

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

Summer at FCC

New Book Study, Workshop and Forum Series

As the weather begins to warm with each passing week and the school year winds down, we prepare for summer. At FCC that means new opportunities to gather, to learn, and to share. Sundays at FCC will be full of opportunities, for everyone.

FCC's Summer Forums have a reputation of providing important information as well as eliciting interesting and thoughtful discussion. This summer, our summer will begin with a 5-week series (for adults) in June led by Chuck Jones. This series on Genesis 1-11 will explore how these ancient texts can help shape our understanding of the world around us. Come for one or all of these sessions ***each Sunday in June at 11:15 am in the Chapel Gathering Space***. You will find more details on this exciting series on page 5 of this newsletter.

While adults embark on this study, FCC's children will be exploring some of those same stories. Each week following Sunday worship, we'll read a very short story from a Children's Bible and from a collection called *Does God Have a Big Toe?* Activities related to the story will be provided as well as free reading time. If you are interested in helping with FCC's children's summer reading program, please contact Connie Myers.

Looking for a great summer book? Join our Summer Reading group as we discuss Dr. Brené Brown's book *Daring Greatly* that argues that vulnerability is "our most accurate measure of courage." This group will ***meet weekly at 5:15 pm on Thursdays beginning on June 13***. For more information and a complete listing of dates, see the article on page 6 of this newsletter.

Are you a budding author? Would you like to improve your writing skills or take them to the next level? Join Rachel Rosolina and Lesley Bolton for a writing workshop on June 8 in the Chapel Gathering Space. The workshop will begin at 10:30 am and conclude by 2:30 pm with a lunch break in the middle.

Look for details on these and other events inside this newsletter. Join us for a great summer at FCC!

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Volume 61, number 10 May 22, 2019

Pastor Helen is in Virginia this week tending to family matters. As you may be aware, her father suffered a stroke last month and is in rehab. Progress is steady but quite slow. Please keep her and her family in your prayers. Below is a guest column by Mark Knowles and Danielle Murry Knowles, who are serving as Disciples Global Mission Partners in Lesotho, Africa.

Pastor's Pen An Update from Lesotho

19 May 2018

It's a beautiful, sunny Sunday afternoon in Lesotho. Danielle is coming back from a workshop and worship in Soweto, South Africa. I (Mark) have just worshiped at our local church, Maseru LEC (whose historic building, *Sefika Kerekeng*, can be seen in the background of the picture below of us on Good Friday). And most of you are currently getting ready for worship at First Christian Bloomington. We are worlds apart, yes, but somehow it doesn't feel that far at the moment.

Our thoughts turn to you often, and this warmish, sunny Sunday in May is as natural a time as any to do so: it just feels like a perfect spring day in Bloomington. Yet the warm days here are numbered, right as your warm weather is beginning. (Believe it or not, Lesotho gets quite cold in the winter, with snow in the mountains expected, and not unheard of here in the lowlands.) But our thoughts turn to you regardless of weather, and know that having heard from some of you means the world to us.

Danielle was helping run a Strategic Planning workshop in South Africa because the Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa (LECSA), our partner denomination, has a large presbytery in South Africa, too. LECSA is



trying to implement strategic planning for all twelve of its presbyteries, which is no small task. By no means is Danielle doing this alone, nor really in charge of it, but facilitating some of the inistrative aspects behind the scenes is certainly part of her role as LECSA's Planning Officer (and likewise for her role as secretary on LECSA's Health Fund Steering Committee, and for me in my role as LECSA Projects Officer). Our role is primarily to work alongside Basotho leaders and lay people in a ministry of presence. That presence means, in a very real sense, we are representing all of you. Our presence is also here, as children of God from Bloomington and children of God from Lesotho connect in this day's warmth.

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As for the more mundane or personal stuff you may be wondering about: yes, we are doing well! We've been here four months so there is still much we're learning, but on the whole we are happy with where we are at this point. Yes, the Sesotho language is particularly challenging, and I seem to be more challenged by it than Danielle. No, we haven't seen any snakes yet. Yes, our health has relatively been good thus far. Yes, Basotho people are very friendly. Yes, we have been given Basotho names: Danielle is 'Mè 'Mathato, and I'm Ntate Thapelo. (While 'Mè and Ntate are titles, Mathato means *will* and Thapelo *prayer*—which I'm assuming implies our namer thinks that Danielle is headstrong and I'm a mess.) No, church services at our church don't run that long, actually, as it is a city church.

(Yes, in other places, or special settings, it sure can.) Yes, the worship is great. No, I still can't dance. Yes, we drive on the other side of the road. Some of the projects currently happening?

Amongst other things they include toilets for rural schools, a small residence for expecting mothers who have to travel a great distance at a LECSA health clinic, an upgraded generator at a LECSA hospital, and a new church hall and pastor's house for a congregation in the mountains whose old church was displaced by a dam.



Okay, there will be time for more newsy updates in the future, but mainly wanted you to know that you are felt here in Lesotho on this beautiful day—and all days.

Details on the included pictures: Danielle and Mark on Good Friday. Danielle and 'Mè 'Mampho, a new friend from the Strategic Planning Workshop in Soweto, South Africa. Mark and Ntate Monne, Principal Agent on the new church building at Molika-Liko, pictured in front of Mohale Dam.

Pentecost Special Offering Received June 2 and 9

Each year, half of the Pentecost offering stays in the local region or area where it's collected to start and uphold new churches. The other half is used to support recruiting, assessing, training and coaching new church leaders across the United States and Canada at events like Leadership Academy. Help our new church movement continue to take root by giving to the Pentecost Offering on June 2 through 9. An envelope can be found in this newsletter. You can mail your offering to the FCC office or bring it to church on June 2 or 9. Thank you for continuing to support our new church movement.



Sing God a Simple Song (Leonard Bernstein)

Tis The Gift To Be Simple (Shaker Hymn)

In Simple Trust Like Those Who Heard Beside the Syrian Sea (J.G. Whittier)

If you've never attended a First Friday Jazz Vespers, try the next one June 7 at 6:30 – the theme is *Simplicity*. Let the music, meditation and poetry be a beautiful way to start your weekend, be a preamble to Pentecost Sunday, and an entry into the summer season. Bring your family, some friends, or simply come alone for quiet renewal. Make it an evening by visiting the downtown Art Walk before, or plan to have dinner or a walk or time with family afterwards.

The extraordinary singer Elena Escudero and pianist June Lee will be here to lead us with their quartet. A beautiful way to share a summer evening..

Music in Worship This Summer

Pentecost Sunday June 9 will be the last service before the Sanctuary Choir's hiatus for two months of vacation. That doesn't mean those folks will be gone, but taking a break from weekly rehearsals and Sunday singing responsibility. (They will still be singing with us in the congregation though!). Their service this year has been phenomenal and we thank every single one of them for their dedication and sharing of their talents to lead worship.

The Handbell Choir will also be on a break until mid-August. A big thank you to them too, for their extraordinary playing this semester under Jihye Choi's direction.

Jihye will be returning to Korea for two months this summer, but will be returning to us in mid-August. We are thrilled to announce that she has been accepted into the Doctoral Program in Organ Performance at the IU Jacobs School of Music and has received an Associate Instructor position for those studies, so will be able to continue with us at FCC as organist for several more years as she begins work on that degree when school starts in August!

The summer weeks will offer an opportunity for a variety of guest organists, keyboard players, instrumentalists, and soloists leading worship, including the return of the Sounds of Indiana Barbershop Chorus on June 23 (thanks to Bob Thrasher and Stephen Chambers for arranging that), special music by our own members Tom Walsh on saxophone, another beautiful composition composed and sung by John Walsh, a handbell solo by Sharon Goins, solos by various of our choir members, and a special Morning Jazz Worship Service July 7 with the Elena Escudero Quartet.

And as every summer, I urge the congregation to enthusiastically sing in worship – joining in community to worship in song!

- Jan Harrington, Director of Music

Summer Adult Forum Series

Creation, Re-creation and Our Modern World

A Literary Study of Genesis 1 - 11

by Chuck Jones

So what do the six days of Creation, Adam and Eve, the garden, the serpent, Cain and Abel, Noah's ark and the tower of Babel have to tell us about how to view our world today? Are they more than stories for children's classes in Sunday School?

In the five Sundays of June I'll be leading a study of Genesis 1-11, using it as a case study for how post-Enlightenment Christians can approach the Bible as Sacred Literature, giving full weight to both of those words.

We will specifically be exploring how these ancient texts can help shape our understanding of the world around us. This first portion of Genesis is unique in Scripture because in it God is dealing directly with the entire world, before there was an Abraham or an Israel or a Jesus movement or a Christian Church. I believe its purpose is to set the stage for the histories of Israel and the Christian Church by first addressing the question, Why is the world we observe around us the way it is? In particular, Why do bad things, sad things and evil things happen in this Creation God called "very good?"

Some of the questions we'll consider include: Is the world out of control? Is the world very good, or fallen, or something else? What about evil and sin, at the personal, societal and global levels? What does it mean to live a God-honoring life in this world? And what is God up to in all of this?

We will meet each Sunday in the Chapel Gathering Space from 11:15 am to noon. Realizing that this is vacation season, each of the sessions will be designed to stand alone. So when you're in town please join us without worrying about "coming in in the middle." I look forward to experiencing this literature with you.

Thank You, Katherine Homer!

Katherine Homer has worked as FCC's Communications Intern for this past school year. During this time, she has contributed greatly as a member of our communications team, creating beautiful graphic designs for some of our new programs and ministries, contributed to promotions projects for a multitude of events and increased our presence on Facebook. We have benefitted greatly from her work on our staff and her participation in church life. Recently, she accepted an internship in Indianapolis for her Junior year as a marketing major at IU. Although we will miss seeing her each week, we are so excited for this new opportunity. Thank you, Katherine for your wonderful work, and also for your friendship. We know that you will be successful in life and can't wait to see what you will be doing next!



Interfaith Friends: Saving the Earth!

Are you concerned about our environment, but not sure what you can do about it? Join us for “*Saving the Earth*” an interfaith collaborative community event! This one-day event will provide you with information on everything from earthworms to solar energy! Come learn from experts and then take that knowledge to make a difference in Bloomington and on our planet.

This spectacular event is brought by Interfaith Friends, a collaborative group of faith communities that includes First Presbyterian, Beth Shalom, Trinity Episcopal, Unitarian Universalist, and FCC!

Saving the Earth will be on **Monday, May 27 from 10:00 am-1:00pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church**. This interfaith event is also INTERGENERATIONAL. All are welcome! For more information and to RSVP, please contact Connie Myers

Writing Workshop on June 8th

Join Rachel Rosolina 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.

Summer Reading, Anyone?

“Every day we experience the uncertainty, risks, and emotional exposure that define what it means to be vulnerable, or to dare greatly. Based on twelve years of pioneering research, Dr. Brené Brown dispels the cultural myth that vulnerability is weakness and argues that it is, in truth, our most accurate measure of courage.”

Faith requires courage. Courage requires vulnerability. Want to explore these ideas more? Join us for a weekly book study of Dr. Brené Brown’s book “Daring Greatly. This group will meet at 5:15 in The Fireside Study on the following Thursdays: June 13, 20, 27; July 11, 18, 25; and August 1, 8. Contact Amy Hoover or the church office with any questions.



Youth Group Update

The youth have busy summer ahead! Many of them will be attending church camp in Bedford. We will also be having a lock-in May 31st/June 1st to kick off summer. At the lock-in they will begin a film/discussion series on the Marvel movies. We will be watching *Iron Man* with a discussion lead by Alexander Trippel.



Graduation Recognition Sunday June 2!

Each Spring First Christian Church looks forward to honoring our high school and other graduates during worship. We will recognize the accomplishments of these hard working young people on Sunday, June 2.

So far we are aware of the following persons graduating this year:

Carter Adams, Alexandria Donham, Elena Escudero, Max Fettchenhauer, Brayden Mischler, Jackson Moore, Haley Norris, Lindsay Stafford, and Patrick Walsh.

Please, send information about your graduate (including name of school, honors received, sports or activities, and post-graduation plans) to Connie Myers by May 23. We want to be sure to recognize all graduates. So, please let us know if you are graduating and not on the above list. **Congratulations!! We can't wait to see what you do next!**

It's Almost Time for Summer Camp!

Consider sending a card or note of encouragement to our campers.

June 17-19

Haley Norris
New Beginnings Camp Director
5282 N Old Us 31
Rochester, Ind. 46975

June 24-26

New Beginnings (grades 1-3)
Zoe Hill
Ethan Fletcher
Pacer Norris

July 1-6

High School (grades 9-12)
Jonathan Enari - Counselor
Lauren Johann
Jetta Norris
Alexander Trippel
Olivia Walsh
Patrick Walsh

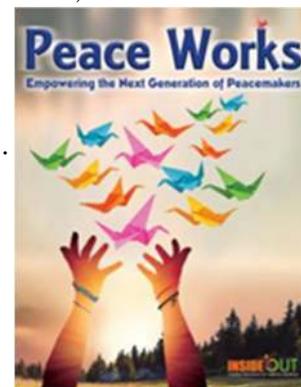
July 15-20

Middle School (grades 6-8)
Ashlyn Reynolds - Counselor
Jonathan Enari - Counselor
Claire Johann
Aubrey Ballou (Claire's friend)
Maya Norris

Haley Norris will be working as a nurse and lifeguard during all camps.

Notes and Cards can be sent to:

Bedford Christian Camp
33 Church Camp Road
Bedford, Ind. 47421



June Birthdays

06/01	Max	Fettchenhauer	5537 E. State Rd. 46	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/03	Darren	Klein	723 Olde Mill Circle	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/04	Mary Alice	Martin	4243 W. Lynwest Drive	Bloomington	IN	47404
06/07	Allen	Griggs	9376 S. Harbour Pointe Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/10	Mike	Engber	2731 S. Silver Creek Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/15	Ryan	Robinson	4694 Viola Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403
06/16	Sawyer	Houchins	3821 S. Westmont Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47403
06/16	David	Jackson	3693 S. Sowder Square	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/17	Cliff	Travis	4682 E. Heritage Woods Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/18	Gary	East	75-6156 Hoomama Ct.	Kailua Kona	HI	96740
06/18	Melissa	Jackson	3693 S. Sowder Square	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/20	Flossie	Fox	709 Keystone Ct.	Bloomington	IN	47408
06/22	Jennifer	Goins	4081 W. Ardsley Lane	Bloomington	IN	47404
06/24	Arch	Dalton	1322 S. Winfield Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/27	Jacob	Lee	3421 W. Tyler Lane	Bloomington	IN	47403
06/28	Ryan	Eller	4001 Rosewood Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47404
06/30	Maely	Robinson	4694 Viola Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403
06/30	Jackson	Cull	158 Oak Lane	Hightstown	NJ	08520

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



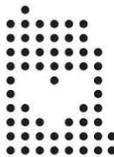
**Nursery
Ministry**

Nursery Ministry Seeking Volunteers

If seeing babies and toddlers at church makes your heart happy, please consider becoming part of our nursery ministry. Our two nursery staff members, Lily Hoover and Gabby Johnson, need a volunteer team of adults and older youth who can serve with them on Sunday mornings and during other church activities. All volunteers must agree to a background check and be trained in FCC policies for child safety. Making our space safe and welcoming for the youngest of God's children is a vitally important ministry of love. Please stop by the nursery or contact Lily or Gabby to share your interest, fill out paperwork, and learn about upcoming trainings.



Join us at 6:30 pm on June 7 for First Friday Jazz Vespers with the Elena Escudero Quartet.



MCUM Challenge 2019
Most recent trip: 55 lbs
Year-to-date: 513 lbs

June Items Wanted:

<u>Food Pantry</u>	<u>Cleaning Closet</u>
Canned green beans, corn	Laundry soap
Pasta sauce	Dish soap
Canned fruit	All-purpose cleaners
Mac and Cheese	Shampoo
Canned tomatoes	Garbage bags

FCC Office Closed May 27

The FCC Offices will be closed on Monday, May 27th in Observance of the Memorial Day Holiday. Have a safe and wonderful weekend!

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- Sunday, May 26**
 10:00 am Worship
 11:15 am Children's Reading Program
 3:00 pm Meadowood Service
- Monday, May 27**
 FCC Offices Closed
- Tuesday, May 28**
 1:30 pm Caregivers Create
 5:30 pm Listening to God meditation
- Thursday, May 30**
 6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
- Thursday, May 30**
 6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
- Saturday, June 2**
 10:00 am Finger Labyrinth Project
- Sunday, June 2**
 10:00 am Worship
 11:15 am Children's Reading Program
 11:15 am Summer Adult Forum
- Monday, June 3**
 7:00 pm Women's Arts & Crafts
- Tuesday, June 4**
 5:30 pm Listening to God meditation
- Thursday, June 6**
 4:00 pm Book Bunch
- Friday, June 7**
 5:30 pm First Friday Jazz Vespers
- Saturday, June 8**
 10:30 am - Writing Workshop

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

812-332-4459
fcc@fccbloomington.org
www.fccbloomington.org
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Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule

May 26:
Book Bunch and R.L. Heimer Book Group

June 2:
Emmaus Interpreters Class

June 9:
Grades K-12 & Sharing Table

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

May 26
Ashlyn Reynolds preaching
Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21

June 2
Graduation Recognition Sunday
Galatians 3:1-98, 23-29

June 9
Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-4; Galatians 4:1-7