

# The CHRISTIAN



---



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
*(Disciples of Christ)*

## Visitor

### Join Us for World Communion Sunday on October 6

World Communion Sunday offers congregations a special opportunity to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. The first Sunday of October has become a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, they remember that they are part of the whole body of believers.

Whether shared in a grand cathedral, a mud hut, outside on a hilltop, in a meetinghouse, or in a storefront, Christians celebrate the communion liturgy in as many ways as there are congregations. World Communion Sunday can be both a profound worship experience and a time for learning more about our wider community of faith. Join us for worship at 10:00 am this Sunday, October 6 as we celebrate World Communion Sunday.

### Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering

Throughout the year, we collect special offerings that support ministries of the Greater Church. This Sunday, October 6, we will collect a special offering supporting

the Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

This Special Offering is used to fund our Church's mission imperative to become a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church utilizing experiential education, inclusive worship and intentional dialogue. Our efforts to promote healing, relationship and restoration in the whole family of God are enabled by funds from this offering.

Through it we are able to provide programs for leadership development, curriculum for dialogue and learning, and partnerships within the Church and our communities.

The 2020 Vision adopted by our church names this work as one of the four priorities of our mission together as a whole church. This voluntary annual offering is the only source of funding for this ministry.

#### *Inside This Issue...*

**Page 4** Blessing of the Animals

**Page 6** Youth Group Update

**Page 7** Get to know our XPLOR Residents

*Volume 61, number 17 October 2, 2019*

---

## Pastor's Pen

Adrian, Kristen, and Miche (our XPLOR Residents) have settled into their work routines and their home life. They have figured out the bus schedules, created their family chore charts, and familiarized themselves with the amenities of life on Kirkwood Avenue and beyond. They tell me that they love their jobs, and Bloomington, and FCC!

They are now in the process of discerning their gifts and developing the leadership skills needed to plan, develop and implement ministries that will help us carry out the vision of the FCC Story: "to share the inclusive love of Christ, through welcoming, serving, learning, and offering spiritual connection."

**Adrian** has a passion for creating community through playing games. He will be organizing and leading all church Friday game nights, when people of all ages will gather for food, fellowship, and to play their favorite games. Please watch for details in the coming weeks, and feel free to offer Adrian support that will help him implement this great idea!

**Kristen**, who last Sunday called us to prayer with a beautiful liturgical dance, has a passion for children and youth. In addition to helping Ashlyn plan and lead our youth programming, she will be reaching out to our older children and youth to see if there is interest in creating a small praise dance troupe that will offer occasional leadership during worship. She also has hopes to share her love of Gospel Music with our congregation, so stay tuned!

**Miche**, who has a passion for other cultures and languages, is creating a "Conversational English Group" for people who need a safe and welcoming space to practice their newly

acquired English speaking skills. His vision is to create a Café-like atmosphere where people (native English speakers as well as those for whom English is a second language) can gather to hone their conversational skills as they form relationships that cross cultural boundaries. As he continues to work out the details, please do not hesitate to reach out to him with offers of encouragement and support.

In addition: 1) all three young adults will be helping to lead worship on a regular basis, 2) each is participating in one or more of our FCC small groups and classes, and 3) they are checking doors and lights each night to make sure that the church is properly secured.

Here is how you can encourage them: First, don't expect them to remember you by name. Instead, simply remind them of your name each time you speak with them. Second, remember that they are young and have great ideas but not a whole lot of experience in leadership positions. Your patience with them is imperative! Third, help them implement their ministry plans! We want them to succeed, and we want our church to be stronger because of them. Fourth, include them in your social life by inviting them to your home for dinner, to a ball game, to a show, etc.

Finally, please hold them in your prayers as they do the work of 1) discerning God's call for their lives, 2) living in simple community and within their means, 3) developing their gifts and skills for ministry, and 4) making this world better and more just for all God's children! You are a blessing to them, and they are a blessing to us!

Blessings,  
  
 Pastor Helen



## FCC Story Ministries Reach Out, Connect, and Build Up the Body of Christ



The *Caregivers Create* program is having an important impact on the lives of the participants. Caregivers come together twice a month for a little respite from the responsibilities, stress, and grief of caring for loved ones. The classes provide an opportunity to connect with others and reconnect with our creative, God-given selves. Together we share love, laughter, and restorative spiritual space as we create art together.

Jeanne Dutton, who initiated the program, says, “Two things spurred me to create this ministry, not the least of which was a research article about the positive benefit of just 10 minutes of creative activity lasting 24 hours.” The second was the accidental discovery of an article online about a similar program at a Michigan church. “I took that happy accident as one of those little messages from God. You now, the kind that prompts us to move in a certain direction? He’s sneaky that way sometimes.”

With professional and experienced guest instructors, *Caregivers Create* has been able to offer art classes in watercolor, acrylics, origami, paper flowers, and so much more. Artistic faith journaling, where participants make their own journals, was one of the first classes.



“I’d like to note that my faith journals always include a page devoted to Philippians 4:13: ‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,’” added Dutton. “Christ teaches us to live a life of service. Sharing faith and art with my fellow caregivers strengthens everyone, especially myself, to continue the job God has given us.”

Jeanne’s commitment to this ministry has been a real gift for our community. Just read some of the comments from the caregivers:

- “Spending a delightful afternoon at Caregivers Create releases me from the pressures of full-time caregiving for my mother.”
- “I’m developing bonding friendships with the other ladies in Caregivers Create.”
- “It’s wonderful sharing my unique artwork from Caregivers Create with my family and friends.”
- “I’m so grateful for this opportunity and to those who have made it possible!”
- “While I’ve only just recently joined Caregivers Create, it became immediately clear how it could bring me moments of peace, a respite from the ongoing sadness I was experiencing. Focusing on playfully creating various forms of art for a period of time relegates grief to a quiet whisper. And Jeanne’s cheerfulness, her ready smile and laugh, are just icing on the cake.”

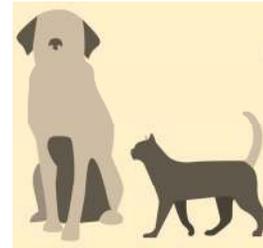
*Caregivers Create* is part of the ‘FCC & the Arts’ initiative of the Avenues Team and is an outgrowth of the FCC Story.



### FCC's Blessing of the Animals This Sunday, October 6 at 4:00 pm

Join us on FCC's lawn this Sunday afternoon, October 6, at 4:00 pm as we honor our animal friends with a Blessing of the Animals. This service is typically conducted on or near the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of Animals which falls in early October.

Come with your pet, or bring a picture of your pet as we celebrate and bless our animal friends. We do ask that all pets are kept on a leash to help ensure everyone has a good experience. We will also be accepting pet food donations for the Monroe County Humane Association's pet food pantry. We will have treats donated by our neighbors at *Baked* to celebrate the occasion. This special service is open to all, so please invite friends and neighbors. What a great opportunity to share the inclusive love of Christ with our community.



Join us this Friday, October 4  
at 6:30 pm for Jazz Vespers!



The  
Ellie Pruneau  
Trio

Featuring vocalist  
April Varner

### Dinner Before Jazz Vespers!

*Join us at Uptown Café*

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 on 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!

### Welcome New Member Sandy Bate!

Born in Petoskey, Michigan, Sandy has lived in Bloomington for nearly 25 years. She and her daughter, Jennifer, moved here from South Bend when Sandy accepted a position as Associate Vice President of Marketing with Indiana University Foundation . Shortly after she retired (in 2014), she attended a Lotus concert at FCC and read a card laying on a pew that described the church. She said to a friend, "I should come here sometime and see if they are what they say they are." A couple months later, Sandy came to Sunday worship. And she has been coming back ever since.

"This church, to me, is welcoming. It is nurturing. And it is inclusive. Those are the reasons I have chosen to keep coming back and to now join First Christian Church," Sandy said.

Welcome Sandy! We are so glad that you've chosen to make FCC your church home.



### ANNOUNCING UPCOMING MUSICAL OFFERINGS FROM THE SANCTUARY CHOIR IN NOVEMBER

#### All Souls Day Musical Vesper Service of Remembrance Combined Choirs of First Christian Church and First Presbyterian Church Sunday Evening, November 3 – 7:00 PM - First Presbyterian Church

The First Christian and First Presbyterian Church Choirs will combine for a Musical Vespers Service of Remembrance on Sunday evening November 3 at 7:00 pm. 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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).

In the ancient Christian tradition the day after All Hallows Eve or "Halloween" November 1<sup>st</sup> is observed as All Saints Day and November 2<sup>nd</sup> as All Souls' Day - a time when it has become traditional to remember loved ones who have passed away. For our November 3<sup>rd</sup> service, prayers, readings and hymns will be interspersed with the musical offerings of the choirs and instrumentalists, bringing into focus this time of remembrance for those who have passed. At the heart of Bach's beautiful cantata is the musical exploration of contrasting texts juxtaposed from the Old and New Testaments that explore the promise of redemption and eternal life; following the cantata, the serene setting of Vasks' *Dona Nobis Pacem* will end the service time with a time of quiet meditation. Please mark you calendars to attend this meaningful and redemptive service of music performed by our combined choirs.

#### Upcoming on November 17<sup>th</sup> in Morning Worship

Handel's Chandos Anthem 9: *O Praise the Lord With One Consent*  
FCC Sanctuary Choir and Chamber Orchestra

A joyous baroque cantata consisting of settings of Psalm verses  
that evoke praise and unity of spirit

## Where Does Your Sunday Morning Learning Hour Offering Go?



Sunday morning learning hour participants “pass the plate” weekly—Thank you!—and their generous donations support FCC’s participation in Monroe County United Ministry’s annual Adopt a Family program. Each October, families of children enrolled at MCUM’s Compass Early Learning Center submit Christmas wish lists, and MCUM searches for partners like FCC who want to become their Santas in December. FCC typically adopts 2-3 families, or up to 10 individuals. Then, our children and youth (and wonderful parent volunteers) go shopping together on one crazy-busy Sunday in Advent. They even help wrap and deliver the gifts to MCUM. This year’s Shop and Share event is planned for **Sunday, December 8**. Mark your calendars now!

### FCC Youth Group News!

The youth had a great weekend filled with fellowship and fun at our annual Holiday World Trip. We spent the night at Lincoln State Park and enjoyed each other's company around a campfire. Through a little devotional, the youth took time to reflect on their lives as roller coasters and how they see God in the highs and lows throughout their lives.

**Beginning October 13th**, we will have a youth Bible study **from 4:00 -5:00 pm on Sunday** afternoons. This will be a time for youth to explore the scripture as well as spiritual practices. Ashlyn will still be there during the learning hour after worship on Sundays to meet with youth!

### Voices of Faith (Disciples Women)

*Next Meeting Oct. 8 at Noon*

The next meeting of Voices of Faith is set for Tuesday, October 8, at noon. Sue Fettchenhauer will host us for a light lunch at her home at 2604 E. Windemere Woods Drive in Bloomington.

This dynamic group of Disciple women meet monthly to engage in dialogue and advocacy as we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. (*Micah 6:8*) Currently, they are working on a voter registration project.

We want to thank Jean Thompson, who has agreed to be our recorder and to maintain both minutes and mailing lists. Thank you, Jean, for stepping up!

Please contact Sandy Bate if you are interested in joining this group. We hope to see you next Tuesday!



### *In Our Prayers...*

Please hold Brett and Carmie Hamilton in your prayers as they mourn the loss of Brett's father and mother, Elmer and Shirley, who passed within hours of one another late last week. Elmer (92) passed on Thursday following a battle with lung cancer and Shirley (89) passed on Friday from kidney failure. They had been married for 71 years. Services were this past Tuesday at Mt. Carmel Christian Church. Cards and notes may be sent to Brett and Carmie at 1326 Dutch Ridge Rd., Heltonville, Ind., 47436.

Please also pray for Anne Binkley-Findlay's brother, Jim Binkley, who is in the intensive care unit at Bloomington Hospital. Jim, who lives in Georgia, was admitted to the hospital while here visiting Doug and Anne. Cards can be sent to the home of Doug and Anne Findlay at 1006 Atwater Ave., Bloomington, 47401.

### **Let's Get to Know FCC's XPLOR Residents!**

Thank you to everyone who donated time, money, furniture, home goods, or food. Our Church did a great job welcoming the XPLOR residents and helping them to get settled into their new Bloomington home!

Let's continue the Hoosier hospitality by inviting them to some of the many activities that make Bloomington special, or just to a meal in your home. To date, Adrian, Kristen, and Miche have been taken to the IU opera, received tickets to Trevor Noah's upcoming comedy show at IU Auditorium, and enjoyed the Lotus Festival.

There is a sign-up sheet at the reception desk if you feel called to help with this hospitality. Thanks, again, from the XPLOR Hospitality Committee!

## **DOWNTOWN TRICK OR TREAT**

**FRIDAY OCT 25th  
5-8pm**



DOWNTOWN  
BLOOMINGTON

BRICK • POSTAR



### **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/PDfotpG> and look for donation boxes in the reception area and narthex.



## October Birthdays



10/01	Dan	Goins	60 Bailliere Dr.	Martinsville	IN	46151
10/02	Liz	Culpepper	720 S College Mall Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/03	Ann	Moore	3308 S. Snoddy Road	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/03	Andrew	Donham	5900 N. Maple Grove Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47404
10/04	Rebecca	Klein	723 Olde Mill Circle	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/09	Story	Bolton	8841 S. Morning Glory Ct.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/10	Olivia	Walsh	3006 S. Olcott Blvd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/11	Regina	Niyonsaba	4199 Innisbrooke Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47408
10/11	Lindsay	Stafford	837 NW 33rd St.	Oklahoma	OK	73118
10/12	Cheryl	Engber	2731 S. Silver Creek Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/14	Sparrow	Houchins	3821 S. Westmont Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47403
10/14	Maya	Jackson	3693 S. Sowder Square	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/15	Ethan	Fletcher	6320 E. Bender Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/16	David	Austin	3040 N. Ramble Road West	Bloomington	IN	47408
10/16	Nancy	Brinegar	2726 S. McCartney Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/17	Mike	Rampley	2228 Autumn Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/21	Jane	Zebendon	2309 Sussex Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/24	Susan	Jenkin	3476 S. Knight Ridge Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/25	Scott	Cripe	3930 W. Tapp Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47403
10/25	Rachel	Rosolina	2004 Grovesnor Pl.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/26	Cindy	Kvale	1212 Skylark Ct.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/26	Jerry	Spore	901 S. Hastings Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/27	Maurice	Biggs	1213 S. Brooks Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/29	Jo	Weddle	5390 W. Shadybrook Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47403
10/29	Mia	Walsh	3006 S. Olcott Blvd.	Bloomington	IN	47401

*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.

### **Join Bedford Christian Church on a Day Trip to Cane Ridge**

We've been invited to join a group from Bedford Christian Church on a day trip to Cane Ridge on Thursday, October 10th. The group will depart from Bedford at 8:00 am. The cost for transportation is under \$20.00 per person. Spots are limited! If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Wanda Jones at [MnWLocks@yahoo.com](mailto:MnWLocks@yahoo.com) or 812-275-3808.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS...**

#### **Sunday, October 6**

8:30 am Mediation Group  
9:00 am Learning Session I  
10:00 am Worship  
11:15 am Learning Session II  
3:00 pm Meadowood Service  
5:00 pm Bloomington Bible Study

#### **Monday, October 7**

6:30 pm Creative Faith (book study) at St. Mark's UMC  
7:00 pm Women's Arts & Crafts

#### **Tuesday, October 8**

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

#### **Wednesday, October 9**

12:00 pm Voices of Faith (Disciples Women)

#### **Thursday, October 10**

5:30 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal  
6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

#### **Friday, October 11**

12:00 pm Executive Committee

#### **Sunday, October 13**

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

#### **Monday, October 14**

6:30 pm Creative Faith (book study) at St. Mark's UMC

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

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

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



*The Christian Visitor*

*Vol. 61, no. 17*

Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule



October 6:  
Book Bunch \* Roger L. Heimer  
Book Group

October 13:  
Emmaus Interpreters Class

October 20:  
Grades K-12 and Sharing Table

**Scripture Readings  
For Sunday Worship**

October 6  
Exodus 16:2-15

October 13  
1 Samuel 3:1-19

October 20  
1 Samuel 16:1-13