

# The CHRISTIAN



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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
*(Disciples of Christ)*

# Visitor

## Join us this Sunday for Jazz Worship and Stay for a Feast

*FCC Celebrates World Communion Sunday with an All-Church International Feast*

Plan to be in church this Sunday, October 7, as we celebrate World Communion Sunday with a very special Jazz Worship service at 10:00 am followed by an All-Church International Feast (FCC Pitch-In Style). The Jazz Worship will be led by our Jazz Vespers Director Stefan Lenthe. If you still haven't attended one of our First Friday Jazz Vespers, you will be amazed at the talent of the Lenthe Trio and vocalist Elena Escudero. This is a great opportunity to invite friends!

The celebration continues after worship in Great Hall with an all-church International Feast. FCC pitch-ins are legendary, and this one will be legendary on an international scale! So, bring your favorite international dish to share. FCC Folks traveling to Cuba will be bringing some Cuban dishes for the pitch-in. So, you'll be able to try some authentic Cuban cuisine! You will also have the opportunity to learn more about their upcoming trip and how you can help support the projects they will be working on while they are in Cuba. Donations will be accepted at the feast and a fun raffle will take place.

As if all of this weren't enough to look forward to... what truly makes FCC celebrations memorable is *YOU!* We hope you'll join your FCC family for this special Sunday. As a side note, we will not have Children's Worship and Wonder or the Late Learning Sessions so that everyone can participate in the worship service and the feast. See you there!

### FCC Sends Six Delegates to Regional Assembly

Indiana Disciples Regional Assembly is this weekend, October 5-6, at Light of the World Christian Church in Indianapolis. FCC will be sending Amy Hoover, Bob Orr, Sharon Robinson, Jean Thompson, Sarasopa Enari (clergy delegate and regional board), and Helen Hempfling (clergy delegate). Thank you for representing FCC at Regional Assembly.

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Interfaith Winter Shelter

*Volume 60, number 18 October 3, 2018*

## Pastor's Pen

*I don't share (except with my dear husband) many of the quotes that my friends and colleagues post on Facebook. But today, perhaps because I'm feeling a bit overwhelmed by much of what is happening in this world, I want to share (sans the stock photos) some of the memes that resonate with me. I hope that one or two will be helpful to you, too. I've attributed the author when possible.*

### These might make you smile:

"If you took all your DNA, straightened it out, and put it end-to end, it would stretch to Jupiter and back 10x over. You are neither small nor insignificant. You're just very well folded."

"7 easy steps to improve your attitude: 1) Stand up, 2) Stretch, 3) Take a walk, 4) Keep walking, 5) Board a plane, 6) Fly to Hawaii, 7) Never return."

"Counting other people's sins does not make you a saint!"

"Don't worry. When you sing praises to the Lord, I'm pretty sure Jesus "auto-tunes" it for you."

"You don't have to attend every argument you're invited to."

### Words to live by:

"Grace isn't a little prayer you say before receiving a meal. It's a way to live."

"It's not whether our lips say amen, but whether our lives do."

"In a world torn apart by anger, hatred and conflict, we have the privilege of being living signs of a love that can bridge all divisions and heal all wounds."

"Don't ask God to guide your footsteps...if you're not willing to move your feet!" "Act in such a manner that you are living proof of a loving God."

"Telling people that God loves them is good theology. Showing people that you love them is what transforms the world." Jim Palmer

"Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? These are the real questions." Henri Nouwen

### Be challenged by these perspectives:

"Just because the past didn't turn out like you wanted it to, it doesn't mean your future can't be better than you ever imagined."

"We're already in the presence of God. What's absent is awareness." Richard Rohr

"Religion is at its best when it makes us ask hard questions of ourselves. It is at its worst when it deludes us into thinking we have all the answers for everybody else." Archibald MacLeish

"The crisis in the U.S. church has almost nothing to do with being liberal or conservative; it has everything to do with giving up on the faith and discipline of our Christian baptism and settling for a common, generic U.S. identity that is part patriotism, part consumerism, part violence, and part affluence." Walter Brueggemann.

*Thanks for letting me share! See you Sunday at the FEAST, and don't forget to bring a few extra dollars to buy raffle tickets to win some very special items at our pitch-in international lunch that will follow worship.*

Pastor Helen

## The FCC Story Unfolding...

### Caregivers Create Provides a Creative Way to “Recharge”

In 1985, life changed drastically for Bloomington artist and teacher Jeanne Dutton when her daughter Andrea experienced a benign brain tumor leaving her paralyzed and on life support. Now, 33 years later Andrea continues to live at home and requires 24/7 care.

“I totally understand the weight of responsibility when caring for a loved one. I understand the necessity of recharging my batteries,” says Jeanne. Personal experience taught her that she is happiest when she is creating something. “My personal batteries are always “recharged” when I paint!”

As it turns out, that feeling of happiness is no accident. Research shows that people who do something creative feel an increase in happiness, not just on that one day, but the following day as well. With that in mind, Jeanne, who considers FCC her church home, decided to ask First Christian Church to help offer, as part of their art ministry, a creative class for caregivers. “This group is a great example of how the FCC Story is unfolding before our eyes,” said Pastor Helen. “It provides an opportunity for folks to deepen connections with one another and with God as they open themselves up to that creative spark that is present in all of life.”

Jeanne has taught watercolor classes at Ivy Tech’s Center for Lifelong Learning since 2007. Her experience as a teacher and her connections with other professional artists and/or instructors has allowed her to bring a depth of experience to *Caregivers Create*. Guest artists donate their time and expertise to provide lessons in watercolor pencils, “doodling,” painting trees and flowers in a variety of mediums and, most recently, a session on Storm Drain Art with the education specialist from the City of Bloomington.

All supplies are provided as well as light refreshments, and no experience is required. It is a true break. No need to pack your art supplies. Just come and create. The class meets on Tuesdays twice monthly with the next class meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm. Upcoming classes will include mixing quality watercolors to create a stained glass painting, a session on mandalas, and painting on glass to create holiday votives.

*Caregivers Create* provides a bit of respite time to those who are always busy thinking of someone else and caring for another person, a little “me” time for folks to visit, relax, and create! If you are a caregiver or know a caregiver looking for a creative way to “recharge” consider joining *Caregivers Create*. All you need to do is email Jeanne Dutton at [caregiverscreate@gmail.com](mailto:caregiverscreate@gmail.com) to let her know that you are coming or call the FCC office at 812-332-4459.



***The FCC Story Unfolding*** is a series of articles that lift up different ministries and initiatives that have grown from the FCC Story.

## Disciples News...

### Earthquake and Tsunami Strike Indonesia With Deadly Power

October 2, 2018

(Week of Compassion News)



On the evening of Friday, September 28 (local time), the central Sulawesi area of Indonesia was hit by a magnitude 7.4 earthquake which triggered a 10-to-20-foot tsunami along the coastal areas. The Indonesian Disaster Management Agency says that dozens of buildings collapsed during the quake and ensuing deluge, and the current death toll stands at over 1200. Almost 50,000 people have been displaced from their homes. The sheer destructive power of earthquake-driven tsunamis is almost impossible to describe.

Thousands of people in Indonesia have once again been struck by the deadly combination of earthquake and tsunami, even as parts of the country are still in long-term recovery from the 2004 tsunami. News reports tell of “terrified survivors huddled in a devastated city rocked by aftershocks, and of entire houses being sucked into the ground, as the full scale of Friday’s earthquake and tsunami disaster begins to emerge.” Overwhelmed by the number of dead, hundreds of bodies were buried in mass graves to prevent the outbreak of disease as critical transportation and communication infrastructures were damaged, impeding the efforts of rescue and recovery workers and the receipt of emergency aid. NPR reports that “Thousands of people began camping at the airport over the weekend, hoping to leave. But the airport has been operating at partial capacity since it reopened. And as they wait for a chance to fly out, people are also enduring heat of more the 90 degrees, with little to sustain them.” Electricity continues to be out in the area; portable generators are being airlifted in but the damage to the local airport has slowed that effort.

Our partner, ACT Alliance, is on the ground and currently assessing the damage and coordinating relief efforts. They note that thousands of persons are in a “desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to sufficient food, safe shelter and basic non-food items, basic health services and facilities, safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure.” Together, with Indonesian officials and other agencies, Week of Compassion will work with partners, including ACT Alliance, in helping distribute emergency assistance in a variety of forms in the days and weeks ahead.

May we lift this situation before God in prayer, especially for the people impacted by this disaster, for the tireless first responders, and for all who will offer help and hope in the coming months and years:

*“O God of all who are weary, all who are hurting, all who are grieving, we give you thanks for all those responding to assist our brothers and sisters in Indonesia as they deal yet again with the calamity of earthquake and tsunami. Be with those who are hurting, those who mourn, those who have lost homes and loved ones; hold them up, comfort them, never leave them. Amen”*



### FCC's Stewardship Campaign begins October 14

FCC will be rolling out this year's stewardship campaign including a series of letters beginning October 9. This year's campaign "I'm In" encourages you to reflect on ways you can better engage in the life of the church and its ministries. The four-week campaign will conclude on All Saints Day, November 4, when we will collect our Estimate of Giving cards and celebrate Consecration Sunday.

#### **CreatureKind begins October 14!**

*What's Christianity got to do with animals? Will animals go to heaven?* Through videos, short readings, and lots of dialogue, the CreatureKind Course for Churches encourages us 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.

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.

**Leadership:** Amy Cheek

**Meeting Dates/Time:** 6 Sundays, October 14-November 18 at 6:30 p.m.

**Registration:** Return registration card or call the church office (812-332-4459) no later than Monday, October 8, to reserve your spot.

#### **New Disciples Women's Group Launches October 10!**

*Voices of Faith*, a brand new Disciples Women's group, will have its first meeting October 10, 11:45-1 pm in the Fireside Study with guests speaker Maribeth Westerfield Blackman, Women's Ministry Coordinator for the Christian Church in Indiana and Pat Donahoo, Executive Director for Disciples Women.

*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.

#### **New Community Book Study to be Led by David Garshaw**

You are invited to join David Garshaw for a study and discussion of the book *Unbelievable: Why Neither Ancient Creeds Nor the Reformation Can Produce a Living Faith Today* by John Shelby Spong. This book, that was published this past February, proposes progressive understandings of the Bible and Christian faith, including relevant issues. Everyone is welcome to join, no matter personal beliefs, religious or political. The wider the spectrum, the more interesting the discussion. We will meet weekly beginning on Monday, October 15, from 6:30pm-8:30pm at St. Mark's United Methodist Church located at 100 State Road 46 (on the bypass just north of E. 3rd Street).

### **Join your FCC Family at the Annual Habitat for Humanity Breakfast**

Carole and John Ambler are hosting the FCC table for the Habitat for Humanity breakfast on November 8 at 7:30 am. We hope you will consider attending. It is an opportunity to represent FCC as we have a long history with Habitat. There is a continental breakfast, a short program about Habitat, a message from one of the home owners, and time to meet with your friends from FCC and the Bloomington community. If you are interested in attending, please contact John or Carole Ambler or call the FCC office.

### **Winter Clothing Drive**

Although the first week of October feels more like summer than winter (or even fall), winter is just around the corner none the less. Each year, our neighbors at Trinity Episcopal Church coordinate a Winter Clothing drive. This year, we are supporting their drive by collecting donations here at FCC during the month of October. If you would like to contribute, you will find a box just outside of the Fireside Study doors. Volunteers from Trinity will pick up the donations and distribute the clothing to the Fire Station and to Community Kitchen. So, if you're cleaning out the closets... and have gently worn coats, scarves or gloves, consider donating them to this important cause. Thank you!

### **Thank you Lotus Festival Volunteers!**

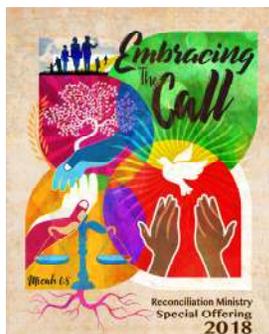
Each year we serve as a venue for the Lotus Music Festival, that brings crowds downtown and into our building. We host concerts in our sanctuary and the festival's "green room" in our Great Hall. It's a great opportunity to introduce members of our community to FCC. We sincerely thank everyone who gave up part of their weekend to show kindness and hospitality to festival goers, musicians and Lotus volunteers in our building over the weekend. Thank you to everyone who passed out water, greeted our guests, and supported the musicians and volunteers.

### **Volunteers Still Needed for Winter Shelter**

Those of you who have volunteered during past Shelter seasons know how rewarding the experience is. Those of you who have not yet volunteered are invited to find out. Volunteers for shifts and to cook meals are still needed. Serving this ministry is one way to do our Lord's work! Contact David Schilling, Joanne Weddle or Mark Knowles for information.

#### **Volunteer Training Sessions**

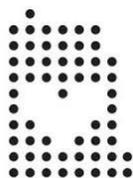
- October 4 at 7:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church (Thursday)
- October 6 at 10:00 am at First Presbyterian Church (Saturday)
- October 9 at 7:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church (Tuesday)
- October 11 at 7:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church (Thursday)
- October 13 at 10:00 am at First Presbyterian Church (Saturday)
- October 16 at 6:00 pm at St. Paul's Catholic Center (Tuesday)
- October 17 at 7:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church (Wednesday)



**Reconciliation Special Offering** is used to fund our Church's mission imperative to become a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church utilizing experiential education. This Offering will be received this Sunday, October 7.



If you would like to help prepare FCC for the Advent Season, please mark your calendar for the **Hanging of the Greens** on Sunday November 25 immediately following worship.



### 2018 MCUM Challenge

**2018 Goal:** 2,000 pounds

**Most recent trip:** 85 pounds

**Year-to-date:** 1,692 pounds

#### October Pantry Needs!

MCUM is in need of peanut butter (medium jars), small boxes of 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.*

### UPCOMING EVENTS...

#### Friday, October 5

4:00 pm *At Home in This Life*

6:30 pm *First Friday Jazz Vespers*

#### October 5-6

*Indiana Disciples Regional Assembly*

#### Sunday, October 7

##### **World Communion Sunday**

8:30 am *Mediation group*

9:00 am *Learning Session I*

9:15 am *Sanctuary Choir rehearsal*

10:00 am *Jazz Worship*

11:15 am *International Feast*

*\*No Worship and Wonder or 11:15*

*Learning Session today. We want*

*everyone to take part in the Feast!*

#### Tuesday, October 9

12:00 pm *Living the Story Bible Study*

1:30 pm *Caregivers Create*

5:30 pm *Listening to God meditation*

6:30 pm *Made to Create*

#### Wednesday, October 10

11:30 am *Disciples Women's Group*

#### Thursday, October 11

6:16 pm *Sanctuary Choir rehearsal*

#### Friday, October 12

12:00 pm *Executive Committee*

4:00 pm *At Home in This Life*

For the latest newsletter, upcoming church events, to make gifts online, and more, visit our website: [www.fccbloomington.org](http://www.fccbloomington.org).

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**Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule**

**October 7:**  
Sanctuary Choir & Handbell Choir

**October 14:**  
Campbellite Class

**October 21:**  
Book Bunch & Men's Book Group

**Scripture Readings  
For Sunday Worship**

**October 7**  
Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8

**October 14**  
Exodus 34:4b-10

**October 21**  
1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10