

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

Preparing for Lent

Opportunities for Spiritual Growth through Worship and Groups

The season of Lent provides an opportunity for focused self-reflection as we prepare for Easter. Lent at FCC will be filled with opportunities for spiritual growth, reflection, worship and fellowship. We will begin the Lenten Season by welcoming a guest preacher, a guest choir and also extending hospitality to students from Hiram College who will be working with Habitat for Humanity.

Our Lenten journey begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6, with a contemplative service that will include the imposition of ashes.

On Saturday, March 9, we welcome the Creighton University Chamber Choir for a very special concert (more on page 3). On Sunday, March 10 we will welcome Jeanette Salley with Global Ministries. Jeanette has been serving as a Global Missions co-worker in Nicaragua and also will offer two forum presentations (9:00 am and 11:15 am).

You will find within this newsletter details on special events offered at FCC including concerts, classes, worship services, and activities. Additionally, there are many on-going opportunities to join including meditation groups, book studies, and small

groups. We hope you will find these opportunities meaningful during this special time in our church.

Week of Compassion Special Offering Received on February 24

The theme for Week of Compassion's Special Offering is "More than we can imagine!" based on Ephesians 3:20. It reminds us that we are not alone in our imagining a better world for all God's children. Please, give generously to Week of Compassion. We will be receiving the Special Offering on February 24. You can also mail your gift ("Week of Compassion" in memo line) to the FCC office.

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Volume 61, number 4 February 20, 2019

Pastor's Pen

Is Lent on your Radar yet?

Let me put something on your radar: the season of Lent is just around the corner, which means that we, along with Christians throughout the world, are invited into 40 days of deep discernment about the health of our relationships with God, others, the world, and ourselves. During Lent, we look to Jesus—his life, his ministry, his death—and allow him to give us deeper insight into our relationships, i.e. into what it means to love, to forgive, to celebrate, to confess, to change, to serve, to challenge the status quo, to die, and (ultimately) to live fully and freely.

That's why I ask you to take advantage of some of the opportunities that we are offering during this season of Lent. You'll find the details within this newsletter, but I want to lift up just a few and ask you to be intentional about your participation in at least two of our Lenten offerings.

Weekly Worship: You will be amazed by how your renewed discipline of weekly worship at FCC will offer you ways to connect with others, reflect on your spiritual relationships, and ground you more deeply in a life of Christian faith and practice. (I'm talking about 5 Sundays plus Holy Week and Easter.) If you are unable to be in church, you can participate after the fact by listening to portions of the service that are posted on our website each week.

Weekly Small Groups: If you have not yet found a small group that is right for you, I ask that you try one out for the 40 days of Lent. They are designed to help each of us grow in faith as individuals who see ourselves as part of the larger body of Christ. I'm not asking for a lifetime commitment to a small group—just 40

days, enough time for you to see how a small group has the potential to make a difference! In addition to our wonderful ongoing Sunday morning groups, we have a couple of new groups that I am really excited about: 1) A Sunday evening (including a meal) Lenten experience in partnership with First Presbyterian Church, and 2) an age-specific group designed for those in their mid-20's through 30's.

Acts of Service, Compassion, and Justice:

I'm thinking that five to eight hours during the 40 days of Lent is a "doable" way for each of us to practice who we say we are as followers of Christ. Join our Habitat Women's Build (or support one of our builders), serve breakfast at the Shalom Center, engage in an act of justice with our Voices of Faith Disciples Women's Group, volunteer for a social service agency that covets your skill set, visit one of our homebound members, listen to one who is struggling. Pray for the world. The possibilities are endless.

Participate in ALL of our Lenten "special events:"

I'm listing them in somewhat chronological order. Please check the newsletter for the dates! Ash Wednesday service, Creighton University Choir concert, pretzel making, Global Mission Co-Worker to preach, MOPs Crayon Initiative, Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday, Good Friday Taizé Service, Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast at Bedford Christian Camp, Easter Worship.

Blessings,

 Pastor Helen



FIRST CHRISTIAN TO HOST CONCERT OF
CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY CHAMBER CHOIR

Saturday, March 9 – 7:00 PM

First Christian Church will be the first stop on the Creighton University Chamber Choir's concert tour to the East Coast, which will include concerts in New York City and an appearance in Washington, DC at the Kennedy Center. Located in Omaha, Nebraska, Creighton University is a highly-rated Jesuit liberal arts university where students and faculty strive to form a passionate community in which they are driven to do more, challenged to make a positive change in the world by bridging health, law, business and the arts and sciences for a more just world.

Under the direction of Dr. A. Barron Breland, the Chamber Choir is Creighton's premiere performing ensemble dedicated to "sharing their gifts and talents to foster student's musical growth in an environment that seeks to expand the repertoire of culturally diverse music as well as concert settings, while respecting the uniqueness of each music piece and venue."

The Bloomington appearance of the choir is a kind of homecoming for their conductor A. Barron Breland, who studied for his master's and doctorate in Choral Conducting at the IU Jacobs School of Music where, as an Associate Instructor, he was personal assistant to Jan Harrington and a member of Harrington's last doctoral class of students before his retirement. In 2008 after Harrington's retirement, Barron was a guest member of the choral conducting faculty where, in addition to teaching, he prepared the University Singers for a performance with renown choral conductor Dale Warland. The previous fall he gave over 12 performances as guest conductor of the 120 member Grammy-nominated Singing Hoosiers. Since moving to Omaha, he has revitalized the music program at Creighton where, in addition to conducting their choirs, he is a tenured chair of the Department of Fine and Performing Arts and is presently Artistic Director of the River City Mixed Chorus and Music director of the professional chamber choir Résonance, and prepares choruses for the Omaha Symphony.

Helen provides us with another interesting connection of FCC's relationship to Creighton: "My great-great uncle, Father Michael Dowling S.J. served as President of Creighton at two different junctures in its history, so I have known about Creighton all of my life!"

This concert promises to be a wonderful musical event as we enter Lent. Admission is free so plan come and enjoy the concert.

For the latest newsletter, upcoming church events, or to give a financial gift online, visit our website: www.fccbloomington.org



**Jeanette Salley of Global Ministries to Preach on March 10
Forum Presentations at 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.**

FCC has supported the global mission arm of the Disciples of Christ, through financial support as well as participating in the establishment of a low-cost pharmacy in a region of the Democratic Republic of Congo and also by participating in two people-to-people pilgrimages to Cuba. So, when Rick Spleth of the Regional Office sent out an email to all congregations in Indiana about an opportunity to host one of our Global Mission Co-Workers, we were the first to respond!

On March 10th, we will welcome Jeanette Salley of Global Ministries who will share how Disciples are serving in the world. Jeanette has been serving in Nicaragua where she is helping our Partner Church (The Moravian Church of Nicaragua) find ways to strengthen Faith Formation and Christian Education in Nicaragua. She is a colleague of Mark and Danielle, who are also Global Ministries Co-Workers. Jeanette will be delivering our message in worship at 10:00 a.m. and will also offer two identical forums at 9:00 a.m. and again at 11:15 a.m. Jeanette's appointment with Global Ministries is made possible by gifts to Disciples Mission Fund and Week of Compassion.

Please, plan on attending worship on March 10th (the first Sunday of Lent) and also attending one of the forums. What a unique and special opportunity for us to host a Mission Co-Worker while learning more about the work of Global Ministries.



**Vegetarian All-Church
Pitch-In on February
24 at 6:00 p.m.**

Come one, come all, to the first-ever FCC Vegetarian/Vegan pitch-in, see the incredible Professor Animalia's Menagerie of Struggling Species art posters by Joe and Bess Lee, and watch the documentary, "Forks Over Knives."

Join us this Sunday, the 24th, at 6:00 in the Great Hall, as we celebrate the Week of Compassion. Need recipe ideas? Check out the following links or check out a cookbook at the public library.

<https://ohsheglows.com>

<https://moosewoodcooks.com/all-recipes/>



The
Elena Escudero
Quartet



March 1, 2019
6:30 pm



Donate used and unwanted crayons to the Crayon Initiative!

FCC's MOPS (Mothers of PreSchoolers) group believes that crayons belong in children's hands, not landfills. More than a half-million pounds of crayons are discarded annually throughout the U.S. That equates to roughly 60 million crayons! The Crayon Initiative collects used and unwanted crayons then melts them down and remanufactures them, reducing environmental waste. The recycled crayons are distributed to art programs at children's hospitals across the U.S., brightening the lives of young patients during their stay. **MOPS will be collecting crayons through March 24. Bins are located in the reception area and the Chapel/Gathering Space.**

For more information about FCC's MOPS, which meets on the first Wednesday of each month, pick up a flier from the information kiosk in the Narthex or contact Andrea Dalton or Connie Myers. Bring a friend and join us!

Caregivers Create!

An Art Adventure for Health Caregivers

Are you a caregiver? Do you need a little "Me" time? *Caregivers Create* is a **FREE** visual arts program for health caregivers, both personal and professional. It is designed to provide a bit of respite from the day-to-day tasks of caregiving, and to provide inspiration and relaxation for the health caregiver through an artistic adventure! Each session focuses on an art project led by an experienced artist or crafter, many of whom are professionals. It's free, but reservations are required. To reserve your spot, or for more information, email: Jeanne at CaregiversCreate@gmail.com, or call First Christian Church, 812-332-4459.

FEBRUARY 26

"Entryways to Enchantment, Gateways to Spring, Portals to Possibilities...or All 3!!"

"In visiting the Harrison Center in Indianapolis, I saw this lesson taught by one of the wonderful art instructors there. Adults and teenagers were enamored of this lesson. I hope you will be, too."

1. Create doorways, gateways from many choices of images to inspire us on paper.
2. Create an image of spring, hope, abstract, realistic with watercolors Or collage or drawing... artists' choice! You might use multi-media.
3. Using the doors, you will create an opening and combine the two art pieces, where the viewer will see our image and ideas just through the door.

Guest Instructor: Bess Lee

Bess is a retired 30-year public school art teacher. Her students have ranged in age from 2-92. She continues to enjoy sharing and learning about art with others and is becoming a working artist too.

March Birthdays

03/02	Andy	Stafford	1628 Bellemeade Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/03	Jim	Ray	2001 E. Hillside Dr., Stier Park #4	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/06	Bill	Knapp	3687 Tamarcon Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
03/06	Kate	Griggs	9376 S. Harbour Pointe Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/07	Wayne	Johnson	1900 S. Ramsey Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/07	Bob	Orr	1105 E. Regency Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/09	Jihye	Choi	2100 E. Lingelbach Ln., Apt. 608	Bloomington	IN	47408
03/10	Mark	Knowles				
03/11	Evelyn	Johnson Zamudio	Calle Tendidas 12, 2c, Toledo,	Spain		45002
03/13	Tom	Trippel	1497 E Commander Ct	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/13	Glenn	Read, Jr.	120 N. Lexington Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47408
03/15	Donna	Beams	7074 SW 64th Terrace	Ocala	FL	34476
03/15	Janet	Rowland	3791 Regents Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/15	Eugenie	Sullivan	2301 Fritz Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
03/20	Amy	Stafford	1309 N. Edison Place Unit B	Kennewick	WA	99336
03/21	Casey	Houchins	3821 S. Westmont Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47403
03/21	Charles	Watkins	1144 E. Benson Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/22	Carol	Isaacs	2959 Ramble Road West	Bloomington	IN	47408
03/22	Helen	Hempfling Ervin	1222 E. Tremont Way	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/23	Marlene	Vass	1009 Waltz Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/25	Emily	Werner	4950 White River Drive	Bloomington	IN	47404
03/25	Jan	Parrott	543 Green Road	Bloomington	IN	47403
03/26	Marie	Settle	316 E. Dodds Street	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/26	Doug	Cull	3144 Eden Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/27	Nancy	Heimer	2455 Tamarack Trail Apt. 115	Bloomington	IN	47408
03/28	Brian	Jackson	3693 S. Sowder Square	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/28	Charlie	Sinn	2559 S. Smith Road	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/28	Julia	Hummel	9768 Deer Trail	Haslett	MI	48840
03/29	Emily	Lepore	8609 Orchard Grove Lane	Camby	IN	46113
03/30	Marti	Black	2724 McCartney Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/30	Ashante	Thomas	800 N Smith Rd., Apt. 1Y	Bloomington	IN	47408
03/31	Brandon	Lee	1028 S. Henderson St.	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/31	Doris	Brineman	2455 N. Tamarack Trail, Apt. 2	Bloomington	IN	47408
03/31	Carter	Adams	2583 S. Flat Rock Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47403

Please let us know if we have left anyone off of the birthday list.

Do you enjoy crafting? Consider joining the Women’s Arts & Crafts Group!

Create unique hand-crafted items and enjoy fun company. Past crafts include jewelry making, ribbon bookmarks, washcloth bunnies, Christmas ornaments, and seasonal wreaths. Last month we made no-sew pillows and in March we will make mason jar pin cushions. Feel free to bring your own project or participate in our monthly activity. The FCC Women’s Arts & Crafts group meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Join us on March 4th for our next project!



2019 MCUM Challenge

Our 2019 MCUM challenge to donate another 2,000 pounds in food and supplies has begun. Each month we post the current needs for the MCUM food and supply pantry. Check the list below and see what you might be able to donate this month.

Food Pantry

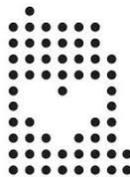
- Baking mixes
- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Ramen noodles
- Condensed soups
- Cereal (small/medium boxes)

Cleaning Closet

- Laundry soap
- Dish soap
- All-purpose cleaners
- Sponges
- Size 5-6 diapers

Child Care Center

- Staplers
- Adult scissors
- MP3 player or iPod
- Paper Tissue (all colors)
- Children’s Books on CD



UPCOMING EVENTS...

Sunday, February 24

Week of Compassion

- 8:30 am Meditation group
- 9:00 am Learning Session I
- 10:00 am Worship and Children’s Worship and Wonder
- 11:15 Learning Session II
- 1:00 pm Bloomington Bible Study
- 4:30 pm Mental Health 101
- 6:00 pm All Church Vegetarian Pitch-In Dinner in Great Hall

Tuesday, February 26

- 1:30 pm Caregivers Create!
- 5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Thursday, February 28

- 5:30 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal
- 6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Friday, March 1

- 6:30 pm First Friday Jazz Vespers

Sunday, March 3

- 8:30 am Meditation group
- 9:00 am Learning Session I
- 10:00 am Worship and Children’s Worship and Wonder
- 11:15 am Learning Session II
- 12:15 pm FCC Board meeting
- 1:00 pm Bloomington Bible Study
- 4:30 pm Mental Health 101

March 3-9

FCC Hosts Hiram Colleg Students

Wednesday, March 6

- 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship

Spiritual Growth & Learning Opportunities at FCC during the Lenten Season



Celtic Spirituality - Beginning March 10 at First Presbyterian Church
(intergenerational, childcare provided)

This year, travel through Lent in the spiritual landscape of the Irish imagination. FCC and our neighbors at First Presbyterian are partnering for a 5-week exploration of Celtic Spirituality. Ancient teachings, stories and blessings will guide our practice in ways that all ages can embrace. Each session will begin with a simple meal and conclude with a simple blessing. We'll meet on Sunday evenings (March 10 - April 7) from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in Lyman Hall at First Presbyterian Church. Contact Connie Myers for more information.

“What is Lent?” and Other Questions You’ve Wanted to Ask

(discussion for adults in their 20s and 30s)

Many of us grew up in faith traditions other than the Disciples of Christ, which means we sometimes experience new and unfamiliar things at FCC. Bring your questions and we'll explore them in light of our unique faith experiences. Rev. Chuck Jones will lead this new group. Chuck was a minister in a fundamentalist church who didn't know what Lent was prior to joining the Disciples. This group will meet on Sundays at 11:15 a.m. on the 3rd floor, beginning March 10.

FCC's Youth Group

(middle school and high school)

FCC's Youth Group will take a different approach to their focus during Lent with a special screening of a movie or two. They will have a “movie night” and discussion of one or two films. Films being considered, so far, are *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Chocolat*, a film about a woman and her young daughter who open a chocolate shop in rural France during Lent.



Lenten Pretzels

(Intergenerational activity)

Plans are in the works to bake Lenten Pretzels again this year. We'll learn the legend of the pretzel before each person makes a pretzel of their own to eat immediately or take home. Plus, each family will make a pretzel and card to share with someone else. Families of all ages, shapes and sizes are invited to make Lenten Pretzels in the Great Hall. We'll post the date in the Sunday bulletin and the newsletter once we get it on the calendar.

Lent 2019
Worship Opportunities at FCC



Ash Wednesday
March 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Join us in worship as we move from Epiphany into Lent. This brief and contemplative service will conclude with the imposition of ashes as a sign of mortality and penitence.

Join us for Jazz Vespers at FCC on April 5 at 6:30 p.m. with the Elena Escudero Quartet



Holy Week

Palm Sunday - April 14

Children will lead us in worship at 10:00 a.m. with a palm procession marking Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, days before he died on the cross.

Maundy Thursday - April 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Join us at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 18 for Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service of Communion, Betrayal and Conviction with music by the Sanctuary Choir and guest cellist Adriana Contino.

Good Friday - April 19 at 12:10 p.m.

FCC is hosting this year's community Good Friday worship service at 12:10 p.m. in our sanctuary. This year's service will be presented in a Taizé style of worship that includes the reading of the Passion of the Christ from Luke's Gospel as well as meditative music and candle lighting.

Easter Sunday - April 21

Sunrise Service at Camp Bedford at 7:00 a.m.

FCC will be joining First Christian Church of Bedford for this special sunrise service at our beloved Camp Bedford. Worship begins at 7:00 a.m. and will be followed by breakfast.

Worship at FCC at 10:00 a.m.

Christ is Risen! Join us on Easter Sunday for worship as we celebrate with special music from our Sanctuary Choir. The celebration continues following worship with our annual Easter Egg Hunt. FCC's youth will be filling oodles of eggs with all sorts of sweet confections for children to find! Be sure to bring your basket!

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

812-332-4459
fcc@fccbloom.org
www.fccbloom.org
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Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule

February 24:
Grades K-12 and Sharing Table

March 3:
Sanctuary & Handbell Choirs

March 10:
Campbellite Class

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

February 24
Luke 7:36-50

March 3
Luke 9:28-45

March 10
Jeanette Salley preaching
Luke 10:25-42