

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

Regional Minister Rev. Rick Spleth leads Summer Sermon Series on June 4th

Don't Forget to Wear Red for Pentecost Sunday

Join us for worship on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, as Regional Minister Rick Spleth kicks off our summer sermon series examining who we are as part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This series will run through July 2 and will include a forum following worship each Sunday.

Rev. Spleth's sermon on Pentecost Sunday will consider "How Big is Our Church?" He will also lead our forum following worship that will include information about the General Assembly (July 8-12 in Indianapolis) and an introduction of the new candidate for General Minister and President, Rev. Teresa Hord Owens.

The liturgical color of Pentecost is RED and FCC has a tradition of wearing red to worship on Pentecost. We encourage you to wear red on Pentecost, June 4th. We will also be collecting the Pentecost Special Offering on June 4 and June 11. This offering supports Disciples new church development. Fifty percent of gifts received by a region remain in that region.

Bridges and Blessings

If you have 15-20 minutes to spare following worship... if you have children or grandchildren... or if you've been feeling the need to approach your faith with the fresh eyes of a child, "Bridges and Blessings" is for you. From June 4 - August 27, we'll gather after worship on the chancel for an exploration of spiritual practices that can serve as a bridge to keep us connected to one another and our faith during the busy summer months. Upcoming sessions will include Wind Prayers for the World, Tolerance (The Golden Rule), and Meditation (Make Quiet Time Bags).

"Bridges and Blessings" is not just for kids! When we explore the idea of making quiet time bags, for instance, we recognize that some people's bags might contain play dough and coloring pages, while others might hold knitting projects or whittling tools.

To take the experience deeper, participants can sign up for a weekly e-mail featuring a refresher summary of each spiritual practice and a couple of suggestions for customizing or extending the practice.

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PASTOR'S PEN

It's "Catch Up" Time!

Because many of you have been asking, it's time for my semi-annual "catch up" article, when I give updates about my family. First, however, I want to tell you that much fun and learning was happened during the six week "Made to Create" water color class. At last night's final session, three decisions were made: 1) There will be an "open paint" night from 5:30 – 7:00 pm on Tuesdays, starting June 6. Watercolor students of all skill levels are invited to this informal session to work on their individual techniques and projects. 2) The class will have a mini-art show after worship on June 4 in the Chapel Gathering Space! You will be amazed when you see the talent that was unleashed by Bess Lee, our awesome instructor. 3) This is just the beginning of something more, so stay tuned!

Now, for the updates. **Allison** (who turns 30 in August) and her husband Jared are enjoying married life in Mansfield, Ohio, where Jared is the pastor of the UCC congregation and Allison is the part time Associate Minister at the Disciples congregation. She also works part time for Week of Compassion, helping them with their long-term strategic planning process. They have spent lots of time with domestic work: sprucing up their house (i.e. painting every surface ripping out carpet, hanging pictures and curtains), learning how to cook, and balancing time, priorities, and budgets.

Sam (28) will marry Alaina on August 17 in Denver. Sam bikes to his downtown Denver office each day, where he works for an educational travel company. After teaching elementary school for three years, he is thoroughly enjoying his job in the corporate

world, especially the fact that his weekends are free (i.e. no papers to grade!). He and Alaina (a professional personal trainer) enjoy playing rugby for one of the nation's top rugby clubs, hiking in the foothills with their Australian shepherd, and cooking up healthy meals.

Jonathan (25 in August) just completed his first year of teaching 8th grade pre-algebra and algebra at Carmel Clay Middle School. He is loving his vocation and finding that teaching suits him well! You won't be surprised to learn that he is an extremely popular teacher, and his students excel in his classroom. Also, not surprisingly, it has taken him some time to find a balance in his personal and professional life. After his first semester, when he had to scramble in order to not get swallowed up by his workload, he has been intentional about cultivating quality friendships, seeking out (and finding) a church, and trying new things. This spring, he has been refereeing middle school and high school rugby games. He also signed up to run his first marathon, which will take place in November!

Bruce is enjoying his ministry at First Christian Church Bedford, where he serves as their two thirds time transitional pastor. He donates the rest of his time to 1) addressing homelessness and addiction through his work with Wheeler Mission, and 2) helping promote Disciples Peace Fellowship's summer camp internship program.

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We're Off and Running!

That's a good summary of Future Story activity over the past month. The three teams working on implementation of Future Story have recruited their members, begun regular meetings, and are now setting their initial priorities. Here are the highlights of their work:

Avenues Team met with Bonnie Osei-Frimpong of the National Benevolent Association's Xplor program last week to become acquainted and define opportunities that will best serve both FCC and Xplor. A jazz vespers worship service is tentatively scheduled for the First Friday in August. The team is defining the spiritual discipline initiative with the intent of launching a new series in the Fall.

Cornerstone Team has met with a consultant of the Indianapolis Center for Congregations about applying for a matching gift to fund its work. The team is scheduling visits to other Midwestern churches to review what has worked well in their processes of evaluating, enhancing, and sharing their physical facilities, and most recently met with a local pastor about his church's renovation/addition.

Openings Team has scheduled "If You Knew Me, You'd Love Me" July 20 by Ripple Effect, a choir that uses music and stories of those marginalized in society to unite and heal. The team is currently surveying FCC members to assess most critical needs related to parking and is exploring cooperative arrangements with other downtown churches and the city of Bloomington.

The Steering Committee has encouraged each team to continue to focus on the "Why" that underwrites the Future Story: "To share Christ's inclusive love through serving, welcoming, learning, and offering spiritual connection at First Christian Church."

A Future Story Forum is set for June 11, after worship at 11:15, to share further updates, hear your questions about Future Story implementation, and to celebrate the good beginnings the teams have accomplished. Mark your calendar and be sure to attend with your questions and comments. Feedback is always, always welcome.

Beginning with the July meeting, the Steering Committee has moved its meetings to the second Monday of each month, beginning at 6:30 pm in the Fireside Room.

(Pastor's Pen continued from page 2)

My parents **Bob and Nita Floe** are still enjoying life in Lynchburg, VA, traveling, volunteering, and remaining active in their congregation. That's about it, folks! Thanks for indulging me. I'll bring you more news in about 6 months.

See you Sunday!
Pastor Helen

Vacation Bible School Begins on May 30!

We are preparing for a fun-filled week for the children of FCC, Trinity Episcopal and First Presbyterian Church! Downtown VBS runs May 30-June 2 from 9:00 am to noon at Trinity Episcopal Church. This year's theme is "Living Waters for the World, clean water for all God's children." We ask that the FCC community pray for our volunteers who have been planning for this fun week and for the children who will participate that they have a week that is filled with joy, love and learning.

If you have registered your child or grandchild for VBS, you will be receiving an email this weekend that will contain detailed information on the week. If you don't receive an email or have questions, contact Connie Myers.



Do you love to tell a good story? We are actively searching for more storytellers to add to our Children's Worship and Wonder (CWW) team. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Connie Myers soon. We are considering attending a June training session.

Even if you don't participate in CWW, you can be a vital part of our children's ministry simply by getting to know the kids who sit near you in church this summer. Introduce yourself to children and parents, learn their names, and then use their names whenever you see them. Small gestures can make a big difference.

Children Worship & Wonder will be on hiatus for the summer beginning June 4.

Youth Group Update

Please keep our youth ministry in your prayers as we live through this time of transition.

We've had a great turn out for youth events this spring. Our last meeting before summer will be a pool party at Lauren Johann's house at 4:00 pm on June 4th.

Summer plans with the youth include a trip to the University of Indianapolis on June 10 to drop off the CWS hygiene kits we packed up after Easter and possible trips to Holiday World and the General Assembly this summer. We're also looking forward to the All Church Retreat on August 26-27.



Graduate Recognition Day June 4

Each Spring, FCC honors our high school and other graduates by recognizing them during worship. We will congratulate these hard-working young people Sunday, June 4.

This year's high school graduates are:

Dell Cripe, Sabrina Gasana, Kate Myers, Charlie Wagner, and Emily Werner.

College grads include:

Ben Calvert-Rosenberger, Andrew Chybowski, Bridget Goodwin, and Emma Walsh.

If you know of another graduate who should be recognized, please call the church office as soon as possible to let us know.



All-Church Retreat

Please mark your calendar for FCC's all-church

retreat on August 26-27. We'll gather at Camp Bedford on Saturday evening where we will enjoy friendship s'mores around the traditional campfire. This year's program, "Follow the Good Shepherd," will be explored during Sunday morning worship and in workshops throughout the day. We'll have some free time on Sunday afternoon to relax or take a dip in the pool that will be open.

We hope you will join us!



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)

2017 General Assembly

Get this on your calendar!



In just 6 weeks, Disciples from across the United States and Canada will be gathering in Indianapolis as ONE. In Jesus' priestly prayer from John 17, he prayed, "²⁰ My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one." (NIV)

The General Assembly is a gathering that reminds us that the Church is more than our congregation or our region. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) includes many kinds of people and many points of view, but at our best, we are essentially and intentionally ONE in our belief in Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God.

On July 31 – the fifth Sunday – let's show our unity by wearing red and/or a chalice. If you are selfie-savvy, you can even post a photo on social media using the #DOCWeAreOne tag instituted by a young Disciple in Kentucky for just that purpose.

Begin planning now to attend the 2017 General Assembly July 8-12 in Indianapolis. Registration is open at <http://disciples.org/ga>

Join FCC friends at General Assembly for worship at 7:00 pm on Sunday, July 9th as we elect a new General Minister and President!

Summer Sermon and Forum Series

People of The Parentheses: Our History & Identity as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

June 4 (Identity)

Sermon: How Big is Our Church? Rick Spleth
Forum: Overview of Christian Church (DOC)

June 11 (Spirituality)

Sermon: How do we worship? Pastor Helen
Forum: FCC Future Story Update

June 18 (The Good Book)

Sermon: What is our Authority? Pastor Helen
Forum: Disciples Roots in Historical Context

June 25 (Faithful Minds)

Sermon: How do we reason? Bruce Ervin
Forum: 50 Years later: Is it time to restructure again?

July 2 (Table)

Sermon: What Holds us Together?
Forum: Issues, Resolutions, Speakers, and Celebrations related to the upcoming General Assembly



Coffee Fellowship Treats

We all enjoy sharing in conversation and a little snack or treat on Sunday mornings during Coffee Fellowship. Many different groups at FCC make this possible each Sunday.

This summer we will take a break from scheduling groups to provide treats for our Coffee Fellowship on Sunday mornings. Instead, we will be hosting a “pitch-in” style Coffee Fellowship. We are asking that you consider bringing a treat or healthy snack to share during coffee fellowship. Homemade or store-bought items are equally appreciated.



MCUM Challenge

2017 Goal: 2,000 lbs.
Amount Donated: 960 lbs.
Last Trip: 86 lbs.

May 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...

May 28

10:00 am Worship
 11:15 am Learning and Fellowship opportunities

May 29 (Memorial Day)

Church Offices Closed.

May 30 - June 2

9:00 am - Noon VBS at Trinity Episcopal Church

May 31

6:30 pm MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

June 1

6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

June 2

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

June 4 (Pentecost)

Graduation Recognition
 Pentecost Special Offering
 10:00 am Worship
 11:15 am Learning and Fellowship opportunities
 4:00 pm Youth Group pool party at the Johanns' house.

June 5

6:30 pm Future Story Steering Committee meeting
 7:00 pm Women's Arts & Crafts

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All Church Picnic!
Sunday, May 28 at 4:00 pm
The Lion's Den at Cascades Park

The location of our picnic has changed!
We have moved our picnic to our usual spot at The Lion's Den at Upper Cascade Park. Festivities will begin at 4:00 pm with the grills ready to eat by 6:00 pm. So, bring your own dinnerware, something to throw on the grill and a side or dessert to share.

**Scripture Readings
for Sunday Worship**

May 28
Romans 6:1-14

June 4
Acts 2:1-17-14

June 11
1 Corinthians 14:15-17, 26