

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

FCC's Fall Programming Starts September 15 *Join a Small Group or Class This Fall*

Now that the kids are back in school, it's almost time for Fall Small Groups and classes to begin at FCC, too! It all starts September 15. Inside this newsletter, you will find an **FCC Connects** brochure filled with details designed to help you learn, grow, and deepen your life of faith.



Once you have considered all of the options and decided what might be the best "fit" for you, please fill out the interest form found inside of the brochure and return it to FCC. This is not a "formal" commitment to participate. Rather, it will help us prepare for each group or class. Here is a brief overview of what you will find in the **FCC Connects** brochure:

On Sundays mornings at 8:30 am, you can start the day with our Sunday Meditation Group. Each session includes readings from teachers such as Thich Nhat Hahn or Richard Rohr. No previous experience in meditation is necessary. Another meditation group (also open to all) is offered on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Other Sunday morning classes include the popular Emmaus-Interpreters Bible study class (9:15 am) and the Campbellite Class, a study/discussion group that meets following worship at 11:15 a.m. A new class for young adults called "The Wired Word" will include discussion of the week's news.

Also, a new book study class, led by David Garshaw, will discuss Don Cuppit's *Creative Faith: Religion as a Way of Worldmaking*. Pastor Helen will pilot a small group Bible Study on Tuesday evenings that will introduce a template for Bible study that can be used anytime.

Our Sunday morning faith formation program for children has been re-designed to help them dig deeply into scripture. In addition, both our College Bible Study Group and our youth group anticipate a full semester, including a youth trip to Holiday World!

We haven't even touched on interest groups that meet monthly! **So, get ready to connect with FCC!**

Inside This Issue...

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Page 5 All-Church Picnic and PrideFest

FCC Connects Programming Brochure inside!

Pastor's Pen

Scripture and "Real Life"

Oftentimes, especially after I've been deeply engaged in studying scripture, something will happen in "real life" that leads me right back to the Bible passage I've just studied! For example, this morning I read chapters 1 and 2 in the book of Genesis in preparation for an upcoming sermon in which I will reflect on what it means to be made "in the image of God." Then, I opened up and read my daily e-devotional. Believe it or not, it was about the same thing!

The Bible Study group that I will pilot this fall (see the enclosed **FCC Connects** brochure) is designed to help you discover the powerful life-giving connections between ancient biblical texts and "real life" today. Designed for a group of up to 12 people, registration will be on a first come, first serve basis. We'll work with the scripture passages that will be read on the upcoming Sunday. I'm looking forward to it!

I invite you to read (below) the e-devotional that arrived in my inbox at 4:00 am this morning. Matt Laney, Senior Pastor of Virginia Highland Church UCC in Atlanta, GA, does a great job of connecting scripture to "real life" as he offers *his* perspective of what it means to be "made in the image of God." Here is what he writes:

"Property disputes are well-known to children. I witnessed many on the playgrounds of yesteryear. Child A takes Child B's ball. Child B exclaims, 'Hey, that's mine!' Child A replies, 'Really? I don't see your name on it!' Some parents sharpie their children's names on everything from basketballs to briefs for this very reason.

"Roman coins in Jesus' day took it a few steps further. They not only bore Caesar's name but also his picture. Because those coins were clearly Caesar's, Jesus logically says, 'Give to Caesar what is Caesar's.'

"What Jesus says next—"Give to God what belongs to God"—is less obvious, but the same principle applies. What belongs to God? That which bears God's name and image. What bears God's image? We do. We are God's children, God's currency in this world.

"It's been said that our life is God's gift to us and what we do with our life is our gift back to God. I would take it a step further. My life is not mine at all. My life belongs to God. My life *is* God.

"I don't live that awareness in every moment or even in most moments. Fortunately, deep belonging to God doesn't need our awareness. God's name is on us regardless."



Pastor Helen

PS: If you are not planning to be at the retreat on Sunday morning, **please** plan to be in worship. Not only will you get to greet our XPOR residents, but your presence in the pews will help our first time visitors have a positive worship experience.

FCC Welcomes XPLOR Residents!

Special Guests will join us for a Special Commissioning Service and Celebration on September 8

The FCC apartment walls are painted and the spaces are beautifully prepared. Partnerships with local non-profit organizations have been cultivated to provide meaningful opportunities for learning as FCC has made preparations to provide a physical living space as well as spiritual support and guidance. A thoughtful process has resulted in the selection of four young adults from all around the country to come to FCC in Bloomington to begin a new life journey.

After many months of preparation, our XPLOR Residents will call FCC home beginning August 23. These four young adults will spend ten months exploring the possibility of a professional life of service. We have the unique privilege of hosting Kristen, Adrian, Miche and Fabiana as they begin this program. We will welcome them. We will support them. We will embrace them as members of our FCC family.

On Sunday September 8, we will celebrate the XPLOR Ministry, our XPLOR Residents and our commitment as an XPLOR Host Organization. Please plan to attend worship and a special commissioning service at 10:00 am on September 8.

The Rev. Rebecca Hale will bring the message during worship. Rev. Hale serves as the Executive Vice President for the National Benevolent Association (NBA) where she works with the programming initiatives of the NBA, ensuring missional consistency and integrity across program areas. We are pleased to welcome Rev. Hale to FCC for this special service of worship and commissioning for the XPLOR program at FCC.



Rev. Rebecca Hale

The celebration will continue following worship in Great Hall with a special program and food, of course. It wouldn't be an FCC Celebration without amazing food! FCC will provide ham for sandwiches. You can bring a salad or dessert to share. A signup will be available on the back of the attendance card in Sunday worship on Aug. 25 and Sept. 1. You can also call the FCC office to let us know what you would like to provide for this special celebration.

We hope you will be able to attend. This will be a day we will treasure as a church family for years to come. Our interest in the XPLOR program was born out of our visioning process with the Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation that resulted in FCC's Future Story. It is exciting to watch that story come to life with new ministries that now include NBA's XPLOR Residency Program.

Join us for this special celebration on September 8!



National Benevolent Association
XPLOR
FAITH, JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY



Music Notes
by Jan Harrington

SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSALS IN PROGRESS!

COME AND JOIN THE SINGING AND WORSHIP!
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH TO ADULTS ARE WELCOME
REHEARSALS THURSDAYS 6:15-7:30
SINGING IN SERVICE SUNDAY MORNINGS

Jan Harrington, Music Director
Jihye Choi, Assistant Music Director and Organist
Information: harringt@indiana.edu

Themes for First Friday Jazz Vespers Announced

Below are the themes for upcoming First Friday Vespers for the rest of 2019. We invite all to help with the service planning by sharing favorite poetry, readings, or hymn suggestions for consideration. Please submit your ideas to Pastor Helen (helenhempfling@gmail.com) or Jan Harrington (harringt@indiana.edu).

September 6: WELCOME

October 4: EARTH

November 1: COURAGE

December 6: HOPE

Notes to FCC...

We recently received a postcard from longtime member Nelda Barker who had these nice words to share about FCC.

"My thanks to everyone who always welcomes me when I return to Bloomington to visit. All of my life I have been so thankful for the wonderful Christian education I received at First Christian Church when I was growing up. Sunday school teachers, youth group leaders, and so many others had such a positive and lasting impact on my life. God bless you all." - Nelda Barker

Pridefest

FCC's Lawn Ministry will again be sponsoring Bloomington Pridefest this year **on August 31st**. We hope you will join us as we welcome people to our beautiful lawn. We will have games on the lawn and also an area for folks to sit and get out of the sun for a bit. We will also have a booth set up with information about our church and our ministries. **Jean Thompson is organizing all of the fun, and will need volunteers to make the day a success.**

Jean will need coolers and ice. She will need help setting up, help managing games and the booth, and help cleaning up and putting everything away. Please contact Jean if you are able to help out. If you can't volunteer, but still have a little time to come and join in the fun... please come! The more the merrier for this great community event. Join us for an hour or the entire day as we share the inclusive love of Christ with our community! **Join us!**



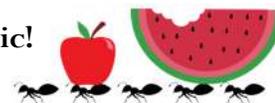
Join us for FCC's All-Church Pitch-In Picnic on September 1

Our annual picnic was changed this year from Memorial Day to Labor Day and is now scheduled for Sunday, September 1, 2019, at the "usual" location of the Lion's Den at Upper Cascades Park. You can bring your food "pitch-in" contributions at 4:00 and we will start eating at 6:00 p.m. We hope to have a good turnout this year.

What to bring: A covered dish to share - whatever you wish - to put on the pitch-in table. If you want to bring your own meat to cook, the grills will be ready. Also bring your own table service. There is no program - just fun and fellowship. Ashlyn and the youth are planning games for the children.

This is always such an enjoyable evening so we hope, you, your family and friends, will join us. The more the merrier. No sign-up, just show up.

See you at the picnic!



Voices of Faith Considering New Meeting Time and Place

Consider Joining this Dynamic Group of Disciples Women!

Voices of Faith is a group of Disciples women focused on dialogue and justice advocacy work in our community. This group is experimenting with alternate meeting times and locations in order encourage a broader audience. Voices of Faith meets monthly. If you are interested in joining a diverse group of women committed to social justice issues, consider joining Voices of Faith.

Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 11, at 6:00 PM** at the home of Sandy Bate, **736 Moss Creek Circle**. Please join us!



September Birthdays



09/01	Kristi	Hill	8956 W. Rice Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47403
09/01	Lois	West	124 Worman Dr.	Spencer	IN	47460
09/02	Mike	Donham	5900 N. Maple Grove Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47404
09/05	Shelly	Wagner	2260 Olde Mill Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/12	Lucas	Sinn Trulock	901 Orchard Drive	Newburgh	IN	47630
09/15	Barbara	Clark	2921 N. Dunn St.	Bloomington	IN	47408
09/15	Amy	Wardlow	1377 W. Allen St., Apt. E4	Bloomington	IN	47403
09/17	Sharon	Robinson	7801 N. Sipes Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47408
09/19	Sarasopa	Enari	3921 Maybury Mall Apt. A12	Bloomington	IN	47403
09/22	John	Walsh	3006 S. Olcott Blvd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/22	Pacer	Norris	3194 N. Dahlia Lane	Bloomington	IN	47404
09/24	Joan	Austin	3040 N. Ramble Road West	Bloomington	IN	47408
09/24	Bob	Thrasher	2627 E. Windermere Woods Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/25	Kip	Myers	4813 N. Ashcroft Ln.	Bloomington	IN	47404
09/25	Kate	Myers	4813 N. Ashcroft Ln.	Bloomington	IN	47404
09/25	Donna	Ray	2001 E. Hillside Drive, Stier Park #4	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/26	Gene	Davis	1064 S. Fieldcrest Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/28	Jo	Travis	4682 E. Heritage Woods Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/30	Christy	Duffy-Paiement	260 S. Lori Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401

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

For the latest newsletter, upcoming church events, or to give a financial gift online, visit our website: www.fccbloomington.org





First Friday Jazz
Vespers

Welcome

The
Ellie Pruneau
Trio

Featuring vocalist
April Varner

Join us on Friday, September 6
at 6:30 pm for Jazz Vespers!



MCUM Challenge 2019

Most recent trip: 151 lbs

Year-to-date: 876 lbs

September Items Wanted:

<u>Food Pantry</u>	<u>Cleaning Closet</u>
Canned green beans, corn	Laundry soap
Pasta sauce	Dish soap
Canned fruit	All-purpose cleaners
Mac and Cheese	Shampoo
Canned tomatoes	Garbage bags

Thank you for caring!

UPCOMING EVENTS...

August 24-25
All-Church Retreat at Camp Bedford

Sunday, August 25
10:00 am Worship

Tuesday, August 27
5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Thursday, August 29
6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Saturday, August 31
PrideFest

Sunday, September 1
10:00 am Worship
4:00 pm All-Church Picnic

Monday, September 2
FCC Office Closed for Labor Day

Tuesday, September 3
5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Wednesday, September 4
6:30 pm MOPS

Thursday, September 5
6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Friday, September 6
12:00 pm Executive Committee meeting
6:30 pm First Friday Jazz Vespers

Sunday, September 8
10:00 am Worship and XPLOR
Commissioning Servie
11:15 am XPLOR Celebration

Tuesday, August 27
5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

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(Disciples of Christ)
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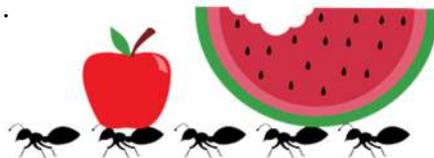
The Christian Visitor

Vol. 61, no. 14

**FCC's Annual All-Church Picnic
September 1 beginning at 4:00 pm**

Make FCC's All-Church Picnic a part of your Labor Day weekend plans. Join us at the **Lion's Den shelter at Upper Cascades Park** on Sunday, September 1. The fun begins at 4:00 pm with dinner beginning at 6:00 pm.

See you there!



**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

August 25

Chuck Jones preaching

September 1

Genesis 1:26-28, 2:4b-8, 15

September 8

XPLOR Commissioning

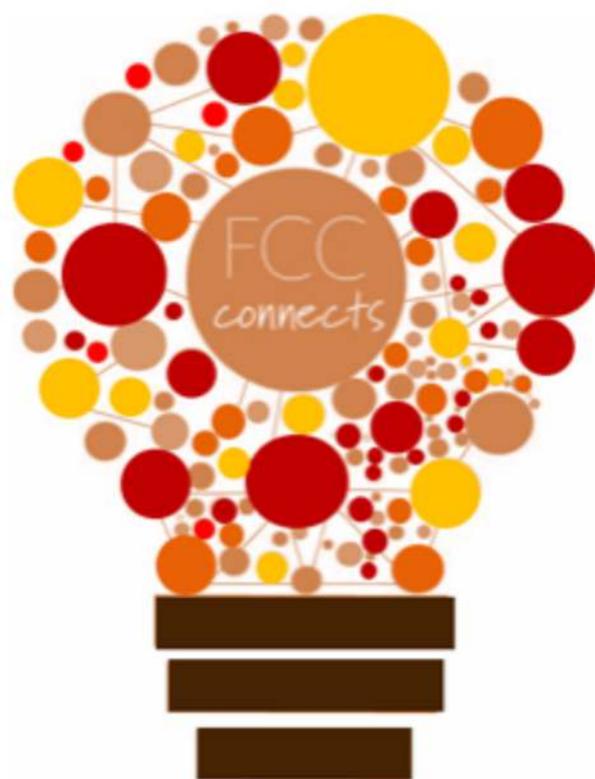
Guest Preacher Rev. Rebecca Hale

Sermon Title: "What's My Part?"

II Kings 5:1-14

FCC Connects...

through small groups and classes



—2019 Fall Semester—

Fall 2019 Small Groups & Classes Sunday Options Beginning September 15

Before Worship

Sunday Meditation Group (spiritual practice)

This group practices silent meditation to cultivate peace and joy. Each session includes discussion of readings from teachers such as Thich Nhat Hahn, Richard Rohr, and others. No previous experience in meditation practice is required. (A different meditation option is available on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.) **Meets at 8:30 a.m. in Room 1 on the lower level.**

Contact: Tom Walsh

Emmaus-Interpreters Class (Bible study)

Fall 2019 will find this group continuing its exploration of the birth and early development of the Jesus sect of Judaism, as outlined in the book, *Jesus and After*. In addition to its focus on the past, the text offers suggestions for the future of both religions and is sure to stimulate robust debate and conversation. **Meets at 9:15 a.m. in the Campbellite Room, 2nd level.**

Contact: Andy Stafford

After Worship

Campbellite Class (study, discussion)

How do Christians envision the work of time in our lives and our world? Is it an undulating ocean in which we swim, or is it a piece of machinery that we tinker with? Or something else altogether? Our discussion this term will focus on how Christians think about time, and how we navigate it. This class likes lively discussion as part of our lifelong learning. We invite you to join us at **11:15 a.m. in the Fireside Study on the main level.**

Contact: Nancy Heimer

After Worship (continued)

Faith, Friends & Films

(discussion, spiritual practice)

When this group gathers, film sets the tone for diving deep into our shared faith journey. The dialogue begins with brief and engaging videos featuring modern theologians. Some weeks the group learns about or engages in a spiritual discipline and practices it together. Join us in sharing the discoveries and challenges that arise as we more deeply connect with God, self, and others. We meet at **11:15 a.m. in the Campbellite Room on the 2nd level.**

Contact: Lisa Autry, Amy Hoover, Sharon Robinson

The Sharing Table (discussion group)

Join this lively, unstructured dialogue as participants view current and historical events through the lens of a personal relationship with the sacred. Conversation begins at **11:15 a.m. in the sanctuary on the main level.**

Contact: Thomas Thompson

The Wired Word (discussion group for young adults)

This group starts by reviewing coverage of a current event reported in the week's news, before asking a few big questions sparked by the topic. Then scripture from both testaments is highlighted as discussion moves deeper. Focused prayer closes each session. Created for those in their 20s-30s looking to connect faith and life. Meets at **11:15 a.m. on the 3rd floor.**

Contact: Braden Mishler



Fall 2019 Small Groups & Classes Sunday Options Beginning September 15

After Worship (continued)

Pathfinders and Young Explorers

(children's study: PreK-grade 5)

Each Sunday after worship, children are invited to go deeper into the Bible stories introduced during children's worship. Younger children remain in the classroom throughout the lesson, while older children join church staff 1-2 times each month to develop their Bible study skills.

Meets at 11:15 a.m. in Room 7/8 on the lower level.

Contact: Jo Weddle, Connie Myers

Youth (project-based activities and discussion)

Youth (grades 6-12) meet weekly following worship for discussions about life and faith.

Discussion begins at **11:15 a.m. in the Youth Room (#13) on the lower level.**

Contact: Ashlyn Reynolds

Sunday Morning or Monday Evening

Creative Faith: Religion as a Way of

Worldmaking (book study) In *Creative Faith*, author Don Cupitt argues that Christians need to replace a heaven-obsessed theology with a new theology of loving and acting as Jesus did, in which the aim is not to conserve the self for eternity, but to expend the self by living generously in God's Kingdom. Books are available through most online retailers. If you're interested in lively and productive discussion, join a group! **At FCC, groups meet at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. in Room 14 on the lower level, beginning Sept. 15. On Monday evenings, beginning Sept. 9, a group meets in Room 10 at St. Mark's United Methodist on the bypass.**

Contact: David Garshaw

Sunday Evening

Bloomington Bible Study (study, discussion)

FCC's college ministry 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 it relates to our faith journeys. The group consists of young adults who are college-aged, but you do not need to be in college to attend. Everyone 18-30 is welcome!

Join us on Sundays beginning at **5:00 p.m. in the Fireside Study on the main level.**

Contact: Haley Norris

Weeknights

Listening to God (spiritual practice) Cultivate the practice of silent meditation as a means of deepening faith and improving conscious contact with God. No previous experience in meditation practice is required. All are welcome to join our practice on Tuesdays from **5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Study.**

Contact: Thomas Thompson

Deeper Bible Study (study, spiritual practice) Are you looking for a Bible study that is both intellectually engaging and spiritually fulfilling? Join Pastor Helen for a pilot series that introduces a template for Bible study that can be used anytime. This small group provides spiritual nurture through simple contemplative practices as we follow the Narrative Lectionary through scripture. The 7-week pilot program meets **Tuesdays, Sept. 17-Oct. 29, from 6:15-7:15 p.m. in the Chapel/Gathering Space.** Please register and indicate if you need childcare.



Fall 2019 Small Groups & Classes Groups Meeting Monthly

Caregivers Create

If you are a caregiver, personal or professional, who would like a bit of respite time to take a creative adventure, this is for you! No experience necessary for this FREE opportunity. Each class is led by a professional artist or experienced crafter. All materials and light refreshments are provided.

Meets **1:30-4:00 p.m., 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, in the Chapel/Gathering Space on the main level.** Reservations are required. Save your spot by emailing CaregiversCreate@gmail.com or call the FCC office at 812-332-4459.

Women's Arts & Crafts

Create unique hand-crafted items and enjoy fun company. Past crafts include jewelry making, ribbon bookmarks, washcloth bunnies, and seasonal wreaths. Feel free to bring your own project or participate in our monthly activity. We gather on the **first Monday of each month from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Chapel/Gathering Space.**

Contact: Susan Jenkin

Voices of Faith (Disciples Women)

This network of Disciples Women strives to connect and empower women to engage in dialogue and advocacy as we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. We would love to hear *your* voice as we learn together where our deep gladness and our community's deep hunger meet. The fall meeting schedule is being planned. **Contact the church office for the schedule and more information.**

Youth Group

Youth meet monthly for fellowship and/or service activities including Holiday World getaways, Christmas shopping for families in need, lock-ins, and game nights. **For information about upcoming activities, contact Ashlyn Reynolds**, director of youth ministries.

Roger L. Heimer Book Group (for men)

Big thoughts and open minds meet in FCC's book group for men. The current booklist is available in the church office. Meets the **third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Fireside Study.**

Book Bunch (for women)

This fun group of readers gathers every five weeks to discuss books from a variety of genres. **A booklist with meeting dates and locations is available in the church office.**

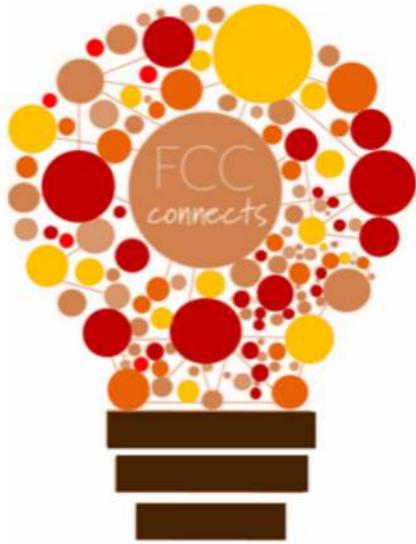
Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)

This group of moms gathers on the **first Wednesday of each month** to embrace the journey of motherhood. Whether you are a soon-to-be mom, an adoptive mom, young mom, seasoned mom, foster mom, stepmom or any other type of mom, you are welcome to join us! Learn more on our Facebook page: [@fccbloomingtonmops](https://www.facebook.com/fccbloomingtonmops).

Contact: Andrea Dalton



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FCC Connects...

through small groups and classes

Are you interested in learning a new spiritual practice, or diving into a Bible study? Perhaps you are looking for a group to connect with for support, to grow your faith or to do advocacy work. FCC has a wide variety of interest groups and classes, so we hope there is something that will interest you.

Most fall classes and groups begin on September 15, with a few beginning earlier or meeting year-round. Take a look at the FCC Connects brochure and let us know what is piquing your interest by filling out the form on the back of this page and returning it to FCC. That will help us prepare for the classes and groups. No need to worry if you change your mind. Checking a box on the form is *not* a formal commitment; it's just a way for us to have enough materials for everyone. The Deeper Bible Study and the CaregiversCreate groups require a more accurate headcount, so be sure to let us know if you are interested. There is also a spot for "Other" which gives you an opportunity to provide feedback on class and group opportunities that you would like to see in the future.

Questions? Contact Connie Myers at connie@fccbloomington.com.



FCC Connects...

through small groups and classes

Name: _____

email address: _____ Phone: _____

Please check the box(es) of the classes that you are interested in joining.

Sunday Classes/Groups

- Sunday Meditation Group
- Emmaus-Interpreters Class
- Campbellite Class
- Faith, Friends & Films
- The Sharing Table
- The Wired Word
- Pathfinders and Young Explorers
- Youth Discussion
- Creative Faith (Sunday)
- Bloomington Bible Study

Weeknight Classes/Groups

- Listening to God Meditation
- Deeper Bible Study*
- Creative Faith (Monday)
- Monthly Classes/Groups**
- Caregivers Create*
- Women's Arts & Crafts
- Voices of Faith (Disciples Women)
- Youth Group

Monthly (continued)

- Roger L. Heimer Book Group
- Book Bunch
- Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)
- Other (explain below)

*denotes a class or group that requests advanced registration.