

The CHRISTIAN

 FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ) *Visitor*

Fall Classes and Groups Begin Sunday September 9

Check the FCC Connects Booklet for Details on Fall Programs

Have you read through the FCC Connects booklet that details all of the exciting programs, classes and groups that are starting this fall? If not, what are you waiting for? You will find some really interesting new groups, workshops and classes as well as cherished FCC classes that are always welcoming new members. We will kick-off our fall Sunday Learning opportunities this Sunday, September 9 with sessions at 9:00 am and following worship at 11:15 am. Children's Worship and Wonder will resume this Sunday and our 8:30 am Sunday meditation group also will be meeting. There will be something for everyone!

If you do not have an FCC Connect book, go online to www.fccbloomington.org. You will find a downloadable version on the right hand side of the "Grow Your Faith" page. You can also contact Connie Myers with questions about any of the classes.

New Lectionary Series Begins this Sunday

This Sunday, September 9, we begin year three of our four year Narrative Lectionary Cycle. Starting with the book of Genesis, we'll take a chronological journey through the Bible as we hear and reflect on the stories, metaphors, poetry, and oral histories that tell the ongoing story of God's redeeming love for all of creation. Scripture passages for the coming weeks will be listed on the back page of each newsletter. See you Sunday!

New Weekday Bible Study to Focus on Lectionary Series

Join us on Tuesdays at noon for a new Bible study that will focus on the upcoming scripture from our Sunday Worship Lectionary series. Connie Myers leads this new study group.

Inside this Issue...

Page 4... Welcome Braden Mishler!

Page 5... New Disciples Women's group

Page 6... Join us at Regional Assembly

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

*A guest at the Graduate Hotel pulls back the curtain of her room and looks out onto Kirkwood Avenue. Across the street is a lovely old, Gothic-style church. . . . She reads the banner hanging outside the church, **Join Us for Jazz Vespers —First Fridays, following Gallery Walk.** “That sounds interesting,” she says to herself. “Maybe we’ll do that.”*

In January 2016, our congregation listened with rapt attention as this opening scene of our FCC Story was read during worship. During that special service, we listened to the rest of the Story - set in the year 2021 - unfold, scene by scene. Our imaginations began to capture the vision that God had planted within us: *We **will be** a downtown church, and **we are** called to witness to the inclusive love of Christ.*

I recently re-read what we had named Future Story. And it struck me: this is our FCC story NOW, not at some point in the future! Many of the scenes in the Story are now reality: Jazz Vespers, Hospitality on the Lawn, vibrant learning and active serving, arts ministry, the many new faces we are welcoming in worship, and an amazing array of small group opportunities to deepen our connections with God and others.

Many other parts of the FCC vision are in various stages of implementation: 1) our work with architect David Allen is allowing us to find ways to make our building more accessible, flexible, and visible to better serve our wider community; 2) we continue to explore ways to create a revenue stream that will strengthen and help sustain our ministries; 3) we are securing excellent intern positions for our young adult XPLOR residents who will arrive in 2019; and 4) as we accept the reality that our neighbor will be the Graduate Hotel, we have the opportunity to address in positive ways the ongoing challenges of inadequate downtown parking.

On that winter day back in 2016, the final scene of the FCC Story was read aloud. The Jazz Vespers service had ended and people had exited onto Kirkwood Avenue:

Kirkwood Avenue buzzed with activity. Definitely, FCC was drawing in all kinds of people and sending them back out into the world, fuller, richer, and better for their experience with the Sacred. . . . More and more people are coming and connecting here with Christ. . . . So it was, that with their eyes on God, the Body of Christ known as First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), lived boldly and purposefully into a robust future, on the corner of Kirkwood and Washington in downtown Bloomington, Indiana.

All this is to say, our FCC Story is real, folks! And for this, I give thanks to God.

Blessings,


Pastor Helen



Music Notes

By Jan Harrington

HANDBELL CHOIR BEGINS THIS SUNDAY, SEPT. 9, AFTER CHURCH

You are invited to join Carter Adams and the returning handbell choir members for their first rehearsal of the fall season at 11:15 this Sunday after church. New members are welcome! (Take this opportunity to visit the handbell room in the basement! Did you even know there is a handbell room down there? There is a picture of a handbell on the door. See where the magic happens.) Everyone is encouraged to take part; there will be plenty of support and instruction if you feel you are among the musically challenged!

SANCTUARY CHOIR WELCOMES SOME NEW MEMBERS

At last week's Thursday night rehearsal, the sanctuary choir was excited to welcome two new soprano members – Sarah Lawson and Debbie White - and a new alto Erin Kelley. We are so happy to have these new singers who first visited FFC during the summer join us. More singers are welcome as always – help fill those empty chairs and make a joyful noise to the Lord! Rehearsals Thursdays 6:15-7:30 downstairs in the choir room.

JIHYE PLAYING AN ORGAN RECITAL IN NASHVILLE THIS WEEKEND

This Sunday, Jihye Choi, our fabulous organist, will be out of town to play a recital at St. George's Episcopal Church in Nashville, Tennessee. This is the church where her husband Nara Lee is the new Organ Scholar. Playing our service this week will be guest organist Geneva Stonecipher, a recent graduate of the Hodgson School of Music at the University of Georgia and a new organ student of Janet Fishell at the Jacobs School of Music.

OUR JAZZ VESPERS TRIO BROADCAST LIVE THURSDAY ON WFIU

Tune in to Just You and Me – the daily jazz program on WFIU-FM on Thursday between 4 and 4:30 for a live preview of the our First Friday Jazz Vespers with Stefan Lenthe and his Trio. Better yet, attend the real thing this Friday, September 7 at 6:30 in our sanctuary. The theme this month is “Journey”.



In Our Prayers

Please keep the family of Jack Moore (Scot Moore's father and Marilyn Moore's husband) in your prayers as they mourn his passing. Cards and notes may be sent to the following addresses:

Marilyn Moore: 800 N. Bell Trace Circle, Apt. 172, Bloomington, 47408

Scot & Ann Moore and family: 3308 S. Snoddy Rd., Bloomington, 47401



Gerry Miller and her family would like to express thanks for the prayers, notes and cards.

"Thank you to all who sent notes of sympathy during this hardest of times. What would I do without my church family?"

-Gerry Miller

Welcome... Braden Mishler! Braden joined FCC in worship on August 26. He is a second-year graduate student at Indiana University, pursuing the M.A. in United States History. Braden is from Bloomfield, Indiana originally. He says he "found at First Christian Church a warm and welcoming community of faith and worship." We are so glad that you've decided to make FCC your church home, Braden. Welcome!

Plans are underway for a second FCC journey to Cuba over Thanksgiving. We will again be working with partner agency Centro Memorial Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (CMMLK) in Cuba. A group of 15 will travel November 17-25 and will work on community projects with CMMLK.



All-Church International Feast October 7 at 11:00 am

Mark your calendar for an all-church pitch in feast following Sunday worship on World Communion Sunday, October 7.

This will be a global celebration as we share dishes from around the world... and celebrate the group preparing to travel on FCC's second people-to-people pilgrimage to Cuba.

Join us!



**Animal Welfare and the Church
Sundays from Oct. 14-Nov. 18 at 6:30 pm**

What's Christianity got to do with animals? Will animals go to heaven? Through videos, short readings, and lots of dialogue, the CreatureKind

course encourages Christians to 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. This would be an ideal experience for anyone interested in adopting a more sustainable diet, better understanding a loved one who is vegan, or simply gaining knowledge about food, farming, and care of the earth. Led by our own Amy Cheek, CreatureKind is committed to building a big tent, to meeting people where they are, and journeying alongside other Christians as we explore together our common call to care for God's creation.

**New Disciples Women's group to
launch in October**

Voices of Faith, a brand new Disciples Women's group, will have its first informational/organizational meeting October 10, 11:45-1 pm in the Fireside Study with guest speaker Maribeth Westerfield Blackman, Women's Ministry Coordinator for the Christian Church in Indiana.

Voices of Faith will "connect and empower women to engage in dialogue and advocacy as we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. (*Micah 6:8*)." This will include conversation, action and prayer among a supportive fellowship of women of all ages.

If you would like more information about this new group, please speak with Sandy Bate, Judith Olmstead, Susan Engert, Lily Hoover, or Pastor Helen.

**Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, September 30 at 4:00 pm**

Join us on FCC's lawn on September 30 at 4:00 pm front lawn as we honor our animal friends with a Blessing of the Animals. This service is typically conducted on or near the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of Animals. *The Monroe County Humane Association will join us with their therapy animal teams from the VIPaws program.*

Come with your pet, or a picture of your pet and join us on the front lawn as we celebrate and bless our animal friends. We do ask that all pets are kept on a leash to ensure everyone has a good experience. We are so fortunate to have a green space in the middle of downtown. What a great opportunity to share FCC's inclusive love with our greater Bloomington community.



Join FCC Friends at Regional Assembly October 5-6

If you want to get a better sense of our Regional Church (as well as have some fun!), please plan to attend the Indiana **Regional Assembly on Oct 5-6 at Light of the World Christian Church in Indianapolis**. Registration includes Friday night dinner and Saturday breakfast and lunch, and FCC has budgeted funds to pay your \$75 registration fee! The Sept 21 registration deadline is fast approaching! Please express your interest and desire to our Moderator Linda Abe or Pastor Helen.

Art Together September 23 at 2:00 pm

Art Together will meet on Sunday September 23rd at 2:00 pm. We will work on projects with the focus of October's Jazz Vespers theme "Feast". All are welcome to join this creative group that provides original art for our Jazz Vespers services. Contact Mark Knowles for more information.

Upcoming FCC Lawn Ministry Event Help Needed!

FCC will once again serve as a music venue for Bloomington's Lotus music festival. FCC's Lawn Ministry will provide water and hospitality to festival goers and musicians on September 29. Contact Jean Thompson or the church office if you'd like to join this team and/or donate bottled water, coolers or ice.

Concert to Support the Habitat CommUNITY Interfaith Build

Join friends from FCC and bring other friends too... for an evening with Ken Medema! For four decades Ken Medema has inspired people through storytelling and music. This concert will benefit Habitat's CommUNITY Interfaith Build that FCC has supported and sponsored.

**An Evening with Ken Medema
Saturday, September 15 at 7:00 pm
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
100 North State Road 46 Bypass**

**The concert is free but donations will be collected to support
the CommUNITY Interfaith Build**





First Friday Jazz Vespers
Journey

The Lenthe Trio
with vocalist
Elena Escudero

September 7 at 6:30

Property Maintenance Alert

If you notice a maintenance issue around the church please write the details of the problem on the sheet in the kitchenette, next to the drinking fountain. The Property Committee can't see everything and would really appreciate your help.

This Maintenance Alert sheet will help us to be aware and address issues as they arise. The FCC Property Committee will, to the best of our abilities and funds, repair and address issues.

Thank you for helping to keep our beautiful building in working condition.

The FCC Property Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Friday, September 7

6:30 pm *First Friday Jazz Vespers*

Sunday, September 9

8:30 am *Meditation group*

9:00 am *Learning Session I*

10:00 am *Worship*

11:15 am *Handbell Choir rehearsal*

11:15 am *Learning Session II*

Tuesday, September 11

12:00 pm *Living the Story Bible Study*

1:30 pm *Caregivers Create*

5:30 pm *Listening to God meditation*

Wednesday, September 12

11:30 am *Disciples Women*

6:00 pm *Enneagram workshop*

Thursday, September 13

6:15 pm *Sanctuary Choir rehearsal*

Sunday, September 16

8:30 am *Meditation group*

9:00 am *Learning Session I*

10:00 am *Worship*

11:15 am *Handbell Choir rehearsal*

11:15 am *Learning Session II*

12:15 pm *FCC Board meeting*

Tuesday, September 18

12:00 pm *Living the Story Bible Study*

5:30 pm *Listening to God meditation*

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(Disciples of Christ)
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"The Bible is not a rule-book for me, which turns into a lecture for you, but a divine story about how we can together be in a relationship with God, each other, ourselves, and creation." -Len Sweet



Our Narrative Lectionary Cycle begins on Sunday!
Come, and listen for the unfolding of the divine story
of God's love!!!

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

September 9
Genesis 2:4b-7; 3:1-8

September 16
Genesis 15:1-6

September 23
Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34;
50:15-21