know provide care for a family member who is ill, homebound, or needs medical attention on a regular, demanding basis? If so, then *Caregivers Create* is for YOU!

Caregivers Create is a new, **FREE** visual arts program for health care givers, both personal and professional. It is designed to provide a bit of respite from the day-to-day tasks and pressures of caregiving, lessen feelings of isolation, and to inspire and relax with an artistic adventure.

As part of our community art ministry, FCC will provide all the supplies and light refreshments. Caregivers are welcome to come, relax, and enjoy some time off from the responsibilities of caregiving. Instructors, many of whom are professional artists and/or teachers, will lead each class. Classes will be held at FCC in the Chapel Gathering Space from 1:30 – 4 pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. No experience necessary!

January 9 and 23 – “Make your Own Accordion Journal” with Jeanne Dutton

February 13 – “Valentine Greetings” with Charlotte Griffin

February 27 – “Skies, Sunsets and Silhouettes” with Bess Lee

March 13 – “Sketching with Watercolor Pencils” with Betty Wagoner

March 27 – “Make your own Zentangle!” with Meri Reinhold

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED! Each class is limited to **TEN** caregivers. Reservations can be made in two ways:

1. Send an email to CaregiversCreate@gmail.com
(preferable way!)
2. Call the Church office at [\(812\) 332-4459](tel:8123324459).

Inside This Issue

The **2018 Winter & Spring FCC Programming** brochure is inside this issue, and it's filled with opportunities for everyone! Which one will you try?

Volume 60, number 1 January 10, 2018

PASTOR'S PEN

Gracias, Faafetai, Merci, Domo Arigato, Danke Sehr, Do Jeh, Grazie, Thank You!

First, on behalf of the staff of FCC, I thank you! The Christmas gift you gave to us lifted our spirits and reminded us of your love for us and of your appreciation for our work and ministry with you. We give thanks for the opportunity to serve among you. You are a remarkable congregation!

Second, the MLK Celebration we hosted on Sunday was well attended and well received. I would wager that the gathered community was the most diverse representation of God's people that our sanctuary has *ever* held, and it was beautiful. Young, old, rich, poor, black, brown, tan, white, evangelical, mainstream, Mormon, Baha'i, Muslim, Jew, Unitarian: all gathered under one roof. At least twelve faith communities were present, and someone from each community offered a "voice of hope in a time of fear" as a way to lift up the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Our own Dave Schilling represented us well.) One speaker (Lesley Levin) shared her story of being a white Jewish teenager who took the bus from Indianapolis to Selma so she could march. The keynote speaker (Nicole Griffin) took her inspiration from the civil rights movement, especially from the tens of thousands of folks who participated in the Montgomery bus boycott.

Perhaps, more than anything, it was the music—brilliantly organized by Jan Harrington—that united the gathered

community: the children of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, who led us in singing *This Little Light of Mine*; the Second Baptist Church Choir, under the leadership of Alonza Lawrence, who offered the opening and closing music; our own Terrence Chin-Loy and Jihye Choi, who inspired us by their interpretation of African American Spirituals; Marietta Simpson, whose uplifting rendition of *Precious Lord* was worthy of a Grammy award; the congregational singing of *Lift Every Voice and Sing* and *We Shall Overcome*, which filled our hearts with hope.

I am very happy that this event was held in our sanctuary. Many people, who had never before been in our sanctuary, commented on its beauty and sense of sacredness. You all did a great job in stepping up to pass out the bulletins, receive the offering, host the reception, and ready the sanctuary—including installing the mural created by the Lees. As one of you said in the afterglow, "We show-cased well!" I couldn't agree more! In 2018, let's continue to "showcase" what it means to be a community that is about hoping, serving, singing, and sharing a faith that in God—through Christ Jesus—a day will come when all of creation will be made whole.



Pastor Helen

RING IN THE NEW YEAR . . . LITERALLY!!

Party all year long once a week for 45 minutes on TUESDAYS at 6:00!

A New Year's Resolution that's easy to keep with lots of fun and learning!

A chance to grow in spirit and musicality
(even if you think you don't have a musical bone in your body!)

The ultimate in sharing and collaboration to get something accomplished!
(No one or two bells can stand alone – you've gotta have friends!)

Be a part of a jolly and dedicated group of folks - serious in intent, but fun to be with.

The FCC Bell Choir needs more players (high schoolers to retirement age and all in between.) We have high ambitions and great leadership, but need more hands! Some members have moved away or need to travel or to stay home to take care of loved ones, leaving us missing them and short of players. (36 bells to choose from! That's a lot of hands needed.)

If you ever played an instrument, great!
If you think you don't have experience or have never read music –
no matter – can you count to 4 (or sometimes 6)?
Are you cheerful most of the time or need a nudge to be so?
Would you like to contribute to worship? Would you like to learn a new skill?
Then you are in . . . ringing in the New Year and Beyond!

When tempted to join the bell choir instead of partying elsewhere, you can see or email Carter Adams (capadams@indiana.edu) or Jan Harrington (harringt@indiana.edu) or any of the current bell choir members who will be stalking you. An unusual and fun way to serve!





Introducing Our Newest Choral Scholar Bass Grant Farmer

The members of the Sanctuary Choir are excited to welcome and introduce to the congregation our new bass section leader and choral scholar Grant Farmer. Grant has stepped in for us several times during the first semester when Rivers was out performing and auditioning; since Rivers has moved on to sing with an opera company in Hawaii, we are pleased that Grant is joining us full time.

Grant is a native of Nashville, TN and is currently in his first year at the IU Jacobs School of Music, pursuing a doctorate in choral conducting. Following his undergraduate studies in music education at Middle Tennessee State University, Grant spent six years teaching high school choral music in the greater Nashville area. He then obtained a master's degree in choral conducting from Westminster Choir College under the tutelage Dr. Joe Miller and Dr. Amanda Quist.

During his tenure at Westminster, Grant was the graduate assistant conductor of the Westminster Choir and had the opportunity to perform in the Westminster Symphonic Choir with major orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Berlin Philharmonic. Grant has also maintained a modest performance career holding various church, community, and professional choir positions as well as a number of soloist appointments and opera roles.

Join us for Youth Sunday on January 28th!

FCC's Youth will be leading our worship on Sunday, January 28th. So, mark your calendar for a Sunday that you surely will NOT want to miss!

Planning for this unique service will take place this Sunday, January 14th at the home of Alexander Trippel. If you are a middle school or high school student and would like to join in leading our congregation during worship or help in the planning, contact Mark Knowles or call the church office for information on getting involved. There will be many ways to participate!



Congratulations Dorie Brineman!

To know Doris “Dorie” Brineman is to know someone who is always there to help. “See a need, fill a need” should be her motto! She’s here at FCC every week welcoming visitors, tracking attendance, working on the reception desk, proof-reading our publications... and the list goes on! So it came as no surprise when we saw Dorie’s dedication to volunteering in our community featured in the Herald Times on January 2.

After 56 years of volunteering at Bloomington Hospital, Dorie has worked her last volunteer shift for the hospital. South Central Region President Matt Bailey was among many who celebrated her years of service that began on October 1, 1961.

So next time you see Dorie, please thank her for her service here at FCC and her service to the Bloomington community.

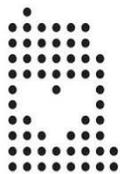
First Christian Church, Bloomington Recognized by Indiana Disciples

(from the *Indiana Christian* Winter 2017/2018 edition)

Regional Minister Rick Spleth presented a certificate of thanks for the generous support of First Christian Church, Bloomington to Disciples Mission Fund. The certificate was presented to Joanne Weddle who is also active in the Region’s life. she recently completed serving 6 years on the Reference and Counsel Team of the Commission on Ministry. Thank you First Christian Church and thank you Joanne!



Photo by David Shank, Elder at Speedway Christian Church



Thank you for helping us meet our goal of donating 2,000 pounds of food and supplies to Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) food and supply bank. We exceeded our goal with a final total of 2,202 pounds! Perhaps we should increase our goal for 2018?

Week of Compassion News...



As we begin the new year, we are grateful for your partnership and support. Below is a list of all our responses from the fourth quarter of last year. Each response is filled with hope and gratitude and represents a place where you, the church, offered presence in time of need. As we look forward into this new year, we know the work is just getting started.

This week, 21 clergy and their families who were impacted by Hurricane Harvey have been in Arizona for the Care for the Journey retreat. "Our well-being is sacred," said Angela Whitenhill, the Mental Health Initiative Manager for National Benevolent Association, to those gathered. Week of Compassion, NBA, and the Pension Fund cosponsored the retreat, with program assistance from Family and Children's Ministries of Disciples Home Missions, to support clergy and their families as the new year begins. Participants are practicing skills for self care, processing their experiences together, and renewing for the long journey of recovery.

Fourth Quarter's Responses

Disaster Relief & Emergency Assistance

Africa

Angola: refugee response, Cameroon, Nigeria and Chad: Boko Haram conflict relief, Ethiopia: drought relief

Latin America & the Caribbean

Costa Rica: tropical storm relief, Dominican Republic and Haiti: hurricane relief

Middle East & Europe

Iraq: internally displaced response, Jordan: refugee response, Syria: emergency winter relief

Southern Asia

Bangladesh: flood relief and refugee response, Myanmar: internally displaced response

U.S. & Canada

California: emergency relief for undocumented families, wildfire relief, Florida: hurricane relief, Iowa: storm relief, Missouri: tornado relief and

long-term flood recovery, Puerto Rico: hurricane relief, Texas: hurricane relief, Louisiana: long-term flood recovery, U.S. Virgin Islands: long-term hurricane recovery

Development, Long-Term Recovery & Rehabilitation

Africa

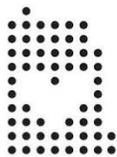
Angola: Women Empowerment, Kenya: Children Education, Zambia: Sustainable Agriculture

Latin America & the Caribbean

Colombia: Conflict Transformation, Paraguay: Choco Sustainable Development Support

Middle East & Europe

Israel/Palastine: Youth Empowerment & Just Peace, Serbia: Roma Sustainable Development Support



2018 MCUM Challenge

2018 Goal: 2,000 pounds

Most recent trip: 45 pounds

Year-to-date: 45 pounds

Box Tops for Education Call-Out!

MCUM's shelves are nearly empty! They are in need of pasta sauce, boxed macaroni and cheese, ramen noodles, cereal and biscuit/muffin mixes! MCUM is also collecting **Boxtops for Education** to support their Early Learning Center. Please, consider donating what you are able!

Thank you for showing how much you care.

Year End Giving Statements

Our Financial Secretaries will be working on individual year end giving statements very soon. Those will be mailed to your home by the end of January. In the meantime, if you need information please contact one of our financial secretaries (Patti Parkes, Mary Swarthout, or Melissa Jackson). Thank you for your generosity.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Monday, January 15

The FCC offices will be closed on January 15 in observance of the holiday recognizing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Sunday, January 14

9:00 am Learning Session I
10:00 am Worship with Children
Worship & Wonder
11:15 am Joyful Noise Choir rehearsal
11:15 am Learning Session II
12:15 pm Board Meeting

Monday, January 15

(Martin Luther King Day)
FCC Offices Closed.
6:00 pm Monday Night Book Study

Tuesday, January 16

6:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, January 17

7:00 pm Men's Book Group

Thursday, January 18

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

Friday, January 19

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Sunday, January 21

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

Upcoming events...

January 28 at 10:00 am Youth Sunday

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
205 E. Kirkwood Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47408

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www.fccbloom.org
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Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule

January 14: Grades K-12 and
Sharing Table

January 21: Sanctuary Choir
and Handbell Choir

January 28: Men's Book Club &
Book Bunch

**Scripture Readings
for Sunday Worship**

January 14
Mark 2:1-22

January 21
Mark 4:1-34

January 28
Mark 5:21-43