

The CHRISTIAN



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

FCC's Fall Programming Includes Something for Everyone! *Choose from New Topics and Groups to Returning and Continuing Favorites*

It seems there is always something exciting happening at FCC. This is certainly true about the new lineup of fall groups and learning opportunities at FCC. It will have many people struggling to choose which group to join. Why choose one? Dive into something new while continuing to be part of a meaningful group that you are devoted to. If you are new to FCC's programs beyond the worship hour, consider trying something new.

An informative and beautiful brochure will be available this Sunday, August 12. You will find all of the details in this booklet that you will find in the seatback of the pews. Greeters will also have some copies to share.

In it, you will find new classes and groups as well as classes and groups that have been part of the FCC fabric for a while. Several of the new choices will be brought by participants of our most recent Faith Leader group. (You'll find more details on these groups inside this newsletter.) These new classes will tackle new topics in new ways.

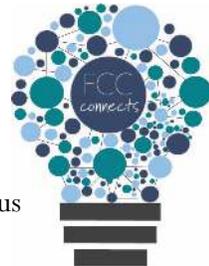
FCC will welcome back the popular *Made to Create* art class led by Bess Lee that explores spirituality through the art of water color. Our meditation groups will continue to provide opportunities to learn and grow

through this spiritual practice, and our "traditional" Bible study and discussion groups will provide rich conversation and life-long learning.

FCC has something for everyone at every age and stage of life. Some groups meet on Sundays, while others meet during the week.

So, look for the brochure at church on Sunday and take a good look at all the opportunities coming to FCC this fall. Consider which opportunity is interesting to you and give it a try. Take it home and think about it. Share it with family, friends and neighbors.

You'll find an "Interest Card" inside the brochure to fill out and return to our church office. That will help us plan for each group.



Inside this Issue...

Page 2... Pastor's Pen

Page 4... FCC's Lawn Ministry Events

Page 5... Faith Leader participants lead new groups this fall.

Volume 60, number 14 August 8, 2018

PASTOR'S PEN
A New Rhythm of Caring and Growing Connections at FCC

By the time you read this newsletter article, many folks will have transitioned into a rhythm of life that includes homework, sports practice and other extra-curricular activities, a more disciplined schedule, and everything else that goes along with the new school year.

At FCC, as we continue to implement our five-year FCC Story, we are also transitioning into a rhythm of life--a life that more intentionally models what it is to be a church community that *shares the inclusive love of Christ through learning, welcoming, serving, and offering spiritual connection.*

Please re-read the above sentence very slowly. I'd like for you to digest it. Now, here is what I invite you to do! In other words, here's *your* homework as it relates to our transition!

First, plan to participate in one (or more!) of the **learning** groups that will begin meeting this fall. A fabulous array of options will be rolled out, starting this Sunday.

Second, commit to an intentional act of **welcoming**. For example, seek out and greet visitors on Sunday morning, be part of one of our lawn ministry events, invite someone to join you for worship, small group, or coffee fellowship. Don't be shy about introducing yourself to someone, even though you have a feeling you "should" already know them!

Third, name and celebrate the way(s) you are already engaged in acts of **service** both within and outside church doors. I continue to be humbled by the ways that the vast majority of you "walk the walk" of selfless service as an

act of faith. If you are looking for ways to serve, I'm happy to help you explore what might be a good fit for you.

Fourth, remember that at our core, we are about offering **spiritual connection**, i.e. taking seriously our identity as *Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.* Spiritual connection is (*at least*) about: praying for the unity of the church; caring for one another, especially in times of need; engaging in ministries that help bring about peace and justice for all God's children; contributing our gifts and resources to the common good; and naming, practicing, and celebrating the ways that Christ's Spirit weaves us together in the bonds of love.

As we continue to transition into the rhythm of life that is lifted up by our FCC Story, I give thanks to God for this church and the ways that you continue to commit yourself to witnessing to the presence of the One who calls and equips us, heals us and makes us whole, unites us as one, and sends us into the world to love and serve.

Blessings,



Pastor Helen

PS. See you Sunday as we continue with Part 2 of our 5 week series on the Letter to the Ephesians.



From the Choir Loft

CHOIRS GEARING UP FOR THE FALL

SANCTUARY CHOIR

First rehearsal: Thursday, August 30 – 6:15-7:30

The Sanctuary Choir is anxious to resume its regular rehearsal schedule on Thursday, August 30 from 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm! The choir sings for the morning worship service each Sunday, meeting for a warm-up at 9:15 am. We welcome adult singers and high school students without audition. Interested new members are asked to come to the choir room (Room 13 downstairs) 30 minutes before their first rehearsal to meet with Director of Music Jan Harrington and sing a little so he can get to know you before the rehearsal itself begins. We welcome back our Choral Scholar section leaders for this year who help lead us, give us confidence, and generally add to the good time and fellowship we have together preparing for our service leading worship: Soprano Maria Izzo-Walker, alto Liz Culpepper, tenor Renson Madarang, and bass Rivers Hawkins.

If you are new to FCC and have been thinking about joining us and/or you are a long time FCC member who is tired of Jan nagging you to join and you feel like this is the moment to reclaim your voice – then now is the time to start as we begin our new season. You can contact Jan Harrington either after church or through email harringt@indiana.edu for more information.

HANDBELL CHOIR

First rehearsal: Sunday, September 2 – 11:15 am

The handbell choir members have moved their rehearsal time to Sundays after worship! Again under the musical direction of IU percussion and music education student Carter Adams, the handbell choir is open to all. No experience is necessary as long as you can count to four or six and are willing to commit to regular rehearsals. Carter and the other bell choir members will do the rest to help you learn and participate in the music making. The bells play in the worship service every six weeks or so. Carter can be contacted for more information at capadams@indiana.edu.

(A side note: Carter is the drum major for the IU Marching Hundred this season. We're proud to have him leading our bells as well as well as those 100 plus band members at the football games!)

FIRST FRIDAY JAZZ VESPERS

An invitation to help us plan the services.

Last Friday, the new trio for the Jazz Vespers made their debut leading an exciting service for us. The trio is led by the Director of Jazz Vespers bassist Stefan Lenthe and vocalist Elena Escudero with extraordinary pianist June Lee and drummer Sam Bryson.

As we enter the second year, we are:

- 1) Encouraging feedback from those who have attended as we evaluate the format and content of this worship.
- 2) Asking you to think ahead with us to suggest poetry and readings for our service based upon the themes for the day. Searching through your trove of poetry and prayers for content is a wonderful experience as enriching in the search as it is in the experience of being in the service.

Here are the dates and themes for the Fall. Please share your ideas with Pastor Helen or Jan Harrington.

September 7: Journey October 5: Feast
November 2: Quiet December 7: Anticipate

Upcoming FCC Lawn Ministry Events!

One of the great gifts we have is green space on Kirkwood Avenue. Our emerging lawn ministry program is designed to help let the community know that we are a welcoming community. Over the past year, we have welcomed folks at the 4th of July Parade, the bicennial street fair, the downtown trick or treat event, Lotus festival and our Summer SundayFundays.

On **August 25**, we will offer a welcoming presence to those attending PrideFest. Our lawn will be home to games, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, water giveaways, and soft green grass. Our sanctuary will be offered as an oasis of welcome, respite and prayer. Members of North Christian Church, a sister Disciples congregation from Columbus, IN, will be partnering with us. If you would like to join our hospitality crew, please

contact Jean Thompson.

On **September 2**, plan to bring your favorite finger-food item for our pitch-in coffee fellowship hour on the lawn following the worship hour. Details are to be determined, but consider this a heads up notice for a fellowship event that will also serve as a sign of welcome to the community!



Youth group trip to Holiday World!

FCC's Youth are planning a trip to Holiday World this fall. So, if you are in grades 6-12 and your idea of a fun weekend involves riding rollercoasters, contact Mark Knowles for details on how to join in this fun weekend.



In Our Prayers

Please keep Koji and Linda Abe in your prayers as Koji undergoes further tests related to cancer cells discovered during a recent hospitalization for a separate medical concern. (Koji is now at home.)

They would deeply appreciate your prayers, notes of encouragement and offers of transportation (Linda is not a driver). Their address is 600 S. Hawthorne Dr., Bloomington, 47401.



Caregivers Create Resumes on Tuesday September 11

This amazing class offers time for creativity and rest for caregivers. Instruction and information to complete a project is provided at each session. You will learn something new while receiving support from other caregivers. If you are interested in joining this group or know someone who would benefit from this group, please contact Jeanne Dutton at caregiverscreate@gmail.com.

Faith Leader Participants Develop New Classes for FCC Connects!

As you peruse the FCC-Connects booklet that will be available on Sunday morning, you will notice that several of our new offerings will be led by names that you might not recognize. This leadership is being offered by some of those who participated in last years Faith Leader class.

Amy Cheek will lead *CreatureKind*. This class will consider what we believe about God's creatures and how we might move toward living out those beliefs as members of the body of Christ. A new book study group will be led by Sharon Robinson. The group will follow *At Home in This Life* by Jerusalem Jackson Greer as a guide for reflection on what it means to give up our own will to the will of God, and a new 4-week workshop led by Elma Jessen will explore the Enneagram as a tool for better understanding yourself and others through an ancient personality typing system.

Faith Leader is FCC's year-long leader development course, offered every 2-3 years, and designed to equip folks to identify and offer their spiritual gifts for the purpose of building up the body of Christ. If you would like to know more about Faith Leader, please contact Pastor Helen.

Join us for FCC's Annual Hymn Festival during Sunday worship on August 26

The congregation will provide the music for worship on August 26th, lifting their voices with the choir for FCC's Annual Hymn Festival service. We will be singing favorite hymns requested by members of the congregation early this summer.

Join us at 10:00 am and bring a friend for this popular service when we celebrate the hymnody of the church!

News from the Greater Church...



Disciples Women sustain Indian sewing program

While on the Woman-to-Woman Worldwide Journey to India, the Disciples Women delegation had the opportunity to visit Global Ministries partners in Durgapur, Malda, Kolkata, and Delhi. The work already being done there is amazing and life-giving and the women of the delegation wanted to make sure that it continues and expands.

Sewing schools in India provide the opportunity to learn skills to protect families from trafficking. Those who were in the delegation have been sharing their stories and experiences far and wide. We are inviting support for a couple of ongoing healthy projects in Durgapur and Delhi. One of the smaller projects that was particularly inspiring was the group of women in Delhi who bought ten sewing machines with the plan of training 10 women to sew to make a living for themselves and their families. They began their project but discovered they did not have the funds to continue.

They learned from this first attempt that to be a sustainable business they would need to have enough funds to pay the ten women for three months while they were learning to sew, then for an additional three months while they got their business up and running and sustainable. They already have a market for their work. Before they can begin again they wanted to make sure they had enough to pay the women throughout the first six months to ensure their success.

When we learned that the amount needed was \$6,000 we knew that Disciples Women would enthusiastically support this dream. Many women and groups of women and gatherings of women have contributed to this project. As of June 25, **we have exceeded our goal** and will be sending these funds through Global Ministries for our sisters in India.

We are grateful to all who have supported this project and invite you to celebrate with us and continue to pray for these women and their children whose futures will be positively affected by this training and opportunity. This is what God is doing in women's ministries. For More Disciples News... subscribe to the Disciples News Service at www.disciples.org/dns/.



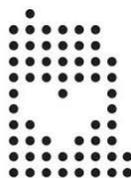
Join Us At Regional Assembly on October 5-6 at Light of the World Christian Church in Indianapolis

It has been said, "Life happens one conversation at a time." Whether it is two friends having coffee, a contentious board meeting, a political speech, a 'middle of the night' question from your child, or even one's own internal dialogue with yourself, our ideas of reality and truth are discerned and affirmed or questioned one conversation at a time.

This year, the Regional Assembly will offer a time to have some of those important transforming discussions that perhaps can open our eyes, minds, spirits and hearts to each other in life affirming ways. Join friends from FCC at this year's Regional Assembly as we begin a conversation that may help us be encouragers of God's people, even in our differences.



Check out FCC's fall lineup of new programs and groups listed in the *FCC Connects* brochure that can be found in the pews for worship this Sunday, August 12!



2018 MCUM Challenge

2018 Goal: 2,000 pounds
Most recent trip: 46 pounds
Year-to-date: 1,343 pounds

August Pantry Needs!

MCUM is in need of peanut butter (medium jars), small cereal, canned beans, condensed soups, tomato products, canned chicken, canned and dried fruit, toilet paper, baby wipes, spray cleaner (all-purpose), laundry detergent, and dish soap.

MCUM also reuses plastic grocery bags to distribute items from their cleaning and hygiene closet. Keep them separate from the paper bags used in their food pantry.

Thank you for showing how much you care.

Each One, Feed One August 10-12

This Community Food Drive brings in thousands of pounds of food, as well as thousands of dollars to help refill MCUM's pantry following the busy summer months. You can help by volunteering and also by contributing with food and monetary donations. Contact MCUM for information.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Sunday, August 12

8:30 am Mediation group
 9:00 am Learning Session I
 10:00 am Worship
 11:15 am Summer Forum
 11:15 am Sunday Funday

Tuesday, August 14

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Wednesday, August 15

7:00 pm Men's Book Group

Thursday, August 16

4:00 pm Book Bunch

Friday, August 17

Noon Executive Committee meeting

August 18-19

Cane Ridge Road Trip

Sunday, August 19

8:30 am Meditation group
 9:00 am Learning Session I
 10:00 am Worship

Tuesday, August 21

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Sunday, August 26 (Hymn Fest)

8:30 am Meditation group
 9:00 am Learning Session I
 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
 10:00 am Worship
 12:15 pm FCC Board meeting
 4:00 pm Cuba trip meeting

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
205 E. Kirkwood Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47408

812-332-4459
fcc@fccbloom.org
www.fccbloom.org
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Bloomington, IN 47408
Permit #217



The Christian Visitor

Vol. 60, no. 14



Discover FCC's New Fall Programming Line-up this Sunday, August 12. You'll find that there is something for everyone at every age and stage of life.

How will you "Connect" with your faith community at FCC?

Scripture Readings For Sunday Worship

August 12
Ephesians 3:14-21

August 19
Ephesians 4:1-7:11-13

August 26
Ephesians 5:18b-20
Hymn Festival