

The CHRISTIAN

 FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ) *Visitor*

Youth-led Worship on Sunday, January 28

FCC's youth will be leading worship this Sunday, January 28th. The group has prepared a meaningful and unique service, certainly one that you won't want to miss. The message will be delivered by youth and will provide a unique perspective on two biblical stories of healing. It will also include learning from a student project on homelessness. So, plan on joining us for worship this Sunday. You won't be disappointed.

ANNUAL ALL-CHURCH SOUP CONTEST Saturday, January 27 in Great Hall

Cold winter days call for a bowl of warm soup. And where can you come to try the various recipes made by our marvelous cooks than at our annual all-church soup supper!

Yes, either make a pot to bring and enter into our contest (first, second, third and people's choice awards will be given) or just come to enjoy the evening. You are invited to bring a dish to go with our soup - bread, salad, dessert, or whatever you would like to add to the meal. We can promise a great dinner and a good time. Remember to bring dollar and coins to vote on your favorites!

*Soups should arrive at 6:00 and
the meal will begin at 6:30.*

Congregational Meeting This Sunday, January 28

This important meeting to approve the 2018 church budget will take place immediately following worship.

PASTOR'S PEN

Quite the Year!

It has been exactly one year since FCC's Future story was presented to and received by the congregation. What a year it has been! As I look back over the past twelve months, I am filled with awe and gratitude for the ways that God's Spirit has worked in, among, and through us. Indeed, there has been a renewed sense of joy, purpose, and Christian community as we have begun to live into the life-giving vision that the Story offers. Here are just a few visible signs of what has been happening around here since the unveiling of the Story, now named the FCC Story:

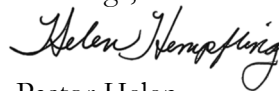
- A weekly congregation-wide spiritual practice designed to help us connect more deeply with God, others, and our authentic selves. Some of the best, most lively, and diverse small group opportunities, designed to meet the widely varied spiritual yearnings of our faith community.
- Increased collaborative ministries of service and outreach, including our sponsorship of the Interfaith Habitat Build and our key leadership in a community-wide effort to better meet the food and sheltering needs of those experiencing hunger and homelessness.
- Intentional engagement with our downtown neighbors, including offering a fun trick-or-treat event, partnering with Cardinal Stage Company, and

hosting the annual MLK Interfaith Celebration.

- A burgeoning arts ministry that is helping us name and celebrate our connection with the One we call Creator and Healer.
- Lots of experimentation with the sanctuary's seating, along with a faithful focus on how to best enhance our sacred space so that it can become a more flexible and accessible gift to the community, dedicated to the glory of God and made known through the inclusive love of Christ.
- A monthly Jazz Vespers Service—offered as a gift to the wider community—that truly soothes the soul.
- Vibrant weekly worship that witnesses to our desire to give our best to a God whose giving—and whose wide welcome—knows no ending.

While this is but a small sampling of some of the more visible signs of the Spirit's movement among us, there is so much more that is bubbling below the surface. Let us, by the grace of God, continue to partner with Christ Jesus to coax out what is about to burst forth in our midst. 2018 is going to be exciting! See you Sunday for our youth-led service and congregational meeting.

Blessings,



Pastor Helen

Congregation to Vote on 2018 Budget This Sunday, January 28

This Sunday, the congregation will vote on our 2018 budget, approved unanimously by the board at its January 14 meeting. Upon approval by the congregation, the annual budget of \$485,773 will allow FCC to continue to do what we already do best: worship, sing, serve, give, care, pray, welcome, grow spiritually, reach beyond our doorsteps—in the name of Jesus Christ.

The budget will also allow us to continue to implement many of the exciting and bold initiatives that are spelled out in our FCC Story, including:

- Our First Friday Jazz Vespers services.
- A growing arts ministry that offers pathways to healing and spiritual connection.
- Experimentation with new ways to offer accessible transportation in a changing downtown.
- Careful and prayerful selection of an architect as we move toward enhancing the sanctuary to make it more flexible and accessible while maintaining its beauty and integrity.
- Putting into place a comprehensive communications plan that allows for the hiring of a part-time Communications Associate who will be to help us spread the word about our many and varied ministries.
- Laying the groundwork for receiving four young adult resident interns through the XPLO program of the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

In addition, our 2018 budget anticipates: two intergenerational mission trips in partnership with Disciples Global Ministries; ongoing support of MCUM, Habitat for Humanity, Shalom Center, and other local ministries; 7% of pledged giving dedicated to Disciples Mission Fund for regional and worldwide denominational mission, and a 1.5% pay increase for all FCC staff members.

The good news is that FCC has the financial resources available to underwrite our 2018 ministry budget! These resources include: pledged giving, building use receipts, grant monies, fundraising income, interest income from our permanent endowment, and funds designated for specific ministries.

Detailed copies of the 2018 budget are available at the church office and will be passed out on Sunday morning at the congregational meeting that will be held immediately following worship.

A special thanks goes to Jim Watson and Brian Jackson (Finance Committee) and to Chris Martoglio (Chair of the FCC Story Steering Committee) for their leadership in crafting a bold and faithful budget for 2018.



IMPORTANT BELL ALERT!

Tell all your friends that on FEBRUARY 1 the HANDBELL CHOIR will be changing its regular rehearsal time to **THURSDAYS from 5:30-6:15 pm**. Oh yes, and also tell all those friends that they are urged to join in the ringing as well! We've got BIG PLANS – not enough hands. For more information, contact handbell director Carter Adams (capadams@umail.iu.edu) or any of the current Bell Choir members.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHORAL SCHOLAR TERRENCE CHIN-LOY

We are excited that last week in Chicago, our tenor section leader Terrence Chin-Loy was one of the winners in the Central Region's Regional Metropolitan Opera National Auditions. This means that he will progress to the National Finals held at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City over two weeks at the end of April. Congratulations, Terrence!

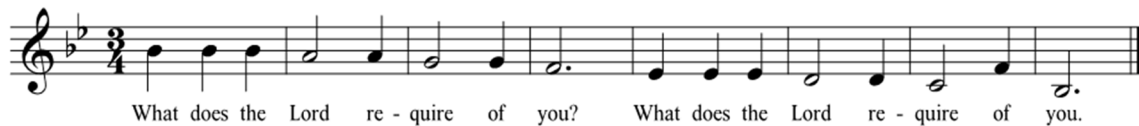
JOYFUL NOISE CHOIR

The Intergenerational Joyful Noise Choir will be singing a beautiful song based on Micah 6:8 on Sunday, Feb. 18 (the first Sunday in Lent). The music is #661 in the Chalice Hymnal. There are three musical phrases that we can combine in many ways to make a piece that expresses the intertwining of the ethical and sacred commitments for living a religious life.

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1. What does the Lord require of you? What does the Lord require of you?



2. Justice. Kindness. Walk humbly with your God.



3. To seek justice and love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.



Here is a link to the accompaniment of the piece if you would like to listen and practice at home or with the family. https://hymnary.org/media/fetch/150224/hymnary/audio/GG2013/070-WhatDoesTheLord_accomp.mp3?dl=1

People of all ages are invited to join us at the front of the sanctuary for 10 minutes after each Sunday morning service to sing together.



Week of Compassion Special Offering is February 18-25

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Week of Compassion seeks to equip and empower disciples to alleviate the suffering of others through disaster response, humanitarian aid, sustainable development and the promotion of mission opportunities. FCC has always strongly supported this important work of the church. Give to Week of Compassion during worship at FCC on February 18 and 25. Special envelopes will be provided during worship.

Thank you for your continued support.

Join us at 6:30 pm on Friday February 2 for FCC's Jazz Vespers service as we welcome guest vocalist Elena Escudero and focus on the theme of *Justice*.

**First
Friday** *Jazz*
vespers

a ministry of
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Join FCC's Book Bunch!

FCC's Book Bunch meets about once a month on Thursdays to discuss a variety of books. Included in the lineup this year is *Everything I Never Told You*, a book that is part of the National Endowment of the Arts' "Big Read" program. The Book Bunch group has been registered as a participating group. Therefore, Book Bunch participants should be receiving FREE COPIES! See the dates and books below and join this great group of women who love to read and talk about it.

Thursday, February 22

Under the Influence

By Joyce Maynard

Thursday, August 16

Before We Were Yours

By Lisa Wingate

Thursday, March 29 (Maundy Thursday)

The Immortalists

By Cloe Benjamin

Thursday, September 20

Commonwealth

By Ann Patchett

Thursday, May 3

The Woman in the Window

By A.J. Finn

Thursday, October 25

Last Christmas in Paris: A Novel of World War I

By Hazel Gaynor and Heather Webb

Thursday, June 7

The Garden of Small Beginnings

By Abbi Waxman

Thursday, November 29

Dinner with Edward

By Isabel Vincent

Thursday, July 12

Everything I Never Told You

By Celeste Ng (National Endowment for the Arts- "Big Read").

NO NEED TO BUY THIS BOOK!: the Friends of MCPL will provide free copies of this book to our book club for participating in the NEA's "Big Read" program! For more info, check out the MCPL website. I have submitted our group's name and information.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19th – Christmas Dinner

Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy

By Anne Lamott

January 24, 2019

Bettyville: A Memoir

By George Hodgman

February Birthdays

02/03	Allison	Walsh	1478 E. Commander Court	Bloomington IN	47401
02/03	Malcolm	Wallace	P.O. Box 14	Paragon IN	46166
02/06	Pamela	Walters	2455 Tamarack Trail, Apt. 13	Bloomington IN	47408
02/07	Amy	Robinson	4694 Viola Drive	Bloomington IN	47403
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
02/20	Lindy	Sinn Trulock	901 Orchard Drive	Newburgh IN	47630
02/21	Frieda	Hoffman	1909 Wilton Court	Bloomington IN	47401
02/22	John	Miller	C/o Jill's House, 751 E. Tamarack Trail	Bloomington IN	47408
02/24	Diane	Thrasher	2627 E. Windermere Woods Dr.	Bloomington IN	47401
02/25	Sue	Cull	3144 Eden Dr.	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 someone off of the birthday list.



Pancakes & Ashes Tuesday, February 13 in Great Hall

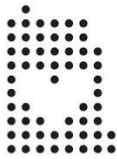
On the Tuesday evening before Ash Wednesday, enjoy a pancake meal in Great Hall followed by a service of ashes to mark the beginning of Lent. Please, mark your calendar for **February 13 for Pancakes & Ashes**. More details will follow.

2018 MCUM Challenge

2018 Goal: 2,000 pounds

Most recent trip: 173 pounds

Year-to-date: 218 pounds



Box Tops for Education Call-Out!

MCUM's shelves are nearly empty! They are in need of pasta sauce, boxed macaroni and cheese, ramen noodles, cereal and biscuit/muffin mixes! MCUM is also collecting **Boxtops for Education** to support their Early Learning Center. Please, consider donating what you are able!

Year End Giving Statements

Our Financial Secretaries have prepared individual year end giving statements. Those will be mailed to your home by the end of January. In the meantime, if you need information, please contact one of our financial secretaries (Patti Parkes, Mary Swarthout, or Melissa Jackson). Thank you for your generosity.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Saturday, January 27

6:00 pm Soup Contest

Sunday, January 28

9:00 am Learning Session I

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Joyful Noise Choir rehearsal

11:15 am Learning Session II

Monday, January 29

6:00 pm Monday Night Book Study

Wednesday, January 31

6:30pm MOPS

Thursday, February 1

*5:30 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal
(New meeting time)

6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Friday, February 2

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

6:30 pm Jazz Vespers Service

Sunday, February 4

9:00 am Learning Session I

10:00 am Worship with Children
Worship & Wonder

11:15 am Joyful Noise Choir

11:15 am Learning Session II

Monday, February 5

6:00 pm Monday Night Book Study

6:00 pm Women's Arts & Crafts

Upcoming Event...

February 13 - Pancakes & Ashes

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

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fcc@fccbloom.org
www.fccbloom.org
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Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule

January 28:
Emmaus/Interpreters

February 4:
Grades K-12 and Sharing Table

February 11:
Sanctuary Choir and Handbells

**Scripture Readings
for Sunday Worship**

January 28
Mark 5:21-43

February 4
Mark 6:1-29

February 11
Mark 8:27-9:8