

# The CHRISTIAN



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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
*(Disciples of Christ)*

## Visitor

### **Bloomington's Bi-Centennial Fair Comes to FCC**

*FCC Members Prepare for Fun on the Lawn*

Once in a while, an opportunity presents itself that is just too good to pass up. We have an opportunity on April 29th to welcome people from across our community to our downtown neighborhood here on Kirkwood Avenue, introducing ourselves and our ministries to people who just might be looking for a caring, inclusive, and fun place to call their church home.

On Sunday, **April 29th from noon to 4:00 p.m.** right in front of our church, the City of Bloomington will be hosting a street fair celebrating our city's bicentennial. The fair will include food, music, and community building activities. This will be a great time for FCC to remind people of our church's life and presence on Kirkwood Avenue.

We are planning to extend hospitality as FCC is known to do, with a little fun on our front lawn! We will have simple activities and games for families as well as offer lawn chairs and blankets for those who may want to people-watch or visit. We will also open the sanctuary doors for people who may want quiet time, or who might be interested in the history of our church. Members will be on hand to give tours, share information and answer questions.

What a fun opportunity! We will need members to assist with games, tours, and welcoming folks to downtown and to FCC. We need folks with great ideas and organizational abilities to make our corner "pop" with life! Does this sound like an event that you would like to help orchestrate? Would you like to be part of the welcome team? Do you have a favorite lawn game that you could bring?

Let us know how you can help make this a big success. You can sign up to help out on the back of the attendance card in worship this Sunday, or you can call the church office.

#### **Cuba 2018 Informational Meetings**

Thinking about joining us as we travel to Cuba in November? Learn more about the trip at one of two informative meetings.

**Sunday, April 22 at 12:15**

**Tuesday, April 24 at 6:00 pm**

RSVP to Michelle Dalmau, Carmie Hamilton or Mark Knowles.

## PASTOR'S PEN

### *In Awe of Leadership!*

I know I am stating the obvious, but I want to say it anyway: God has blessed FCC with amazing leaders, both professional and lay. I am convinced that this congregation still thrives 192 years later (almost to this very date!) because we have never had a leadership vacuum. Our multi-talented staff models fabulous leadership, modeling flexibility, grace, and faith as they use their amazing gifts to “build up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12) both within and outside the doors of our building. On April 8, I was especially grateful for their worship leadership. Mark preached one of the best sermons I have *ever* heard (you can listen to it on our website: <http://www.fccbloomington.org/media-archives/>). Connie offered a profound prayer, and Jan and Jihe led the choir with a stunningly beautiful anthem (you can listen to in on our website, too!) Suffice it to say, I am in awe of their leadership.

I would be remiss if I did not lift up some of the leadership gifts of the rest of our staff lead: Jennifer, who—with her humor and ability to multi-task—is able to juggle the details as well as the “big picture” stuff that keeps us running; Eve, who helps us stay on top of some of the finer points of our administrative work; Carter, who keeps our bell ringers ringing; Gabby and Lilly, who love and care for our little ones as if they were their own; Will, who leads our wonderful Jazz Vespers Trio; Linda, who works so gracefully with couples and presides over their weddings in our sanctuary; and John, who always helps where help is needed.

Of course, we also have a congregation filled

with leaders in their own right—faithfully offering their gifts in all areas of our congregational life, including: service, faith formation, worship, finance, hospitality, prayer, communications, pastoral care, vision-casting, the arts, property care, policy making, and so much more! Yes, God is good!

Speaking of leadership, seven of our FCC folks recently completed Faith Leader, FCC’s year-long leadership development course that gives people the tools and resources to claim and lead ministries that match their gifts to the needs of the church, community, and world. Lisa Autry, with her grounding in spiritual practices, her group facilitation skills, and her ability to listen deeply, co-led this course with me. Members of the 2017-2018 year’s class (and the ministries they will lead) are: Amy Cheek (care for all God’s creatures), Terry Daugherty (small group connections), Mary Beth Godsey (all-church trip to Shaker Town and Cane Ridge), Elma Jessen (Enneagram workshop), Sharon Robinson (class/small group on how to be “at home” in this world), Jean Thompson (church finances), Amy Wardlow (one-to-one in-home visits.) If you would like to be in the next Faith Leader Class, please talk to me. I am already compiling a list of folks who are interested in this opportunity.

Wow! God is good, indeed, and I am both grateful and humbled to serve as your pastor.

See you Sunday,



Pastor Helen

## Towards a Framework of Service

Mark Knowles, Director of Service and Youth Ministries

As things around us change, so does the way we do service. Our reasons for doing so do not change, as they are firmly grounded in the core tenets of loving God and neighbor, but the way we do it adjusts to our neighborhood and world. With that in mind, I simply want to lay out here a very basic twofold framework of how we are currently doing service in the midst of change.

One way, broadly, is in supporting places that meet essential needs. Last fall our Sunday morning Breakfast and the Interfaith Winter Shelter both physically moved out of our building into local organizations—Shalom Community Center and Wheeler Mission, respectively. While this was a big change operationally, it wasn't really in terms of intention, as our volunteers and resources continued to go to these programs to meet the same basic needs. Something similar could be said by the way our church and/or its members support any number of good places, from Habitat for Humanity to MCUM to The Salvation Army to Thriving Connections to CASA to dozens of other critical organizations in Bloomington and the world. We will continue to support those places in service as long as those needs are still there.

But another way of doing service is sometimes called *mutual ministry*. Indeed, that was the title of an insightful article by Nancy DeMott and Katie Lindberg from the wonderful Center for Congregations in Indianapolis. (Helen recently sent this short article along, and I'd recommend anyone who even remotely cares about how the church does service check it out.) As the authors explain, mutual ministry is about "a commitment to work *with*, not *for*, the people they wish to serve." They characterize it as relational, asset-based, and collaborative. And hopefully this concept of service sounds familiar—even in events in just the next week. It's at the heart of the XPLOR program (whose Mission Specialist Ben Bohren is visiting Thursday as we look towards becoming a host church next year) where young adults exploring a call to service join with the church and community and community organizations in an effort to enrich all three. It's the idea behind something we're trying on Saturday called Art Together, which brings church members and former Breakfast guests together in a shared space to create art. It's the purpose for our follow up trip to Cuba, which holds initial meetings on Sunday and Tuesday: not a trip where we go do things *for* our Cuban hosts, but *with* them. We've already been moving toward incorporating this kind of service, this mutual ministry, and will continue to do so, just as we will continue to support good organizations in good work. It's not an *either/or*, nor even a *both/and*. Rather, it just *is*—because even in the midst of change, love just *is*.



### FCC Member Spotlight

We have noticed a flurry of coverage about quite a few FCC members being recognized for their service and work in the community. The front page of the April 4th *Christian Visitor* featured three members nominated for Bloomington's *Be More* awards this year. Since then, the good news just keeps rolling in.

The Bloomington Rotary Club recently honored **Janet Schell** with the *Paul Harris Fellow* award. This honor lifts up people who have contributed The Rotary Foundation, an organization that supports sustainable service projects. **Allison Donham** was recently honored by the University of Southern Indiana's Panhellenic Association with the Barry Schonberger Lifetime Achievement Award. This honor is awarded to the top Greek officer of the year. Allison is the Executive Vice President of Education for Gamma Phi Beta. Her sorority currently has the top GPA on campus.

And **Joe and Bess Lee** were featured in *Bloom Magazine's* Art & Entertainment section. Bess and Joe's new exhibit at the Blueline Gallery examines the issue of animal extinction in an interesting way. The show entitled "Professor Animalia's Menagerie of Struggling Species - Save the Animals; Save Yourself!" includes acrylic paintings in the style of mid-20th-century circus sideshow banners. You can go see these beautiful paintings at the Blueline Gallery, 212 W. 4th Street, until April 30.

**Please, let us know if you or someone you know has been recognized so that we can shine a spotlight on their great achievements.**

### Art Together

On the afternoon of Saturday, April 21, we are going to try something called Art Together. It sprang from conversations with a few key church members and a few people who used to come to our Gathering Place Breakfast. This trial event will be about simply creating a space for individuals from our church and our community to come together to work on small pieces of art related to the theme of May's Jazz Vespers, *Tree*. If you would like to be a part of this, or know more about it, please contact Mark Knowles for details.



**Please keep these people in your prayers:**

**Kathy Street**, who is receiving speech therapy and is working toward full recovery following a slight stroke. Cards and prayers (no calls or visits) are appreciated. Kathy's address is 4153 Hector Drive, Bloomington, 47408.

**Flossie Fox**, who is at Bell Trace receiving rehab following an illness and hospitalization. Cards and notes can be sent to 709 Keystone Ct., Bloomington, 47408.

**Church Women United  
2018 May Friendship Day  
Reaching for Wholeness**

The most pleasurable of the celebrations of Monroe County Church Women United will occur this year on Friday, May 4. This is our May Friendship Luncheon. All, especially our church women, are invited! Our theme is "Reaching for Wholeness."

**When:** Friday, May 4 at 11:00 a.m.

**Where:** Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at 2411 E. 2nd Street  
**Lunch Follows program.**

Please bring food items for Monroe County United Ministries. For further information, contact Mark Polk at 812-339-4194.

**Get Your Tickets for MCUM's Spring Luncheon  
*Spring Into Action*  
Sunday, May 6 from 12:00 - 2:00 pm  
Bloomington-Monroe County Convention Center**

Contact Natalie Garshaw to purchase your ticket for this year's *Spring Into Action* luncheon, silent auction and program benefiting MCUM. Tickets are \$28.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children under 12. A table of 8 can be purchased for \$200.

We will also be contributing two wonderful baskets for silent auction. If you are interested in attending or would like to help with the baskets contact Natalie Garshaw. A list of items needed for the baskets is below.

**Campfire Basket**

- 1 box graham crackers
- 1 bag marshmallows
- 1 package (6-8) Hershey Bars
- 2 roasting sticks
- Bug repellent
- Fire starters
- Lighter
- Blanket

**Office Organization Basket**

- 3 packages Post-It notes
- Pens
- Pencils
- Colored pencils
- Note paper
- Colored tabs
- Paper clips
- Highlighters
- Sorting trays (2)

## Intergenerational, Interfaith Peace Project Coming to FCC May 29-31



**“Building a Neighborhood Together”** is an activity for all ages and all kinds of families (including singles) working together. The Neighborhood Build is based on Fred Rogers’ ideas about relationships, creative play, pride in making things, family communication, and community. Using boxes and other everyday household supplies, family units create the different places that make a neighborhood. We’ll be joined by other Bloomington faith communities—including First Presbyterian, Trinity Episcopal, and Beth Shalom, to name just three. Join us for a meal at 5:30 and stay for the program and build ending at 8:00. Come every night or just one. Stay the whole evening, or just part of it. *But don’t miss out!* Registration runs May 1-25.

Even if you can’t make it to the event, you can help by collecting these items:

Egg cartons	Fabric Samples
Tubes from paper towels or toilet paper	Yarn Scraps
Wallpaper samples or ends of rolls	Tissue Paper
Plastic or other types or artificial flowers	Carpet Samples
Mailing tubes	Cellophane
Construction paper	Paint Stirrers
Coffee cans (2 lb. or 1 lb.)	
Boxes of various sizes (shoe, clothing, Amazon shipments, etc.)	

You might put a bag next to your trash can as a place to gather “stuff” for the Neighborhood Build. Bring your items to church and place them in the boxes in the Chapel/Gathering Space.

Contact Connie Myers or Judith Olmsted for more information.

## Special Guests in Worship This Sunday, April 29

Be sure to join us for worship at 10:00 am on Sunday, April 29th as we welcome back former FCC administrator and choral scholar Evelyn Johnson Zamudio and her husband Juan Carlos Zamudio. We are thrilled that Evelyn and Juan Carlos will provide special music for our worship service. Also during our service, Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) Executive Director Erin Predmore will provide part of the proclamation. Her words will focus on what it means to be a church who serves. Please, join us for this special service.

## All-Church Trip to Cane Ridge, KY

Weekend of August 18-19, 2018

The site of the 1801 camp meeting that drew thousands of people and had a lasting influence as one of the landmark events of the Second Great Awakening, Cane Ridge is an important site in the history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Located about 3.5 hours from Bloomington, Cane Ridge is an easy weekend getaway, but our records show that we haven't made the trip since 1998...

twenty years ago. It's time to make another pilgrimage! Mary Beth Godsey will be organizing our trip as part of her Faith Leader ministry. So mark your calendar to join us August 18-19. More information will be provided soon, so keep your eyes on upcoming newsletters, bulletins, Facebook posts and website updates.



### Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

October 5-6

Light of the World Christian Church  
Indianapolis

**To understand each other's truth is a gift.** This year's Regional Assembly will focus on this era of polarization and dividedness that we live. Understanding another's truth often requires genuine conversation - which can be difficult. But when we put forth the effort, our genuine conversation can spur hope and create possibilities. This year's Regional Assembly will provide the time to engage in such conversation, and the tools to foster such conversations back home. Join friends from FCC at the Regional Assembly on October 5-6. More information on the assembly and how to register to attend will be shared soon.

## Bedford Christian Camp 2018

June 25-27      New Beginnings (Grades 1-3)  
June 28-30      You & Me (Grades K-3 with adult)  
July 2-7          High School (Grades 9-12)  
July 9-14        Explorer (Grades 4-5)  
July 16-21      Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Fees: \$300 for full week; \$195 for New Beginnings and You & Me.  
After May 15: \$25 increase.

Registration forms available at the reception desk or online at the Indiana Region's webpage (<http://indianadisciples.org/commissions/commission-on-faith-formation/>). Scholarship support is available; see Pastor Helen.



## May Birthdays

05/01	Tate	Knepper	3616 S. Kingsbury Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47401
05/02	Donna	Cartwright	2927 N. Bankers Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
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
05/15	Kathy	Curry	1107 Azalca Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
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 someone off of the birthday list.*

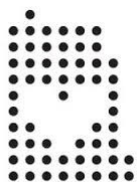
### Help Needed with Communion Preparation and Clean-Up

If you are looking for a way to pitch in at FCC but short on time, this opportunity may be for you! Communion Prep and Clean Up help is needed for the rest of the year, especially May Clean Up and both tasks in June and July. Preparation of the trays takes approximately 45 min with Clean Up about 15 min. Please call the church office for sign up or questions.



We are so glad to have had the opportunity to work with the IU Rugby team for their spring service project. This week, members of the team with their coach Sopa Enari helped us with a couple of spring cleaning projects at FCC. Thank you to the IU Rugby team for helping to clean out a storage room on the third floor and spread mulch in our flower beds. *-The FCC Property Commission*





## 2018 MCUM Challenge

**2018 Goal:** 2,000 pounds  
**Most recent trip:** 133 pounds  
**Year-to-date:** 906 pounds

### April Pantry Needs!

MCUM is in need of cereal, peanut butter, pasta sauce, canned pasta, canned tomatoes, canned fruit, dish soap, and all-purpose cleaner. MCUM also collects **Boxtops for Education** to support their Early Learning Center.

Please, consider donating what you are able!

*Thank you for showing how much you care.*



Thank you to all who ordered flowers from our Spring Flower Sale fundraiser. You can pick up your order on Saturday, May 5th from noon-2:00 pm at the Solution Tree parking lot located at 555 Morton Ave.

If you have questions or would like to help with this fundraiser, contact Diane Thrasher or the FCC office.



**Cardinal Theater** is using FCC's Great Hall as rehearsal space this month. They are rehearsing for their production of *Robin Hood*, a *Cardinal for Kids production*. We are happy to support Cardinal through this continued partnership. Welcome Cardinal!

### UPCOMING EVENTS...

#### Saturday, April 21

1:00 pm Art Together

#### Sunday, April 22

8:30 am Meditation Group

9:00 am Learning Session I

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Joyful Noise rehearsal

11:15 am Learning Session II

12:15 pm Cuba meeting

#### Tuesday, April 24

1:30 pm Caregivers Create!

6:00 pm Cuba meeting

#### Wednesday, April 25

6:30 pm MOPS

#### Thursday, April 26

5:30 pm Handbell choir rehearsal

6:15 pm Sanctuary choir rehearsal

#### Friday, April 13

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

#### Sunday, April 29

8:30 am Meditation Group

9:00 am Learning Session I

10:00 am Worship with Children

Worship & Wonder

11:00 am Joyful Noise rehearsal

11:15 am Learning Session II

#### Thursday, May 3

4:00 pm Book Bunch

5:30 pm Handbell choir rehearsal

6:15 pm Sanctuary choir rehearsal

#### Friday, April 13

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

6:30 pm First Friday Jazz Vespers

First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
205 E. Kirkwood Avenue  
Bloomington, IN 47408

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**Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule**

**April 22:**  
Sanctuary Choir & Handbell Choir

**April 29:**  
Campbellite Class

**May 6:**  
Book Bunch & Men's Book Club

**Scripture Readings  
For Sunday Worship**

**April 22**  
Acts 17:1-9, Thessalonians 1:1-10

**April 29**  
Acts 18:1-4; I Corinthians 1:10-18

**May 6**  
I Corinthians 15:1-26