

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

Farewell and Best Wishes to our Organist Nicole Simental

by Jan Harrington

As we have known for awhile, this coming Sunday, April 30, will be Nicole's last Sunday as our organist at First Christian. Nicole has completed her course work for her doctoral studies in organ and is leaving Bloomington to take a wonderful position at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Columbus, Ohio as the Principal Organist and Assistant Director of Music. This is a dream job for her that fulfills many of her professional and spiritual goals to be serving in a major cathedral of her professed faith. When she announced this to us earlier this year she wrote:

" I am beyond blessed that God has opened the door for this great opportunity to serve Him in the church. While I am excited about a new adventure, it brings me sadness at the thought of not only leaving

Bloomington but FCC as well. It has been such a joy and pleasure to serve the FCC community and to be a part of a beautiful church family. Thank you for your constant support and encouragement. I will miss all of you dearly."

We have also been "beyond blessed" to have had the honor of Nicole's presence and artistic contribution to our worship at First Christian these past years. Please plan to drop by the Chapel Gathering Space after Sunday's service for a short reception and the opportunity to greet and thank Nicole and wish her Godspeed.

Inside This Issue

- Page 3 FCC reaches Habitat Build goal
- Page 4 Youth Summer Camp registration
- Page 6 Cuba Trip Featured on Global Ministries Website
- Page 7 Save the Date! All Church Picnic

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PASTOR'S PEN**Not Your Grandmother's Kirkwood**

At Saturday's Bloomington Chamber Singers' performance of Haydn's *Creation*, I had the privilege of offering words of welcome. So, on your behalf, I invited the audience to "take in" our beautiful sanctuary, including the Tree of Life window, as they listened to the powerful and uplifting music and words that truly gave glory to God.

The concert was wonderful! Afterwards, several things happened: First, a gentleman from the audience (who had never been in our church) approached me and shared his interpretation of the window. As he enthusiastically pointed out symbols (some of which I had never noticed!) it was obvious that he had allowed the window to draw him into the larger story of God's ongoing creative work in this world.

Second, several people came up to me holding a customized flier that included invitational information about who we are as a community of faith. "Thank you, for your words of welcome," they said as they tucked the flier into their purses and pockets.

Third, members of the Bloomington Chamber Singers expressed deep gratitude for the use of our space, not only for our flexibility in allowing them to adapt the chancel area to fit the choir and orchestra, but especially for the magnificent way that sound resonates in our sanctuary. During the clean-up that followed the concert, one of the musicians raved about how our sanctuary offered the "best" acoustics in town.

Fourth, as people spilled out of the sanctuary, Kirkwood Avenue was offering its "best" acoustic-- in the form of post-Little 500

revelry! And simultaneously, the alley behind us offered another acoustic as a loud and guttural voice of one of our homeless neighbors echoed off of the alley walls. What a juxtaposition of sounds and people and life experiences! This is no longer your grandmother's Kirkwood Avenue!

While much about this corner has changed over the years, I give thanks to God for calling us to remain where we were planted 191 years ago, naming ourselves the Kirkwood Avenue Christian Church. Since that time, although our name and building have changed, our faithful witness to God's presence has remained steadfast. My prayer is that those who become acquainted with us—whether through attending a concert, or walking past our front doors, or eating breakfast in our Great Hall, or attending a 12-step meeting, or worshiping on Sunday morning, or participating in one of our many small groups—will also come to know and experience Christ's inclusive embrace *through* us.

As we give thanks for this congregation's long and faithful ministry on Kirkwood Avenue, may our hearts and minds resonate with the acoustics of God's amazing grace, Christ's redeeming love, and the Spirit's mighty power. And may the physical space that we call our "church home" continue to serve as a beacon of divine beauty, strength, hope, and welcome for all God's people.



Thank you for supporting the CommUNITY Interfaith Build!

Thanks to all who worked on the Habitat Interfaith Build, swinging hammers or providing food for volunteers. Thank you to those who gave of their time, money and talents at the coffee house concert and banquet. Thanks to those who lead devotions, lifted us up with music, and helped us reach our fundraising goal of \$5,000.

FCC with Bloomington's faith community kicked off the build; framing the Diaz family's house that they have described as "a miracle from God." A dedication ceremony will be in July when the building is complete and this house becomes a home for this family.

Thank You!

Dear church family at First Christian Church,
As a Board Member for Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County, I want to thank you for your continued support of our mission. Because of people like you and your generous gifts, we are one step closer to achieving our vision, a world where everyone has a decent place to live!
With Gratitude,
N Meredith Rogers

Children & Youth Assemble Hygiene Kits for Church World Service

Fifteen children and youth worked together in the Chapel Gathering Space this past Sunday, April 23, to assemble 50 hygiene kits for Church World Service. Each kit was stuffed with items donated during Lent—soap, washcloth, hand towel, nail clipper, comb, bandages, toothbrush—sealed up neatly in a plastic, gallon-sized storage bag. Once all the kits were prepared, we blessed them, thanking God for the large and small hands that prepared them, and asking for safety, health and hope for those who receive them.

The kits will be delivered to a newly announced drop-off location in Indianapolis in early June. Once Church World Service receives the kits, they will be warehoused with other donated kits until the next natural disaster, war, or unexpected event displaces people from their homes. Whether that event occurs in Indiana or India, Church World Service will be there, and our small efforts will help keep folks clean and healthy in the immediate aftermath.

We received many items that we were ultimately unable to use in the hygiene kits. Those items will be welcomed by folks in need at Monroe County United Ministries' self-sufficiency center. So your generosity will not go to waste. **Thank you!**

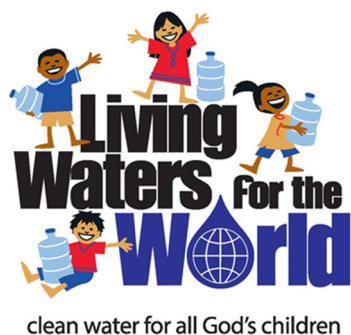
Register Now!

Downtown Vacation Bible School

May 30-June 2

9:00 am-Noon

Registration forms and parent letters were recently emailed. Contact Connie Myers for more information.



Do you have a favorite church camp song or memory? It's time to register for camp! We encourage everyone to attend, and make memories of their own.

Register now at indianadisciples.org.

Camp scholarships are available.

Bedford Christian Camps:

June 19-24: High School Camp (Gr. 9-12)

June 26-July 1: Middle School Camp (Gr. 6-8)

July 5-7: You and Me (Ages 5+ with adult)

July 13-15: New Beginnings (Grades 1-3)

July 17-22: Explorer Camp (Gr. 4-5)

Thank You for Your Support



The 2016-2017 Interfaith Winter Shelter season concluded at the end of March. Thank you to the small army of volunteers who make this vital ministry possible!

These volunteers: set up, clean up, make sandwiches, procure supplies, organize volunteer schedules, work overnight shifts (or allow a family member to work overnight).

Thank you also to those who support this ministry through prayer, and donations of time and money. Today, this ministry involves over 20 faith communities and more than 450 volunteers to provide emergency winter shelter to our community's homeless individuals.

Volunteer for FCC's Gathering Place Breakfast

FCC's Gathering Place breakfast ministry has been serving the Bloomington community for more than 10 years, offering a place to sit, have a cup of coffee and a hot, home cooked breakfast. Each Sunday FCC volunteers prepare and serve breakfast for more than 100. Many volunteers might say they benefit from this ministry as much if not more than those who they serve.

There is always room for those who want to join this ministry. You can volunteer regularly or fill in as a sub. Volunteers work in the kitchen, visit with guests, help procure food during the week, or bring fresh fruit to share on Sunday morning.

If you are interested in joining this ministry or would like more information, contact Mark Knowles.



FCC's Cuba Pilgrimage Featured in Global Ministries News

Last Sunday during worship at FCC, we heard from those who traveled to Cuba as part of the people-to-people pilgrimage that was organized by FCC and Global Ministries, the world mission arm of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Now, you can read more details from that journey on the Global Ministries website. You can also see a picture of the cross that inspired the cross that FCC members created and shared with the congregation last Sunday.

Read more at www.globalministries.org. Click on the "News" tab and scroll down the page to find the story in the "Latin America & The Caribbean" section.

May Birthdays


05/01	Tate	Knepper	3616 S. Kingsbury Ave.	Bloomington IN	47401
05/02	Donna	Cartwright	2927 N. Bankers Drive	Bloomington IN	47408
05/03	Brett	Hamilton	1326 Dutch Ridge Rd.	Heltonville IN	47436
05/03	Pam	Matthews	7263 S. Burch Rd	Bloomington IN	47403
05/06	Carmie	Hamilton	1326 Dutch Ridge Rd.	Heltonville IN	47436
05/07	Julie	Donham	5900 N. Maple Grove Rd.	Bloomington IN	47404
05/08	Eve	Schultes-Ridge	5460 S. Victor Pike	Bloomington IN	47403
05/11	Scot	Moore	3308 S. Snoddy Road	Bloomington IN	47401
05/12	Dale	Webb	532 Green Road	Bloomington IN	47403
05/14	Sharon	Goins	60 Bailliere Dr.	Martinsville IN	46151
05/15	Kathy	Curry	1107 Azalea Lane	Bloomington IN	47401
05/17	Bob	Martin	4243 W. Lynwest Drive	Bloomington IN	47404
05/18	Jim	Barker	115 Lexington Drive	Bloomington IN	47408
05/24	Mary	Swarthout	3521 W. Fairington Drive	Bloomington IN	47403
05/24	Kate	Kroll	2704 N. Browncliff Lane	Bloomington IN	47408
05/30	Paul	Montgomery	6800 N. County Road 100 E	Seymour IN	47274
05/30	Will	Keaton	7853 S. Zikes Rd.	Bloomington IN	47401

Please call the church office if there is a birthday that we have not included.



Save the Date!
All Church Picnic!
Sunday, May 28 at 4:00pm
Karst Farm Park, Shelter #5

Join us for our annual All Church Picnic on Sunday, May 28th at 4:00pm. FCC's grill masters will have the grills fired up. So, bring something to throw on the grill and a side or dessert to share. And bring a Frisbee too! There is a Frisbee golf course next to the shelter.

MCUM Challenge
2017 Goal: 2,000 lbs.
Amount Donated: 768 lbs.
Last Trip: 126 lbs.

April Items Wanted:
 canned tuna, chicken, canned fruit,
 canned soups, laundry detergent,
 all-purpose cleaner, dish soap

*Thank you for showing how much
 you care.*

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- April 28-30**
Regional Spring Youth Assembly
- April 30**
 10:00 am Worship
 11:15 am Learning and Fellowship opportunities
- May 1**
 7:00 pm Women's Arts & Crafts
- May 2**
 5:30 pm Made to Create! Water Color & Spirituality class
- May 3**
 6:30 pm Future Story Steering Committee meeting
- May 4**
 4:00 pm Book Bunch
 5:30 pm Handbell choir rehearsal
 6:15 pm Sanctuary choir rehearsal
- May 5**
 5:30 pm Listening to God meditation
- May 7**
 10:00 am Worship
 11:15 am Learning and Fellowship opportunities
 4:00 pm Youth Group (place TBD)
- May 14 (Mother's Day)**
 10:00 am Worship
 11:15 am Learning and Fellowship opportunities

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Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule

*Don't Forget to
Bring Goodies!*

April 30: Emmaus Interpreters Class
May 7: Cambellite Class
May 14: Book Bunch & Men's Book Club

**Scripture Readings
for Sunday Worship**

April 30
Acts 10:1-17, 34-35

May 7
Acts 13:1-3, 14:8-18

May 14
Romans 1:1-17