

# The CHRISTIAN

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

## **FCC's Lawn Ministry Preparing for Street Fair** *Join us on April 28th for the Bloomington Street Fair*

FCC's Lawn ministry sprung from the FCC Story about a year ago. It's not really a "new" concept for FCC. We have had celebrations on our beautiful lawn for many years. The Avenues team of the FCC Story, led by Amy Hoover, expanded these lawn events as a more formal way of introducing FCC to the greater Bloomington community. This past year we have handed out water at the July Fourth parade, we've participated as a sponsor for Pridefest, we've welcomed people attending the Lotus festival, and we offered a shady spot to sit or play games during the Bloomington Bicentennial celebration's Street Fair.

That street fair was such a success that the city is doing it again, and FCC is an official "Block Ambassador!" We will again offer games to play, a shady spot to sit, and hospitality for all who visit us on our lawn. This is a tremendous opportunity to share the inclusive love of Christ with our neighbors and to share our vision for a peaceful community where everyone is welcome, because at FCC "all means ALL."

The Street Fair will take place on Sunday, April 28th beginning at noon and ending by 4:00 pm. Please, consider volunteering for this great event. We will need help with set-up, hospitality (games, passing out water... etc.), and clean-up. We are also needing lawn chairs and games for the event. Those items will be returned following the street fair. If you're not sure you'll be able to volunteer, consider joining us on the lawn for a fun afternoon!

Jean Thompson is organizing the day for FCC. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the FCC Office (812-332-4459) or fill out the volunteer request on the back of the attendance card during Sunday worship. Jean is happy to answer any questions that you may have. Thank you for helping us to welcome folks to our lawn and downtown community! See you at the Street Fair on April 28th!

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*Volume 61, number 8 April 17, 2019*

## Pastor's Pen

### *Why is Good Friday called "Good?"*

This was the question that one of our young people asked me on Sunday as he wondered about what was so "good" about Jesus being mocked, tortured and killed.

And, truth be told, I couldn't answer him on the spot. I told him that I would get back to him as soon as I could find a plausible explanation. So, my Sunday afternoon was spent doing a little research. Before I share what I learned, I have some other good news to share about Good Friday: **parking downtown will be free!** That's right. I heard it from the head of Parking Enforcement. No parking tickets will be issued on Friday, April 19. But, that is not why this Friday is called "good."

I discovered that there is no simple answer that addresses the "good" in Good Friday. Some speculate that the phrase "Good Friday" may be a corruption of what was originally known as "God's Friday." However, this theory doesn't do much for me for a couple of reasons: 1) contrary to popular thought, there is no linguistic relationship between the words "good" and "God," and 2) I don't buy into the notion that God sees anything good in an event that displays humanity at its very worst. That's not to say that God can't redeem that horrible day. Easter tells us otherwise! Let's just not call Friday "God's" Day.

Another very popular theory (known as the Baltimore catechism and found in Catholic school textbooks from 1885-1960) posits that Friday is "good" because "Christ showed His great love for man, and purchased for him

every blessing." I agree that Christ loves humanity, but I don't buy into a notion that God required of payment out of Jesus for our salvation.

For me, the most plausible theory is that the name comes from an antiquated meaning of "good." According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the middle English meaning of "good" was equivalent to "holy, sacred." The word "good" was to designate days and seasons that the church observed as holidays or holy days. For example, "good" was applied to Christmas and Shrove Tuesday (Good Tide), Epiphany (Good Twelfth Day), the Wednesday of Holy Week (Good Wednesday) and, of course, Good Friday.

When I understand Good Friday as Holy Friday or Sacred Friday, I am able to better grasp the reality that even death, with all its mystery, is both sacred and holy. So, come Friday—difficult as it will be—I'll lean into the holy mystery of death. And on Sunday: well, we know what happens, and it will be more than just "good." It will be a celebration of life at its best!

Blessings,



Pastor Helen



### **Easter Sunday Special Offering**

Received in worship this Sunday April 21

Our general ministries provide critical resources to Disciples congregations, like stewardship campaign materials, loans and financial services, and space for community building around shared values and traditions.

Our ministries can bear these fruits because of our shared root system. We are rooted in Christ. As one branch of our vine grows, we can share more fruit with more people, from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.

### ***Special Upcoming Worship Opportunities***

#### **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 as well as meditative music and candle lighting.

**Downtown Parking will be FREE on Friday.**

#### **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 at Camp Bedford.

*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!



### **Easter Season Drive for Monroe County United Ministries**

***April 28 – June 2***

Bring packaged food, cleaning supplies and hygiene products to restock the shelves at MCUM's Self-Sufficiency Center. Caring for others by sharing what we have is a concrete way we can become Jesus' hands and feet during the season of Easter.



## Barbee Blessing to Benefit FCC and Indiana Churches

*Where would \$1,000 take you?* That is the question that the Regional Board has asked each congregation to ponder after they authorized the distribution of \$1,000 to each active congregation in the Christian Church in Indiana from the proceeds of the sale of the Barbee Christian Camp.

Where would \$1,000 take FCC? We have a page full of ideas! And while one idea has risen to the top, we'll continue to pray over this decision in the coming weeks. In the meantime, Connie Myers and Ashlyn Reynolds will be taking three former or current campers to accept FCC's check at a special event at Woodhaven Christian Church on May 28.

While the sale of Barbee brought sadness to many in the region, the ministry of the remaining two sites where summer camp experiences continue—Geneva Conference Center and the much-loved Bedford Christian Camp—will be strengthened through the establishment of the Barbee Camp Legacy Fund. Each of these camps will receive approximately \$25,000 this year, and potentially more in subsequent years as the fund grows.

You may read all the details about the Barbee Blessing in the Spring Issue of the *Indiana Christian* (<http://indianadisciples.org/news/>).

## Highlights from April 14 Family Faith Formation Gathering

About 20 parents, youth, and older children gathered in the Great Hall for a spring family gathering to look back on what has happened in family faith formation over the past couple of years, to re-center on the "Why?" of what we're doing now, and to look forward to future ministry together.

Using FCC's new digital projector and other media upgrades, Connie Myers and Ashlyn Reynolds shared a slide show of candid ministry moments, reviewed the ways family ministry connects to the four-fold mission of the FCC Story (serving, welcoming, learning and offering spiritual connection), and offered families activities for in-home Holy Week observance. During roundtable discussions, parents and kids shared moments when they felt truly at home in the body of Christ. To make sure those moments continue to happen, Ashlyn and Connie will be using online surveys and face-to-face get togethers to help match proposed ministry activities with the gifts and interests of children, youth and parents.

We do all these things, with your prayers and support, "so that together [we] may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 15:6).

Many thanks go to media consultant Bob Bernacki for all his help with technology and to Jo Weddle, for providing activities for our youngest participants.

## Artwork on Display in FCC Office Reception Area

### *Cain and Abel: An Artist's Response by Bess Lee*

The story of Cain and Abel was the theme offered by the fellowship program "Religion, Spirituality and the Arts" (RSA), offered yearly with Rabbi Sandi Sasso, Butler University and Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. Bess Lee participated in this program that examined narratives from the Old Testament through works of artists and thinkers through the ages. Her creation is on display in the FCC Office reception area. Be sure to read the details provided that include information about the fellowship and about Bess's quadriptych (four-paneled) art piece.



### **From Cuba to First Christian Church: *Marbleizing Painting Paper for Everyone!!!***

Bess Lee, Rachel Rosalina and Michelle Dalmau-Walsh are offering an inter-generational art workshop on marbleizing paper on Saturday, May 18th from 9:00 am-noon. ***This will be incredibly fun!***

Please call the FCC office to reserve your spot by Sunday, May 12. We can accommodate up to 40 people, as long as we know that you are coming so we can buy enough supplies for the project. You won't want to miss this great workshop that's suitable for ages 6-96!

## **Got Writers Block? Want to Learn How to Get Your Thoughts Down on Paper in a FUN and CREATIVE Workshop?**

Join Rachel Rosalina and Lesley Bolton, who have 36 years of experience in publishing and several publications between them, for a writing workshop on June 8 in the Chapel Gathering Space. Rachel will guide participants in creative nonfiction exercises from 10:30 to 12:00 and, after a lunch break, Lesley will do the same with fiction from 1:00 to 2:30. Writing is hard. We're here to help!



### **Do You Sew or Quilt?**

Please join the Women's Arts & Crafts Group for a day of stitching fun on Saturday, May 4, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the Great Hall. (You can pick up any flowers you ordered from the spring sale before you come and stitch.) We'll be creating quilted finger labyrinth squares for use in our children's activity bags this summer and—if we can make enough—at the General Assembly this July.

The labyrinth, an ancient symbol, offers us a metaphor for life's journey. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has but one path; you follow the path in to the center and out again. Christians most often walk a labyrinth in prayer or as a contemplative exercise. Finger labyrinths engage the sense of touch during prayer and may help wandering minds find a calm center.

If you would like to join or support this creative process, contact Susan Jenkin or Connie Myers.

### April Birthdays

05/01	Tate	Knepper	3616 S. Kingsbury Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47401
05/02	Donna	Cartwright	2927 N. Bankers Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
05/02	Zoc	Hill	8956 W. Rice Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47403
05/03	Brett	Hamilton	1326 Dutch Ridge Rd.	Heltonville	IN	47436
05/03	Pam	Matthews	7263 S. Burch Rd	Bloomington	IN	47403
05/06	Carmie	Hamilton	1326 Dutch Ridge Rd.	Heltonville	IN	47436
05/07	Julie	Donham	5900 N. Maple Grove Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47404
05/08	Eve	Schultes-Ridge	5460 S. Victor Pike	Bloomington	IN	47403
05/11	Scot	Moore	3308 S. Snoddy Road	Bloomington	IN	47401
05/12	Dale	Webb	532 Green Road	Bloomington	IN	47403
05/14	Sharon	Goins	60 Bailliere Dr.	Martinsville	IN	46151
05/17	Bob	Martin	4243 W. Lynwest Drive	Bloomington	IN	47404
05/18	Jim	Barker	115 Lexington Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
05/24	Mary	Swarthout	3521 W. Fairington Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403
05/24	Kate	Kroll	2704 N. Browncliff Lane	Bloomington	IN	47408

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

### Monroe County Church Women United 2019 May Friendship Day Celebration

Monroe County Church Women United is delighted to invite you all to its nicest celebration of the year. This is the 2019 May Friendship Day program. Bring a friend; you will also find many friends here. The program also includes a nice luncheon, as described below.

What: 2019 May Friendship Day Celebration

When: Friday, May 3, 2019

Where: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

4235 W. Third Street, Bloomington

Title of Program: Agree to Differ

Time: Program at 11:00 am and Lunch at noon

Please bring donations for Opportunity House: Bed linens and towels. For MCUM's Self Sufficiency Center: laundry detergent, all purpose cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, peanut butter, canned fruit. A box will be placed in the reception area at FCC.

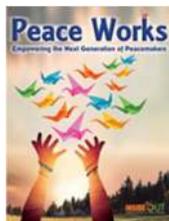
For more information, call Mary Polk at 812-339-4194.



Join us at 6:30 pm on May 3 for First Friday Jazz Vespers with the Elena Escudero Quartet.

**Early Bird Registration for Church Camp Ends May 15**

Our prayer is that YOU will have a "PEACE-filled" summer at camp (but first you must register). Go to the Indiana Disciples website to complete your registration, or fill out a form and bring it to church. We will pay up to 100% of your child's camp fees. See Pastor Helen for more information.




**Give to FCC while you shop for groceries!**

If you have a Kroger Rewards Card, you can log in to your online account and sign up for this program. When signing up, you will choose an organization by its account number. The First Christian Church account number to choose is **JF010**. If you have been supporting FCC through this program, please check to make sure you have chosen this new number to support FCC.

**UPCOMING EVENTS...**

- Sunday, April 21 - Easter Sunday**  
 7:00 am Sunrise Service and Breakfast at Camp Bedford  
 8:30 am Meditation group  
 9:00 am Learning Session I  
 10:00 am Worship  
 11:15 Easter Egg Hunt!  
 1:00 pm Bloomington Bible Study
- Tuesday, April 23**  
 1:30 pm Caregivers Create!  
 5:30 pm Listening to God meditation
- Thursday, April 25**  
 5:30 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal  
 6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
- Sunday, April 28**  
 8:30 am Meditation group  
 9:00 am Learning Session I  
 10:00 am Worship and Children's Worship and Wonder  
 11:15 am Learning Session II  
 12:00 pm Bloomington Street Fair  
 1:00 pm Bloomington Bible Study
- Tuesday, April 30**  
 5:30 pm Listening to God meditation
- Wednesday, May 1**  
 6:30 pm MOPS
- Thursday, May 2**  
 5:30 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal  
 6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
- Friday, May 3**  
 6:30 pm First Friday Jazz Vespers
- Saturday, May 4**  
 11:00 am-1:00 pm Flower pick-up

First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
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**Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule**

**April 21:**  
Men's Book Group & Book Bunch

**April 28:**  
Emmaus Interpreters Class

**May 5:**  
Grades K-12 & Sharing Table

**Scripture Readings  
For Sunday Worship**

**April 21**  
Luke 24:1-12

**April 28**  
Luke 24:13-35

**May 5**  
Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60