

# The CHRISTIAN



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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
*(Disciples of Christ)*

## Visitor

### **FCC's Financial Health is Strong**

*An FCC Board Report from Linda Abe and Jim Watson*

The year ending December 31, 2018 was a memorable year for FCC in many ways, and a testament to God's work in and through our Church. Since the fall of 2017, FCC has received Permanent Fund contributions and Memorial gifts totaling over \$2,000,000. These gifts to the Church are a tribute to the legacy of giving and the passion for ministry this Church has demonstrated throughout its history, today, and into the future. We are truly blessed and thankful to all our Memorial and Legacy Givers!

This past Sunday (Jan 20<sup>th</sup>) the Board passed the proposed 2019 Budget and recommended it for congregational approval by vote on February 3, 2019. The 2019 budget provides for \$577,249 of ministry expenses, a \$91,476 increase over the past year. This spend was funded substantially by pledges of \$403,348, Designated Fund disbursements of \$128,620, a CFC Resource Grant of \$15,000, and XPLOR Program income of \$17,000.

The ministry expense increase included \$46,357 increase in our "FCC Story" ministries, a 3% cost of living increase for full-time staff salaries, \$26,500 for needed tuck-pointing work (scheduled for this spring), and an \$18,743 increase in property expenses. The "FCC Story" ministries include \$16,500 related to XPLOR program costs, and \$6,000 of renovation costs to provide living quarters for the four-member XPLOR team.

The Board recognizes and thanks everyone for your faithful giving to support the ministries of this Church and the Disciples of Christ throughout the World. Also, the Board humbly recognizes the Legacy gifts which will support our ministries in the future. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

#### ***In This Issue...***

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*Volume 61, number 2 January 23, 2019*

I am on a renewal retreat this week, spending time with upcoming lectionary texts, reading, reflecting, painting, praying. Thank you for this gift! Please enjoy the following guest column, written by the Rev. Chuck Jones, our new Director of Service Ministries.

Blessings,



### Pastor's Pen

*By Chuck Jones, director of Service Ministries*

It's been just over a month since I began shadowing Mark Knowles to try to learn as much as I could as quickly as I could about FCC's significant involvement in service ministries in Bloomington. There's been a lot to learn, and things continue to move quickly.

So let me pause for a moment to tell you how honored and blessed I feel to take up the calling of Director of Service ministries at FCC. You continue to welcome and orient me. The church staff is kind, collegial, and very good at what they do. I couldn't ask for a better set of fellow workers in ministry. As I said, I feel blessed to be here.

Of course the headline for service ministries in 2019 is our becoming a host congregation for four XPLORES residents, who have been vetted and trained by the National Benevolent Association of the Disciples of Christ. These young adults will live and serve among us at FCC, while working full-time at area community service organizations, from August through next June.

We're currently busy preparing a residence for them and recruiting the engagement sites where they will work. We'll report on these things as we go along.

What I want to say right now about XPLORES is that it is a great program. Its mission—to help young adults discern their service callings while surrounded by the love and support of a congregation—is laudable. And NBA does a great job implementing the program. We are being supplied with all the resources we need to do this well, even our first time through. And most important, this ministry changes lives. Six years of XPLORES alumni testify that this was exactly what they needed to find their life's direction. A significant percentage study social work, education, or psychology—or enter seminary.

I am indeed pleased to be a member of FCC, and to have joined the staff. And I'm grateful for these things at this particular time because we are embarking on a ministry journey that will deeply enrich us all.

Peace,

*Chuck*

### ***Bloomington Bible Study Welcomes Young Adults (18-25 year olds)*** **For Weekly Bible Study and Discussion**

FCC's college ministry, also known as the *Bloomington Bible Study*, focuses on studying with the Bible. This means that students are encouraged to bring homework to do while we discuss our weekly theme and how that relates to our faith journeys. The group consists of young adults who are college-aged (18-25), but you do not need to be in college to attend. **Everyone 18-25 is welcome!** From January to May of this year, BBS is learning through peer engagement to be leaders in Christ.

The first portion from January to the first week of March, we are exploring how we can be leaders for ourselves by focusing on self-discovery and defining what faith is to each individual. For example, we have already studied how others' perceptions, whether positive or negative, can affect how we view our faith. After February, the rest of this series will be focused on being leaders for others and we will explore volunteer opportunities that engage our faith.

We meet every Sunday at 1pm and have a group chat! Please email me your phone number if you want to be added or involved at [hjnorris@iu.edu](mailto:hjnorris@iu.edu)

### **Series on Mental Health Topics for College Students**

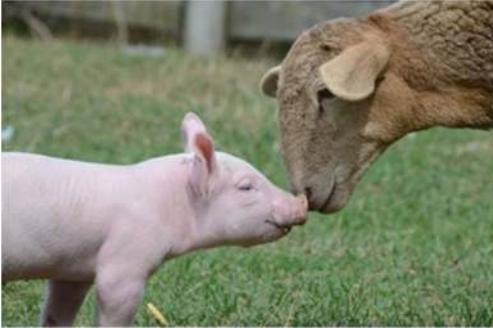


*Join This Group on Sundays in the basement of  
Pourhouse Coffee at 4:30 pm on Sundays*

A mental health series for college students that will include speakers and time for discussion has begun and will continue weekly through the end of March. This program is a continuation of the Learn More; Love More series FCC hosted last summer. The group will meet each Sunday in the Pourhouse Coffee basement from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. This series will provide a safe space for college students to learn more about mental health and ways we can care for our own well-being. For more information contact Katherine Homer, Lily Hoover or the FCC office.

For the latest newsletter, upcoming church events, or to give a financial gift online, visit our website: [www.fccbloomington.org](http://www.fccbloomington.org)





### Join us for an All-Church \*Vegetarian/Vegan Pitch-In

In celebration of the Disciples of Christ Week of Compassion (Feb. 17-24) please join us for FCC's first Vegetarian/Vegan Pitch-In on Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Great Hall, followed by a relevant documentary.

In the spirit of the week, let's extend our circle of compassion to include all of God's creatures. Come partake of delicious vegetarian/vegan food and companionship. Need recipe ideas? Click on the following links or check out a cookbook at the Monroe County Public Library:

<https://ohsheglows.com/>,  
<https://www.vegansociety.com/resources/recipes>,  
<http://www.foodispower.org/recipes-meals/>  
<https://moosewoodcooks.com/all-recipes/>

\**Vegetarian*: Someone who does not eat meat.

\**Vegan*: Someone who seeks to exclude, as far as is possible and practicable, all forms of exploitation of, and cruelty to, animals for food, clothing or any other purpose. Vegans do not eat meat, dairy, or eggs. They do not use leather, or other products that exploit animals.

If you can't make it to the pitch-in, please consider these other compassionate actions for God's creation: Meatless Monday: refrain from eating meat on Monday and any other day (10 billion animals are killed every year in the U.S. for human consumption.) Donate to an animal protection organization and/or volunteer at the animal shelter. Read a related book such as Gene Baur's *Farm Sanctuary*, Tracey Stewart's *Do Unto Animals*, or Matthew Scully's *Dominion*. All available at the MCPL.

#### Snow Policy for Sunday Worship at FCC

Winter is certainly here, with the threat of more winter weather coming our way. We would like to remind you of our policy related to worship on Sunday morning during inclement weather. Long and short of it is this: We **will** worship on Sunday morning even when weather conditions are less than desirable.

That being said, even though John Adams does a great job with snow removal around the building, please make your personal safety a priority! In the highly, **highly** unlikely event we cancel services, we will post something on our Facebook page and add our name to WFIU's list of cancellations.

## Caregivers Create!

### An Art Adventure for Health Caregivers

Are you a caregiver? Do you need a little “Me” time? *Caregivers Create* is a **FREE** visual arts program for health caregivers, both personal and professional. It is designed to provide a bit of respite from the day-to-day tasks of caregiving, and to provide inspiration and relaxation for the health caregiver through an artistic adventure!

Each session focuses on an art project led by an experienced artist or crafter, many of whom are professionals. Projects include art journaling, watercolor painting, pressed flower bookmarks, origami, greeting cards, and other creative exercises. All supplies are provided, light refreshments served, and there’s time for informal socializing with other caregivers.

#### **FEBRUARY 12 “Greeting Cards: Create Your Own”**

Learn the technique of watercolor lettering as you create a special Valentine (or birthday or anniversary) greeting for the love of your life, be it a spouse, child, grandchild or friend!

Instructor: Jeanne Ellen Dutton

Jeanne is a charter adjunct instructor at Ivy Tech’s Center for Lifelong Learning where she teaches several classes, including Beginning Watercolor I-III, Watercolor Workshops, and Art Journaling.

#### **FEBRUARY 26**

#### **“Entryways to Enchantment, Gateways to Spring, Portals to Possibilities...or All 3!!”**

“In visiting the Harrison Center in Indianapolis, I saw this lesson taught by one of the wonderful art instructors there. Adults and teenagers were enamored of this lesson. I hope you will be, too.”

1. Create doorways, gateways from many choices of images to inspire us on paper.
2. Create an image of spring, hope, abstract, realistic with watercolors Or collage or drawing... artists’ choice! You might use multi-media.
3. Using the doors, you will create an opening and combine the two art pieces, where the viewer will see our image and ideas just through the door.

Guest Instructor: Bess Lee

Bess is a retired 30-year public school art teacher. Her students have ranged in age from 2-92. She continues to enjoy sharing and learning about art with others and is becoming a working artist too.

#### **Reserve your place now!**

It’s free, but reservations are required. Currently, reservations are limited to 10 people. To reserve your spot, or for more information, email: Jeanne at [CaregiversCreate@gmail.com](mailto:CaregiversCreate@gmail.com), or call First Christian Church, 812-332-4459.

### February Birthdays

02/03	Allison	Walsh	1478 E. Commander Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
02/06	Pamela	Walters	2455 Tamarack Trail, Apt. 13	Bloomington	IN	47408
02/07	Ben	Jackson	3693 S. Sowder Square	Bloomington	IN	47401
02/13	Marie	Webb	532 Green Road	Bloomington	IN	47403
02/13	Alexandra	Donham	5900 N. Maple Grove Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47404
02/17	Caleb	Dalton	1322 S. Winfield Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
02/17	Patricia	Babcock	3742 S. Tyler Lane	Bloomington	IN	47403
02/20	Lindy	Sinn Trulock	901 Orchard Drive	Newburgh	IN	47630
02/20	Heather	Godsey	3403 N. Smith Pike	Bloomington	IN	47404
02/21	Frieda	Hoffman	1909 Wilton Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
02/24	Diane	Thrasher	2627 E. Windermere Woods Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
02/25	Sue	Cull	3144 Eden Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
02/25	Jackson	Moore	3308 S. Snoddy Road	Bloomington	IN	47401
02/28	Marilyn	LoCascio	3900 S. Jamie Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
02/28	Michelle	Walsh	3006 S. Olcott Blvd.	Bloomington	IN	47401

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



### Support FCC Through Kroger Community Rewards Program

Recently, Kroger made some changes to their Community Rewards Program. This program allows Kroger shoppers to support non-profit groups and organizations while they shop. If you have a Kroger Rewards Card, you can log in to your online account and sign up for this program. When signing up, you will choose an organization by its account number. The First Christian Church account number to choose is **JF010**. If you have been supporting FCC through this program, please check to make sure you have chosen this new number to support FCC.

### Congregational Meeting on February 3

Please plan to be present for an important Congregational Meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, February 3. The FCC Board will present the proposed budget for 2019 for congregational approval. Thank you.

Join us at 6:30 pm on February 1 for



Compassion

The  
Elena Escudero  
Quartet

### **Br-r-r, It's Cold Outside! Shelter needed!**

Yes, we have many in our community that need a warm place to spend the night. As you know, those places are now available at the Wheeler Mission. Wheeler has helpers working for them but still needs the assistance of volunteers from our churches. We are, as we have been for years, offering that assistance on Friday nights. Are you interested in helping with this mission? Volunteers are needed for 8:00 - 10:00 pm shift on Fridays and 6:30 - 7:30 am clean-up shift on Saturdays. If you are interested in helping, contact Chuck Jones at [mr.chuck.jones@gmail.com](mailto:mr.chuck.jones@gmail.com) or Joanne Weddle at [jweddle2@comcast.net](mailto:jweddle2@comcast.net). Either one can tell you how to sign up as a volunteer when you are available.

### **FCC Parking Survey Update**

Thank you to all who participated in our Parking Survey. We are compiling all of the data and will provide a summary in the Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> Christian Visitor.

### UPCOMING EVENTS...

#### **Sunday, January 27**

8:30 am Meditation group  
9:00 am Learning Session I  
10:00 am Worship and Children's  
Worship and Wonder  
11:15 Learning Session II  
1:00 pm Bloomington Bible Study  
3:00 pm Meadowood Service  
4:30 pm Mental Health 101

#### **Tuesday, January 29**

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

#### **Thursday, January 31**

6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

#### **Friday, February 1**

6:30 pm First Friday Jazz Vespers

#### **Sunday, February 3**

8:30 am Meditation group  
9:00 am Learning Session I  
10:00 am Worship and Children's  
Worship and Wonder  
11:15 am Learning Session II  
1:00 pm Bloomington Bible Study  
4:30 pm Mental Health 101

#### **Monday, February 4**

7:00 pm Women's Arts & Crafts

#### **Tuesday, February 5**

1:30 pm Caregivers Create  
5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

#### **Wednesday, February 6**

6:30 pm MOPS

First Christian Church  
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**Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule**

**January 27:**  
Choir and Handbell Choir

**February 3:**  
Campbellite Class

**February 10:**  
Book Bunch & Men's Book Group

**Scripture Readings  
For Sunday Worship**

**January 27**  
Rev. Chuck Jones preaching  
Luke 5:1-11

**February 3**  
Luke 6:1-16

**February 10**  
Luke 7:1-17



*FCC Connects...*  
*through small groups and classes*  
*—2019 Winter/Spring Semester—*

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# *First Christian Church - Group Study & Practice*

## *Winter/Spring 2019*

### Sunday Options

#### Early Session: Meeting Before Worship

##### **Sunday Meditation Group**

The practice of silent meditation to cultivate peace and joy. Each session includes discussion of readings from meditation teachers such as Thich Nhat Hahn, Richard Rohr, and others. No previous experience in meditation practice is required. A different weekday option is available on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location: Room 1, lower level

Contact: Tom Walsh

##### **Emmaus-Interpreters Class** (Bible study)

Spring 2019 will find this group exploring the birth and early development of the Jesus sect of Judaism, as outlined in the book, *Jesus and After*. In addition to its focus on the past, the text offers suggestions for the future of both religions and is sure to stimulate robust debate and conversation.

Time: 9:15 a.m.

Location: Campbellite Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> level

Contact: Andy Stafford

#### Late Session: Beginning at 11:15 a.m.

##### **Campbellite Class** (study, discussion)

Members of the Campbellite class, a highly interactive and thoughtful class, lead discussions on faith related topics including racism, anti-Semitism and the Beatitudes, based on ideas presented by contemporary Christian writers. All are welcome to join in the conversation.

Location: Fireside Study, main level

Contact: Nancy Heimer

#### Late Session: Beginning at 11:15 a.m.

##### **Faith, Friends & Films**

(discussion, spiritual practice)

When this group gathers, film sets the tone for diving deep into our shared faith journey. The dialogue begins with brief and engaging videos featuring modern theologians. Group leaders provide an overview of spiritual disciplines and present options for weekly practice. Join us in sharing the discoveries and challenges that arise as we more deeply connect with God, self, and others.

Location: Campbellite Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> level

Contact: Lisa Autry, Amy Hoover, Sharon Robinson

##### **The Sharing Table** (discussion group)

Join this lively, unstructured dialogue as participants view current and historical events through the lens of a personal relationship with the sacred.

Location: Sanctuary, main level

Contact: Thomas Thompson

##### **“What is Lent?” and Other Questions You’ve Wanted to Ask**

(young adult discussion)

Many of us grew up in faith traditions other than the Disciples of Christ, which means we sometimes experience new and unfamiliar things at FCC. Bring your questions and we’ll explore them in light of our unique faith experiences. Rev. Chuck Jones will lead this new group. Chuck was a minister in a fundamentalist church who didn’t know what Lent was prior to joining the Disciples.

Location: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor (beginning March 10)

Contact: Chuck Jones



# *First Christian Church - Group Study & Practice*

## *Winter/Spring 2019*

### Sunday Options

#### Late Session: Beginning at 11:15 a.m.

##### **FaithSteps** (children's Sunday school)

Because every step matters, FaithSteps helps children grow in faith through Bible study. Young people will learn about and from Biblical characters and celebrate seasons of the church year.

Location: Grades PreK-6 in Room 2 of lower level

Contact: Connie Myers, Jo Weddle

##### **Youth** (project-based activities and discussion)

Youth (middle/high school) meet weekly following worship for discussions about life and faith.

Location: Youth Room (#13), lower level

Contact: Ashlyn Reynolds

#### Afternoon/Evening Groups

##### **Bloomington Bible Study**

(Study, discussion)

FCC's college ministry focuses on studying with the Bible. This means that students are encouraged to bring homework to do while we discuss our weekly theme and how that relates to our faith journeys. The group consists of young adults who are college-aged, but you do not need to be in college to attend. Everyone 18-25 is welcome! From January to May of this year, BBS is learning through peer engagement to be leaders in Christ. Join us this Sunday for a group chat!

Time: 1:00 p.m., Sundays

Location: Fireside Study, main level

Contact: Haley Norris



#### Afternoon/Evening Groups

##### **Mental Health 101: A Series for College Students** (lecture, discussion)



This mental health series for college students will include high profile speakers as well as time for discussion. This program is a continuation of the Learn More; Love More series FCC hosted last summer. The group will meet each Sunday in the Pourhouse Coffee basement from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm. This series will provide a safe space for college students to learn more about mental health and ways we can care for our own well-being.

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Location: Basement of The Pourhouse Coffee Shop

Contact: Lily Hoover, Katherine Homer

##### **Celtic Spirituality** (Lenten study)



This year, travel through Lent in the spiritual landscape of the Irish imagination. FCC and our neighbors at First Presbyterian are partnering for a five-week study and experience of Celtic Spirituality based on John O'Donohue's *Anam Cara: a Book of Celtic Wisdom*. Ancient teachings, stories and blessings will guide our exploration of universal themes including solitude, love, friendship, and death. Each session will begin with a simple meal and conclude with a simple blessing.

Time: Sunday evenings, March 10-April 7, Time TBD

Location: Lyman Hall at First Presbyterian Church

Contact: Connie Myers, Helen Hempfling

# *First Christian Church - Group Study & Practice Winter/Spring 2019*

## Monthly Options

### Caregivers Create

If you are a caregiver, personal or professional, who would like a bit of respite time to take a creative adventure, this is for you! No experience necessary for this FREE opportunity. Each class is led by a professional artist or experienced crafter. All materials and light refreshments are provided. Time: 1:30-4:00 p.m., the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays  
Location: Chapel/Gathering Space, main level  
Contact: Reservations are required. Save your spot by emailing [CaregiversCreate@gmail.com](mailto:CaregiversCreate@gmail.com) or call the FCC office at 812-332-4459.

### Women's Arts & Crafts

Create unique hand-crafted items and enjoy fun company. Past crafts include jewelry making, ribbon bookmarks, washcloth bunnies, and seasonal wreaths. Feel free to bring your own project or participate in our monthly activity. 1st Mondays at 7:00 pm.  
Location: Chapel Gathering Space  
Contact: Susan Jenkin

### Voices of Faith (Disciples Women)

This new network of Disciples Women strives to connect and empower women to engage in dialogue and advocacy as we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. We would love to hear *your* voice as we learn together where our deep gladness and our community's deep hunger meet. Meets 2nd Wednesdays at 11:45 am.  
Location: Fireside Study  
Contact: Sandy Bate, Susan Engert, Judith Olmstead

### Youth Group

Youth meet monthly for fellowship and/or service activities including Holiday World getaways, Christmas shopping for families in need, lock-ins, and game nights. Contact the church office for upcoming events.

## Monthly Options

### Men's Book Group

Big thoughts and open minds meet in FCC's Men's Book Group. The current booklist is available in the church office. Meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm (Fireside Study)

### Book Bunch (for women)

This fun group of readers gathers every five weeks to discuss books from a variety of genres. A booklist and meeting dates are available in the church office. (Bryan Park or the Fireside Study)

### (Mothers of Preschoolers)

This group of moms gathers monthly (first Wednesdays of the month) to embrace the journey of motherhood. Whether you are a soon-to-be mom, an adoptive mom, young mom, seasoned mom, foster mom, stepmom or any other type of mom, you are welcome to join us! Details about meetings are on our Facebook page [@fccbloomingtonmops](https://www.facebook.com/fccbloomingtonmops).

## Weeknight Option

**Listening to God** (spiritual practice) See description in Sunday options. (Also meets Sundays during early session.) Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 pm (Fireside Study)

*For more information, contact our Director of Faith Formation and Family Ministries, Connie Myers.*



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