

ADVENT  
*Special Edition*  
2019

The  
CHRISTIAN   
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
*(Disciples of Christ)* Visitor

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Conversational English group  
Page 3

December First Friday  
Jazz Vespers  
Page 4

Advent Schedule &  
Worship Sermon Series  
Pages 5 & 6

Secure Your Spot for the  
Carrie Newcomer workshop  
Pages 7

December Birthdays  
Page 8

HOPE  
 Joy Love  
Peace

*Experience the Sacred  
this Advent Season*

This Advent Special Edition is a “keeper” in that it provides you with an alternative pathway into one of the most sacred season of the year: Advent. While the secular world promotes this time of year as the “holiday season” and encourages us to chase after a “Hallmark” vision of Christmas, the season of Advent invites us to slow down and watch for the sacred in our lives and in this world: sacred time, sacred people, sacred space, and sacred knowing.

As you read this newsletter, you will note that FCC offers a variety of opportunities that invite you to embrace the sacred during this Advent season. These opportunities are designed to help keep us grounded, hopeful, faithful as we wait for the birth of Christ.

As we move into the sacred season of Advent, we wait in hope, seek out peace, find joy, and celebrate love. And we will rejoice, trusting that Emmanuel will come!

---

## Pastor's Pen

### *This Advent Season, Let's Begin Again*

"Always begin again." Those words, attributed to St. Benedict, are appropriate for us as we prepare to begin a new church year on December 1, the first Sunday of Advent. As you might recall, St. Benedict developed a "Rule for Living" that was grounded in a belief that "as God welcomes us, we welcome you."

So, the four weeks of Advent offer us the perfect opportunity to "begin again" as a Christian Community that welcomes the Holy into our midst, leaves behind the failures and frustrations of the past year, and moves into the coming year with a renewed sense of hope, peace, joy, and love. Let me offer you these thoughts as we prepare ourselves to welcome the Christ in our midst.

#### **Week 1: Begin again, to hope:**

- \* for that time when all God's children are fed, sheltered, wanted, accepted, loved and unafraid, and then BE that hope to someone;
- \* for a time when people of faith feel called to work together for the common good, and then reach out to someone with whom you disagree;
- \* for a life that has meaning and purpose and direction, then take steps that will move you toward the life God wants for you.

#### **Week 2: Begin again, to seek peace:**

- \* by intentionally slowing down as the "shopping season" continues to gear up;
- \* by simplifying and lowering your expectations of the "perfect" Christmas;
- \* by connecting with people and organizations whose primary calling is to advocate for peace.

#### **Week 3: Begin again, to find joy:**

- \* by welcoming those things that bring you joy and letting go of those traditions that feel burdensome;
- \* by reading scripture that uplifts you and invites your heart to sing, starting with the psalms and then moving to Luke's gospel;
- \* by playing your favorite music at a louder than usual volume and then daring to dance to it—no matter your age!

#### **Week 4: Begin again, to love:**

- \* remembering how God loves you and there is nothing you can do about it;
- \* giving away hugs, forgiveness, time and treasure, self;
- \* expecting nothing in return.

#### **Christmas: Begin again: to live!**

- \* trusting that God is with you as you let go of your fears;
- \* welcoming the Holy in the simple events of life;
- \* sharing the light of God's love with others.

Blessings,

*Helen Hemphing*



### FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

Here is a shout out to the devoted members of the Sanctuary Choir for the extra energy and time they provided to our preparations for TWO memorable musical events this November – the music of Bach and Vasks for the All Saints' Day Remembrance Service given in collaboration with the First Presbyterian Chancel Choir on November 3rd and the Handel Psalm Service sung in worship last Sunday. All of this was in addition to the anthems and worship leadership they loyally provide each Sunday morning. It is a privilege to serve with these committed church members and with our devoted and extremely gifted organist Jihye Choi, whose tireless commitment to providing excellent music is such a joy to me and the congregation.

*-Jan Harrington, Director of Music*

ADVENT MUSIC PREPARATIONS BEGIN THIS THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21!  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSES ON THURSDAYS 6:15-7:30  
NEW MEMBERS URGENTLY INVITED!

Contact Jan Harrington for more information – [harringt@indiana.edu](mailto:harringt@indiana.edu)

**Note:** There will be no *rehearsals* for the Handbell Choir or Sanctuary Choir Thanksgiving week (November 25 to November 30). However, the Sanctuary Choir will sing in worship on Sunday November 24 and on Sunday, December 1.

### English Conversation Group Meets Mondays at 7:00 pm

FCC XPLOR Resident Miche Andre has started a group designed to provide a safe space for those learning English to freely engage in conversation. It is Miche's vision that this English Conversation Group will provide an informal "drop-in" setting where non-native English speakers can gather to practice and improve their English conversation skills. Miche is multilingual and has a passion for language and for helping people. He hopes to serve people who may struggle due to language barriers.

If you are working with these challenges or know someone who is struggling with English language barriers, invite them to join us on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm. Miche will prepare talking points and activities to stimulate social interaction among those who attend.

"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," said Miche. "This is the kind of environment I strive to cultivate at these English conversation group sessions."

If you have questions about this group, or have connections with people in our community who would benefit from this group, contact Miche at [michedre@gmail.com](mailto:michedre@gmail.com) or call the FCC office.



### *In Our Prayers...*

Please pray for our FCC family who are recovering from illness or injury. Gary Hill continues rehabilitation from surgery for a broken hip. Gale and Gary want to thank Pastor Helen and all the wonderful people at FCC who have sent cards, called, and visited Gary during his recovery. Notes and cards may be sent to Gary at 1007 E. Sherbrooke Dr, Bloomington, 47401.

Jean Thompson is in rehabilitation at Bell Trace following surgery for spinal stenosis. Notes and cards can be sent to Jean at 3636 S. Glasgow Circle, Bloomington, 47403.

### **FCC Welcomes New Members!**

Please join us in welcoming the newest members of the FCC Family! Evan Rugen and Katherine VanDenburgh joined on November 17. We're so glad you are here and that you've decided to make FCC your church home. Welcome!

Join us and bring a friend on  
December 6 at 6:30 pm for  
First Friday Jazz Vespers at FCC!



The  
**Ellie Pruneau**  
Trio

Featuring vocalist  
**Jared Griffin**

### **Order your Christmas Poinsettias!**



Purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one to be placed in the chancel during Advent and Christmas. Poinsettias are \$12.00 each and can be taken home following the 8:00 pm Christmas Eve service. You may also make a donation to the Permanent Fund in lieu of or in addition to flowers. The order deadline is Sunday, December 8.

### **Staff Christmas Gift Contributions**

If you would like to make a special monetary Christmas gift to our dedicated FCC staff, you may place a donation in the offering or mail it to the church and mark it "staff gift." This is your opportunity to thank the wonderful staff who serve us at FCC!



## SACRED

*“The Word became flesh and made a home among us.” -- John 1:1-14*

*The Christmas season is a time when the juxtaposition of the sacred and secular feel sometimes blatantly opposed, and sometimes quite blurred. The word*

*“sacred” points to something dedicated as “holy” and “set apart.” This year, we invite you to a spiritual journey of seeing all things pregnant with the possibility of the holy. What could your Advent/Christmas season experience be like if you lived it looking through the kaleidoscope of the sacred?*

*Sunday, December 1*  
*First Sunday of Advent*

*Sacred Time*

*Text: Romans 13:11-14*

*Matthew 3:1-12*

*Chuck Jones preaching*

*Sunday, December 15*  
*Third Sunday of Advent*

*Sacred Space*

*Text: Isaiah 35:1-10*

*Luke 1:38-56*

*Sunday, December 8*  
*Second Sunday of Advent*

*Sacred People*

*Text: Isaiah 2:1-5*

*Luke 1:26-38*

*Matthew 1:18-25*

*Sunday, December 22*  
*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*Sacred Knowing*

*Text: Isaiah 52:7-10*

*Luke 2:1-15*

*Tuesday, December 24*

*Christmas Eve*

*5:30 pm Family Service with Candlelight*

*7:30 pm Seasonal Concert*

*8:00 pm Candlelight Service with Communion*

*Join us for worship this Advent season as we prepare for the birth of Christ through worship, reflection, music and celebration.*

## Advent Opportunities at FCC for Everyone

During Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the mystery of how God became a person. We hope you will plan to make room for any or all of the following activities as you prepare your heart for Christmas.

### All through December

#### Monroe County United Ministry's (MCUM's) Food Drive (all ages)



Help us close out 2019 by meeting our goal of offering 2,000 pounds of food, household cleaning items, etc. to MCUM's food pantry in its Self-Sufficiency Center. Each Sunday morning during Advent, the children will bring up a few donated items to the Chancel during the first hymn. We'll lay our gifts at the manger as a symbolic offering of loving the Christ child by loving our neighbor.



#### Sunday, November 24, immediately following 10:00 a.m. worship Hanging of the Greens (all ages)

This fun and informal event is a great time to meet people or catch up with old friends. Children and youth will be an important part of making the church beautiful, as they decorate the tree in the Chapel Gathering Space. Older youth and adults will help in the sanctuary and throughout the church. Many hands make quick work, so feel free to bring a friend!

#### Sunday, December 8, 12:15

#### MCUM Sponsor a Family Event (children, youth and families)



Each year a portion of our Sunday School offerings are set aside to purchase Christmas gifts for families in need who are recommended by our partners at Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM). After a pizza lunch, family members and adult children's ministry volunteers take the children on a shopping mission. Working off of wish lists that include things like pajamas, toys and books, children help select just the right things to make someone's Christmas more joyful. Then it's back to the church to wrap the gifts and enjoy some fellowship.



#### Sunday, December 15, 4:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling (all ages)

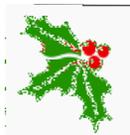
Ill health and winter weather keep several in our church family homebound for much of the winter. Caroling is a fun way to meet people where they are while spreading some Christmas cheer. And there's really nothing like singing those sacred carols with children of all ages to put a person in the holiday spirit! Meeting up afterwards for dinner at a local restaurant is a great way to finish the evening.

## FCC Class Holiday Parties

The **Emmaus Interpreters Class** will gather for their annual Christmas party at the home of Andy and Peggy Stafford on December 20 at 6:30 pm.

Kate Kroll will host the **Campbellite Class** Holiday gathering at her home on December 18 at 6:00 pm.

FCC's **Book Bunch** group will meet at 5:30 pm On December 17 At Feast Market & Cellar for their annual Dinner & Trinket Exchange. The Book Bunch book selection for December is *Mystery in White: A Christmas-Crime Story*.



If your class or small group is planning a holiday gathering that you would like mentioned in *The Visitor* please email that information to Jennifer at [fcc@fccbloomington.org](mailto:fcc@fccbloomington.org) before Dec. 3. The next newsletter will be on Dec. 4.

### Register Now for the Carrie Newcomer Writing Workshop!

We are so excited to welcome Bloomington songwriter, poet, and singer to FCC for the 2020 Writing Workshop, *Our Lives As Sacred Story!* This workshop is a direct outgrowth of our FCC Story, which envisions an emerging ministry related to Spirituality and the Arts.

Because Carrie is so popular, we booked her for one of the few remaining time slots available next year: January 11, 2020, 1:00-4:00 pm. This workshop is an opportunity to:

- Explore the depth and value of your own story.
- Frame your story through a spiritual lens.
- Learn how to honor your daily experiences.

The time to register is NOW. *We only have a couple of slots available!* **Ten dollars will secure your registration** (speak with Pastor Helen if you would like a scholarship). The registration form is on a clipboard at FCC's reception desk. A large envelope for registration fees (please include your name with your deposit!) is also on the reception desk. You can also call the FCC office to register and mail in or drop by your ten dollars. Thanks to FCC's Avenues team for organizing this workshop!



### Friday Game Night at FCC! Join us on December 13!

What's your favorite kind of game? Do you like role-playing games? Or would you rather gather with friends around a card table for a game of Euchre? Or maybe you prefer a game that gets you up on your feet and moving like Twister? FCC's

Game Nights are **LEGENDARY!**

FCC XPLOR Resident Adrian Griffin is bringing this tradition back to FCC on the second Friday of each month 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! **Hope to see you there!**

### New Updated Church Directory in Progress

We are in the process of updating our database for a new FCC Directory. This will include names and contact information for all who consider FCC their church home. By early December, we will have draft directories available for you to check to make sure your information is correct and that we have listed all of your family members who would like to be included. Please, let us know if we have missed anyone. Once we have updated the information, new directories will be available by hard copy or electronic (PDF) version. Thank you in advance for helping us update this information!



## December Birthdays



12/01	Dave	Schilling	224 Manchester Dr.	Zionsville	IN	46077
12/01	Connie	Daugherty	4412 Hillview Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
12/01	Bruce	Ervin	1222 E. Tremont Way	Bloomington	IN	47401
12/03	Linda	Campbell	507 E. Woodridge Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
12/04	Maria	Lee	3421 W. Tyler Lane	Bloomington	IN	47403
12/05	Mary	Polk	715 S. Meadowbrook Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
12/05	Elma	Jessen	3632 W. Indian Creek Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47403
12/07	Don	Wendling	3722 Fairington Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403
12/11	Thomas	Thompson	2430 Arlington Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47404
12/14	Dell	Cripe	3930 W. Tapp Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47403
12/14	Noah	Knepper	3616 S. Kingsbury Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47401
12/16	Jennifer	Fettchenhauer	5537 E. State Rd. 46	Bloomington	IN	47401
12/16	Mary	Droste	800 N. Bell Trace Circle, Apt. 103	Bloomington	IN	47408
12/20	John	Adams	205 E. Kirkwood Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47408
12/25	Marc	Wagner	2260 Olde Mill Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
12/27	Harold	Bond	2816A Marquette Manor Drive	Indianapolis	IN	46268
12/28	Chuck	Jones	2615 E. Second St., Apt. 5	Bloomington	IN	47401
12/29	Gerry	Miller	2455 N. Tamarack Trail, Apt. 130	Bloomington	IN	47408
12/29	Cole	Watson	913 S. Mitchell St.	Bloomington	IN	47401
12/31	Bess	Lee	1028 S. Henderson St.	Bloomington	IN	47401

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

EXPECT · ASK · HONOR · DO  
**THE FAITHFUL LIFE**

**Have you Turned in Your Pledge Card?**

This year's stewardship campaign challenged us to reflect on what it means to live "The Faithful Life." On November 10 we gathered for Consecration Sunday when many of us brought our annual Giving Commitment Cards to worship. Of course, we realize that not everyone was able to join us that Sunday, or may still be considering their gift for FCC ministries in 2020.

It is not too late to turn in your Giving Commitment Card to FCC if you haven't already. You may bring it to church on Sunday, or mail it to our church office. We ask that you make every effort to *get your card turned in by December 1* so that our church board can finalize the FCC budget for 2020.

Thank you to all who have already made a financial commitment to the ministries of FCC. The FCC church family has always been generous with time, talents and financial commitments.



**FCC Holiday Office Hours**

Thanksgiving Hours

November 28-29: Closed

Christmas Hours

Tuesday, December 24: 9:00 am-Noon

December 25: Closed

December 26 & 27 Limited hours, please call

New Year's Hours

Tuesday, December 31: 9:00 - Noon

Wednesday, January 1: Closed

Thursday - Friday: Normal hours resume

**UPCOMING EVENTS...**

**Sunday, November 24**

Thanksgiving Special Offering

8:30 am Meditation

9:00 am Learning Session I

10:00 am Worship with Children Worship & Wonder

11:15 am Learning Session II

11:15 am *Hanging of the Greens*

3:00 pm Meadowood Service

4:00 pm Youth Bible Study

5:00 pm Bloomington Bible Study

**Monday, November 25**

6:30 pm Creative Faith (at St. Marks)

7:00 pm Conversational English Group

**Tuesday, November 26**

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

**November 28-29**

FCC Office closed for Thanksgiving

**Sunday, December 1**

**First Sunday of Advent**

8:30 am Meditation

9:00 am Learning Session I

10:00 am Worship with Children Worship & Wonder

11:15 am Learning Session II

4:00 pm Youth Bible Study

5:00 pm Bloomington Bible Study

**Monday, December 2**

7:00 pm Women's Arts & Crafts group

7:00 pm Conversational English group

**Tuesday, December 3**

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

**Wednesday, December 4**

6:30 pm MOPS

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

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

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

*The Christian Visitor*

*Vol. 61, no. 20*

**Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule**



*Don't forget to Bring Goodies!*

Dec. 1: **Choir and Handbell  
Choir**

Dec. 8: **Campbellite Class**

Dec. 15: **Book Bunch and  
Roger Heimer Book  
Group**

**Scripture Readings  
for Sunday Worship**

**December 1**

Sacred Time

Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 3:1-12

Chuck Jones preaching

**December 8**

Sacred People

Isaiah 2:1-5; Luke 1:26-38;

Matthew 1:18-25

**December 15**

Sacred Space

Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:38-56

**December 22**

Sacred Knowing

Isaiah 52:7-10; Luke 2:1-15