

# The CHRISTIAN



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

EXPECT • ASK • HONOR • DO  
THE FAITHFUL LIFE

## Join Us for Consecration Sunday at FCC on November 10

What does it mean to live “The Faithful Life?” Over the past weeks of our stewardship campaign, Pastor Helen has offered insights to this question during her four-part sermon series based on our Narrative Lectionary scripture readings. We have focused on what it means to Expect the unexpected, and to Ask for what we need. During worship on All Saints Sunday we Honored the legacy of FCC’s Saints who have gone before us.

This Sunday we will focus on Doing what God requires as we come together for Consecration Sunday. As you consider your investment in the ministries of FCC for 2020, consider what it means to live “The Faithful Life.” Please **bring your Giving Commitment Card to worship this Sunday, November 10**, so that we can consecrate them together as we lift up the ministries of FCC. If you are unable to attend, please return your card to the church as soon as possible so that the board can do its work in finalizing next year’s budget.

## Handel Sings the Psalms during Sunday Worship on November 17!

Mark your calendar and plan to be in worship **at 10:00 am on Sunday, November 17th**. Our Sanctuary Choir has been very busy preparing to sing Handel’s Chandos Anthem No. 9 (*O Praise the Lord With One Consent*). The choir will be joined by a small orchestra for this special performance of the settings of Psalms 135, 117 and 148. Handel’s Chandos Anthem No. 9 consists of eight movements of choruses and arias which are settings of verses of Psalms 135:1-5, Psalm 117:1-2, and Psalm 148.

Please invite friends, family and neighbors to join you on this special Sunday at FCC! You will find more details in “Music Notes” on page 4 of this newsletter.

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## Pastor's Pen

### Guest Column: Growing Our Faith through Generosity

*Because Pastor Helen is in Nashville with her grandson Silas, born Nov 3, her kind husband, Rev. Bruce Ervin (who is with her in Nashville), has written the column below. Originally published last week in the newsletter of First Christian Church Bedford (where he serves as Pastor), it remains quite timely for us!*

Pastor Helen will tell you that I'm a man of routine. To be clear, when she says that it's not always a compliment! Does she like it that part of my routine is getting the coffee maker ready before going to bed? Yes! Is she thrilled that every single time she drives my car she has to take off the emergency break, no matter how level the ground upon which it's parked? Maybe not so much.

Part of my Sunday morning routine is writing a check and placing it in my church envelope. Every Sunday morning! Do I have to do this? Well, no; I could write a check to the church once a month or even twice a year; as long as I fulfill my pledge to the congregation by the end of the year, the bottom line is the same. But I enjoy writing that weekly check because:

- 1) It gives me an opportunity, every single Sunday, to be thankful for the material resources that God has provided.
- 2) If I do it weekly, as part of a routine, I'm less likely to get behind.
- 3) It's fun to give something away. The more frequent the check, the more fun I have!

Making a weekly contribution for God's work in the world is a spiritual discipline. It is no less important a discipline than praying regularly or volunteering your time at church or in the community. As we engage in the spiritual discipline of regular giving, we give ourselves more opportunities to be grateful for all that God has given to us. And with deeper gratitude comes deeper faith. Realizing how generous God has been toward us and all humanity in the past increases our trust that God will be generous for all the years to come.

This Sunday is Consecration Sunday, a day when we will make our financial estimates of giving to the church for the coming year and prayerfully offer those commitments to God. Please bring your giving card with you to church this Sunday. During the service we will bring forward our financial commitments and give thanks to God for all of the blessings which the Holy One has bestowed upon the whole inhabited earth!

We worship an awesome God!! It is good to give thanks and to give generously as part of our weekly routine. It is amazing how much more clearly we can see the blessings of God when we do so.

Blessings indeed!

Bruce Ervin

### **Thank You Connie Myers!**

On Sunday October 20, and with great reluctance, the FCC board accepted the resignation of Connie Myers, who will step away from her responsibilities as FCC's Director of Faith Formation and Family Ministries on December 31 in order to focus on her health and her family. Let us hold her and Kip in prayer as they continue pursue effective treatment for her health condition. Her full letter to the board is included below.

Fortunately for us, Connie intends to remain an active lay leader at FCC as her as her health permits, particularly with our Children, Worship & Wonder ministry.

Under Connie's visionary leadership, our Faith Formation Ministries have been strengthened and transformed as she has helped us navigate the ever-changing landscape of life and faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Indeed, her grace-filled presence and leadership has been—and will continue to be—a gift to all of us!

Let's wish her all the best, and also pray for wisdom to discern next steps as we seek to build upon Connie's stellar work in the area of faith formation for all generations.

*Dear Members of the Board,*

*Please accept my resignation as Director of Faith Formation and Family Ministries at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), effective December 31, 2019.*

*You may know that I became ill in August of 2014 and was finally diagnosed in July of 2018 with Mast Cell Activation Syndrome. Kip and I have been pursuing medical treatments aggressively and remain committed to finding effective treatment, but after five years, I am tired. Prayer and conversations with loved ones have convinced me that I need to focus on my health and my family.*

*It is difficult to leave a job I love so much. Serving on the church staff has been a privilege, and I thank God regularly for work that is challenging and colleagues who pray for and support everyone involved in sharing Christ's inclusive love through the ministries of First Christian Church.*

*In faith,*

*Connie Myers.*



## WORDS FROM THE CHOIR

### 25 YEARS BEFORE HIS *MESSIAH*, HANDEL SINGS THE PSALMS

#### Praising the Lord Together on November 17 Handel's Psalm Anthem *O praise the Lord with one consent*

On November 17th during worship, the Sanctuary Choir with a small orchestra will sing George Frideric Handel's joyous settings of Psalms 135, 117, and 148 - Chandos Anthem No. 9 *O Praise the Lord With One consent*, composed nearly 25 years before he completed his most famous oratorio *Messiah*.

From 1717 to 1718, Handel was the "composer-in residence" at the grand manor house near London called Cannons in the household of James Brydges, the Duke of Chandos. In this short time, the young Handel composed eleven extended cantata-like "anthems" to Psalm texts for the Duke's small ensemble of resident singers and instrumentalists. These anthems, now commonly called "Chandos" anthems after Handel's patron, were intended to be sung in the elaborate worship services in the duke's private chapel.

*O praise the Lord with one consent* is one of the most exuberant of these anthems. [Its message seems particularly appropriate to our divided culture today!]. Handel sets verses from three Psalms (135, 117 and 148), but instead of choosing the Psalm texts from the English Bible, he chose the rhymed metric settings by Nahum Tate and Nicholas Brady, which were then familiarly sung to hymn tunes in the Church of England. As a result of the size of the forces at Cannons there are only two violin parts and a wonderfully virtuosic solo oboe part. There are eight movements – including a solo aria for each of the soprano, alto, tenor and bass soloists as well as the joyous choruses. The music of each movement explores one or two musical ideas that paint the picture of the main idea of its respective text.

The first chorus contains a glorious setting of a theme which resembles the first phrase of the hymn tune ST ANNE, first printed in England in 1708 and now best known as the tune for Isaac Watts's hymn 'O God, Our Help in Ages Past'. This tune also appears in J S Bach's so-called 'St. Anne' Prelude and Fugue in E flat, BWV 552 and in Buxtehude's Praeludium in E Major. Jihye will be playing the Buxtehude as the closing voluntary on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> and we will sing "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" as a congregation to open our worship that day as well.

In the final pair of choruses from Psalm 148, the anthem is brought to an exciting close with a combination of ideas finally settling into a triumphant peal of Alleluias – a forerunner of Handel's great Hallelujah chorus composed 25 years later.

-Jan Harrington with sources from Anthony Hicks notes to Hyperion Recording CDA6737 (2009)



### ***In Our Prayers...***

Please pray for our FCC family who are recovering from illness or injury. Gary Hill has begun rehabilitation from surgery for a broken hip. Notes and cards can be sent to Gary at 1007 E. Sherbrooke Dr, Bloomington, 47401. Jan Parrott is undergoing rehabilitation therapy following hospitalization for an infection. Notes and cards can be sent to Jan at 543 Green Rd., Bloomington, 47403. Both Gary Hill and Jan Parrott are recovering at Bell Trace before returning home.

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

Please join us in welcoming the newest members of the FCC Family! Adrienne Coleman joined by transfer of membership during Sunday worship on October 20th, and her daughter Isabella joined one week later. Bonnie Davis and Branden Kelley also joined the FCC family on Sunday, October 27th. Branden was baptized in worship on that Sunday. We're so glad you are here and that you've decided to make FCC your church home. Welcome!

### **Habitat for Humanity More Than Houses Breakfast**

Join friends from FCC for this year's *More Than Houses Breakfast*, benefiting Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County. Join our table captain, Chuck Jones, at this great event. We hope to fill two tables of nine. The event is free (although contributions are welcome) and gives people the opportunity to come and learn more about the organization and its impact in Monroe County. Contact Chuck Jones if you would like to join us. See you there!

**The breakfast is Wednesday, November 13, 7:30 - 8:30 am  
at the Monroe County Convention Center.**

### **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 have 30 slots, and most have already filled! 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 deposits (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!

## Thanksgiving Special Offering Received on November 17 and 24

The 2019 Thanksgiving Special Offering supports the work of our institutions of higher learning. Currently, over 52,000 students attend our fifteen Disciples related colleges and universities or seven seminaries and divinity houses. And in the past twelve months, over 12,000 students have graduated from these schools. The Thanksgiving Offering helps financially support Disciples related schools by providing undergraduate scholarships and support for spiritual life offices, and providing scholarships and support for those pursuing theological education.

Please give generously to this year's Thanksgiving Officer. Your gifts make a world of difference as Disciples continue our legacy of supporting education and our institutions of higher learning.



### *The Hanging of the Greens*

*Sunday, November 24 at 11:15 am (following worship)*

*Join us on November 24, as we prepare FCC's sanctuary for the Season of Advent! All are welcome to help decorate FCC for the season. We will gather in the sanctuary following worship. We hope you'll join us for this wonderful FCC tradition.*

### Friday Game Night at FCC!

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 **beginning this Friday, November 8 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](mailto:angriffinva@gmail.com).

*Hope to see you there!*



### **Looking for a way to help at FCC, but short on time?**

We are looking for volunteers to help with communion preparation and clean-up. It only takes about 30 minutes to prepare communion or to clean up. Preparation can take place during the week, at your convenience. Clean-up just takes about 30 minutes after Sunday worship. Some come in on Monday to clean up.

Communion prep and clean-up is a really meaningful way to volunteer at FCC. We will provide training, but it's really very simple. Most people will sign up for either prep or cleanup for an entire month, but some will just sign up for a week when they are available. So, it's a commitment that's easy to make.

Contact Peggy Stafford or Diane Thrasher if you are interested in joining this team.

### **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!

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

#### **Sunday, November 10**

##### **Consecration Sunday**

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, November 11**

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

7:00 pm Conversational English group

#### **Tuesday, November 12**

11:45 am Voices of Faith!

1:30 pm Caregivers Create!

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

#### **Thursday, November 14**

5:30 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal

6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

#### **Sunday, November 17**

8:30 am Mediation Group

9:00 am Learning Session I

10:00 am Worship - Baroque Cantata

11:15 am Learning Session II

4:00 pm Youth Bible Study

5:00 pm Bloomington Bible Study

#### **Monday, November 18**

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

7:00 pm Conversational English group

#### **Tuesday, November 19**

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

#### **Wednesday, November 20**

7:00 pm R.L. Heimer Book Group

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Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule



November 10:  
Book Bunch & Heimer Book  
Group

November 17:  
Emmaus Interpreter Class

November 24:  
Grades K-12 & Sharing Table

**Scripture Readings  
For Sunday Worship**

November 10  
Micah 5:2-5a; 6:6-8

November 17  
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

November 24  
Ezekiel 37:1-14