

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

EXPECT • ASK • HONOR • DO
THE FAITHFUL LIFE

What does it mean to live “The Faithful Life?” Over the coming weeks, Pastor Helen will offer insights to this question during her four-part sermon series based on our Narrative Lectionary scripture readings. “The Faithful Life” also serves as a very fitting theme for our annual stewardship campaign, which begins Sunday, October 20.

Ashlyn Reynolds, our talented director of Youth Ministries, designed this year’s simple and beautiful campaign logo. On each of the four Sundays, we will focus on a particular word that is highlighted in the logo as we ask what it means to live “The Faithful Life” as stewards of God’s abundance. You may have already received a letter from Pastor Helen that gives you a preview of the coming weeks. Below is a little more information, along with some questions!

The Faithful Life: Expect the unexpected! Who would have ever thought that a little shepherd boy could become the ruler of a great nation? What did God see in David that no one else saw?

The Faithful Life: Ask for what you need! God wants us to name our needs and trust God’s provision! Solomon asks for wisdom. What is it that you need from God in order to help you live more faithfully?

The Faithful Life: Honor the Legacy! Elisha—even as he grieves the death of his beloved mentor Elijah—is given divine strength to carry out Elijah’s message and ministry. How do you honor the legacy of the beloved who have gone before you?

The Faithful Life: Do what God requires! The prophet Micah offers clear specifics. How will you live out what God asks of you?

Highlights of this four week series include: stunningly beautiful music offered by our choir, personal stories told by some of our members, candles lit as we name the saints who have gone before us, creative movement presented by our newly formed girls praise and prayer dance group, commitment cards presented and consecrated in faithful response to the giver of all gifts. Together, let’s be the church that lives “The Faithful Life.”

Volume 61, number 18 October 16, 2019

Pastor's Pen

EXPECT • ASK • HONOR • DO THE FAITHFUL LIFE

I sat in awe last week as I watched the four members of our finance committee—all CPA's—do “their thing” with numbers and create a proposed 2020 ministry budget that will be presented to the board on Sunday. Thank you Brian Jackson, Shari Sprinkle, Tim Sullivan, and Jim Watson!

To the untrained eye, the document (which will be mailed out in the coming weeks) may look like “just numbers.” In reality, however, it tells a story of a faithful congregation seeking to do God's work in the world. When I look at the numbers, this is what I see:

I see a proposed budget that is faithful! It reflects our congregation's call to: 1) share Christ's inclusive love, 2) develop deeper spiritual connections with God and others, 3) reach beyond our doorsteps with acts of charity and justice, 4) increase our local and global outreach giving.

I see a proposed budget that is exciting! It includes a workshop led by singer/song writer Carrie Newcomer, a people-to-people pilgrimage, another year as an XPLOR host congregation, increased intergenerational ministries, high quality worship and music, and more. For those of you who like to focus on “nuts and bolts,” you will be excited to see that it includes additional funding for deferred maintenance projects. It also identifies sources of revenue that will be gained through making some minor changes in our financial management practices.

I see a proposed budget is practical! In other words, our staff and lay leaders researched and requested “real numbers” that reflect what is needed to help us both be and become the church God has called us to be. Unlike budget processes in other businesses or institutions, our leaders don't play the “pad-the-budget-game” with their requests. They know the need, they research the cost, and they respectfully ask that it to be included in their 2020 budget proposals. It's that simple and that practical.

I see a proposed budget that is doable! However, its “do-ability” relies on your continued generosity, your faithfulness, and your willingness to give. One of my favorite stewardship quotes, attributed to W.A. Ward (1921-1994) is this:

*Giving is more than a responsibility—it is a privilege;
more than an act of obedience—it is evidence of our faith.*

Blessings on you as you prayerfully and faithfully consider how you will support FCC's ministries in the coming year.


Pastor Helen



Musical Vespers Service of Remembrance

Combined Choirs of First Christian Church and First Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening, November 3 – 7:00 PM – at First Presbyterian Church

Since medieval times, the period including October 31 (All Hallows' Eve), November 1st (All Saints' Day), and November 2nd (All Souls' Day) has been a time to remember loved ones who have passed away.

In observance of the period, the First Christian and First Presbyterian choirs will combine for a Musical Vespers Service of Remembrance on Sunday evening, November 3 at 7:00 in the sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church. The music of the service will include J.S. Bach's Cantata 106: *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit* (God's time is the best time) and the 21st- century Latvian composer Pēteris Vasks's ethereal setting of the Latin words from the Agnus Dei of the Mass: *Dona Nobis Pacem* (Grant us peace). The musical offerings of the choirs and instrumentalists will be interspersed with prayers, readings and hymns to bring into focus this time of remembrance.

Bach's beautiful cantata *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit* (God's time is very best time) stands out as one of the most profoundly moving sacred works ever written. Composed for a funeral when Bach was in his early twenties, the cantata is a profound contemplation of things final. The musical exploration juxtaposes Old and New Testament texts that make a powerful distinction between the dark reality of the ancient Old Testament law that we all must die, and the redemptive power of Christ's love. Following the cantata, Pēteris Vasks' dramatic setting of *Dona Nobis Pacem* ("Grant us peace") will end the service time with a time of quiet meditation.

Please mark your calendars to attend this meaningful and redemptive service of music performed by our combined choirs.

Join us
for First Friday Jazz Vespers
with the Ellie Pruneau Trio
featuring vocalist April
Varner on November 1 at
6:30 pm.

First Friday Jazz Vespers
Courage

Dinner Before Jazz Vespers at Uptown Cafe!

Thinking about attending Jazz Vespers this Friday but worried about finding time for dinner too? Join friends from FCC at the Uptown Café at 5:00 pm for dinner before First Friday Jazz Vespers! Another bonus... it's easier to find parking before the First Friday rush!

So, find a parking spot near FCC and walk over to Uptown for dinner. We'll all walk back to FCC after dinner and enjoy the Jazz Vespers service together. What a great way to start the weekend!

Contact Kate Kroll if you're interested in joining us for dinner so that she can plan the reservation accordingly. See you there!

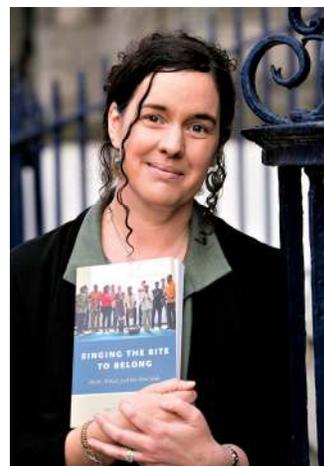
Singing the Rite to Belong: Music and Ritual in a Changing Ireland

Workshop with Dr. Helen Phelan on October 29 at 10:00am-12:00 pm

Mark your calendars for a very special workshop at FCC! Join us on Tuesday, October 29 at 10:00 am as we welcome Professor Helen Phelan, a scholar and singer specializing in the role of music in ritual. For this workshop, she will explore three examples of ritual music connected with her home country of Ireland. The first is a piece of medieval chant to St. Brigid, a Celtic Saint sharing many of the attributes of the older, pre-Christian goddess, Brigantia. The second piece is a Congolese song drawn from Dr. Phelan's work with new migrant ritual communities in Ireland. The final piece is from the Celtic feast of Samhain, a precursor to Halloween.

Dr. Phelan is Professor of Arts Practice at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance of the University of Limerick, Ireland. She is an Irish Research Council recipient for her work on singing and new migrant communities in Ireland. Her most recent book, *Singing the Rite to Belong: Music, Ritual and the New Irish*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2017. As a singer and ritual scholar, she specializes in chant associated with religious rituals and is co-founder of the female vocal group *Cantoral*, who released their much acclaimed CD recording of Irish medieval chant in 2014.

This workshop will take place in FCC's beautiful sanctuary on October 29th at 10:00 am. It is a community event, so please invite friends, family and neighbors. All are welcome!



Professor Helen Phelan



Brush Pen Lettering Workshop

Saturday, November 9 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Brush pens and markers are interesting tools that have flexible tips that mimic the look of a pointed brush. They come in a variety of colors and can be used like watercolor, creating fun effects for lettering and art projects (see the image to the left).

Jeanne Dutton has organized a Brush Pen Lettering Workshop with guest instructor Christine Shaw, who is a member of the International Association of Master Penmen. **This workshop will fill quickly, and you must register in advance to attend.** The cost is \$35. All supplies are included. Just bring a sack lunch.

If you are interested in the workshop, contact Jeanne Dutton or the church office at 812-332-4459.



Joys and Concerns in Our FCC Family...

Please pray the family of Bill Van de Riet as they mourn his sudden death (heart attack). A celebration of life service will be on October 26 at Hope Reformed Church in South Haven, Michigan.

Also remember in your prayers those those who are in the hospital or at home recovering from illness. Anne Johnson is recovering from surgery at Bloomington Hospital. Jan Parrott is recovering from an infection at Bloomington Hospital, but is hoping to be home by the weekend. Charlie Parker has been released from the hospital and is recovering at home, and Anne Binkley-Findlay's brother, Jim Binkley, who was released from the hospital in Bloomington and is now recovering at his home in Georgia.

We also lift up with joy the family of David Presley and his wife Linda as they welcome a new grandson, Simon Edgar Wilson, born on October 15!



Friday Game Night at First Christian Church!

Adrian Griffin, one of our XPOR Residents, is initiating and organizing this fun ministry! Below is his invitation:

Do you like games? Do you like snacks? Do you like your fellow churchgoers?

Well, you should come on down to the Chapel Gathering Space on the second Friday of each month for **Friday Game Night starting this November 8th at 7:00 pm**. We'll have plenty of games and snacks, and you are welcome to bring your own as well. Open to all, including young'uns, friends and neighbors! If you have any questions you can message the host, Adrian, at 479-445-9346 or at angriffinva@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!



Join us for some Spooky Fun!

FCC will once again be a stop on Bloomington's Downtown Trick or Treat event! Join us as we welcome families to this downtown tradition! FCC's MOPS (Mothers Of PreSchoolers) group will organize the event. We will need volunteers to hand out candy and we will also need candy donations (NO Nuts please). What a great opportunity to meet more families in the community! Consider participating by donating candy or covering a shift at the event. Sign up at <https://signup.com/go/PDfctpG> and look for donation boxes in the reception area and narthex.

English Conversation Group to be launched at FCC

The following was written by Miche Andre, one our XPLORES Residents. Part of his NBA XPLORES Covenant is to help strengthen the life and ministry of the host congregation.

In the community of Bloomington, there exists a need for spaces in which people learning English can freely engage in conversation. This is my vision with my English conversation group sessions: to provide an informal “drop-in” setting where non-native English speakers can gather for the purpose of practicing and improving their English conversation skills. It would be such a simple solution for such an apparent need.

My passion for this area of community action comes from my background as a Haitian-American constantly caught between my two cultures. Growing up, I was always face-to-face with the reality that many adults in my hometown in Florida, whether from Haiti or from other countries, struggled to access important resources due to the presence of language barriers. I did my best to be a liaison, offering my time and energy to translate and interpret.

This same passion remains and I want to serve people who may struggle due to language barriers. Although I will not be teaching anyone how to speak English nor will I be giving any professional instruction or training, I do plan to prepare talking points and activities to stimulate social interaction among the attendants. In other words, I will play the facilitator. I plan to use their feedback to come up with conversation topics and activities suitable for their needs in conversing.

As someone who has had to learn English and several other languages including Spanish and French, I understand the importance of an open, judgement-free zone to make mistakes in language in the presence of another experienced, patient, and encouraging person. This is the kind of environment I strive to cultivate at these English conversation group sessions.

Because I anticipate a growing response, I invite you (our FCC members and friends) to serve as table hosts and conversation partners during these sessions. Please let me know of your interest at church or via email (michedre@gmail.com). **The first conversational group will be at 7:00 PM on Monday, November 11, 2019.**

For the latest newsletter, upcoming church events, and more, visit our website:

www.fccbloomington.org



Disciples News...

What We Have Seen and Heard There: General Ministers and Presidents and Global Ministries Co-Executives Travel to Venezuela



By Angel L. Rivera Agosto on October 2, 2019

Leaders from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada and the United Church of Christ in the U.S. engaged in a Pilgrimage of Solidarity with the People of Venezuela from September 23- 27, 2019. John Dorhauer and Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens, General Ministers and Presidents of both denominations, teamed up with Julia Brown Karimu and Karen Georgia Thompson of Global Ministries to affirm their desire to accompany our partner church in Venezuela on their pastoral and prophetic work for peace and justice in the country. In their travel, they met key actors in the Venezuelan society and had the opportunity to listen to the contextual analysis and challenges faced in the country as well as mechanisms for our work of solidarity. In addition, they all traveled to strengthen our commitment to establish a framework of solidarity and accompaniment to the people of Venezuela. The leaders committed themselves to enable congregations from both churches to interpret the religious, political, and social realities of the partner church and the people of Venezuela to congregations.

“The agenda for this pilgrimage was very intense... with deep dialogues regarding several matters,” said Angel Luis Rivera-Agosto, Area Executive for Latin America and the Caribbean. “They had the opportunity to speak to the Minister of the Popular Power for Women's Affairs, a representative of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, but they also had the opportunity to sit with one of the leaders of the political opposition in the country. They met with leaders from the Afro-Venezuelan cultural circuit as well as with an organization that advocates for human rights. The Evangelical Pentecostal Union of Venezuela, our partner there, invited us to worship and share with dozens of church leaders from the Caracas area. An orchestra of children from a musical program in the country organized a concert for us. Even John Dorhauer, our UCC General Minister and President, played along with Venezuelan musicians at worship! So, it was a broad and comprehensive agenda the one that we had there and, as a result of it, we gathered enough information to share in terms of what is going on in Venezuela right now and how to walk in solidarity with our siblings there.”

One of the main clarifications the group received is that Venezuela is not facing a humanitarian crisis as published by mass media. “In Venezuela there is an economic crisis characterized by two main factors: First is the price of oil, which generates 98-99% of revenue in the country. The second is the economic blockade,” said Cristóbal Cornieles, a lawyer and leader of SURES, a non-governmental, non-profit, independent, non-partisan and non-denominational organization working on environmental, civil, cultural, economic, social, and political human rights in the country. “Since 2014, the U.S. created a legal and political framework similar to the Helms-Burton Act, a bill designed as part of the U.S. policy against Cuba. However, the UN rapporteur for unilateral coercive measures, Mr. Idriss Jazairy, issued a report that the blockade began before 2014. The blockade is an even more important issue than the price of oil. The problem of Venezuela is that it has no place to sell its oil. The U.S. has banned the purchase of Venezuelan oil and forced governments like India to cancel the purchase of Venezuelan oil. Now, President Trump is doing the same with the Caribbean countries. Venezuela and Jamaica agreed to build a refinery to process oil and we were forced to sell it to that country to avoid the sanctions of the United States,” stated Cornieles on his presentation to the group.

The Global Ministries Office for Latin America and the Caribbean will be sharing more information about this pilgrimage in the upcoming days. The leaders agreed to work on a plan to raise awareness of the issues discussed during this pilgrimage, along with a pastoral letter and suggestions for congregations to accompany Venezuela on this present situation. Stay tuned for more things to come.



November Birthdays



11/01	Fay	McIntyre	1918 Wilton Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/03	Peg	Albertson	1727 E. Windsor Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/03	Hannah	Watson	913 S. Mitchell St.	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/04	Gale	Hill	1007 E. Sherbrooke Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/07	John	Ambler	3674 Tamarron Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
11/07	Kristin	Richards	1651 W. Dove Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403
11/09	Scott	Fettchenhauer	5537 E. State Rd. 46	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/09	Sharon	O'Bryan	C/o Jill's House 751 E. Tamarack Trail, Rm. 203	Bloomington	IN	47408
11/09	Connie	Myers	4813 N. Ashcroft Ln.	Bloomington	IN	47404
11/11	Jasmine	Martoglio	4624 S. Whooping Crane Ln.	Bloomington	IN	47403
11/11	Aurelia	Martoglio	4624 S. Whooping Crane Ln.	Bloomington	IN	47403
11/15	Ken	Shafer	P.O. Box 1254	Bloomington	IN	47402
11/16	Gabby	Johnson	4001 Rosewood Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47404
11/17	Joanie	Breeden	3808 Woods Edge Bend	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/17	Gary	Hill	1007 E. Sherbrooke Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/17	Rhonda	Trippel	1497 E Commander Ct	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/17	Maya	Norris	3194 N. Dahlia Lane	Bloomington	IN	47404
11/18	Charlotte	Irvine Sinn	2743 E. Buttonwood Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/18	Lilah	Knepper	3616 S. Kingsbury Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/21	Henry	Street	4153 Hector Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
11/22	Mildred	Blackburn	800 N. Bell Trace Cir. #107	Bloomington	IN	47408
11/23	Ryan	Klein	723 Olde Mill Circle	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/25	Mark	Knepper	3616 S. Kingsbury Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/26	Jenn	Richards	1651 W. Dove Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403

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



Volunteer on FCC's Reception Desk

Looking for a way to pitch-in at FCC? Join our team of volunteers for the FCC Reception Desk. Shifts are Monday - Thursday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and Friday from 9:00 am to noon. Work one day per month or more! It's your choice. It's a simple way to really help out! You'll be answering the phone and working on small projects (nothing terribly complicated). This volunteer job gives our staff the opportunity to run errands or take a lunch break knowing the phones are covered and visitors will be greeted with a smile.

No experience needed. We'll show you anything that you don't already know. It's really a piece of cake!

Contact Diane Thrasher or Jane Zebendon to join the team. You can also contact the FCC office directly. Join us!

Missing Something? Check our Lost & Found Box!

Our Lost & Found box is overflowing! Perhaps there's something in there that you left behind? Check and see! We've placed the Lost & Found box in the reception area on the pew.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Sunday, October 20

- 8:30 am Mediation Group
- 9:00 am Learning Session I
- 10:00 am Worship
- 11:15 am Learning Session II
- 12:15 pm FCC Board meeting
- 4:00 pm Youth Bible Study
- 5:00 pm Bloomington Bible Study

Monday, October 21

- 6:30 pm Creative Faith at St. Mark's UMC

Tuesday, October 22

- 1:30 pm Caregivers Create!
- 5:30 pm Listening to God meditation
- 6:15 pm Deeper Bible Study

Thursday, October 24

- 4:00 pm Book Bunch
- 5:30 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal
- 6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Friday, October 25

- 5:00 pm Downtown Trick or Treating!

Sunday, October 27

- 8:30 am Mediation Group
- 9:00 am Learning Session I
- 10:00 am Worship
- 11:15 am Learning Session II
- 4:00 pm Youth Bible Study
- 5:00 pm Bloomington Bible Study

Monday, October 28

- 6:30 pm Creative Faith at St. Mark's UMC

Tuesday, October 29

- 10:00 am Celtic Chanting workshop
- 5:30 pm Listening to God meditation
- 6:15 pm Deeper Bible Study

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Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule



October 20:
Grades K-12 and Sharing Table

October 27:
Sanctuary Choir and Bell Choir

October 20:
Campbellite Class

EXPECT · ASK · HONOR · DO
THE FAITHFUL LIFE

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

October 20
1 Samuel 16:1-13

October 27
1 Kings 3:2, 4-9

November 3
2 Kings 2:1-15