

The CHRISTIAN



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

Opportunities for Spiritual Growth during the Lenten Season

As we enter the season of Lent, take time to explore opportunities for spiritual growth, reflection, worship and fellowship at FCC.

We begin the Lenten Season by welcoming a guest preacher, Jeanette Salley of Global Ministries. Jeanette will offer the message during Sunday worship at 10:00 am on March 10 as well as give two forum presentations (9:00 am and 11:15 am) on her work as a Mission Co-Worker for Global Ministries in Nicaragua. We hope you will join us on Sunday for this special opportunity to hear about the important work of Global Ministries.

Also this Sunday, two Lenten group study opportunities will begin. Rev. Chuck Jones will lead a new group (for young adults in their 20s and 30s) that will explore *“What is Lent?” and Other Questions You’ve Wanted to Ask*. 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 explore them in light of your unique faith experience. This group will meet on Sundays at 11:15 a.m. on the 3rd floor.

FCC and our neighbors at First Presbyterian Church have partnered for a 5-week

exploration of Celtic Spirituality. The group will travel through Lent in the spiritual landscape of the Irish imagination. Join us as we journey together exploring the sacredness of the intersections of our daily and spiritual lives. We will be reading John Philip Newell’s book *The Rebirthing of God: Christianity’s Struggle for New Beginnings* and poems by Mary Oliver. The group will meet on Sundays (March 10-April 7) at First Presbyterian Church. Arrive at 6:00 pm for a simple meal followed by discussion at 6:30 p.m. Be sure to read Pastor Helen’s article on page 2 of this newsletter if you are interested in joining this group.

Don’t Forget to spring forward this weekend!

It’s Daylight Savings time! So, spring forward an hour on Saturday night so you won’t miss a great worship service at FCC on Sunday with Global Ministries Jeanette Salley preaching at 10:00 am.



Volume 61, number 5 March 6, 2019

Pastor's Pen

Thin Place. Celtic Christians have used this term for millennia to describe actual places where the boundary between heaven and earth is razor thin and practically permeable—mystical places where one can sense an undeniable connection to the Divine. The windswept Island of Iona, where St. Columba of Ireland brought Christianity to the shores of Scotland, has long been considered to be one of those thin places. As a matter of fact, I had a rare “thin place” experience at Iona that I will never forget. I was standing at the foot of St. Martin’s cross, just outside the Abby of Iona, not listening to the tour guide (because I was having trouble understanding her Irish brogue!) I looked up to the top of the massive stone cross, and I saw a full circular rainbow suspended around the top of the cross, exactly like a halo! In that brief and mystical moment, that place at the foot of the cross was for me a literal “thin place.”

Thin places can be actual places; however they can also be those times in life where one - for whatever reason - experiences God’s presence in a palpable but unexplainable way. I am grateful that many of you have shared your own “thin place” stories with me. Your thin places have been in hospital rooms and at deathbeds. They have happened while you were listening to music, or cupping communion elements in your hand, or looking at our Tree of Life Window, or reading a profound truth. They have occurred in nature, and in a counselor’s office, in marriage vows and in birthing rooms. When I hear your “thin place” stories, I am both humbled and in awe.

Celtic Christian thought and practice offers us ways to consider and perhaps experience what some of those thin places might be for us. That is

why I’m so excited that we are partnering with First Presbyterian Church to engage in a Lenten Study on Celtic Christianity. (The “C” is a hard “K” sound, not to be confused with a basketball team in Boston!) Starting on Sunday at 6 pm, we will gather at the Presbyterian Church - where there is free parking! - for a simple meal followed by a thoughtful session that will focus on one of the aspects of Celtic Christianity. Sessions will be based on a book by John Philip Newell titled *The Rebirthing of God: Christianity’s Struggle for New Beginnings*.

I sincerely hope you will decide to participate, whether it’s for one, a few, or all of the five sessions! Please call the office and let us know that you will be present.

See you Sunday!



Helen

P.S. Please remember that on Sunday, Global Ministries Co-Worker the Rev. Jeanette Salley, who has been serving in Nicaragua, will be our guest. She will give a presentation (with photos) at 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 p.m. in the Chapel Gathering Space. She will also preach at 10 am. This is the beginning of Spring break, plus daylight savings begins, plus winter weather is predicted! With these three things working against us, I respectfully ask that you make every effort to be at Church on Sunday to welcome Jeanette.



A MESSAGE FROM A GREAT CONDUCTOR

To our choir members, and all who love music – performers or not
Submitted by Jan Harrington

The iconic choral conductor Joseph Flummerfelt died March 1 at age 82. As conductor and mentor at Westminster Choir College and conductor of the New York Choral Artists at the New York Philharmonic, he touched literally 1000's of lives. I would like to take this opportunity to share something he wrote that can inspire all of us to a richer spiritual life

" As we grow in love for and acceptance of the life within us, we will become ever more in tune with and resonators for the life within us. We become instruments of the Holy Spirit and the music we make touches the hearers at their own center and the people with whom we work are helped to connect with the source within themselves. For me that is our calling, as human beings and as musicians. And if we accept that charge, then the glory of God will be ever more manifest in the lives we lead and the music we make."

-Joseph Flummerfelt

The Creighton University Chamber Choir presents

Faith, Love, & Loss

Saturday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m. at FCC

A. Barron Breland, director

Join us on March 9th at 7:00 p.m. as we welcome the Creighton University Chamber Choir. Their program, "Faith, Love, & Loss" is themed on universal human experiences, created entirely by female composers, composers of color and composers who identify as LGBTQ+. We are thrilled to welcome this choral group as they kick off their national tour at FCC Bloomington! All are welcome.

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 this Sunday, March 10
Forum Presentations at 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.**

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 this Sunday, 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.



Short Update from Lesotho, Africa

Many have asked if we have heard from Mark Knowles and Danielle Murry-Knowles, who left in January to serve with Global Ministries in Lesotho, Africa. Mark reports that they are doing well, and getting settled. Danielle is working as Planning Officer for the Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa (LECSA). She serves as secretary for two organizations within the church (the Planning Commission and the Health Fund Steering Committee) that oversee health, education, and development projects. Mark is a Project Officer for LECSA, seeing the projects get implemented. His projects include things like putting latrines in schools, procuring textbooks for the Seminary, and other building projects for churches and schools. They recently attended a Global

Ministries conference in eSwatini (Swaziland) where this photo of Mark and Danielle was taken.

They also recently hosted their church’s neighborhood prayer group for the first time.

You can see the sunset from their home in the photo on the right.

The first “official” update on their work in Lesotho will be featured in the upcoming Global Ministries newsletter. We will bring you that update as it becomes available. If you would like to receive that newsletter, please contact Eve or Jennifer in the FCC church office by Tuesday, March 12th.





In Our Prayers

Please hold the family of **Roger Heimer** in your prayers as they mourn Roger's passing on Monday March 4 in the peace of his home. Notes and cards of condolence can be sent to Nancy at 2455 Tamarack Trail, Apt. 115, Bloomington, 47408. Service arrangements have not been made yet.

Brenda Ogborn would like to thank everyone at FCC for prayers, cards and encouraging messages received from so many (including grade school children) following the death of her mother, Sharon. "It meant so much that you would continue to think of our family by sending cards and prayers during this very sad time. Please know that our hearts are filled with gratitude. I miss you all and continue to pray for FCC." - Brenda Ogborn.

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!



3,000 Finger Labyrinths for General Assembly

Calling all quilters, knitters and crocheters! Disciples Women ministries have set a goal to make 3,000 finger labyrinths for General Assembly 2019! **Can you help?**

Details, patterns, and instructions are available in PDF format on the Disciples Women ministry page at discipleshomemissions.org or contact Connie Myers (connie@fccbloomington.org).

The finger labyrinths must be delivered by June 1, so we have to start stitching now! FCC's Women's Arts & Crafts group will be working on this project (as well as other fun crafts) through May. Join us at 7:00 p.m. on April 1, or May 6.



2019 General Assembly
July 20-24, 2019
Des Moines, IA

Imagine this:

Worship that lifts your soul.

Stories that touch your heart.

Educational resources to assist your congregation in ministry.

Conversations that stretch your mind.

Messages that call you to action.

Connections that remind you that God's family is bigger than a local congregation.

Join friends at FCC in Des Moines this summer for General Assembly. 2019 will feature some very special history with a celebration of the Merger Agreement between the National Christian Missionary Convention and the International Convention of Christian Churches resulting in 50 years of The Design, our foundational document. Find more information at Disciples.org or contact Pastor Helen



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. 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!



MCUM Challenge 2019

Most recent trip: 86 lbs

Year-to-date: 148 lbs

March Items Wanted:

Food Pantry

Peanut Butter
Pasta sauce
Canned Tomatoes
Rice
Cereal (small/medium boxes)

Cleaning Closet

Laundry soap
Dish soap
All-purpose cleaners
Pull-Ups
Size 5-6 diapers

Child Care Center

Jumbo Crayons Board books
Corn Starch Animal and Food magazines
Paper plates and small paper cups

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Sunday, March 10

Jeanette Salley preaching
8:30 am Meditation group
9:00 am Global Ministries Forum
9:00 am Learning Session I
10:00 am Worship and Children's
Worship and Wonder
11:15 am Global Ministries Forum
11:15 Learning Session II
1:00 pm Bloomington Bible Study
4:30 pm Mental Health 101
6:00 pm Celtic Spirituality

Tuesday, March 12

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

Wednesday, March 13

11:45 am Voices of Faith

Thursday, March 14

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

Sunday, March 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
6:00 pm Celtic Spirituality

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The Christian Visitor

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Jeanette Salley preaching at 10:00 am.



**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

March 10

Jeanette Salley preaching
Luke 10:25-42

March 17

Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

March 24

Luke 15:1-32