

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

Easter Sunday Celebration

Christ is risen! Join us this Sunday, April 16, at 10:00 am as we celebrate Easter. Our Lenten journey has taken us through the final days of Jesus' ministry and life. We have prepared through both fasting and feasting. Last Sunday, children led us into Holy Week with a palm procession; we will meditate on the Passion Story in worship on Maundy Thursday, and follow Jesus to the cross on Good Friday.

Our Easter Sunday service will include special music led by our Sanctuary Choir and special musical guests (see page 3 for details). Our beautiful sanctuary will be adorned with fragrant lilies, and we will receive a new cross lovingly created by FCC members who traveled to Cuba recently. This project was inspired by a cross at the seminary at Matanzas.

The celebration will continue following worship with an Easter Egg Hunt on the church lawn. Children can decorate bags to collect their eggs before heading to the lawn for the hunt. Thank you to our Youth Group for filling hundreds of eggs and coordinating this great FCC tradition! All are welcome!

Inspired by Cuba

FCC Cuba Pilgrimage Participants to Lead Worship on April 23

In November 2016, nine FCC members traveled to Cuba for a People-to-People pilgrimage. Join us on the Second Sunday of Easter, as they lead our worship service and share stories from that pilgrimage that illustrate the message of The Great Commission.

The trip was an opportunity to connect with people across boundaries of faith and culture. Those who participated have identified symbols representing their time in Cuba. These symbols have been woven together to create a cross that will be shared on Easter during worship and will remain in the sanctuary throughout the Easter season. Please take time to get a closer look at the cross following worship.

PASTOR'S PEN

Betwixt & Between

Where's that parking shuttle? When do the new events start? Where's that parking shuttle? What are we doing with the West Wing?

Sound familiar? Those are some of the questions that are beginning to bubble up as we begin to organize ourselves around the implementation of our Future Story.

Naturally, there's nearly always a human impatience about forthcoming plans. We tend to want the new *now* and our appetites were, indeed, whetted during the introduction of our Future Story in January.

So it may be natural to ask the "when" questions before we get the what, how, and where outlined. This implementation, though, is a *process* with shared responsibility for input and decision-making by many of our congregation members.

And that takes time. So sometimes, the process may be too slow for some, while being too fast for others. But that's OK! It simply means that we are in a very creative "in-between" time, living at the threshold (what Richard Rohr calls *liminal space*) between what *was* and what is *yet to come*. Perhaps we're experiencing what it's like to live in a cocoon, with lots of creative activity "in process" that hasn't yet come to fruition. We're not yet ready to be opened, but we're getting there, thanks be to God!

I encourage patience while we live at the threshold, so that intentionally and by the power of God's creative Spirit, we can ask questions, plan, review, listen, reflect, breathe, pray, and embrace a grace-filled pace that does not feel hurried or impulsive, or forced.

Your enthusiasm and support remain such an inspiration to me and to all working on the Future Story. Thank you! I ask that you continue to hold the entire team and our congregation in your prayers as together we open ourselves up to that wonderful next stage that God has waiting for us!

In the meantime, please plan to give yourself some extra time to get to church on Sunday. If you can't find a parking spot nearby, give thanks to God that a lot of people will be worshipping the Risen Christ! Better yet, if you are physically able, park in one of the nearby city garages, and then sing your Alleluias as you walk a block or two to worship!

See you Sunday!

Pastor Helen

PS. An update of the Future Story can be found on the green insert of this newsletter, and copies of the Future Story are in the Chapel Gathering Space.



MUSIC IN THIS SACRED SPACE

Easter Praise and New Beginnings

By Jan Harrington

“RISE HEART, THY LORD IS RISEN; SING HIS PRAISE WITHOUT DELAYS...
CONSORT BOTH HEART AND LUTE AND WEAVE A SONG PLEASANT AND LONG:
OR, SINCE ALL MUSICK IS BUT THREE PARTS VIED¹ AND MULTIPLIED,
O LET THY BLESSED SPIRIT BEAR A PART,
AND MAKE UP OUR DEFECTS WITH HIS SWEET ART.”
-FROM GEORGE HERBERT’S “EASTER” (1633)

Easter brings with it joyous music, familiar hymns of praise, and hallelujahs with trumpet fanfares. On this Easter Sunday all those will resound in the sanctuary at 10:00, including the beautiful words from George Herbert’s poem quoted above sung by the Sanctuary Choir and guest tenor Michael Day in Ralph Vaughan Williams’s rousing setting from his *Five Mystical Songs*. Trumpeter Eli Ross will again be on hand to join with organist Nicole Simental to lead us in celebratory music and hymns as, in the words of George Herbert, “we celebrate this most high day.”

¹ A note about music and the Trinity - “three parts vied and multiplied”: Symbolic of the Holy Trinity, most chords in music have only 3 different pitches, which are repeated and multiplied at different octaves and in different voices or instruments to create heavenly harmony.

* * *

“IN THE BEGINNING, GOD CREATED THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH”
-GENESIS 1:1

HAYDN’S *CREATION* WITH FULL ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS AT FIRST CHRISTIAN
SATURDAY, APRIL 22 – 7:30

These are the first words to be heard on the Saturday after Easter at 7:30 when First Christian Church welcomes the Bloomington Chamber Singers and an orchestra of 60 players for a performance of Joseph Haydn’s great masterpiece *The Creation*, under the direction of musical director Gerald Sousa. A work of incomparable beauty and a personal statement of Haydn’s deeply religious faith, it reflects a belief in a world that is full of wonder and of a God who created life to be cherished and revered. There are few works in the repertoire that are as cheerful and optimistic as Haydn’s *Creation*—and from it performers and listeners alike draw joy, inspiration, and meaning.

The colorful oratorio is structured in three parts. The first deals with the creation of light, of heaven and earth, of the sun and moon, of the land and water, and of plants. The second treats the creation of the animals, and of man and woman. The final part describes Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, portraying an idealized love in harmony with the “new world.”

We hope you will continue your celebration of the Easter season by attending this joyous celebration of new beginnings in our sanctuary on Saturday, April 22 at 7:30. Tickets are \$20 at the door or can be ordered in advance on line at <http://www.chambersingers.info>.

Welcome to FCC! Sarah Reynolds joined our church family by transfer of membership on Sunday, April 2. Sarah is a PhD student in History and Philosophy of Science. Be sure to introduce yourself to Sarah and welcome her into our church family.



Help Us Reach Our Fundraising Goal for the CommUNITY Interfaith Build!

Thanks to all of those who came out to volunteer for the kick-off blitz of the CommUNITY Interfaith Build, framing the Diaz family's home! **And thanks to everyone who has supported FCC's sponsorship. So far, we have raised \$4,505 of our \$5,000 goal! There is still time to give!**

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. That will take you to the FCC web page to donate. **You can also write a check** and place it in the offering tray on Sunday or bring it by the church office. Checks should be made out to First Christian Church with "Habitat Build" on the memo line.

Thank you for supporting FCC's sponsorship of this great event!



FCC's Youth plan for the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Get Ready for the Regional Spring Youth Assembly!

FCC's newly reorganized Youth Group was busy making plans for a terrific Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn following worship. They filled hundreds of eggs for the hunt, so be sure to stay after worship on Sunday

for all of the fun!

FCC Youth are also preparing for the Spring Assembly on the weekend of **April 28-30**. The keynote leader Rev. Julian Deshazier, is Sr. Pastor at University Church in Chicago. He has worked extensively with teens and is also an award-winning hip hop musician and songwriter known to many as "J.Kwest."

FCC will pay half of the registration fee for this important event. Scholarships for the full registration fee are available, if needed. Call the Church office for information or register online at indianadisciples.org.

And... Mark your calendars for our next Youth Group meeting on April 23rd! More details to follow!

Made to Create!

The *Made to Create!* spirituality and art class to be lead by Bess Lee and Helen Hempfling begins on Tuesday, April 18! Those of you lucky enough to have reserved a spot (they went lightning fast) will meet in the Chapel Gathering Space from 5:30 - 7:00 pm for six consecutive Tuesdays.

Make sure to pick up a supply list on the reception desk. Bring this list to Pygmalion Art store for a discount.

Please let us know if you missed the opportunity, but are still interested in this class. We are hoping to offer additional sessions in the future.

“Talking Faith”

Five Consecutive Sundays from 11:15am - noon beginning April 23

A course that will get us talking about things that really matter.

Facilitated by Terry Daugherty

Would you like to talk with people about more than the next committee meeting? Interested in considering big questions with great people in fun ways? Want to deepen your faith and grow your ability to share it? “Talking Faith” may be the right opportunity for you.

This is not a Bible study, although we will encounter Bible passages. This is not meditation, although there will be much time dedicated to reflection. This is not a social club, although we will become very familiar with each other. This is not a debate club, although there should be different views on the things we discuss.

Here’s what some have said about the “Talking Faith” series.

“I thought this class was going to be a stuffy lecture type - I was pleasantly surprised!”

“This class was God’s way of answering my prayer because I had been praying for something that would give me the opportunity to share my faith with others. I believe this class allowed me to do that.”

Letter of Thanks from the family of Carol Hudson:

My sister, Marilyn Tribbett and I thank you for your prayers and cards after the death of our mother, Carol Hudson. Your support, words of kindness and memories of our mother meant so much to us. We are thankful to have had her in our lives for a long time and we miss her each day.

Ever since my mother's death and receiving cards from FCC, people I knew and names I recognized, my mind flooded with memories. In thinking back, the church was a big part of our family. I remember that my mother talked with all the ministers through the years. She was involved in Christian Education and I remember her being a participant in the Sarah Group. My mother was faithful to visit with the guests eating breakfast in the Great Hall. My dad faithfully served as an usher. Recently, I went inside FCC during the week and sat in the pew where my family used to sit. The church is beautiful.

My sister remembers performing in a string quartet during a service while she was in middle school with her friends Ann Armstrong, Cindy Bartlett and Jean Ann Hogue. They all wore matching dresses! Marilyn played the cello, Ann and Jean Ann played the violin.

My memories are of being baptized during Howard Anderson's term. Later, I remember talking with Rev. Roy Griggs about committing my life to God. When Rev. George Smith came as an interim minister, he had a healing effect on the congregation and drew us closer together. Rev. Smith had us all sing the benediction to the tune of Edelweiss and I was always moved by the love and unity singing that song brought to us. Then I remember your own Pastor Helen. Pastor Helen preached one of the best Easter sermons I ever heard. That sermon had a profound affect, strengthening my faith to remember that Jesus is with me, even when I don't realize it. I thank God for using FCC to help me walk closely with Him.

God bless you all and may you grow in greater awareness of His presence!

Julie Hudson
Daughter of Carol Hudson

Dear Church Family:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you personally, for the outpouring of concern during my recent surgery! All the cards, telephone calls and hospital visits were appreciated more than you know. It is a comforting feeling knowing that you have the support of such a warm and caring group when it matters. Thank you all again from the bottom of my heart!!

Kindest regards,
Chip Welch

Annual Plant & Flower Sale

FCC's Annual Plant & Flower Sale is here! Order forms can be picked up on the reception desk of the church office. Orders are due by April 30th. You can pick up your order between noon-2:00pm on May 6.

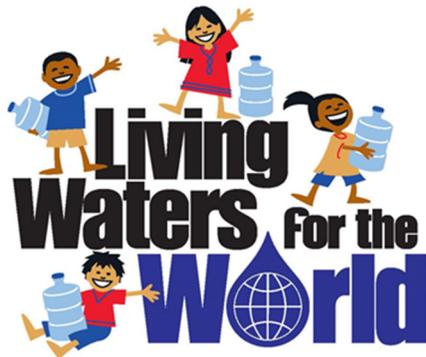
Questions? Call the church office or Diane Thrasher.



Save the Date!

Downtown Vacation Bible School
May 30-June 2
9:00 am-Noon

Sponsored by: First Christian Church, Trinity Episcopal & First Presbyterian Church



clean water for all God's children



MCUM Challenge

2017 Goal: 2,000 lbs.
Amount Donated: 642 lbs.
Last Trip: 86 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...

April 13 (Maundy Thursday)
7:30 pm Worship at FCC

April 14 (Good Friday)
12:15 pm Good Friday worship at
First United Church at 2420 E. 3rd
Street
5:30 pm Listening to God
meditation

April 16 (Easter Sunday)
10:00 am Worship
11:15 Easter Egg Hunt on the Lawn

April 18
5:30 pm Made to Create! Water
color class begins.

April 19
7:00 pm Men's Book Group

April 21
5:30 pm Listening to God

April 22
7:30 pm Bloomington Chamber
Singers



Easter Offering received on April 16

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Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule

*Don't Forget to
Bring Goodies!*

April 16: (Easter) Open to All
April 23: Grades K-12 & Sharing
Table
April 30: Emmaus Interpreters Class

**Scripture Readings
for Sunday Worship**

April 16
Matthew 28:1-10

April 23
Matthew 28:16-20