

The CHRISTIAN



 FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ) *Visitor*

Holy Week and Easter Worship

We enter Holy Week this Sunday, March 25 at 10:00 am with a special service of **Palm Passion Readings and Musical Meditations** in observation of the events leading to the crucifixion. Following worship at 11:15 am, children, youth and families are invited to the Great Hall for Lenten pretzel making. This tradition dates back to the fourth century when bread was formed in the shape of crossed arms, which is how people prayed at that time. Join us as we explore the origin of the Lenten Pretzel and bake our own batch to enjoy and to share.

As we continue our journey to Easter, join us on **Maundy Thursday, March 29 at 7:30 pm** for worship observing the Institution of the Lord's Supper in the Upper Room with music from James Whitbourn's dramatic *Son of God Mass* for choir, organ, and saxophone with Tom Walsh, saxophone. Tom is a member of FCC and Chair of the Jazz Studies program at the IU Jacobs School of Music.

We will join our friends at First United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, and First United Church for the annual **Community Good Friday service**. This year, services will be held at First United Methodist Church. Worship will begin at 12:15 pm in their sanctuary located at 219 E. 4th Street.

Christ is Risen! We will celebrate the Resurrection on **Easter Sunday, April 1 at 10:00 am** with music of George Frideric Handel from *Messiah*. The celebration continues after worship on FCC's lawn with our annual Egg Hunt. Hundreds of eggs will be hidden. Be sure to bring your basket!

Easter Special Day Offering on April 1

The grace of God is overflowing in the gift we have in Jesus. Support the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) by giving to the Easter Offering. The work of these ministries overflows "from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth."

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PASTOR'S PEN
The Next Step in Our FCC Story

I have good news to share! FCC has received a \$15,000 grant to help us move forward with implementing our FCC Story! A little over a year ago, following an extensive, intensive, comprehensive and inclusive congregational visioning process that produced the “FCC Story,” teams were formed to help implement the Story’s multifaceted components. The Cornerstone Team was charged with task of helping us finding ways to enhance one of our greatest assets: our beautiful building. Meeting twice a month, the team has defined a well thought-out process that will help our facility become more accessible, flexible, utilized, beautiful and sustainable as we offer it for worship, deeper spiritual connections, and service to the community—to the glory of God.

The grant, from the Indianapolis Center for Congregations, will be used to hire David Allen, President of Michell Allen Ritz Architects. David was selected by unanimous vote of the Cornerstone Team following two rounds of intensive interviews with three great architectural firms. David, who has done extensive and impressive work on historic church buildings in Indiana and Kentucky, is passionate about the church, has years of experience, knows how to work with congregations, and has a demeanor that is both humble and confident. In short, he is a good “fit” for us.

David will work with us to come up with an architectural design that will help make our FCC Story a reality. His work will include: a) performing an overall facility review and assessment, taking into account mechanical and structural aspects of the building, b) consulting

extensively with the Cornerstone Team and the congregation to develop, fine tune and present conceptual plans and architectural renderings for a renovated sanctuary, and c) recommending viable options for our currently underutilized classroom and fellowship spaces.

Not only is David’s work exemplary, but he is man of deep Christian faith with great hopes for the work of the church. I have no doubt that we will be blessed by our partnership with him. We are also blessed by the fine leadership of the Cornerstone Team. As we move forward in the process, you can expect to hear more frequent updates from them. In the meantime, please join me in thanking them for their diligent work. Members are: Mike and Sandy Rampley (co-chairs), Natalie Garshaw, Connie Daugherty, Kathy Street, Amy Cheek, Charlie Sinn, Doug Cull, Peggy Stafford, and Betsy Watson.

As the FCC Story continues to unfold before us, let us continue to give thanks to God for the work that God is doing through us. Indeed, in God, all things are possible!



Pastor Helen

P.S. As we enter Holy Week, please remember that our VERY POWERFUL services of worship are designed to help you ponder and embrace the deep mystery of God’s passionate love for the world. *Please make it a priority to participate in worship on Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. And invite someone to join you!*



Music in This Holy Week & Easter By Jan Harrington

During this Lenten and Easter season our worship will be grounded with uplifting music spanning the traditions of six centuries of music, uniting our observation of the season with those of generations of Christians before us, inspiring music from the ancient through the contemporary.

MUSIC FOR PALM/PASSION SUNDAY WORSHIP

Our worship on Palm/Passion Sunday will begin our observance of Holy Week with seven meditations based on readings from the Gospel of Mark that relate the events from Christ's entry into Jerusalem, to his institution of the Last Supper, his time of prayer in Gethsemane, and through his arrest, trial, and condemnation to be crucified. Each reading will be followed by a short musical reflection sung by the choir or a hymn, a time of prayer and silent contemplation, and a congregational response. The music of the choir is chosen from Renaissance composers of 16th century *motets*—musical selections for worship that are settings from ancient texts relating to and interpreting the events of Holy Week intended to music worshipper to ponder quietly and with intention the significance of those events.

MUSIC FOR THE MAUNDY THURSDAY OBSERVATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

James Whitbourn's *Son of God Mass* with saxophonist Tom Walsh

An especially moving worship service is planned for Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 7:30 pm with the music of James Whitbourn's *Son of God Mass*, composed for choir, soprano saxophone, and organ.

The *Son of God* mass setting, with its sense of lamentation and petition, is particularly appropriate for our observation of the Last Supper this Maundy Thursday of Holy Week. In Whitbourn's creative hand, the soprano saxophone becomes a most compelling, wordless soloist, sometimes pleading, prayerful, contemplative, mysterious, moody, sometimes soaring, exuberant. Each movement is exceptionally well conceived to suit the mood and meaning of the texts; the wordless *Introit* (entrance chant) evokes the far off call to prayer played by the shofar in the Hebrew synagogue; the final Amen is a marvelous, climactic moment evoking a hope of redemption and the life to come. We are blessed that our parishioner and IU faculty member Tom Walsh will be playing the saxophone part. Our moving order of service for this evening was created by Rev. Nancy Heimer for our worship that used this music on Maundy Thursday in 2014.

The texts for the piece are traditional for the celebration of communion and have their basis in Biblical texts. They have been a part of services for the worship of God from the time of the early Hebrews through the early Christian Church and as part of the regular celebration of the Holy Communion in Latin in the Catholic tradition. The prayers, translated into the vernacular have been retained past the Reformation in the worship of our Protestant denominations. They carry a universal message and, combined with the inspiring music, promise to lift our hearts in prayer and meditation. Some background to the sources of these prayers is found on page 4:

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

The petitions of the *Kyrie* (“*Lord have mercy*”) have their origin in the Psalms (Psalm 6:3 ‘Have mercy on me Lord, for I am weak’) and Psalm 41:5, 11 (‘O Lord, be thou merciful unto me...But thou, O Lord, have mercy on me.’). Similarly, the first words of the *Gloria* are from the angelic hymn sung at Christ’s nativity (Luke 2: 14 ‘Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those of good will’). The *Sanctus* (or the *Trisagion*/“Three times holy”) has its origin from the words of the cherubim in Isaiah 6:3 echoed in later in Revelations 4:8 ‘And one cried unto the other and said, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth full of his glory’). This “Holy, Holy, Holy” is found in the Hebrew liturgy as early as the 2nd century and has been adopted almost universally in every Christian rite, east or west, Catholic or Protestant. The text of the *Benedictus* which follows the *Sanctus* is from Matthew 21:9, where Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem is greeted with ‘Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest,’ which in turn is based on Psalm 118:26. Finally, the origins of the *Agnus Dei* can be attributed to John the Baptist, who was questioned by the priests and Levites from Jerusalem concerning whether or not he was the Christ and why he was baptizing others in John 1:35-36, 29 “...The next day John saw Jesus coming to him, and he said: Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

MUSIC FOR EASTER CELEBRATING THE RESURRECTION

The season will climax in celebration Easter Day with a service of joyful praise with bells, the sound of the trumpet and organ, traditional Easter hymns and selections from Handel’s iconic 18th century oratorio *Messiah*, concluding with the familiar “Hallelujah Chorus.” – joyous worship in celebration of the risen Christ.



FCC Organist Jihye Choi awarded First Prize in National Competition

On Saturday, March 17th, FCC Organist and Assistant Music Director Jihye Choi won First Prize in the National Organ Playing Competition, held every other year at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Wayne. The competition, which began in 1960, is the longest running national organ competition in the United States. Jihye was chosen as one of the three finalists from recordings submitted by young organists from all around the country and competed in person playing a thirty minute program consisting of a Bach Trio Sonata, a Romantic French organ piece, and a virtuosic piece by a Contemporary composer. In addition to a cash prize, Jihye will be invited back to play a recital on the church's Organ Series in the Fall.

Congratulations Jihye!



Joyful Noise Choir Singing on Palm Sunday!

FCC's Intergenerational choir, the Joyful Noise Choir, will be leading us into worship on Palm Sunday, March 25th. If you are singing with this group, please gather at 9:30 am for a final rehearsal. We hope everyone will join us this Sunday for a very special Palm Passion worship service, and bring a friend!

FCC's Youth Group Happenings

FCC's Youth Group is busy planning and helping make Holy Week and Easter special for everyone, especially the children in our church! They'll be on hand to help bake Lenten Pretzels following worship on Palm/Passion Sunday, March 25. We hope you'll join us in Great Hall as we learn about this interesting tradition and enjoy baking a batch of pretzels to enjoy and to share.

Following this fun activity, the youth group will begin preparations for Easter Sunday. All of those eggs for the annual FCC Egg Hunt don't get filled by themselves! So, if you are in grades 6-12 and would like to join in all of the fun, just contact Mark Knowles for the details (or just join in!). Everyone is welcome!



Cuba Trip Planned for Thanksgiving 2018

Arts and Immersion

FCC will be traveling back to Cuba this year over the week of Thanksgiving. In 2016 a group of nine FCC members traveled with Global Ministries to visit Cuban partners at the Martin Luther King Center in Havana, the Christian Pentecostal Church of Cuba, the Cuban Council of Churches, and a historic seminary in Matanzas. This year we hope to build on those ties and give more FCC members, including the youth, a chance to forge connections with people in Cuba and reflect on what it means to be part of the global church.

This year's trip will have concentrations in two areas—Havana and San Antonio de los Baños. One group will spend time at the Martin Luther King Center in Havana and will focus on the arts. The other group will partner with a church that hosted us in 2016 in the small town of San Antonio de los Baños and work on a nearby organic farm. Both groups will travel to/from Cuba together, as well as share some overlapping experiences.

We will be holding initial informational meetings Sunday, April 22 at 12:15 pm, and Tuesday, April 24 at 6:00 pm . Please contact Michelle Dalmau, Carmie Hamilton, or Mark Knowles for more information.

April Birthdays

| | | | | |
|-------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-------|
| 04/01 | Anne Johnson | 708 S. Cory Lane #76 | Bloomington IN | 47403 |
| 04/02 | Joe Parrott | 543 Green Road | Bloomington IN | 47403 |
| 04/03 | Jude Walsh | 3006 S. Olcott Blvd. | Bloomington IN | 47401 |
| 04/05 | David Garshaw | 3740 N. Russell Road | Bloomington IN | 47408 |
| 04/05 | Allison Donham | 5900 N. Maple Grove Rd. | Bloomington IN | 47404 |
| 04/06 | Craig Paiement | 260 S. Lori Lane | Bloomington IN | 47401 |
| 04/08 | Connie Gross | 3485 S. Knychtridg Road | Bloomington IN | 47401 |
| 04/10 | David Campbell | 507 E. Woodridge Drive | Bloomington IN | 47408 |
| 04/11 | Lily Hoover | 1250 W. Adams Hill Circle | Bloomington IN | 47403 |
| 04/12 | Andrea Fletcher | 6320 E. Bender Rd. | Bloomington IN | 47401 |
| 04/14 | Mike Griffin | 3830 Woodhaven Drive | Bloomington IN | 47403 |
| 04/16 | Kathy Street | 4153 Hector Drive | Bloomington IN | 47408 |
| 04/20 | Tiffani Sinn Trulock | 901 Orchard Drive | Newburgh IN | 47630 |
| 04/23 | Danielle Murry-Knowles | 3210 S. Walnut Springs Dr. | Bloomington IN | 47401 |
| 04/26 | Fred Matthews | 7263 S. Burch Rd | Bloomington IN | 47403 |
| 04/28 | Lesley Bolton | 8841 S. Morning Glory Ct. | Bloomington IN | 47401 |
| 04/30 | Mary Beth Godsey | 3403 N. Smith Pike | Bloomington IN | 47404 |
| 04/30 | Chaz Sinn | 2743 E. Buttonwood Lane | Bloomington IN | 47401 |

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

Welcome Judith Olmstead!

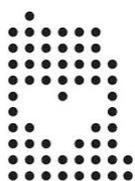
Judith Olmstead is excited to make FCC her church home. As you get to know Judith, she will tell you that she is the wife of a Connecticut Yankee, the mother of a son and daughter who have both migrated to the northwest coast, and grandmother to five bright and healthy grandchildren. She has retired from a teaching career in Early Childhood Education and enjoys hiking these woods, identifying flora and fauna, reading, paper crafting, knitting, gardening and sharing tea and scones with friends. Please, welcome Judith FCC. Her address is 4495 N. Benton Ct., Bloomington, 47408.



We Need Candy!

Our Youth Group will be filling hundreds of Easter eggs for FCC's annual Easter Egg Hunt. It takes a lot of candy to fill all of these eggs! Help us by bringing bags of individually wrapped candy (NO NUTS PLEASE) to Church by March 25. You will find donation boxes in the Chapel Gathering Place.

Thank You!



2018 MCUM Challenge

2018 Goal: 2,000 pounds
Most recent trip: 39 pounds
Year-to-date: 362 pounds

March Pantry Needs!

MCUM is in need of cereal, peanut butter, pasta sauce, canned pasta, canned tomatoes, canned fruit, dish soap, laundry soap, and all-purpose cleaners. 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.

Safe and Welcoming

We continue to look at ways to remain both a welcoming and a safe church. If you are a leader of a group that takes place on weeknights or weekends (after regular office hours) and you don't already have a door code for your group, please contact the church office. If you attend multiple activities at FCC outside of regular office hours and would like a personal code, please contact the church office at fcc@fccbloom.org or 812-332-4459. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Palm Sunday, March 25

9:00 am Learning Session I
 10:00 am Worship
 11:15 am Lenten Pretzel baking
 11:15 am Learning Session II
 3:00 pm Meadowood Service

Monday, March 26

6:30 pm Monday Night Book Study

Tuesday, March 27

1:30 pm Caregivers Create!

Wednesday, March 28

6:30 pm MOPS

Thursday, March 29

4:00 pm Book Bunch
 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday worship

Friday, March 30

12:15 pm Good Friday service at First United Methodist Church
 5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Easter Sunday, April 1

9:00 am Learning Session I
 10:00 am Worship with Children
 Worship & Wonder
 11:00 am Joyful Noise rehearsal
 11:15 am FCC Annual Egg Hunt
 11:15 am Learning Session II
 Noon Board meeting

Monday, April 2

6:30 pm Monday Night Book Study
 7:00 pm Women's Arts & Crafts

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule

March 25:
Cambellite Class

April 1:
Book Bunch & Men's Book Club

April 8:
Emmaus Interpreters Class

Holy Week Worship

Sunday, March 25
Palm Sunday service at 10:00am

Thursday, March 29
Maundy Thursday service at 7:30 pm

Friday, March 30
Good Friday service at 12:15 pm at
First United Methodist Church

Sunday, April 1
Easter Sunday service at 10:00 am