

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

Fall Programming Begins on September 10

We will kick off FCC's lineup of Fall Programming on Sunday, September 10. We promise to have something for everyone, with some amazing programs returning and some new exciting opportunities too! There will be opportunities before and after worship on Sundays as well as during the week on a weekly or monthly basis.

A musical opportunity to consider is a new intergenerational choir. No experience necessary to join "**The Joyful Noise Choir**" that will meet right after worship on Sundays. You will learn beautiful, simple songs enjoyed by all ages. If a book study and discussion group sounds interesting, join David Garshaw on Monday evenings to discuss the issue of the divinity of Jesus. Perhaps you would be interested in learning about different spiritual practices. **Practices for Wholeness in a Fragmented World** will focus on a new spiritual practice each month while exploring the Beatitudes from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

These are just a few of the new opportunities this fall. Popular returning classes and programs will be offered as well. There are opportunities for young children, youth, and adults. You can find more details on the insert inside this newsletter. It all starts on Sunday, September 10.

Fun, Food and Fellowship enjoyed by all at the All-Church Retreat

More than fifty people gathered at Camp Bedford for FCC's All-Church Retreat this past weekend. Retreats are an opportunity to take time out for spiritual renewal, and to bring us closer together as a church family. It is time to step away from our "normal" lives to focus on our relationship with God. Those who were able to join us shared stories and laughter around a campfire (while making s'mores). We made new friends and caught up with old friends. We hiked, meditated, studied, prayed, and worshiped together.

All of this was made possible by a small army of people who planned, cooked, cleaned, shopped, lifeguarded, led groups, took pictures and helped in countless other ways. Thank you to all who made this weekend retreat so special.

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Volume 59, number 15 August 30, 2017

PASTOR'S PEN

Highways and Byways

A lot has happened over the three weeks I've been away on vacation! While the highlight was Sam (my son) and Alaina's beautiful wedding in the foothills the Rocky Mountains just west of Denver, there were many other high points: a "bonus" week with my sister in Boise; quality time with my family (18 of us staying in a huge home for the bulk of the week surrounding the wedding); a walk down memory lane as we toured our old Boulder neighborhood and church building (now serving as the student center for a swanky apartment complex located a stone's throw from the Colorado University campus); a lively bluegrass worship service with the congregation of my childhood in its newer/smaller facility; stopping to reconnect with dear friends on our cross country drive back home via Nebraska, Iowa, and Chicago.

Much has happened here at First Christian Church, too: three wonderful worship experiences under strong leadership; a well-attended and beautifully planned retreat at Bedford; high quality planning for ministries that will be launched in the coming weeks and months; the addition of a new member; and addressing building issues, including the discovery and remediation of a leaking water pipe. You are a stellar congregation—faithful, gifted, adaptive—and I give thanks to God for you!

"Eventful" might be an *understatement* for all that has taken place in our nation over the past three weeks as we witnessed, among other things, the disturbing and bold expressions of racism and hatred in Charlottesville and the utter

devastation left in Harvey's aftermath. Yet even in the midst of these frightening events, I see signs of hope: the wide-spread repudiation of hate groups, white supremacists, neo-Nazi's, etc. opens up the possibility for deeper and much needed dialogue about race, racism, and reconciliation; and the overwhelmingly generous "across the board" response to Harvey's fury reminds us that—at our core—human beings are created to care for each other. On our behalf—as well as to encourage us—Terri Hord Owens (our General Minister and President) has responded to these and other events with faith and wisdom peppered with a clear call for acts of compassion and justice.

Indeed, perhaps more than ever before, we—as part of *a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world*—have opportunity to witness to Jesus Christ, whose love for all God's children transcends all that seeks to separate us from one another and whose call to "follow me" leads us toward a generous, bold, and vibrant way of life.

I'm looking forward to seeing you very soon. This Sunday, we conclude our Road Trip Worship Series with some of my favorite travel tips!



Pastor Helen

The FCC Story: No Summer Breaks Here!

The three teams charged with implementation of the FCC Story have maintained a high level of engagement over the summer months. Importantly, each team is striving to remain steady in its focus on the “Why” behind the FCC Story: “To share Christ’s inclusive love through serving, welcoming, learning, and offering spiritual connection at First Christian Church.”

Here are the highlights of the summer:

Avenues Team seeks to create new ways to encourage and support seeking, growing, healing and connecting through Christ’s inclusive love. Jazz Vespers launches this Friday; the series continues on first Fridays throughout the year. The congregation-wide spiritual disciplines program, *Practices for Wholeness in a Fragmented World*, kicks-off September 10. And, on the front yard, Lotus Fest attendees will be treated to free bottled water again this year.

Cornerstone Team works to establish a sustainable approach to maintaining our beautiful building for the purpose of sharing Christ’s inclusive love. Team members attended two evenings of management consultation led by Carl Briggs of the IU Kelley School of Business. Cornerstone is continuing to explore ideas for the sanctuary and west end. The team is actively working on a proposal to the FCC Story Steering Committee in early spring.

Openings Team looks at ways to generate revenue from aligned use of our sanctuary. Openings sponsored its first special event in July, the Ripple Effect. The team is exploring other ideas for sanctuary events. Team members are making important connections in the Bloomington community to support Opening’s efforts to better understand how FCC can participate as a downtown performance venue including ways to address downtown parking constraints.

Avenues Team Brings New Ministry to FCC!

This summer Pastor Helen’s sermons took us on a “Road Trip.” A life of faith is a life of journeying, of always seeking to be closer to God and more devoted to God’s calling for us.

Beginning September 10, FCC will start a journey to bring us closer to God. How will we do this? Starting this fall, we will explore Spiritual Discipline by sampling a variety of Spiritual Practices. We’re calling this journey “**Practices for Wholeness in a Fragmented World.**”

Each month a new Spiritual Practice will be introduced. We’ll use the Beatitudes from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5) and use our new Spiritual Practice to explore one Beatitude each month.

Sound complicated? Don’t worry! We’ll all be journeying through this and learning together. No right or wrong ways, just opportunity for a closer relationship with God and deeper connection through our faith.

No need to pack our bags for this road trip. Just open our hearts and minds and let our spirits get excited for the journey! This life of faith is a constant adventure! Let’s “Road Trip” together.

New Sermon Series to Begin on September 10

This Sunday, September 3, we will conclude our Road Trip Series with "Travel Tips" and Isaiah 55:1-3; 12-13.

Starting September 10, we begin Year Two of the Narrative Lectionary. This will give us a chronological overview of the Bible, starting with the Book of Genesis. Join us for Sunday worship as we begin this biblical journey.



Handbell Choir Rehearsal Starts September 5!

Handbell choir will start up next week with a new director on a new day and time. Carter Adams will lead the choir on **Tuesdays at 6:30 pm**. New ringers and veteran ringers (teenagers and adults) are welcome to join! No experience is needed. You just have to be able to count to 4 (or sometimes 6) and come to rehearsals! Need more information? Email Carter at capadams@iucmail.iu.edu.

Sanctuary Choir rehearsals are back in full swing too! If you would like to join the Sanctuary choir, rehearsals are on Thursdays at 6:15 pm. Contact Jan Harrington or the church office for more information.

Looking for a way to volunteer at FCC?

We are looking for help with communion clean-up following worship on Sundays. This is a very simple job that takes only about 30 minutes. We will provide all the training you will need. If you would like to help with this easy, but important task, please contact Diane Thrasher at 812-332-1229 or call the church office at 812-332-4459 to schedule time for training.



News from the Greater Church...

Disciples Home Missions Names New President

On July 6 the board of Disciples Home Missions (DHM) approved the call of Rev. Sotello Long as the next president of DHM. Long was introduced to the full General Assembly on July 11.

Long served as the regional minister of the Christian Church in South Carolina since 2003 and the pastor of First Christian Church in Aiken, DC, since 2014. This will not be his first tour with DHM, however. He was the minister of evangelism from 1995 to 2003.

The search committee was impressed with Long's ministry in South Carolina and with his passion and vision for the ministry of DHM. He will begin his ministry at DHM on August 21, working with current President Rev. Ron Degges who recently retired.



Region Calls Two New Staff Persons

We are pleased to welcome Bere Gil Soto to the Indiana Regional staff. Bere will serve as the Reconciliation Program Minister for the region. This is a shared position with the General Reconciliation Office and the Regional Office. Bere is a lifelong member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

We are also delighted to welcome Maribeth Westerfield Blackman back to the regional staff. Maribeth will serve as the part-time coordinator of women's ministry. She is known to many in Indiana having served as Associate Regional Minister from 1981-1988.

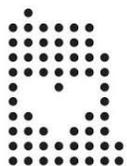
Thousands of lives have been impacted by the damage from Hurricane Harvey and the rains and tornadoes that followed. Week of Compassion will be sending relief to victims of the storm. You can help with those efforts by donating to Week of Compassion this Sunday during worship. Checks should be made out to First Christian Church and designated "WoC Harvey Relief." 100% of your donation will be used for relief and recovery efforts.



September Birthdays

09/01	Kristi	Hill	10903 N. Smokey Row Rd.	Mooreville	IN	46158
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 North Dunn St.	Bloomington	IN	47408
09/17	Naomi	Johnson	41212 N Prestancia Dr., Anthem Country Club	Anthem	AZ	85086
09/17	Brenda	Ogborn	3858 Bainbridge Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/18	Jefferson	Trippel	1497 E Commander Ct	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/18	Stephanie	Trippel	1497 E Commander Ct	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/19	Sarasopa	Enari	3921 Maybury Mall Apt. A12	Bloomington	IN	47403
09/20	Wilma	Mann	704 Nathan Way	Yukon	OK	73099
09/22	John	Walsh	3006 S. Olcott Blvd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/22	Pacer	Norris	3194 N. Dahlia Lane	Bloomington	IN	47404
09/24	Jane	McIntosh	2455 Tamarack Trail Apt.8	Bloomington	IN	47408
09/24	Bob	Thrasher	2627 E. Windermere Woods Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/24	Joan	Austin	3040 N. Ramble Road West	Bloomington	IN	47408
09/24	Josette	Gasana	4199 Innisbrooke Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47408
09/24	Koji	Abe	600 S. Hawthorne 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
09/27	Rhett	Keaton	7853 S. Zikes Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/28	Jo	Travis	4682 E. Heritage Woods Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/29	Phyllis	Mangun	800 North Bell Trace Circle #L75	Bloomington	IN	47408
09/30	Christy	Duffy-Paiement	260 S. Lori Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401

Please, let us know if we have missed someone's birthday.



MCUM Challenge

FCC has long supported Monroe County United Ministries. **FCC's MCUM 2017**

Challenge is to donate a TON of items to help fill their food and supply pantry. So far, we've donated 1,336 pounds! We have four months to donate 766 pounds and meet our goal!

Needs are great. You can find a list of needed items posted at different places around the church (near the water fountains and on the bulletin board near the staircase). Won't you take a list and shop for MCUM?

They are especially in need of cleaning products, including laundry soap right now. Canned soups and meats are also needed. Bring your donated items in paper grocery bags (they are stronger) to FCC.

Thank you for caring!

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Friday, September 1

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

6:30 pm First Friday Jazz Vespers

Sunday, September 3

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Bridges & Blessings

Monday, September 4

Labor Day - Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 5

6:30 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal

Thursday, September 7

6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Friday, September 8

12:00 pm Executive Committee meeting

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Sunday, September 10

9:00 am Learning Session I

10:00 am Worship with Children

Worship & Wonder

11:15 am Learning Session II

12:00 pm Elders meeting



To all who attended our fiftieth anniversary party, sent cards, or gave us good wishes in any way. We thank you. You are important to us, and we value your friendship.

Dan and Sharon Goins

Reminder that the church office will be closed on Monday, September 4, for the Labor Day Holiday. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday!



First Christian Church - Group Study & Practice Fall 2017

Sunday Morning Options

Early Session: 9:00 to 9:45 a.m.

Emmaus-Interpreters Class (Bible study)

This group values rich conversation, lifelong learning, and digs deeply into every topic they address. Recent endeavors have included lectionary-based Bible study; a Mayberry video-based study; and in-depth examinations of books of the Bible. (Campbellite Room, 2nd level)

The Sharing Table (discussion group)

Join this lively, unstructured discussion group whose interests range from current events to ancient Greece and beyond. Participants are welcome to join in the discussion, or learn by simply listening. (Chapel-Gathering Space, main level)

Sunday Meditation Group

The practice of silent meditation to cultivate peace and joy. Each session includes discussion of readings from meditation teachers such as Thich Nhat Hahn, Richard Rohr, and others. No previous experience in mediation practice is required. Arrive by **8:30 am**. A weekday option is also available. (Room 1, lower level)

Late Session: 11:15 a.m. to noon

Campbellite Class (study, discussion)

Discussion is informed and challenged by Biblical characters and stories. The focus is on crucial decision making, examining hard choices in personal life and in our life in society. What are the key factors that decide how we take action? All are welcome to join this group of lifelong learners. (Fireside Study, main level)

Late Session: 11:15 a.m. to noon

Talking Faith (guided discussion)

Talking Faith encourages discussions beyond the weather and the next church committee meeting. In other words, participants talk about things that really matter, and learn ways to do so, even when we disagree or feel unsure about how we really feel. (Room 5, lower level)

Joyful Noise Choir (intergenerational singing)

All ages and musical abilities are invited to gather each Sunday to learn simple, beautiful music that will remain in our hearts and heads throughout our lives. We practice together each Sunday, but share a song in worship every 4-8 weeks. (Sanctuary chancel following worship)

Parents' Café (informal discussion)

This may be the time and place for you and your family to reclaim the Sabbath. While the kids are with friends in Sunday school, take an hour to unplug, relax, and support one another on the journey of faithful living. (Room 2, lower level)

Living the Word (children's Sunday school)

Living the Word brings the weekly scripture story to life. Age-appropriate activities encourage children to enter the story in a variety of ways. "The Story at Home," continues the lessons with devotional activities for the family.

(Grades PK-2 in Room 3 and Grades 3-6 in Room 7/8 of lower level)

Youth Group (project-based activities and discussion)

Teens in grades 7-12 are invited to stay after worship for Youth Group. This group shares life/faith questions and plan activities that actively contribute to loving God and loving neighbor. (begins in the Chapel Gathering Space)



First Christian Church - Group Study & Practice Fall 2017

Weekday & Weeknight Options

How Did Jesus Become God? (book study)

This group discusses the topic of the divinity of Jesus, using the book *How on Earth Did Jesus Become God* written by Larry Hurtado to guide our discussion. Meets on Mondays at 6:30 pm. (Fireside Study)

Play & Paint (spiritual practice)

This practice encourages participants to open up to the work of God's creative spirit. Follows Sunday scripture readings; watercolor supplies needed. Tuesdays at 5:30 pm (Chapel-Gathering Space)

Listening to God (spiritual practice) See description in Sunday options. (Also meets Sundays during early session.)

Fridays, 5:30-6:30 pm (Fireside Study)

*For more information, contact our
Director of Faith Formation and Family
Ministries, Connie Myers.*



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812-332-4459
fcc@fccbloom.org

www.fccbloomington.org/engage/learn/

Monthly Options

Practices for Wholeness in a Fragmented World (spiritual practice)

An exploration of the Beatitudes from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5) through various spiritual practices. The group meets on the fourth Sunday of each month at 11:15 am. (Room 14)

Men's Book Group

Meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm (Fireside Study)

Book Bunch (for women)

Meets the third Thursday of each month at 4:00 pm (Bryan Park or the Fireside Study)

Women's Arts & Crafts

Meets monthly on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. (Chapel Gathering Space)

Youth Group

This dynamic group of teens grades 6-8 (Chi Rho) and 9-12 (CYF) meets regularly. Contact office for dates of upcoming adventures.

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

This group of Moms gathers monthly to embrace the journey of motherhood. We are moms, and we believe that better moms make a better world. Join us on the last Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm for MOPS!

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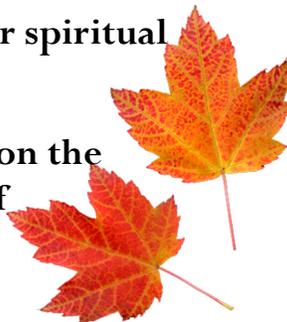
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**Join us on Sunday, September 10
For our Fall Programming Kick-Off**

**There are opportunities for spiritual
growth for everyone!**

**You will find more details on the
insert inside this edition of
The Christian Visitor.**



**Scripture Readings
for Sunday Worship**

September 3

Isaiah 55:1-3, 12-13

September 10

Genesis 2:4b-25

September 17

Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7