

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

FCC's Youth is Planning a Great Program! *Join Us!*

FCC's youth (middle and high school) met on March 5 at the home of Max Fettchenhauer for BBQ, fun, and some planning for the future. Lap Tag and Heads Up (charades via smart phones) were played, BBQ was consumed, and lots of laughter was heard.

Together, they decided to build a dynamic group that would welcome anyone who wants to participate (including friends who aren't FCC members). This will be a **youth-led** group, with parents and young adult sponsors playing a supporting role. They want to have fun, and they want to grow their faith. They also want to give back to their community through service projects. They plan to sit together as a group during worship on Sunday, and will soon designate a place in our sanctuary to sit together.

Meeting every Sunday may not be realistic. These are really busy people! But, they wanted to meet at least twice a month, at various locations. The next meeting will also be at Max's house on March 26 from 4:00 - 7:00 pm.

At the next meeting, they will be taking next steps in organizing the group, talking about the regional *Spring Youth Assembly coming up April 28-30*, and having fun (maybe a bonfire or a "bad" movie). Of course there will be great food too! What's a youth group get-together without that!

They are already communicating via group text, and can use this chat to make plans, or just share things that are going on in their lives.

If you are interested in joining this fun group, contact Connie Myers or Jennifer Fettchenhauer. We'll get you connected with the group and on that group chat so you can join the conversation!

Thank You Andi!

We are so grateful for the leadership and friendship of Andrea Fletcher. You've inspired the youth of First Christian Church, and we can't wait to show you what we're going to do next! Thank you.

-FCC Youth

PASTOR'S PEN Making an Impact

One of my favorite bloggers (Carey Nieuwhof) has posted a thoughtful article that lifts up some of the traits he has noticed about the kind of church that will have a significant impact a decade from now. As I reflect on what he sees as “hallmarks” of the future church, I can’t help but think that he is describing FCC five years from now, when our Future Story will have become our present reality! His observations are both affirming and challenging. Here is some of what he says about the church that will make an impact in the next decade:

It will have an outsider focus. Churches that become passionate about reaching people outside their walls will be far more effective than churches that focus on meeting the personal preferences of those inside the walls.

It will be flexible: While the core mission (i.e. sharing the inclusive love of Christ) doesn’t need to change, methods are not set in stone. Flexible and adaptable churches are able to innovate around strategy and different initiatives in order to live out of their core mission.

It will be willing to embrace smaller to become bigger: When smaller churches stop trying to be mega-churches, good things can happen. A greater number of smallish venues might be a hallmark of future churches making an impact.

It will value online relationships as real relationships: “Real interaction with real people online is...well...real.” As much as many of us will resist this notion, virtual relationships are becoming real relationships.

It will be open to questions: Most people who have never been part of a church will come with questions that seem weird to those who have always been part of a church. Churches that are able to embrace questions rather than provide rote answers will make an impact in the future.

It will place a high value on experimentation: Some things will work. Other things won’t. That’s OK.

It will prioritize a *FOR YOU* not *FROM YOU* culture: “Churches in decline often think in terms of what they can get *from* people – money, time, growth etc. Churches that will make an impact on the future will be passionate about what they want *for* people,” things like the joy of serving, a balance in life, a place of welcome and safety, the grounding sense of Christ’s presence in all of life.

If you haven’t yet read FCC’s Future Story, please call the church office, and we will be happy to send it to you. As you will see when you read/review it, we are poised to be a church that makes an impact on the future. These are exciting times!

Blessings,
Pastor Helen

PS: Please mark your calendars for our **Future Story Marketplace on March 26.** Also on that day, Pastor Bruce will preach while Pastor Helen will lead worship in Bedford.

You!
Your talent!
Your commitment!

That's what we hope you'll bring March 26 to the Future Story Marketplace.

This will be your opportunity to sign-up to help implement the Future Story of First Christian Church. There will be information about each of the three teams available so you can match your interests and experience with specific needs for talent and input. Here are the three teams and their leaders:

CORNERSTONE TEAM: MIKE AND SANDY RAMPLEY

To enhance our building to best serve a diverse schedule of ministries on the corner of Kirkwood and Washington.

EVENTS TEAM: SUE CULL

To enhance our events and services, including parking, to better utilize our physical space.

AVENUES TEAM: AMY HOOVER

To enhance our spiritual connections through small groups, worship, and the Xplore resident program.

Please mark your calendar and be sure to attend: **Sunday, March 26**
11:15 am – 1:00 pm in the Chapel Gathering Space

Pulpit Exchange on March 26!

Pastor Helen and Pastor Bruce Ervin will trade places for worship service on March 26. Pastor Bruce will lead the service at FCC Bloomington, and Pastor Helen will head south to Bedford Christian Church for their Sunday service. Enjoy the change of pace while the pastors enjoy being with each other's congregations.

Welcome New Members

Marjorie Hill, who recently moved to Bloomington to be near her sister Helen Sturbaum, grew up in India as the daughter of Disciples missionaries. Upon completing her social work degree in the US, she returned to her beloved India as a Disciples missionary, serving for 40 years as a social worker in the areas of child welfare and healthcare. Marjorie joined on March 12 by transfer of membership from Downey Avenue Christian Church, Indianapolis. Her address is 363 S. Fieldstone Blvd., Bloomington, 47403.

Charles & Jamie Monroe made a confession of faith March 5 and will be baptized on an upcoming Sunday. Newlyweds who met at Ivy Tech, Charles grew up in Carmel and Jamie hails from Ellettsville. They covet our prayers as they face serious health, housing, and employment challenges.

Opportunities for Fasting and Feasting at FCC

Our Lenten journey at FCC began February 28 with a Pancake Feast and opportunities to consider how we can continue to fast and feast during this time of preparation. Many thanks to everyone who helped organize Pancakes & Ashes. If you weren't among those who attended, check out the tables in the Chapel Gathering Space for action giving ideas. Lenten books are still available to help guide you in your preparations at home.

Consider donating to one of several causes that we are supporting. We will be collecting food and supplies for Monroe County United Ministries, putting together hygiene kits for Church World Service, collecting clothing and housewares for Opportunity House and collecting donations for FCC's sponsorship in the CommUNITY Interfaith Build for Habitat.

We will collect donations every Sunday through Easter, with an emphasis on these organizations on the following Sundays:

March 19: MCUM food & supplies

March 26: Church World Service, hygiene kits

April 2: Opportunity House, clothing & housewares

Join our FCC Facebook group to view photos from this event and many others!

CommUNITY Interfaith Build for Habitat

\$2,025 of our \$5,000 commitment raised to date

On March 31-April 2 volunteers from the faith community will gather to frame up a home for a hard-working Monroe County family.

While there is a limit to how many people can build the house, there is no limit to how many people can contribute to the build. **FCC has committed to raising \$5,000 to make this build happen.** We are a bit under halfway there with \$2,025 raised... and we need **YOUR HELP!**

You can donate by writing a check, made out to First Christian Church with "Habitat Build" written on the memo line. Bring that check with you to worship, or drop it off during the week at our church office. You can also donate online by going to our website www.fccbloom.org and clicking on the CommUNITY Interfaith Build logo on the homepage.



It's almost time to order our beautiful Easter Lilies.

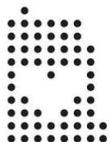
We will begin taking orders for Easter Lilies soon. Stay tuned for details in the next edition of The Christian Visitor!



Homebound Hugs

Homebound Hugs is a wonderful ministry at FCC that allows you to send a special note to a member who is either homebound or in need of prayer. **These special cards are available in the Chapel Gathering Space.** They are already addressed, and just need a special handwritten note of kindness and encouragement.

MCUM Challenge



2017 Goal: 2,000 lbs.
 Amount Donated: 316 lbs.
 Last Trip: 103 lbs.

March Items Wanted:

canned tuna, chicken, canned fruit,
 canned soups, laundry detergent,
 all-purpose cleaner, dish soap

Thank you for showing how much you care.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- March 16**
 5:30 pm Handbell choir rehearsal
 6:15 pm Sanctuary choir rehearsal
- March 17**
 5:30 pm Listening to God meditation
- March 23**
 5:30 pm Handbell choir rehearsal
 6:15 pm Sanctuary choir rehearsal
- March 24**
 5:30 pm Listening to God meditation
- March 26**
 10:00 am Sunday worship
 11:15 am Future Story Marketplace
 4:00 to 7:00 pm—Youth Group
- March 29**
 6:30 pm MOPS (Mother of Preschoolers)
- March 30**
 4:00 pm Book Bunch
 5:30 pm Handbell choir rehearsal
 6:15 pm Sanctuary choir rehearsal
- April 2**
 12:00 pm Board Meeting

Corrected Address

Some of you may be planning to send a congratulatory card to Nicole Simental as she prepares for her new position in Ohio. Her current address is:
 1724 E. Hillside Dr., Apt. 1,
 Bloomington, 47401.

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(Disciples of Christ)
205 E. Kirkwood Avenue
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Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule



*Don't forget to
Bring Goodies!*

**March 19: Emmaus Interpreters
Class**

March 26: Cambellite Class

**April 2: Womens Book Bunch &
Men's Book Group**

**Scripture Readings
for Sunday Worship**

March 19

Matthew 22:1-16

March 26

Matthew 25:1-13

April 2

Matthew 25:1-13

April 9

Matthew 25:31-46