

The CHRISTIAN



 FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ) *Visitor*

Preparing for Lent, FCC Style

Pancakes and Ashes event on February 28

Here at FCC, we will observe both fasting and feasting during the Lenten season. We begin on **February 28th** with a feast as we move from Epiphany into Lent with our **Pancakes & Ashes** event.

Join us in Great Hall for a hearty pancake supper. We will provide the pancakes, butter and syrup. You can sign up to bring your favorite pancake topping, or side. Dinner will be served promptly at 6:00 pm, but you'll want to be first in line. So, arrive early with your contribution for the meal.

After supper, we will begin our extremely popular "pancake games!" That's right... we'll have pancake relays, and a pancake toss! Who knows? We may even add a new game, think "pin the bacon on the pancake!"

By 6:45 pm, we will move from the feast and fun to a more contemplative part of our evening. We will begin with worship and song that will lead us to stations that will provide opportunity for individual reflection, prayer, action and the imposition of ashes.

This treasured FCC tradition gives us the

opportunity to share a meal, laughter, reflection and prayer as we prepare for Lent. Throughout the Lenten season, you will have opportunities for daily reflection, worship, service, and learning.

We will provide information on these opportunities through our FCC Lenten Guide that will be available at Pancakes & Ashes, in the next newsletter and at church on March 5. We will also provide weekly emails with scripture and activities for the week.

Pancakes & Ashes

February 28 in Great Hall

5:45 pm Arrive

6:00 pm Dinner is served

6:45 - 8:00 pm Worship & Stations



First Sunday of Lent

*Bluegrass Gospel Music with
Scott Cripe & The Kerosene Cucumbers*

During worship at 10:00am
on March 5

(See page 3 for details and the story)

PASTOR'S PEN**Why Pancakes? Why Ashes? Why both on the same night?**

Pancakes: In Medieval times, it became the norm for Christians to prepare for the penitential season of Lent by emptying their homes of meat, dairy products, fat, and eggs so they could fast “to the extreme” during those 40 days before Easter. They would ransack their houses for these items and cook them up into pancakes in the days that preceded Lent. The last day before the season of Lent was a big pancake party—with merriment, food, games, music, and an excuse to “let loose.” This pancake party has evolved into what we know as Fat Tuesday or *Mardi Gras*.

FCC's pancake party will be on Tuesday February 28, and it is the perfect excuse to come together for food and fellowship! See page 1 for the details, and plan to come for the party!!!

Ashes: “From dust you came and to dust you will return.” While this is not a fact we care to (or need to!) dwell upon, ashes serve to remind us of the truth that life is, indeed, a fragile and precious gift from gracious God, to be lived and received with gratitude. When we receive ashes, we say to God, “Yes, I trust that you love me, and yes, I know my life doesn't adequately reflect that I trust in your love. I'm sorry. I've messed up. Please forgive me. I want to start over.” When we receive ashes, we also receive words of assurance that God is with us in both life and death. Ashes help us

mark the beginning point of a “do-over” that starts us down the road toward reorienting our lives to those things that are important to God, those things that reflect Jesus' way of being in the world. The 40 days that follow the imposition of ashes give us enough time and space to let die old and unhelpful habits of mind, heart, and body in order to embrace the fullness of life that God offers through Christ.

FCC's imposition of ashes will be offered on February 28, following the pancake dinner. In addition, we will offer a variety of reflection/action stations that will help prepare you for receiving the ashes. Details for this special time of worship and reflection will be explained at the pancake dinner.

So, back to the question “Why pancakes and why ashes?” And back to the answer: Because human beings have three needs: food, fellowship, and forgiveness; and because pancakes and ashes are among the gifts that the church offers to help address those needs. See you February 28!!

Pastor Helen

PS: If you have not yet read FCC's Future Story, please call the church office, and we will mail (or email) a copy to you. Next steps toward implementation are underway. Let us know how you would like to be involved by emailing futurestory@fccbloom.org

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT SHARED THROUGH THE ARTS AT FCC

By Jan Harrington

There's no argument that the arts enrich and ennoble our lives. Scientific research attests to the healing and life-enriching effect the arts have on our spirits, our connection with the divine, and even our longevity and IQ's. Last Sunday, Bess Lee shared with me the following wisdom from one of the great mentors who shaped many of our lives – the late Mr. Rogers – which I, in turn, share with you here:

“If you like to make things out of wood, or sew, or dance, or style people's hair or dream up stories and act them out, or play the trumpet or jump rope, whatever you really love to do, and you love that in front of your children, loved ones and friends, that's going to be a far more important gift than anything you could ever give them wrapped up in a box with ribbons. And what's more: the last thing in the world you have to be is perfect at it. It's the spirit that gives that kind of gift its wings.”

-Fred Rogers

FCC Members Participate in *Religion, Spirituality & The Arts* at Christian Theological Seminary

The Religion, Spirituality & the Arts symposium is a new initiative at the Christian Theological Seminary, lead by Rabbi Sandy Sasso. The goal of the program is to bring people together from diverse artistic disciplines, practices and religious/spiritual perspectives. Participants in the seminar study and engage in biblical text as they seek inspiration to create new work.

FCC members Joe and Bess Lee learned about the CTS program after hearing a presentation by Rabbi Sasso. Bess applied for the program and was accepted for the “Cain and Abel” seminar in the Fall of 2016.

“We examined art, poetry, literature and music inspired by the story of Cain and Abel,” said Bess. “I especially enjoyed exploring John Steinbeck's *East of Eden*, which is a Cain and Abel story.”

Bess's experience with the program was so positive that Joe decided to apply. He recently completed the seminar on “Creation.” His work is a graphic novel on a sculptural podium titled “reCREATE.”

(story continued on page 5)

A Bluegrass Worship Service on March 5

For worship on March 5, Scott Cripe and his fellow bluegrass band members, *The Kerosene Cucumbers*, have generously volunteered to offer a worship experience based on music of the bluegrass tradition...immediate, heartfelt and spiritually invigorating...which will lead our congregation into the Lenten season.

The Kerosene Cucumbers have been playing Bluegrass music for over 30 years. The group started as a duo of Steve Woods – banjo and Scott Cripe – bass, entertaining guests during Happy Hours at the Fourwinds Resort before their nightly house band show. Cary Weaver - guitar and John Gates - mandolin joined the group a few years later and Steve's four piece Bluegrass vision was complete.

From festivals to fish fry's all over southern Indiana, and now at FCC you can experience the Cucumbers and their unique and energetic approach to classic Bluegrass Music.

“For the love of that Bluegrass music and the joy it brings” would be the reason this group continues to pick and explore this wonderful music and tradition. We hope you enjoy our music. - Steve, Scott, Cary & John THE KEROSENE CUCUMBERS



Habitat for Humanity
of Monroe County

Get excited for this year's CommUNITY Interfaith Build for Habitat for Humanity!

This collaborative project will bring together volunteers from Bloomington's faith community to frame up a home in just 3 days, beginning on March 31! FCC is one of the sponsors of this important event and has committed to **raising \$5,000** to make it happen. We have participated in the Women's build in the past, but this year our focus will be on the Interfaith CommUNITY Build. So if you want to be a part of a build this year, this is it!

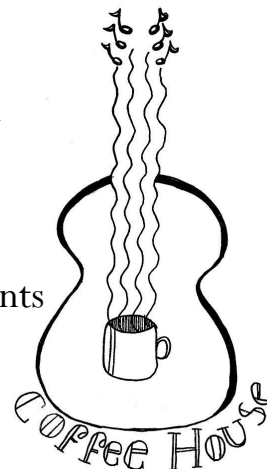
If you'd like to help raise the funds, or if you're handy with a hammer, or both, *we need you!* We are especially needing volunteers to help frame the home **March 31-April 2**. There will be other opportunities to swing a hammer after this weekend, but we'd like to bring a team of FCC volunteers for the framing weekend first.

You can **donate to FCC's campaign online** by going to FCC's website, www.fccbloom.org, and clicking on the blue and green *CommUNITY Interfaith Build* logo. If you'd rather write a check, it should be made out to First Christian Church with "Habitat Build" on the memo line.

Contact Mark Knowles for more information on how you can get involved in the build!

Harmony Music Fest to support Habitat February 24 at Unitarian Universalist Church

Come listen to local musicians **including FCC's own John Walsh!** The doors open at 6:30 and music begins at 7:00 pm. Admission is \$10.00 for adults, \$8.00 for students and \$30.00 for a family pass (families of four or more).



(Proceeds benefit the general fund for the Interfaith CommUNITY Build.)



You Are Here - Blossoming New Seeds

February 14, 2017

Hurricane Matthew hammered Haiti as a Category 4 storm in the early-morning hours of Oct. 4, 2016, leaving widespread damage in a nation that was still trying to rebuild itself after the 2010 earthquake. The hurricane left behind a path of destruction on the southern peninsula, on the island of La Gonave and the lower Northwest department. Schools, houses, churches, latrines, and other buildings were damaged or destroyed; crops were ruined; trees were uprooted; animals died; and hundreds of human lives were lost.

Within the first couple of weeks after the storm, Week of Compassion worked with Global Ministries and Church World Service partners in places where they were already positioned to provide immediate emergency food and water to many communities. As the long-term rebuilding of homes and schools began and children began returning to school, concern shifted to the restoration of the agricultural economy.

Most Haitians are farmers. The economy is heavily dependent on crops as a major source of revenue to support families and communities. With 90% of crops ruined by the storm, restoring the local livelihood is essential.

Even though crops were wiped out, people were determined to start over again. With the community working together, local farmers were able to clear out damaged crops in preparation for the new harvest. All they needed were some good seeds.

Week of Compassion's partners provided those seeds. Mules and donkeys transported everything through rough terrains and up the mountain to deliver lima beans, corn, banana, and manioc. People came to pick up the seeds, full of hope and joy because this meant they could replant before the rainy season. One of the recipients, Mercurieu Josphat, shared, "It is a miracle. This is the first aid that arrived since the hurricane passed. His people already had everything in place that they needed to rebuild: land, soil, and people. They were only missing seeds to grow, and with the seeds, they could begin using the land to support their families and community again. Within a month after the new seeds were planted, the rain came.

Today, many crops are beginning to bear fruit, and soon the farmers will begin harvesting. Your support to Week of Compassion enables us to provide seeds of hope for communities in need.

Week of Compassion Offering received February 19 & 26

(CTS Story continued from page 3)

"reCREATE" is a graphic story that recreated the traditional Judeo-Christian creation tale," said Joe. "It calls up everything from Miudrash to alchemy to the "magic hands" of Captain Kangaroo's television show. Oh, with a dash of "big bang" thrown in for good measure."

You can see Joe's art as well as others who participated in the seminar.

Wednesday, February 22
6:00-8:00 pm
Christian Theological Seminary
1000 W 42nd Street
Indianapolis

March Birthdays

03/02	Andy	Stafford	1628 Bellemeade Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/03	Jim	Ray	2001 E. Hillside Drive, Stier	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/05	Kelsey	May	1 East Duxbury Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
03/05	Marge	Blewett	800 N. Bell Trace Circle #321	Bloomington	IN	47408
03/06	Bill	Knapp	3687 Tamarron Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
03/06	Kate	Griggs	9376 S. Harbour Pointe Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/07	Wayne	Johnson	1900 S. Ramsey Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/07	Bob	Orr	1105 E. Regency Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/10	Mark	Knawles	3210 S. Walnut Springs Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/12	Will	Keaton	7853 S. Zikes Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/13	Tom	Trippel	2088 Willow Lake Dr.	Newburgh	IN	47630
03/13	Glenn	Read, Jr.	120 N. Lexington Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47408
03/14	Mark	Calvert-Rosenberger	309 Connel St.	Springfield	TN	37172
03/15	Donna	Beams	6956 S. Pearl Dr.	Chandler	AZ	85249
03/15	Janet	Rowland	3791 Regents Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/15	Eugenie	Sullivan	2301 Fritz Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
03/16	Roy	Whiteman	4600 South Victor Pike	Bloomington	IN	47403
03/17	Tracy	Sexton	2505 Brewster Court	Bloomington	IN	47404
03/17	Cage	Partlow	9940 W. 280 N.	Anderson	IN	46011
03/20	Amy	Stafford	2806 Thrushwood Dr. #B	Austin	TX	78757
03/21	Stewart	Rickert	532 S. Ballantine Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/21	Dayna	Hummel	9768 Deer Trail	Haslett	MI	48840
03/21	Charles	Watkins	1144 E. Benson Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/22	Carol	Isaacs	2959 Ramble Road West	Bloomington	IN	47408
03/22	Helen	Hempfling Ervin	1222 E. Tremont Way	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/23	Jane	Birckelbaw	4128 New Hope Ct.	Plano	TX	75024
03/23	Marlene	Vass	1009 Waltz Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/24	Peggy	Bales	1410 Trace 14	West Lafayette	IN	47906
03/25	Jeff	Eller	4001 Rosewood Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47404
03/25	Emily	Werner	4950 White River Drive	Bloomington	IN	47404
03/25	Jan	Parrott	543 Green Road	Bloomington	IN	47403
03/26	Marie	Settle	316 E. Dodds Street	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/26	Doug	Cull	3144 Eden Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/26	Billie	Yost	2412 Foothill Blvd. Space 15	Calistoga	CA	94515
03/27	Nancy	Heimer	307 Lakewood Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
03/27	Sarah	Small	3531 Wellington Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/28	Brian	Jackson	3693 S. Sowder Square	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/28	Charlie	Sinn	2559 S. Smith Road	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/28	Susan	Garcia	3620 S. Kingsbury Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/28	Julia	Hummel	9768 Deer Trail	Haslett	MI	48840
03/28	Bridget	Goodwin	106 E. 15th St.	Bloomington	IN	47408
03/29	Emily	Lepore	8609 Orchard Grove Lane	Camby	IN	46113
03/30	Marti	Black	2724 McCartney Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/30	Ashante	Thomas	1610 S. Dorchester Dr. #9	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/31	Brandon	Lee	1028 S. Henderson St.	Bloomington	IN	47401
03/31	Doris	Brineman	1141 Linden Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408

Save the Date

BBQ

Youth & Families BBQ
4:00-7:00 pm on March 5

*If you are in middle school or high school
OR the parent of a middle or high school
student...*

Plan to join us at **Max Fettchenhauer's house** for some great food and the opportunity to share ideas for a memory-making and FUN youth group!

(Look for an email next week with the details.)

Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule



*Don't Forget to
Bring Goodies!*

February 19: Cambellite Class

**February 26: Book Bunch & Men's
Book Club**

**March 5: Sanctuary Choir &
Handbell Choir**

UPCOMING EVENTS...

February 19

*Week of Compassion Special
Offering*

Noon: board meeting

February 20, 6:30 pm

*Jesus Before the Gospels book
study*

February 22

*6:00-8:00 pm, Religion,
Spirituality & the Arts exhibit
(Christian Theological Seminary)*

*6:30 pm, MOPS (Mothers of
Preschoolers)*

February 23, 5:30 & 6:15 pm

*Handbell choir rehearsal
Sanctuary choir rehearsal*

February 24

4:00 pm, Book Bunch

*5:30 pm, Listening to God
mediation*

*7:00 pm, Harmony MusicFest
benefiting Habitat's*

*CommUNITY Interfaith Build
(Unitarian Universalist Church)*

February 26, 10:00 am

Week of Compassion Offering

February 28, 6:00 pm

Pancakes & Ashes

March 5

*10:00 am Blue Grass worship
service*

4:00 pm, Youth & Family BBQ

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. 59, no. 4

Bluegrass & Gospel Sunday

**March 5th during morning worship
at 10:00 am**

**Scott Cripe & The Karosene Cucumbers
will share their “love of Bluegrass music
and the joy it brings.”**

Pastor Helen’s sermon will focus
the act of forgiveness.



Scripture Readings for Sunday Worship

February 19
Matthew 14:22-33

February 26
Matthew 6:24-17:8
Psalm 20:7

March 5
Matthew 18:15-35

March 12
Matthew 20:1-16