



A Cozy Advent at FCC

Although we will be worshipping online through the Advent season, we will still have the opportunity to take the journey to Bethlehem “together” through worship and through supporting one another and our community. We have prepared a very special Advent season with sensitivity to how very different it will be for most everyone. We will be focusing on the Danish concept of hygge (pronounced “hoo-ga”) that can be described as the “art of coziness.” This newsletter is filled with information on hygge and details about how to embrace this concept. Join us for a very special season of Advent, and invite family and friends to come along with us as well!

Advent at a Glance

Sunday Worship: Our 10:00 am Advent online worship services will be brought to your home from our sanctuary, which will be beautifully adorned with our Advent and Christmas decorations. The pre-recorded service will include: FCC families leading the Advent Candle-lighting liturgy from their homes, music of the season, artistic photographs of the decorated sanctuary, and messages that lift up the traditional themes of hope, peace, joy, and love.

MCUM Food Drive and Stocking Stuffers: There are several ways that we will be safely supporting the work of the Monroe County United Ministries. Details are outlined on pages 5-6.

Bonus: When you drop off your donations for the food drive, you can pick up Christmas Eve candles in anticipation of participating in our online Christmas Eve Candlelight Service!

Weekday Devotionals: We have a limited number of online Daily Devotional Booklets, written by Terri Hord Owens, that will be made available to the first 30 people who contact the church office! (Those who ordered an Advent Candle Kit will receive a hard copy booklet of the same Daily Devotional.) More information can be found on page 5.

Secret Encourager “Reveal”: During the fall season, some of our Elders (aka secret encouragers) sent cards, prayers, and other “goodies” to some of our families, who have no idea who has been encouraging them! The “reveal” will take place during Advent, when each families will meet their secret encourager via a special Zoom gathering!

Pastor's Pen

The Art of Coziness

I learned a new word this fall that is perfect for the upcoming and very different season of Advent: *hygge*, aka “the art of coziness.” Pronounced “hoo-ga,” this Danish concept cannot be translated to one single word but encompasses a feeling of “cozy contentment and well-being through enjoying the simple things in life.” I learned that the Danes (which some say are the most contented people on earth) created *hygge* as “a way to survive boredom, cold, dark, and sameness. The concept of *hygge* offered them ways to find moments to celebrate, acknowledge and break up the mundane or harsh. With so many cold, dark, days, the simple act of lighting a candle and enjoying a cup of coffee could make a huge difference to one’s spirit.”

Our 2020 Advent theme, *Ignite*, is inspired by the concept of *hygge*. Each week we will be invited to “get cozy” as we lean into the darkness AND look toward the light. Below are some suggestions that will help us practice *hygge* during Advent.

Week 1: Ignite Hope

Light a candle in a dark room and acknowledge the darkness around you as a necessary companion to light. Then, enjoy a moment of *hygge* as you reflect on the moment when you’ve been helped or rescued (so far) from a darker moment in your life. How has God’s hope shone through in your past, in others and in you?

Week 2: Ignite Peace

Find an evening to go out under the winter sky. (Bundle up and bring a warm drink with you.) Then look up and notice how big God’s universe is and how small you are! Embrace the cozy “duvet of divine darkness” around you, rest under God’s awesome sky, and find peace.

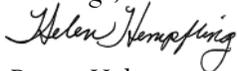
Week 3: Ignite Joy

Set aside (or create) a warm and cozy corner/nook in your home by turning off most of your electric lights (except your Christmas tree lights), burning some candles, and foregoing anything that is electronic (ie phones, tablets, TV’s). Take in God’s very real presence that surrounds you, and ponder this question: What is bringing God joy, in this very moment? Soak in God’s joy!

Week 4: Ignite Love

First, get “cozy.” Then, listen to some of your favorite Christmas Carols--not the secular kind, but the Carols we sing in church on Christmas Eve! As you listen to the words and allow the music to fill you, be reminded of God’s great love for you and for this world. Repeat these words out loud: “God loves me, and there is nothing I can do about it!”

Blessings,



Pastor Helen

PS: Many of the suggestions above are adapted from our at-home devotional material, created and produced by the SALT Project (<https://www.saltproject.org/>)



PREPARING FOR WORSHIP THE MUSIC OF ADVENT

Even before we enter December, the familiar carols of Christmas begin to fill the air - in the car, in the shopping mall and elevators, on tv and, yes, in our heads. For the church, however, the four Sundays before Christmas actually are observed as the season of Advent (which is derived from the Latin word meaning "coming"), and become a season of preparation - of prophesy, contemplation, awaiting, and preparing the place and heart to receive the coming of Christ.

Advent offers its own music of preparation - songs, carols and hymns sung perhaps only once a year, but which are part of the great tradition of hymnody that illuminate the season. Some of these can be found in the *Chalice Hymnal* between numbers 119 and 142, and many also appear in traditional Christmas carol collections. Their texts and music offer much to our meditation and understanding of this wonderful season. As an introduction, we can consider a few of the most familiar that come from different musical traditions and periods and will be part of our on-line services in Advent. Also included here are some links if you would like to "practice" or become familiar again with them in advance.

Perhaps the most iconic is *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (#119) with its mysterious melody from a French 15th century chant and words translated from the Latin hymn *Veni Emanuel*. The text of this Advent Song are based on the so called "O Antiphons" - an ancient set of 7 texts sung at subsequent Vesper services from December 17th to 23rd. Each begins with the petition "O" followed by a different title for the Christ - Emmanuel, Wisdom, Dayspring, etc. Each English verse of *O Come, Emmanuel* begins with one of these petitions. The texts of the "O Antiphons" themselves can be found in the *Chalice Hymnal* #120 on the page opposite the hymn, or if you Google "O Antiphons", there are several links to tell you about them. The Call to Worship for each Sunday of Advent this year will include one of the verses of *O Come Emmanuel* that relates to the theme of the Sunday.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xtpJ4Q_Q-4

The triumphant hymn *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending* heralds the coming of Christ in glorious terms. (Bloomington congregants will fondly remember that this was a hymn beloved by the late Rev. Roger Heimer, which he strongly encouraged us to sing at the beginning of each Advent Season.) Despite unclear musical origins, the result here is a characteristic early Methodist hymn tune, notable for its breadth and range. It effectively sets a text of similarly mixed sources, one that Charles Wesley regarded as related to "Thy kingdom come" in the Lord's Prayer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2x2xvvFH310>

The season also begins with the equally positive Wesleyan hymn *Come, O Long-expected Jesus* (#125), is now traditionally sung to the stirring Welsh hymn tune HYFRYDOL.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=bt68JbPSAYs>

An Advent hymn from a slightly earlier period is the energetic *Comfort, Comfort You My People* (#122) which is a metrical (rhymed) 17th century version of the prophesy of Isaiah 40:1-8 sung to the compelling and singable tune GENEVA 42 from the 16th century Genevan Psalter of the Reformed tradition.

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=EVg_4zVSgqA

We hope that you will find in these hymns poems to read and songs to sing to enrich our Advent time of preparation.



Advent at FCC will center around the Danish concept of Hygge (pronounced “hoo-ga”) that embraces the “art of coziness”. For many Danes, hygge is a lifestyle. It is being content, comforted in simple rituals like lighting a candle. It is a way to find moments to celebrate during a harsh or mundane time. This concept seems perfect for an Advent season that will be very different . Our Advent theme, “Ignite,” invites you to experience the season of Advent through the lighting candles and settling in to what the Danes call “the duvet of darkness.”

November 29: Advent 1

Theme: *Ignite Hope*

Text: Isaiah 64:1-9

Advent Candle Lighting:

The Duffy-Paiement Family

December 13: Advent 3

Theme: *Ignite Joy*

Text: Luke 1:39-45

Advent Candle Lighting:

The Walsh Family

December 6: Advent 2

Theme: *Ignite Peace*

Text: Isaiah 40:1-11

Advent Candle Lighting:

The Knepper Family

December 20: Advent 4

Theme: *Ignite Love*

Text: Luke 1:46b-55

Advent Candle Lighting:

The Jackson Family

December 24: Christmas Eve

Theme: Christ is Born!

Text: From Luke’s Gospel

Traditional Service of Lessons, Carols,
Communion, and Candlelight.

<p>2020 Christmas Offering</p> <p>REJOICE</p> <p>A special day offering of Disciples Mission Fund</p>	<p>“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.” Matthew 2:10</p> <p>The work of the Christian Church in Indiana makes my heart rejoice! Your gifts inspire, support, and connect us to live out the Gospel call in Christ – through camps, assemblies, clergy support, retreats, trainings, enrichment, and connecting us to one another and our neighbors.</p>
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In Our Prayers...

Please hold the family of Charlie Parker in your prayers as they both mourn his passing (on November 19) and celebrate his well lived life. Service plans are pending. Cards and notes can be sent to Doug and Pat Parker (son and daughter-in-law) and Morgan and Sarah (grandchildren) at this address: 2331 Linden Hill Rd., Bloomington, 47401.

Advent for Families

by Sarah Lynne Gershon

Advent is upon us, FCC families. I think you will really enjoy what we have prepared for you in your Advent worship bags. Do you want to know what is in it? It will use the Growing and God's love bible and The Table Top Ignite devotional. This bag will go through Christmas season, 6 weeks of material ending on Epiphany.

You can pick up those bags at church beginning Monday, November 23. Our FCC office will only be staffed on Tuesday and Wednesday (Nov. 24-25) from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm, so you will need a code to get the bags any other time. They will be found on a table in the reception area of our administrative offices. Knock on the door or call if you come on Nov. 24-25 and we will come bring your bag, or contact Sarah Lynne for a door code.

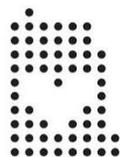
This Advent season will be different since we are all being very careful to stay healthy. We won't be together like we are used to being together for the holidays, but we will still do special things and can share those things with each other. One of the special things we will do is shop for families at MCUM. We will be providing stocking stuffers for kids! You can choose an item that you would like to include and send that information to Sarah Lynne at sarahlynnne@fccbloomington.org so that she can purchase it. You can also donate money for our Christmas shopping for these wonderful families. Just send your donation to the church with "MCUM Shopping" in the memo line.

Another special event will be our Secret Encourager reveal! During the fall season, some of our Elders (aka secret encouragers) sent cards, prayers, and other "goodies" to some of our families, who have no idea who has been encouraging them! The "reveal" will take place during Advent, when each families will meet their secret encourager via a special Zoom gathering!

Adult Advent Devotional Material Order Pickup

The Advent Bag for adults will include a daily devotional book by Rev. Terri Hord-Owens, the Advent table top devotional that will thematically correspond with the candle lighting during our worship service, advent candles/candle holder, and a block-printed Christmas countdown calendar made by Ashlyn Reynolds. This is printed on watercolor paper for people to color in each day, until Christmas. You can pick up your order beginning November 23. The FCC office will be staffed on Nov. 24-25 between 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Call or knock when you arrive so our staff can bring your bag. Sarah Lynne will also provide a door code for those who need to pick up their bag at another time.

Advent Food Drive for the MCUM Pantry!



Our partners in ministry at Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) have served our community for many years through various programs, including a food and supply pantry.

The pandemic has created additional stress on food pantries across our nation. No doubt you've seen the news stories. MCUM is also experiencing shortages at their pantry.

So, join us for a special Advent MCUM Food & Supply Drive. FCC will be collecting donations of non-perishable food, personal hygiene products and cleaning supplies during the Advent season. Bring donations to FCC December 1-18 (Tuesday-Thursday between 10:00 am-2:00 pm). We will have a box on the porch at the Kirkwood administrative entrance.

Then join us on Sunday, December 13 for a special drive-through event from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. You can drive through our alley (from Kirkwood Ave.) to drop off donations and see the stack of donations piled around a special crèche scene rise. If you'd like, you can park and take a picture around the crèche with all of the donated items. We will also have Christmas Eve candles available for each family to take home for worship on Christmas Eve. Please consider contributing to this important drive!



Christmas Gift Contributions for our FCC Staff



If you would like to make a special monetary Christmas gift to our dedicated FCC staff, please mail it to the church. Be sure to mark your donation "staff gift." This is your opportunity to thank our wonderful staff who keep the ministries, mission, and day-to-day operations of FCC alive and well every day of the year!

Red Cross Blood Drive at FCC!

In FCC's Great Hall on December 5 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

At FCC, we have always provided support for the community, meeting many needs of neighbors near and far. One of those needs that has caught our attention recently is the need for blood donation. The Red Cross reached out to us recently for help in providing a safe place for blood donation. They generally have regular blood drives on the IU campus, but have been restricted from doing so because of COVID-19. Still, the need for donating blood is real, and necessary.

FCC will host the IU Community Blood Drive in Great Hall on **Saturday, December 5 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm**. If you would like to donate blood, you can sign up for a time slot by going to the following link:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=fccbloomington>

You must register in order to donate.

Those who choose to donate will be provided a mask. Their temperature will be taken and they will respond to a health questionnaire before they enter the building. All surfaces will be wiped down, and hand sanitizer will be available. Thank you!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



12/01	Doug	Curry	1107 Azalea Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
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	Evelyn	Butler	2414 E. Fifth Street	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
12/18	Iver	Gershon	909 N. Blair Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47404
12/20	John	Adams	3911 W. Maybury Mall	Bloomington	IN	47403
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	864 S. Coriander Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
12/31	Bess	Lee	1028 S. Henderson St.	Bloomington	IN	47401

If you have a birthday that is not listed, please let us know so we can update our records.

Give Back to FCC While You Shop!

Did you know that you can give to FCC while you shop for groceries? If you have a Kroger shopping card, just log in to your account and find the "Community Rewards" page within your account. Look for First Christian Church - Disciples of Christ in Bloomington (Organization Number JF010). A portion of your purchases will go to FCC, no charge to you! You can also give to FCC when you shop at Amazon by looking for us within their AmazonSmiles program. Just make sure you are choosing First Christian Church in **Bloomington, Indiana!** Thank you!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Purchase a poinsettia for your home in memory or honor of a loved one, or make a donation of any amount to the Permanent Fund in lieu of flowers. Poinsettias will be available for pickup by drive-through in FCC's alley on December 12. You will receive more pickup details via email or phone call.

I wish to order _____ **poinsettias** at **\$12.00** each = \$_____.

I wish to make a donation to the **Permanent Fund** of \$_____.

My gift is to be listed in Dec. 23rd *Christian Visitor* (**PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY**):

In **Memory** of: _____

In **Honor** of: _____

Purchased by: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ payable to First Christian Church.

Completed card must accompany payment.

Order deadline is Sunday, **December 6.**



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



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Ignite
HOPE PEACE LOVE JOY

Our 2020 Advent theme, *Ignite*, is inspired by the Danish concept of *hygge*. Join us as we “get cozy” and lean into the darkness AND look toward the light.

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

November 29
Ignite: Hope
Isaiah 64:1-9

December 6
Ignite: Peace
Isaiah 40:1-11

December 6
Ignite: Joy
Luke 1:39-45