

# The CHRISTIAN



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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
*(Disciples of Christ)*

## Visitor

### Week of Compassion Special Offering February 17-24

*Give to the Relief, Refugee and Development Mission Fund of the Disciples of Christ*

The theme for the 2019 Special Offering for Week of Compassion is “More than we can imagine!” That theme, based on Ephesians 3:20, reminds us that we are not alone in our imagining a better world for all God’s children, for it is God’s imagination that fuels and empowers ours! You see, God imagines a world where:

- No one is left to face the ravages of natural disaster alone - neighbor helps neighbor, stranger helps stranger - for we are the church together!
- Even if things will never quite be the same after a disaster, God can work through all events to bring new life, new hope, and even more resilience;
- Clean and abundant water and ample sanitation facilities are available to every person;
- Work brings security from hunger and the land is treated with respect;
- Families displaced from their homes are able to build new lives;
- Women are no longer subject to discrimination and gender-based violence.

FCC has long been a strong supporter of Week of Compassion, the mission fund of the

Disciples of Christ church. The Special Offering supporting Week of Compassion will be received during worship on Sunday February 17 and 24. You can also mail your gift (“Week of Compassion” in memo line) to FCC the week of February 17-24. As a way of celebrating Week of Compassion, FCC will be hosting an All-Church Vegetarian Pitch-In on Sunday February 24 at 6:00 pm. Details on this event can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

Give generously to the *Week of Compassion Special Offering (February 17-24)* and then join us on February 24 for a special vegetarian pitch-in meal celebrating the important work of the church that is supported through Week of Compassion.

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*Volume 61, number 3 February 6, 2019*

## Pastor's Pen

### Reflections on a "God-led, Unhurried, and Peace-filled" Renewal

My retreat week was all I could have wanted it to be. Thank you for having the wisdom to include in my "letter of call" (now 23 years old!) two weeks per year to be used for renewal and study.

Each morning I would go into my "studio" (i.e. the back bedroom of the retreat cottage) where I would read one of the upcoming Narrative Lectionary passages from Luke, using a couple of translations and several of my favorite Bible commentaries.

After lunch, I would return to the same passage, this time reading and receiving it as devotional material. I used the spiritual practice called *Lectio Divina* to help me listen for a word or phrase that "popped out" as I read the passage multiple times. Once that word or phrase became clear, I spent lots of time discerning (through praying, meditating, journaling, and painting) what God might be saying to me and to us (FCC) through the word or phrase.

Evenings were spent "catching up" with Bruce, who was on his own personal retreat, tucked away in the upstairs loft working on his own renewal project. We would share a meal, play a game of cribbage, read, and then go to bed and sleep for a solid 8-10 hours.

That was our rhythm for the week, and what a gift it was! I am convinced that these regular times of retreat—which help keep me grounded and hopeful and focused and energized—are in the long run beneficial to you, FCC, and in turn to the wider community.

The beautifully appointed cottage was at The Springs, a 150 acre Christian Retreat Center

(located in Southeast Indiana), dedicated to providing a sacred retreat space for church leaders, lay and clergy. The home page of their website says this: "Our hope is that all who come to The Springs encounter and receive the healing love and presence of the Triune God in order to serve with ever increasing authenticity. We pray that your time here is God led, unhurried, and peace filled. Doing less allows you to receive more." Their hopes for us were fulfilled that week! By the way, The Springs is supported solely by donations! Here is their website, in case you want more information. <http://www.thespringsindiana.org/>.

One more fun thing: On Sunday morning, we took a last minute 450 mile "detour" home, stopping in Nashville, Tennessee, where we worshiped at Vine Street Christian Church, the church I served as a seminary intern and (more importantly!) the church where my daughter Allison was being installed that very morning as Associate Pastor! It was a beautiful service, filled with tears of joy. Allison was quite surprised to see us, to say the least! And I was pleased, too, because I have rarely been able to pull a surprise on her!

Blessings,



Pastor Helen



## NEW TIME AND DIRECTOR FOR HANDBELL CHOIR

*New Members are Welcome to Join!*

**Rehearsals Thursdays 5:30-6:15**

FCC's handbell choir director and music intern Carter Adams has announced he will need to step down due to the intense demands of his out of town student teaching assignment this semester as he winds down the work on his Bachelors degree in Music Education. Carter's wonderful contribution to our music program the past three years has been much appreciated. We will miss his active participation, great spirit and varied talents, and look forward to being able to greet him personally when his schedule lightens enough that he can be in Bloomington on weekends to attend First Christian Church.

Our wonderful Organist and Assistant Music Director Jihye Choi has agreed to take over as director of the Handbell Choir. In addition to her devotion to the mission of the church and her skill and artistry as an organist, Jihye brings us experience as a handbell director! In Korea, she completed a three - semester handbell training certification course during her undergraduate studies. As a result, she organized a successful handbell choir for the youth of her congregation (where her father is a pastor), which she led until leaving for her graduate studies in the United States.

The Bell Choir members have met with Jihye and decided that rehearsals will be **Thursday evenings from 5:30-6:15 beginning on February 14**. Jihye and all the returning handbell choir members welcome new members! **No previous experience is necessary**. As long as you can count to four (or sometimes 6!), you are welcome and will find lots of friendly help in learning to play. The more the merrier! This is a great time to come join as the handbells begin their new season with a new director!

### **FCC Presents Survey Finding to Bloomington Parking Commission**

In December, Scott Cripe presented the results of the FCC Parking Survey to the City of Bloomington Parking Commission. The commission received the information and informed us that church parking in the downtown area would be a topic of discussion in 2019. Our survey was conducted following discussion about parking with the opening of the Graduate Hotel.

109 surveys were returned representing a wide range of new, mid-tenure and long-time attendees. 90 % of our survey replies prefer to park on the street. A majority of survey results indicate 3 blocks is too far to park away from church. More than 95 % of survey respondents indicated parking will be a major concern and/or hindrance to our mission. Various suggestions were recommended on how to fix our parking solution including building our own parking garage, having the city build a parking garage at 6th and Lincoln, and utilizing a shuttle. Feel free to speak with Scott Cripe if you would like more information compiled from the survey.



### *In Our Prayers*

Please hold the family of Brenda Ogborn (Carey, Natalie & Mike, Drew) in your prayers as they mourn the death of Brenda's mother, Sharon Howard, who passed away on January 26. Cards and notes of encouragement can be sent to them at 11851 Avedon Way, Zionsville, Ind., 46077.

Please continue to keep Sopa and Fatima Enari in your prayers as Fatima continues to make progress following a serious head injury last fall. Both remain in New Zealand (where the accident occurred and where residential rehab is taking place). If all goes well, they hope to return to Bloomington in March. Email messages may be sent to them at [jas858@live.com](mailto:jas858@live.com).

Thank you for the ways that you care.

### **Join us for an All-Church \*Vegetarian/Vegan Pitch-In**

In celebration of the Disciples of Christ Week of Compassion (Feb. 17-24) please join us for FCC's first Vegetarian/Vegan Pitch-In on Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Great Hall, followed by a relevant documentary.

In the spirit of the week, let's extend our circle of compassion to include all of God's creatures. Come partake of delicious vegetarian/vegan food and companionship. Need recipe ideas? Click on the following links or check out a cookbook at the Monroe County Public Library:

<https://ohsheglows.com/>,  
<https://www.vegansociety.com/resources/recipes>,  
<http://www.foodispower.org/recipes-meals/>  
<https://moosewoodcooks.com/all-recipes/>

\**Vegetarian*: Someone who does not eat meat.

\**Vegan*: Someone who seeks to exclude, as far as is possible and practicable, all forms of exploitation of, and cruelty to, animals for food, clothing or any other purpose. Vegans do not eat meat, dairy, or eggs. They do not use leather, or other products that exploit animals.

If you can't make it to the pitch-in, please consider these other compassionate actions for God's creation: Meatless Monday: refrain from eating meat on Monday and any other day (10 billion animals are killed every year in the U.S. for human consumption.) Donate to an animal protection organization and/or volunteer at the animal shelter. Read a related book such as Gene Baur's *Farm Sanctuary*, Tracey Stewart's *Do Unto Animals*, or Matthew Scully's *Dominion*. All available at the MCPL.



## 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. Projects include art journaling, watercolor painting, pressed flower bookmarks, origami, greeting cards, and other creative exercises. All supplies are provided, light refreshments served, and there’s time for informal socializing with other caregivers.

#### **FEBRUARY 12 “Greeting Cards: Create Your Own”**

Learn the technique of watercolor lettering as you create a special Valentine (or birthday or anniversary) greeting for the love of your life, be it a spouse, child, grandchild or friend!

Instructor: Jeanne Ellen Dutton

Jeanne is a charter adjunct instructor at Ivy Tech’s Center for Lifelong Learning where she teaches several classes, including Beginning Watercolor I-III, Watercolor Workshops, and Art Journaling.

#### **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.

#### **Reserve your place now!**

It’s free, but reservations are required. Currently, reservations are limited to 10 people. To reserve your spot, or for more information, email: Jeanne at [CaregiversCreate@gmail.com](mailto:CaregiversCreate@gmail.com), or call First Christian Church, 812-332-4459.

### Youth Update

By Ashlyn Reynolds, Youth Ministries

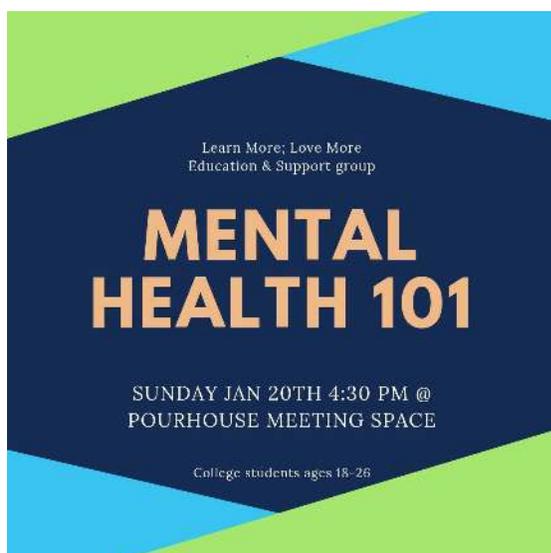
The youth and I would like to give a big thank you to everyone who donated supplies to our MLK Day project! Sunday evening we had an awesome lock-in full of fellowship. The next morning we went over to Beth Shalom and worked with The Good Neighbor Community to great blessing bags, snacks, and lunches for those in need. There was such a good turn out on Monday morning that we ended up finishing earlier than expected! Afterwards, the youth returned to FCC where we engaged in a conversations about MLK, service, and justice. You might have noticed some of the discussion boards in the Chapel Gathering Space!

This month the youth will be preparing to lead a whole worship service on February 24th!

### Bloomington Bible Study Welcomes Young Adults For Weekly Bible Study and Discussion

FCC's new college ministry *Bloomington Bible Study* focuses on studying with the Bible. This means that students are encouraged to bring homework to do while we discuss our weekly theme and how that relates to our faith journeys. The group consists of young adults who are college-aged (18-25), but you do not need to be in college to attend. **Everyone 18-25 is welcome!** From January to May of this year, BBS is learning through peer engagement to be leaders in Christ.

Join us on Sundays at 1:00pm at FCC! Email Haley Norris, our college intern, for more information at [hjnorris@iu.edu](mailto:hjnorris@iu.edu)



### Mental Health 101 Series for College Students

A mental health series for college students will continue through March. Mental Health 101 will include speakers and time for discussion. This program is a continuation of the Learn More; Love More series FCC hosted last summer. The group meets each Sunday in the Pourhouse Coffee basement from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Join this group for a safe space for college students to learn more about mental health and ways we can care for our own well-being.

For more information contact Katherine Homer, Lily Hoover or the FCC office.



**Support FCC Through Kroger Community Rewards Program**

Recently, Kroger made some changes to their Community Rewards Program. This program allows Kroger shoppers to support non-profit groups and organizations while they shop. If you have a Kroger Rewards Card, you can log in to your online account and sign up for this program. When signing up, you will choose an organization by its account number. The First Christian Church account number to choose is **JF010**. If you have been supporting FCC through this program, please check to make sure you have chosen this new number to support FCC.

**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. You can find those posted throughout the church. Check the list below and see what you might be able to donate this month.

**Food Pantry**

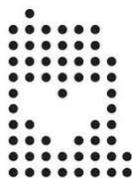
- Baking mixes
- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Ramen
- Condensed soups
- Cereal (small/medium boxes)

**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 10**

- 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

**Tuesday, February 12**

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

**Wednesday, February 13**

- 11:45 am Voices of Faith

**Thursday, February 14**

- 6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

**Sunday, February 17**

- 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

**Tuesday, February 19**

- 5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

**Wednesday, February 20**

- 7:00 pm Men's Book Group

**Thursday, February 21**

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

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Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule

February 10:  
Book Bunch & Men's Book Group

February 17:  
Emmaus Interpreters Class

February 24:  
Grades K-12 and Sharing Table

**Scripture Readings  
For Sunday Worship**

February 10  
Luke 7:1-17

February 17  
Luke 7:18-35

February 24  
Luke 7:36-50