

The CHRISTIAN

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

Preparing for Lent

Join us for Pancakes & Ashes on February 13 in Great Hall

Join us on **February 13** as we move from Epiphany into Lent with **Pancakes & Ashes**. We will gather in Great Hall for a hearty pancake supper followed by the extremely popular “pancake games”! You won’t want to miss the highly anticipated *Pancake Toss*! FCC will provide sausage, pancakes, butter, and syrup. You can bring your favorite pancake topping, or a side to share. ***Dinner will be served promptly at 6:00 pm***, but you’ll want to be first in line. So, arrive a little early (5:45 pm) with your contribution for the meal.

Following supper and games, we will move from the feast and fun to a more contemplative part of our evening including worship and song, prayer and the imposition of ashes.

Additionally, we will begin a food drive for Monroe County United Ministries. A list of food and supplies that are needed is included inside this newsletter. Hold on to that list and consider purchasing items for MCUM when you are shopping for your groceries. We will be accepting donations for this drive, beginning with Pancakes & Ashes and continuing throughout the season of Lent.

We hope you will join us as we move into Lent with Pancakes & Ashes. However, if you are unable to come, we encourage you to begin your own preparations by considering a focus on the spiritual practices of Prayer, Examen and Lectio Divina. We will be taking a closer look at these spiritual practices during worship on Sunday morning throughout the season of Lent.

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PASTOR'S PEN
A Meaningful Lent vs. Valentine's Day

Last week, a lovely message appeared in my "priority" inbox. I don't know how it managed to land there. It should have automatically landed in my "promotional" inbox, joining all the other rarely read mass emails that arrive each day. Written by the Benedictine Sisters of Our Lady of Grace Monastery (Beech Grove), I want to share it with you as we prepare for the upcoming season of Lent.

For the first time since 1945, Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on February 14th this year. This year could be a conundrum for those who celebrate with heart-shaped chocolates, roses, and fancy cards expressing unrequited love, **AND** have a desire begin this Lenten season in a meaningful way.

Ash Wednesday... the start of Lent... when Christians around the world begin a time of fasting, examining our lives, and asking for God's help to become the best version of ourselves. It is a beautiful time of prayer, almsgiving and fasting to prepare us for the celebration of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This year, make your Lenten season more meaningful and go beyond giving up chocolate. You can find many suggestions on the internet, so we've summed up a few (in case you are giving up the internet for Lent!).

1. Apologize to someone. Lent is a season of repentance and since most sins include hurting someone else, don't just ask for God's

forgiveness. Reach out and say "I'm sorry" to someone you may have offended - not only in what you have done, but in what you have failed to do.

2. Share the love of Christ and take on a Lenten project. Examples include 40 days of letter writing; 40 random acts of kindness; 40 calls to someone special (no texting, just talking).

3. Join a small group at church; attend Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services—plus weekly Sunday morning worship service.

4. Take time for silence and listen for God; practice a daily Examine or Lectio Divina.

5. Help someone in need.

6. Visit the sick and lonely.

7. Volunteer.

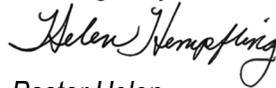
8. Don't just fast from chocolate this year. Fast from insensitive comments and gossip. (You might want to let go of social media for this one)

9. Read a book of daily Lenten meditations and journal.

Pick someone you don't know (from church, work, store, neighborhood, at a stop light), and pray for that person throughout the day.

If you think about it, all of these Lenten practices equate to love. So perhaps it's no conundrum at all that Valentine's Day and Lent fall on the same day. Perhaps we just look at Valentine's Day in a less commercial way.

Blessings to you in the upcoming season of Lent.



Pastor Helen



Sacred Music during this Lenten season

We are very fortunate to live in a place full of opportunities to experience world class musical presentations, both here at First Christian Church and in the Bloomington Community. Below you will find many opportunities to take in the sacred music of the season. FCC services will be filled with special music of the season. We have also listed some special presentations within the Bloomington and IU community.

Sacred Music at First Christian Church

Sunday Worship March 4 - J.S. Bach Cantata 12: *Weeping, Crying, Sorrowing, Sighing* - Sanctuary Choir, Soloists, and guest baroque orchestra

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship - March 25 - A Service of Palm Passion Readings and Musical Meditations in observation of the events of Holy Week leading to the crucifixion.

Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:30 pm - March 29 - James Whitbourn: *Son of God Mass* - Sanctuary Choir with Tom Walsh, saxophone.

Sacred Concerts in the Community

Tuesday, February 13 - 8:00 pm

Handel: *Alexander's Feast*, Dr. Betsy Burleigh, conductor
Where: Auer Hall, IU School of Music - Free Admission

Saturday, February 17 - 7:30 pm

Feast on Bach III! - Feast II: Cantatas of Lent, Easter, and the Ascension
Bloomington Chamber Singers and Baroque Orchestra, Gerald Sousa, Conductor
Special preconcert lecture on Bach and his cantatas will be presented at 6:30pm by Dr. Daniel R. Melamed, Professor of Musicology and Bach scholar at the IU Jacobs School of Music.
Where: St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 100 State Rd 46. Tickets online or at the door.

Sunday, March 4 - 8:00 pm

J.S. Bach: *Johannes-Passion*, BWV 245, Dr. John Butt, conductor
IU Baroque Orchestra and Voices of Concentus
Where: Auer Hall, IU School of Music - Free Admission

Tuesday, March 6 - 8:00 pm

Indiana University Singers, Dr. Betsy Burleigh, conductor
Britten: *Cantata misericordium*, Op. 69 (1963) (The Parable of the Good Samaritan)
J. S. Bach: *Cantata 140. Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, BWV 140
Theofanidis: *The Gift* (2013)
Where: Auer Hall, IU School of Music - Free Admission



In Our Prayers

Please hold Mary Droste in your prayers as together we grieve the loss of Mary's husband John Droste (90), who died on Monday (February 5) after a short and peaceful stay at Hospice House. Services will be held at Day Funeral Home on Saturday, February 10 at 11:00 am with visitation from 9:00-11:00 am. Please send cards and notes to Mary at 800 N. Bell Trace Circle, Apt. 103, Bloomington, Ind., 47408.

Also, please keep Evelyn Brown in your prayers as she receives rehab following a stroke. Evelyn, a longtime Disciple with deep connections to our General Offices in Indianapolis, recently moved to Bloomington to be closer to family. Because she is wheelchair bound, she has truly appreciated the hospitable space that was created when we removed the pews in the front of the sanctuary. Cards may be sent to her at Stonecroft, 363 S. Fieldstone Blvd. Room 101, Bloomington, Ind., 47403.

Welcome (Back) Trippel Family!

Welcome On Sunday, January 28, Tom, Rhonda, and Alexander Trippel came forward to join First Christian Church by transfer of membership from Newburg United Methodist Church in Newburg. The Trippels, who were active members at FCC for many years before moving to the Evansville area four years ago, are now back “home” in Bloomington, and we are thrilled! Tom teaches mathematics at Ivy Tech Community College, Rhonda is a physician specializing in women’s health, and Alexander is a sophomore at South High School. Please call the church office for their address and/or phone number, and please take a moment to say “welcome back!”

Stay Up To Date on FCC News and Information!

Sign up to receive our emails by calling (812-332-4459) or emailing (fcc@fccbloom.org) the church office to let us know that you want to receive Pastor Helen’s Postcards and Pastoral Care Cards and other timely information from FCC.

Check us out on  at [@fccbloomington](https://www.facebook.com/fccbloomington).
Like our page so that you can see our posts on your newsfeed.



FCC Soup Contest a Success Once Again!

Thanks to all who helped setup and cleanup for this year's FCC Soup Contest! So many just pitched right in at the end to clean everything up. Our set-up helpers were Diane Thrasher doing decorations, Faye McIntyre, and Frieda Hoffman. This year's judges were Joanie Breedon, Charlie Sinn and Cindy Welch. They had quite a challenge choosing winners from eight different soup recipes, but in the end they did just that. Drum roll...

The winners of this year's FCC Soup Contest are People's Choice and 1st prize - Faye McIntyre, 2nd place Jean Thompson and Jo Weddle with 3rd place. We collected \$105.90 for people's choice which will go to FCC's building maintenance fund. Best of all, everyone had a really good time!

Looking for a new class to join on Sunday morning?

You may want to consider the Cambellite Class. Each Sunday this class will discuss a different 21st Century Theological topic revealed through brief writings of current scholars. They meet following worship at 11:15 am in the Fireside Study.

The Emmaus-Interpreters Class is another group that you might consider, if a Bible Study group is what you are looking for. This class meets before worship at 9:00 am in the Cambellite Room on the 2nd level.

Looking for an opportunity to practice silent meditation? Our Sunday morning meditation group meets in Room 1 on the lower level at 8:30 am. Each session includes discussion of readings from meditation teachers, as well as the practice of silent meditation to cultivate peace and joy.

Caregivers Create!

Do you or does someone you know provide care for a family member who is ill, homebound, or needs medical attention on a regular, demanding basis? If so, then *Caregivers Create* is for YOU!

Caregivers Create is a new, **FREE** visual arts program for health care givers, both personal and professional. It is designed to provide a bit of respite from the day-to-day tasks and pressures of caregiving, lessen feelings of isolation, and to inspire and relax with an artistic adventure.

Our next session will be February 13. **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED and can be made by** emailing us at CaregiversCreate@gmail.com or call the Church office at (812) 332-4459.



List of Supplies and Food for MCUM Pantry

Bring your donations to FCC and we will deliver them to MCUM.

Food Pantry

Cereal
Soup (condensed or ready-to-eat)
Canned tomatoes
Pasta Sauce
Canned potatoes
Canned carrots or mixed vegetables
Macaroni & Cheese
Ramen noodles
Pancake/muffin baking mixes
Crackers
Snacks or desserts

Cleaning Closet

Deoderant (Men's & Women's)
All-purpose cleaners
Laundry detergent
Bar soap
Conditioner
Feminine Hygiene items
Size 4, 5, & 6 diapers
Razors

Childcare

Paper: (lined, construction, graph)
Multiracial Barbies/baby dolls
Glitter
Plastic containers with lids (shoe box size or larger)

Wanted



Did you know MCUM collects **Box Tops for Education** to support the Compass Early Learning Center? Each one is worth 10-cents, and wtheyreceive thousands of dollars in revenue each year!

Donate yours today!

Now Serving: More Families Than Ever!

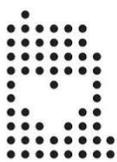
2017 ushered in an increase of all services across the board for MCUM. The generosity of donors and supporters (that's you!) not only made these increases possible, but also ensured that our program remained solvent despite this growth. In 2017 5, 589 families were served by the Self-Sufficiency Center and 84,609 meals were provided by MCUM's food pantry.

Thank You!



2018 Special Offering February 18-25

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We seek 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 is a strong supporter of the important work supported by Week of Compassion. Consider giving to *Week of Compassion* in Sunday Worship February 18-25.



2018 MCUM Challenge

2018 Goal: 2,000 pounds
Most recent trip: 88 pounds
Year-to-date: 306 pounds

Lenten Food Drive Begins February 13 at Pancakes & Ashes Event!

MCUM's shelves are nearly empty! Please check the list of needed items on Page 6 of this newsletter and consider donating during our Lenten food drive.

Thank you for showing how much you care.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Sunday, February 11

9:00 am Learning Session I
 10:00 am Worship
 11:15 am Joyful Noise Choir rehearsal
 11:15 am Learning Session II

Monday, February 12

6:30 pm Monday Night Book Study

Tuesday, February 13

1:30 pm Caregivers Create
 6:00 pm Pancakes & Ashes

Thursday, February 15

4:00 pm Book Bunch
 5:30 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal
 6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Friday, February 16

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Sunday, February 18

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
 12:15 pm Board meeting

Monday, February 19

6:30 pm Monday Night Book Study

Wednesday, February 21

7:00 pm Men's Book Group

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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www.fccbloom.org
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Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule

**February 11: Sanctuary Choir &
Handbell Choir**

February 18: Cambellite Class

**February 25: Book Bunch &
Men's Book Group**

**Scripture Readings
for Sunday Worship**

February 11
Mark 8:27-9:8

February 18
Mark 10:17-22

February 25
Mark 10:32-52
Connie Myers preaching