

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

Join Us as We Honor Our Saints in Worship on November 1

Join Us Online at 10:00 am for Worship and In-Person on the FCC Lawn at 5:45 pm

Worship on Sunday, November 1, will be a very special one as we honor our Saints in morning worship online at 10:00 am and then at 5:45 pm as we gather on FCC's lawn for a candle lighting service to remember and celebrate the saints in our lives, those members of the family of God - past and present - whose lives of witness, service and love have strengthened, supported and guided us.

One of our church's beloved traditions is the time when we name out loud those saints who have helped to shine the light of Christ into our lives. Who are those saints in your life?

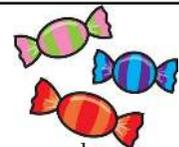
Whether they have gone before you or are still living among you, please send us (email or phone call to the church) the name(s) of one or two saints in your life. Then, during our online All-Saints Day Service, we will scroll their names on the screen as we offer prayers of thanksgiving. A list of FCC's Saints can be found on page 3 of this newsletter. The deadline for submitting names for online worship is Sunday, October 25.

We also hope that you will join us on the front lawn at 5:45 pm (Nov. 1) for a brief candle lighting service in memory of the faithful people who have come before us. There will be a children's moment and lanterns for children, a scripture reading, choral piece, and candles for adults to light in memory of someone who came before them and inspires their own discipleship to Jesus today. Please consider who you would like to remember as you light your candle. Children are encouraged to wear their costumes!

Note: This is an intergenerational/family-friendly in-person event. Please practice at least 6 ft. physical distancing from non-family members and wear a mask. The service will be between 15 and 30 mins. Please bring a lawn-chair or blanket if needed. PLEASE RSVP to the church office so we have an idea of how many people to expect (and to ensure we can practice adequate physical distancing)!

Candy Needed!

We would appreciate donations of nut-free, individually wrapped candy to make treat bags for the children attending our All Saints service on the lawn. This is in lieu of the usual downtown trick-or-treating event. Please drop off donations Tues-Fri from 10:00 am-2:00 pm Oct. 20-30 to a box in the front covered entrance on Kirkwood.



Pastor's Pen

Kingdom Values and Our Responsibility to Vote

Pastor Helen Hempfling and Pastor Bruce Ervin penned this article together: The Swiss theologian Karl Barth is reported to have said, “Read the Bible in one hand, and the newspaper in the other.” We agree with those who claim – in newspapers and elsewhere – that this is the most consequential presidential election in several generations; certainly the most consequential since the Great Depression and perhaps since the Civil War. And if you don’t like either candidate, please bear in mind that elections in this sinful world are always about choosing between less than perfect candidates.

We have never publicly endorsed a presidential candidate in all our years of ministry, and we certainly won’t in this last election before we retire. A public endorsement from the pulpit suggests that a particular candidate is somehow God’s choice; that a particular candidate somehow embodies the virtues of the Kingdom of God. Hogwash! There never has been such a candidate. The preacher’s responsibility is to uphold the lofty ideals of the Kingdom. The politician’s responsibility is to work out approximations of those ideals through the give and take of the legislative process, where compromises are worked out between conflicting interests and values. The policies that are produced by those compromises will inevitably fall short of Kingdom values. But compromises come closer to those values than the self-righteous proclamations of any candidate who refuses to compromise, as if he/she alone knows the will of God.

As you contemplate how you will cast your vote— up and down the ballot—we urge you to bear in mind these traditional norms; which we understand to be approximations of Kingdom values:

1. The rule of law. Jesus summarizes it well, multiple times: Love God and love your neighbor as yourself. Rev. Terri Hord Owens says this about the law: “To love your neighbor as yourself means that you value others as you value yourself. What you want for yourself you not only want for others, but you work to build a society where everyone has enough.” Indeed, laws help us to live together as communities and nations, and no one is above the law.
2. Equal protection under the law. This Kingdom norm is derived from the biblical call for justice. If no one is above the law, neither is anyone beneath the law. The law must be a protection for all, not a burden on the backs of some. As the Bible says, “Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream” (Amos 5:24).
3. Telling the truth; more often than not telling the truth. For, as Jesus said, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free” (John 8:32).
4. Upholding Life: Jesus said, “I have come that they might have life and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10). At its most basic, abundant life includes food, shelter, healthcare, a sense of purpose and being valued, and knowing you are not alone in this world.

Winston Churchill said: ‘Many forms of Government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time. . . .’ So pray for our nation, and for all nations. Pray that law and justice and truth and life might be respected by all who govern, or seek to govern, all around the world. And, whatever else you do, VOTE – in person or by mail – by November 3. As Christian citizens of a nation under God, it is your (and our) solemn duty to do so.

Remembering FCC's Saints

Maurice Biggs

John Droste

Mike (Michael) Engber

Liz (Elizabeth) Knapp

Mary Ann Lambert

Jerry (Gerald) Spore

Joe (Joseph) True

Bob (Robert) Richards

Join us on November 1 as we remember the Saints in our lives. We will celebrate and honor these beloved people during our online Sunday worship at 10:00 am and in person on FCC's front lawn at 5:45 pm for a special candle lighting service. *The outdoor service is an intergenerational/family friendly in-person event. Please practice at least 6 ft. physical distancing from non-family members and wear a mask.*

For What Are You Grateful? An Invitation to Become a Publisher Writer!

Pastor Helen is inviting friends and members of FCC to write an essay of 150(ish) words in response to this prompt: *When I think about First Christian Church, I am grateful for _____ (ie a specific space/room/object in church, a memory, an experience, teaching, event, class, group, person--but please not Pastors Helen or Bruce), and here's why: _____ (please be as specific and descriptive as possible. Tell the story behind it).*

Here at First Christian Church, we have much for which to give thanks! Your essay will serve to uplift, offer encouragement, and strengthen our congregation during these challenging times. Deadline for submission is October 31. They may be emailed or snail mailed to Pastor Helen or the Church office. We look forward to receiving your letters of gratitude!

Jihye Choi's Doctoral Organ Recital

On Tuesday, October 27 at 7:00 pm our organist, Jihye Choi, will give her first doctoral organ recital in Alumni Hall at the University. Her program will include compositions by Max Reger, J.S. Bach, Nicholas Bruhns, William Grant Still, and César Frank. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic only music faculty and registered students will be allowed to attend in person, but the organ department is hoping to find a way for the recital to be live streamed. We will be sure to let everyone know how this will happen!

In the meantime, we have been given samples of Jihye's recital repertoire in the Preludes and Postludes of our virtual worship services the past few weeks and that will also be included on some Sundays coming up. Maybe go back and listen to them on the archived worship services! Keep Jihye in your thoughts and prayers on Tuesday, October 27! We are so privileged to have her on our music staff at FCC.



Being the Church We Say We Are
Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Resources

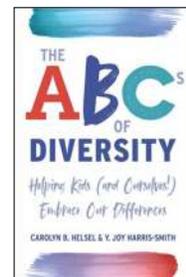
Chalice Press, the publishing arm of Disciples Christian Board of Publication, offers a number of award winning books that can help inform and guide conversations around racism, race relations, discrimination and racial justice, whiteness, and white fragility. Most of the books include discussion questions at the end of each chapter or free downloadable study guides to use in small groups, book clubs, or for your own deeper personal reflection. Below are a few of the titles. You can order them through chalicepress.com.

The ABCs of Diversity:

Helping Kids (and Ourselves!) Embrace Our Differences

by Carolyn B. Helsel and Y. Joy Harris-Smith

How do you teach your kids to respect, embrace, and learn from those who look and think differently than they do? Written by two mothers and educators, one black, one white, *The ABCs of Diversity* equips parents, teachers, and community leaders to address children of all ages on complicated topics of race, political affiliation, gender, class, religion, ability, nationality, and sexual orientation.

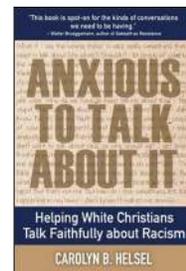


Anxious to Talk about It:

Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism

by Carolyn B. Helsel

Talking about race can make us anxious. Professor and pastor Carolyn Helsel draws on a decade of work with white congregations to offer tools and practices to engage the discomfort around the conversations and move forward toward action faithfully. Learn how to join the hard conversations with less fear and more courage, compassion, and knowledge of self, others, and the important issues at stake.

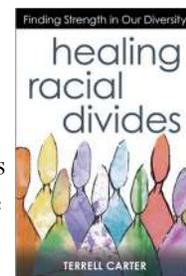


Healing Racial Divides:

Finding Strength in Our Diversity

by Terrell Carter

Black pastor, professor, author, and former police officer Terrell Carter takes us on a revelatory journey of the history of racism to show us how we've arrived at this divisive place. Understanding racism's roots – and our place in it – we surface more committed and empowered to combat racism in the church, our communities, and the nation.





In Our Prayers

Please hold Donna Richards in prayer as she mourns the passing of her husband Rev. Robert (Bob) Richards, who died September 19. Donna is a newer member of our congregation who hasn't been able to worship with us on a regular basis due to Bob's prolonged illness (Alzheimer's). Cards and notes of encouragement may be sent to Donna at 1012 E. Heather Dr., Bloomington, 47401.

Also pray for Don Wendling (90) who went to the hospital on Saturday (Oct. 10) with pain in his side. He awaits test results and a diagnosis. Cards and notes of encouragement can be sent to Don at 3722 Fairington Dr., Bloomington, 47403.



We so appreciate all of the cards, texts and emails from our FCC church family as we mourn the loss of my Dad. It means a lot to us all.

Connie, Kip and Kate Myers

Thank you for the prayers, cards, and calls during my father's lengthy and difficult hospital stay. Thankfully, he is now out of the hospital at a rehab facility, where he is working hard to regain strength to return home. We are grateful for your loving support and encouragement.
Jennifer, Scott and Max Fettchenhauer (and the Waco family)

Would You Like a Set of Advent Candles?

Each month, Sarah Lynne Gershon carefully plans and puts together devotional bags for each of our families with young children. These special bags are filled with wondering questions and devotional activities for families to use based on the same scripture preached each Sunday. The Advent devotional bag for our families will include advent candles with a brass candleholder and devotional materials.

While planning for this special devotional bag, it occurred to us that others might enjoy having advent candles and the devotional materials during this special time of the church calendar. ***If you would like to have a set of candles, candle holder and/or the devotional materials, please fill out the order form in this newsletter and return it to FCC by Nov. 1.*** We can order advent candles and a simple brass ring advent candle holder for anyone who needs one, but we would appreciate a donation to cover the expenses. We will also have other devotional materials that will correspond with the Sunday worship service. Please fill out this order form and return it by November 1, so we know how many candles and candle rings to order. There will be an opportunity to pick up your order at the end of November.



Family Ministries Update

Hello Families!

It was lovely seeing the Hills at our ZOOM PJ PARTY to watch Prince of Egypt. We all loved the film! It is available to rent for just \$2 right now on Amazon. Check it out for an inspiring and conversation-starting family movie night.

The next opportunity for a LIVE gathering will be our Candle Lighting service for All Saints Day on the church's front lawn at 5:45 pm on Sunday, November 1. See the front page for details. ***It is very important that you RSVP for this event as we want to ensure there is plenty of space for everyone to physically distance.***

As usual, I will have your November at-home devotional kits at the event for you to pick up. Kids are encouraged to wear their costumes and pick up a treat bag to take home. I will also have some ball jar lanterns for you to take home and decorate. I encourage you to hang onto them and light them on November 11th for St. Martin's Day as well! I will share a read-aloud about this saint that week. It's traditional to go on a lantern walk for St. Martin's day and it's one of my family's favorite events. Check out my "Martinmas" Spotify playlist to hear some of the songs we like to sing together during this time. (Search Martinmas and choose the one by Sarah Gershon.)

Finally, I know it's early but I am getting ready for Advent and its *almost* time to find out who your secret encouragers are (in December)! I will be planning a ZOOM reveal event, so ***please keep an eye out as I ask for what dates work for your family.*** I will also be asking you other questions for you Advent at-home devo bag, *and* we will be looking for Advent candle lighters/readers for worship. This will be coming up in the next email. I look forward to hearing from you!

The pandemic holiday season will be weird, but I am praying that you find the turning weather and upcoming season cozy and restful!

Sarah Lynne Gershon

Director of Faith Formation and Family Ministries



Youth Movie Night

Join us for an Outdoor Movie Night on October 17

FCC's Youth Group will be meeting on Saturday, October 17 at 7:30 pm for an outdoor, socially distanced movie night! Charlie and Lynn Sinn are hosting this fun event that will have a Halloween feel (we'll have a few quirky Halloween movies to choose from). We will provide pizza and s'mores for the occasion. You'll want to wear warm clothing and bring a blanket since this is outside! Parents, feel free to hang out for a little while after dropping off your kid... and say hi to other FCC parents and youth. If you have questions, please contact Ashlyn Reynolds. See you there!



XPLOR Update

As of this week, the NBA (National Benevolent Association) has still not made the final determination regarding whether or not they will go forward with the XPLOR program in 2020-2021. They assure us that as soon as a decision has been made, we will be among the first to know! In the meantime, we have heard from Miche Andre, one of our 2019-2020 XPLOR Residents. Here is a note he sent to us:

Dear FCC Family,

I just wanted to give you an update on where I am now after my year of service in the nonprofit world. I am starting week 3 at my new job as an ELL (English Language Learners) Haitian Creole tutor at a local high school in Naples, FL. (See picture of the school below)

This position was a God-send because it just seems to suit me so well. The students I help are students who have just immigrated to the U.S. And one of my favorite parts of this whole experience is surprising people with my Spanish. It's still so fun! Golden Gate High School has, from what I heard, the biggest ELL student population in all of the district. I feel so blessed to be able to help both Creole and Spanish speakers here. And already, my confidence in Spanish is growing! Praise the Lord God Almighty.

You have helped me get to where I am today and I wanted to let you know my happenings. I could not have gotten here without you. Thank you so very much.

Miche



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

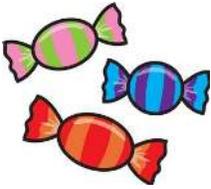
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The Christian Visitor

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCHES OF
BEDFORD & BLOOMINGTON

*A Season of
Courage*

OCTOBER SERMON SERIES

October 18
I Used All My Courage
From 2 Samuel 17:17-24

October 25
The Fiery Furnace
Daniel 3:8-30



ADVENT WORSHIP MATERIALS
ORDER FORM
DUE NOVEMBER 1

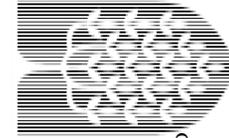
- I would like to order the advent candle set
(suggested donation of \$3.00-\$5.00)
- I would like to order the advent candle set with candle holder.
(suggested donation of \$8.00-\$10.00)
- I would like to order the devotional materials.
(a small donation as you are able)
- I don't need advent worship materials, but have included a contribution toward making these materials available to others.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Diverse in Thought | United in Faith | Called to Serve



Please return this order card along with your donation to help fund this ministry to the FCCC Office

205 E. Kirkwood Ave.
Bloomington, Indiana 47408