

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

FCC Prepares for XPLOR program

Opportunities to Help Renovate Living Space for XPLOR Residents

This fall, FCC will be participating as a host site for the XPLOR program of the National Benevolent Association. This 10-month residency program provides professional development and vocational discernment opportunities for young adults who are considering lives of care and service. The four cornerstones of the NBA XPLOR program are:

- Community Engagement and Justice Work
- Spiritual Deepening and Vocational Discernment
- Leadership Development
- Simple Living in Intentional Community

FCC has been chosen as a host site for the 2019-2020 program year. You will be hearing more in the coming months about how you can become involved with our XPLOR residents, and what they are doing here in our community. *Right now, the need is for help with remodeling a part of our basement to be used for their living space.*

In April and May we will be remodeling three rooms in the church basement into a two bedroom apartment for our XPLOR residents, who will be moving in this August.

James Harris, one of our newer members and a general contractor, will be donating his time on weekends to lead groups of FCC volunteers in “Habitat-style” build days. We are asking each of our small groups to adopt a weekend day to serve as our volunteer group that day. You’ll also be able to sign up and serve if you’re not in a small group. We are finalizing the calendar and will share the specific build days with you soon. So, start talking with members of your group about when you can help, or gather a small group of FCC friends to help us prepare for XPLOR.

Thanks in advance for responding to this very important work in preparation for this new and exciting FCC ministry to Bloomington. Please contact Chuck Jones with questions.

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Pastor's Pen

Going Easy

On Ash Wednesday, as I gently placed an ash cross on your forehead/hand, I was reminded that no one—not even Jesus—can escape grief and suffering and death. The season of Lent gives us permission to acknowledge and even “lean into” this reality. Author John Pavlovitz, who is known for boldly saying “stuff that needs to be said” reminds us that one of the most faithful and grace-filled things we can do in this world is to remember that everyone is grieving something—so “please, go easy.”

Pavlovitz, whose father's recent death contributed to his keen awareness of the pain that is in this world, writes this:

“Everyone around you - the people you share the grocery store line with, pass in traffic, sit next to at work, encounter on social media, and see across the kitchen table - all experiencing the collateral damage of living. They are all grieving someone, missing someone, worried about someone. Their marriages are crumbling or their mortgage payment is late or they're waiting on their child's test results, or they are at the checkout line at the grocery store five years after a death and still pushing back tears because the loss feels as real as it did that first day.

“Every single human being you pass by today is fighting to find peace and to push back fear; to get through their daily tasks without breaking down at inopportune times. Yet most of the time we're fairly oblivious to them, because none of them are wearing a sign that

says ‘I'M STRUGGLING. GO EASY’.

“And since they *don't*, it's up to you and me to look more closely and more deeply at everyone around us: at work or at the gas station, or in the pews, and to never assume they aren't all just hanging by a thread. Because most people *are* hanging by a thread—and our simple kindness can be that thread.

“We need to remind ourselves just how hard the hidden stories around us might be, and to approach each person as a delicate, breakable, invaluable treasure—and to handle them with care.

“As you make your way through the world today, people won't be wearing signs to announce their mourning or to alert you to the attrition or to broadcast how terrified they are—but if you look with the right eyes, you'll *see* the signs.

“There are grieving people all around you. Go easy.”

As we move through the season of Lent, may we have the wisdom and grace to “go easy” on others as well as ourselves.

Gentle Blessings,



Pastor Helen



A Statement from Rev. Terry Hord Owens, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), regarding the shootings at New Zealand Mosques:

Let people worship in peace. As Linda Sarsour said, “let people live.”

We do not have the right to destroy because we disagree. Our nation must demonstrate its commitment to the freedom to live, and worship, for all, and be a model to the world. As long as vitriol and blind rhetoric demonize those who are not like you, we are sowing to the whirlwind...hate has no place here.

We are diminished as human beings when any one of us is diminished. This must be true on US soil, and we must advocate for such all around the world.

The Islamic Center of Bloomington is hosting a memorial service this Sunday, March 24 at 6:00 pm in the mosque, located at 1905 E. Atwater Avenue.

Thanks to All for Helping with Creighton Chamber Choir Visit!

Many thanks to all who helped with the visit of the Creighton University Chamber Choir: to Diane and Bob Thrasher for organizing and setting up the beautiful post-concert reception; to John Adams for his careful attention to the needs of the choir and set up in the building all day Saturday; and, of course, to the members of the Sanctuary Choir who brought food, ushered, greeted, and helped with the reception and publicity. The members of the choir and their director Barron were grateful for the hospitality shown them at FCC for their opening concert of their tour.

- Jan Harrington

**An invitation to a Lenten Musical Opportunity:
Handel's *Messiah* Sing-Along: Parts 2 & 3**

When: March 31, 2019, 3:00pm

Where: St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 100 State Rd 46, Bloomington, IN

The Bloomington Chamber Singers presents another Messiah Sing-Along, this one covering the sections of Messiah that deal with the Passion and Redemption of Christ (Parts 2 and 3).

The Sing-Along will take place at St. Mark's United Methodist Church at 3:00pm Sunday, March 31st, 2019. BCS Music Director Gerald Sousa will conduct.

We invite everyone to come out and participate in this FREE event. Monetary and nonperishable food donations to the Community Kitchen of Monroe County will be accepted.

Singers should bring their own scores; a limited number will be available for purchase or loan at the door. Everyone who wishes to sing can join us for the many choruses; soloists chosen from the BCS will sing the recitatives and the arias.

So come out and sing, or come and listen as we continue this new community tradition—our Lenten Messiah Sing. Admission is free.



We are thrilled to welcome Jason and Melissa Nam into membership at First Christian Church. They are the parents of Davis, who will turn one this week and also of Davis's older sister Evelyn, who is embraced by God's eternal love and whose short life on earth we continue to remember and celebrate even as we acknowledge our grief.

Melissa, whose spiritual life was formed by both Catholic and Methodist traditions, is Program Manager at IU Lifelong Learning. She enjoys reading, gardening, writing photography, and cooking. Jason is Assistant Professor of Music and Associate Director of Bands at the Jacobs School of Music. He is a Lakers and Saints fan, and an avid podcast listener, loves his coffee, and enjoys music of all kinds. Together, the Nams enjoy giving back to the community, especially in Evelyn's name, movies, music, road trips, and quality time with family and friends.

Welcome, Jason and Melissa! We are glad to receive you and your family into this community of faith!



**Donate used and unwanted
crayons to the Crayon
Initiative!**

FCC's MOPS (Mothers of PreSchoolers) group believes that crayons belong in children's hands, not landfills. The Crayon Initiative collects used and unwanted crayons then melts them down and remanufactures them, reducing environmental waste. The recycled crayons are distributed to art programs at children's hospitals across the U.S., brightening the lives of young patients during their stay. **MOPS will be collecting crayons through March 24. Bins are located in the reception area and the Chapel/Gathering Space.**

For more information about FCC's MOPS, which meets on the first Wednesday of each month, pick up a flier from the information kiosk in the Narthex or contact Andrea Dalton or Connie Myers. Bring a friend and join us!

Caregivers  **Create!**

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!

MARCH 26 - "Water, Art, and You"

Guest Instructor: Kriste Lindberg

In honor of the City of Bloomington's 8th annual Eco-Heroes Contest, whose theme is "Lakes, Rivers, & Streams, Oh My!", Kriste will discuss how we can use art to help prevent water pollution and artistic efforts to increase awareness. Then, learn how to paint lakes and streams in (what else?) watercolors.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday - April 14

Children will lead us in worship at 10:00 a.m. with a palm procession marking Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, days before he died on the cross.

Maundy Thursday - April 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Join us at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 18 for Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service of Communion, Betrayal and Conviction with music by the Sanctuary Choir and guest cellist Adriana Contino.

Good Friday - April 19 at 12:10 p.m.

FCC is hosting this year's community Good Friday worship service at 12:10 p.m. in our sanctuary. This year's service will be presented in a Taizé style of worship that includes the reading of the Passion of the Christ from Luke's Gospel as well as meditative music and candle lighting.

Easter Sunday - April 21

Sunrise Service at Camp Bedford at 7:00 a.m.

FCC will be joining First Christian Church of Bedford for this special sunrise service at our beloved Camp Bedford. Worship begins at 7:00 a.m. and will be followed by breakfast.

Worship at FCC at 10:00 a.m.

Christ is Risen! Join us on Easter Sunday for worship as we celebrate with special music from our Sanctuary Choir. The celebration continues following worship with our annual Easter Egg Hunt. FCC's youth will be filling oodles of eggs with all sorts of sweet confections for children to find! Be sure to bring your basket!

It's time to order your Easter Lilies!

We are now taking orders for Easter Lilies to adorn our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. The Lilies are \$12.00 each. The deadline for ordering is April 7. An order card can be found in this newsletter. Bring your card to church on Sunday or mail it to the church office. Payment must be made at the time of the order.



Join us for Lenten Pretzel Making on March 31!

On March 31, families of all ages, shapes and sizes are invited to make Lenten Pretzels in the Great Hall after worship. We'll learn the legend of the pretzel before each person makes a pretzel of their own to eat immediately or take home. Plus, each family will make a pretzel and card to share with someone else.

April Birthdays

04/01	Anne	Johnson	708 S. Cory Lane #76	Bloomington IN	47403
04/02	Joe	Parrott	543 Green Road	Bloomington IN	47403
04/03	Jude	Walsh	3006 S. Olcott Blvd.	Bloomington IN	47401
04/04	Tom	Rampley	2228 Autumn Drive	Bloomington IN	47401
04/05	David	Garshaw	3740 N. Russell Road	Bloomington IN	47408
04/05	Katie	Moore	3308 S. Snoddy Road	Bloomington IN	47401
04/05	Allison	Donham	5900 N. Maple Grove Rd.	Bloomington IN	47404
04/06	Craig	Paicment	260 S. Lori Lane	Bloomington IN	47401
04/08	Connie	Gross	3485 S. Knightridge Road	Bloomington IN	47401
04/10	David	Campbell	507 E. Woodridge Drive	Bloomington IN	47408
04/11	Lily	Hoover	1250 W. Adams Hill Circle Unit 702	Bloomington IN	47403
04/11	Chip	Johnson	708 S. Cory Lane #76	Bloomington IN	47403
04/12	Andrea	Fletcher	6320 E. Bender Rd.	Bloomington IN	47401
04/14	Mike	Griffin	3830 Woodhaven Drive	Bloomington IN	47403
04/16	Kathy	Street	4153 Hector Drive	Bloomington IN	47408
04/20	Tiffani	Sinn Trulock	901 Orchard Drive	Newburgh IN	47630
04/23	Danielle	Murry-Knowles	danielle.murry@gmail.com		
04/26	Fred	Matthews	7263 S. Burch Rd	Bloomington IN	47403
04/28	Haley	Norris	406 E 2nd Street	Bloomington IN	47401
04/28	Lesley	Bolton	8841 S. Morning Glory Ct.	Bloomington IN	47401
04/30	Mary Beth	Godsey	3403 N. Smith Pike	Bloomington IN	47404
04/30	Chaz	Sinn	2743 E. Buttonwood Lane	Bloomington IN	47401

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

2019 General Assembly on July 20-24, 2019 in Des Moines, IA
Join friends at FCC in Des Moines this summer for General Assembly 2019!

At General Assembly, you can expect:

- Worship that lifts your soul
- Stories that touch your heart
- Educational resources to assist your congregation in ministry
- Conversations that stretch your mind
- Messages that call you to action
- Connections that remind you that God's family is bigger than a local congregation.

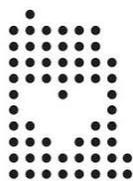
The "Early Bird" deadline for registration is March 31. Registration fees will increase after March 31. Find more information at Disciples.org or contact Pastor Helen.



**FCC Parents & Grandparents:
Special Meeting April 14**

If there's someone special in your life between the ages of infant and 18, please plan to come to a special meeting about the vision and scope of family faith formation at FCC.

The meeting will be in the Great Hall on Palm Sunday, April 14, from 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., and led by Ashlyn Reynolds (director of Youth Ministry) and Connie Myers (director of Faith Formation and Family Ministries). We'll have snacks, special activities for younger children, and childcare for infants and toddlers. Bring the whole family!



**MCUM Challenge
2019**

Most recent trip: 83 lbs

Year-to-date: 231 lbs

April Items Wanted:

Food Pantry

Peanut Butter
Pasta sauce
Canned Tomatoes
Rice
Cereal (small/medium boxes)

Cleaning Closet

Laundry soap
Dish soap
All-purpose cleaners
Pull-Ups
Size 5-6 diapers

Child Care Center

Jumbo Crayons Board books
Corn Starch Animal and Food magazines
Paper plates and small paper cups

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Sunday, March 24

8:30 am Meditation group
9:00 am Global Ministries Forum
9:00 am Learning Session I
10:00 am Worship and Children's
Worship and Wonder
11:15 am Global Ministries Forum
11:15 Learning Session II
1:00 pm Bloomington Bible Study
3:00 pm Celebration of Life Service for
Roger Heimer
4:30 pm Mental Health 101
6:00 pm Celtic Spirituality

Tuesday, March 26

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

Thursday, March 28

5:30 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal
6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Sunday, March 31

8:30 am Meditation group
9:00 am Learning Session I
10:00 am Worship and Children's
Worship and Wonder
11:15 am Lenten Pretzels
11:15 am Learning Session II
12:15 pm FCC Board meeting
1:00 pm Bloomington Bible Study
4:30 pm Mental Health 101
6:00 pm Celtic Spirituality

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Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule

March 24:
Emmaus Interpreters Class

March 31:
Grades K-12 & Sharing Table

April 7:
Sanctuary Choir & Handbell Choir

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

March 24
Luke 15:1-32

March 31
Luke 16:19-31

April 7
Luke 18:31; 19:10