

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

FCC Dives into Summer with Great Programs and Activities!

Building a Neighborhood Together! An Intergenerational Peacemaking Project!

Be a Part of This Special Project May 29-31

Join us as we *Build A Neighborhood Together!* This special project is for all ages and all kinds of families, working together. It was developed by Hedda Sharapan and focuses on the concept of “loving your neighbor as yourself” as highlighted in the work of Fred Rogers. Sharapan worked with Rogers of *Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood* when the beloved PBS program was just beginning. 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, Unitarian Universalist and Beth Shalom. The fun begins on Tuesday, May 29 through Wednesday, May 31. 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. If you can’t make it to the event, consider helping us out by donating household items that can be used for the

build. Contact Connie Myers or Judith Olmstead for more information about how to join or what is needed that you can donate.

Memorial Day All-Church Picnic

Our annual all-church picnic is scheduled for Sunday, May 27, at the Lion’s Den in Cascades Park (by the golf course). Bring your own table settings, a covered dish to share, and any meat you would like to have cooked on the grill. Drinks will be provided. You may arrive any time from 4:00 p.m. on - we will begin eating at 6:00 p.m. Bring the whole family and friends - this is always a great time for fun and fellowship.



Inside this Issue

- Page 3** Carter Adams Honored
- Page 5** Graduation Recognition
- Page 6** Save the Date for Cane Ridge Trip!
- Page 9** Pick up your flower orders!

PASTOR'S PEN

The Body of Christ at The Corner of Kirkwood and Washington

Sunday was one of those days that affirmed for me that the apostle Paul knew *exactly* what he was talking about when he used the metaphor *the body of Christ* to describe the church at its best. Indeed, I witnessed Christ's body—with its many varied parts—in full motion on the corner of Kirkwood and Washington. It was a sight to behold and an experience to savor. Here are a few “snap shots.” (For videos and photos, go to our website and our facebook page, and contact Maria Lee or our church office to join our non-public FCC friends group containing hundreds of fabulous candid photos.)

- The beautiful green banners hanging outside our sanctuary doors, inviting people to worship and telling the community that FCC is *Diverse in thought, United in Faith, Called to Serve*.
- Some of our members acting quickly and lovingly to care for another member who needed medical attention. (All is now well!)
- An excellent sermon, reminding us of how FCC continues to make a *huge* difference in this community through our partnership with MCUM.
- The joy that came with surprising one of our members, Frieda Hoffman, with the “Order of the Spoon” award for her stellar leadership with our MCUM food pantry ministry.
- The moving music, offered to the glory of God, by some of this *world's* (I'm not exaggerating) finest and most faithful musicians.
- The addition of two new members to our community, each bringing gifts for ministry and each reaffirming their faith in Jesus as the Christ.
- The migration of our community from

sanctuary to lawn—as we mobilized to set up lawn games, chairs, shade tent, literature, historic photos/artifacts in preparation for the afternoon's Street Fair.

- The flea circus on the lawn and the mini-lecture in the sanctuary—both led by “our own.”
- The wonderful sounds of laughter and joy and awe throughout the day as we welcomed hundreds of people onto the green space of our lawn and into the wide open doors of our sanctuary.

Yes, FCC is a living, vibrant, healthy *body*--an *organism* more than an organization, a *corpus* more than a corporation—held together by the power of God's Spirit for the purpose of sharing God's love in Christ Jesus.

As I reflect on the fullness of the day, I give thanks to God for: a) placing us on the corner of Kirkwood and Washington in 1826; b) gifting us with resources to serve; c) continuing to weave our varied parts together as the body of Christ; d) calling us to love as Christ as loved us.

I give thanks to God for you!

Blessings,



Pastor Helen

PS. Sunday, May 20, is Pentecost! As we celebrate the birth of the church, we will also celebrate as three of our young people make their confession of faith and are baptized into the body of Christ. Wear red!



NOTES FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

Thank you and farewell to Terrence Chin-Loy

This week we say farewell to our tenor Choral Scholar Terrence Chin-Loy who has completed his Performer's Diploma studies in Vocal Performance at IU. In Terrence's immediate plans include the opportunity to return to sing at the Santa Fe Opera this summer in the opera *Ariadne auf Naxos*, and in the Fall to be joining the Pittsburgh Opera Young Artists Program as a Resident Artist for the 2018-2019 season! Terrence has brought artistry and a generous heart to our choir in his two years here. We are very grateful for the opportunity to have had him with us, and wish him every success in what we know will be a brilliant career. If you would like to follow Terrence's career path and hear excerpts from his recent performances, you can check out his professional website at <https://www.terrencechinloy.com>. Godspeed to you Terrence and come back to see us when you are in Bloomington again!

An Unexpected (but Deserved Honor) for Carter Adams

On April 15th, during the IU Wind Ensemble retirement concert for Professor Stephen Pratt at the IU Musical Arts Center, our music intern and handbell choir director Carter Adams was called out of the percussion section to be awarded the Frederick C. Ebbs Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to an outstanding undergraduate music education major, who has the potential of becoming an outstanding band director and is recognized for exceptional service, leadership, and musicianship in the band department. Carter was completely surprised and wrote that he feels very humbled and honored, especially because his high school band director and one of his professors at IU, Professor Eric Smedley, both won the awards when they were undergraduates. Congratulations to you Carter!

Baptisms on Pentecost Sunday, May 20

Three young people from our congregation will be celebrating their baptism during Sunday worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 20. Join us to affirm this milestone in the faith journeys of David Jackson, Claire Johann, and Maya Norris.



In Our Prayers

Please keep the family of Harold Bond in your prayers as they both celebrate the life and mourn the loss of **Pauline Bond (92)**, who passed away in her home on April

18. Harold and Pauline, who were active in the life of FCC for many years before retiring to Indianapolis, have remained committed to FCC "from afar," keeping up with FCC through the *Christian Visitor*, sharing their financial resources, welcoming your cards and visits, and offering hospitality to me during my pastoral calls.

Services for Pauline were on April 27 in Indianapolis. Cards may be sent to Harold at 2816A Marquette Manor Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46268.

Kathy Street continues her speech therapy as she seeks full recovery following a slight stroke. Her address is 4153 Hector Drive, Bloomington, IN 47408.

Flossie Fox, who became ill and was hospitalized recently, continues to gain strength at Bell Trace Rehabilitation. Her address is 709 Keystone Ct., Bloomington, 47408.

Welcome New Members!

On Sunday, we welcomed two new members into the life of First Christian Church. Please take the opportunity to seek them out and introduce yourself to them.

David Presley, a retired Disciples minister, has served congregations in West Virginia, Texas, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Oregon over the years. A gifted preacher with a passion for worship and the liturgical arts, David has found FCC to be a good "fit" for him as he moves from interim work into full retirement. He and his wife Linda (who serves on the ministerial staff of First Christian Church Martinsville) reside in Martinsville, where they are enjoying living in close proximity to grandchildren!

Ann Cope, who moved from Indianapolis to Bloomington "on a wave of faith" several months ago, has found FCC to be a wonderful place of welcome and healing. Ann is already putting her gifts to use, singing with the sanctuary choir and seeking out opportunities for service. With a full-time job, the grounding of a supportive faith community, and a trust in God, Ann is embracing her life and all the possibilities before her.

Are you interested in traveling with FCC to Cuba the week of Thanksgiving 2018 but missed the informational meetings? Please contact Mark Knowles, Michelle Dalmau or Carmie Hamilton soon to let them know that you are interested.

Cuba
Thanksgiving 2018

Graduation Recognition Sunday, June 3



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 4.

Please, send information about your graduate (including name of school, honors received, sports or activities, and post-high school plans) to Connie Myers by May 27.

We want to be sure to recognize all graduates. So, please let us know if you are graduating.

**Join Us for MCUM's
Spring Luncheon and Auction
Spring Into Action
This Sunday, May 6
Noon- 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 may be purchased for \$200. This is a wonderful event that FCC is happy to support each year. We hope you will join us this year!



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.

Fees increase by \$25 after May 15.

Registration forms

available at the reception

desk or online at the

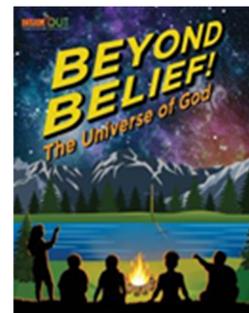
Indiana Region's website

www.indianadisciples.org

Scholarship support is

available; see Pastor

Helen.



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. 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.



Disciples News...

I can do all this through God who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:13

I reside in Dumaguete City, Philippines, a small yet bustling city well known for world-renowned Silliman University. My time in Dumaguete has been filled with many highs and lows, adjustments and new comforts, challenges and triumphs. Yet, what has buoyed me is the warm and sincere hospitality shown by Filipino people, as well as moments to witness God's grace.

As a Long-Term Volunteer with Global Ministries, I have worked with GWAVE, Gender Watch Against Violence and Exploitation. GWAVE accompanies and advocates for women and children survivors of physical, emotional, financial, and sexual abuse and exploitation. I attend court hearings, various advocacy events, and home visits.

One event that helped fortify relationships was a Valentine's Day party. I hoped that the Valentine's Day party would be a time to be reminded that each person is cherished by God and their peers. In planning the party, some leaders from each organization believed that the teen abuse survivors of GWAVE were overwhelmed by their traumas and should work behind-the-scenes. However, I witnessed leadership abilities and saw that they were awaiting moments to share their gifts and passions with others.

I encouraged the good dancers among them to teach a dance lesson. I invited the artistically inclined survivors to lead an art project. The survivors were hesitant to lead activities for their peers but with time to prepare, they increased their confidence in their ability to facilitate activities.

When the day of the party arrived, I was anxious about all of the details coming together. Some things did go awry, including a power outage. Thankfully, though, none of the problems seem to deter the young women survivors of GWAVE. They confidently executed their activities and had fun doing it!

Lauren Robinson serves with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. Her appointment is possible due to gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Churches Wider Mission, and your special gifts

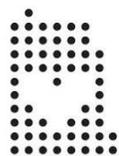


First Friday *Jazz* Vespers
Tree

*A Service of Music,
Reflection, and Meditation*

Will Barnard Trio
featuring vocalist
Kathryn Sherman

Friday, May 4 | 6:30 pm



2018 MCUM Challenge

2018 Goal: 2,000 pounds
Most recent trip: 60 pounds
Year-to-date: 966 pounds

May Pantry Needs!

MCUM is in need of canned potatoes, Mac N Cheese, condensed soups, pasta sauce, canned mixed vegetables, baking mixes, crackers, all-purpose spray cleaner, laundry detergent, deodorant, and soap.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Friday, May 4

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

6:30 pm First Friday Jazz Vespers

Sunday, May 6

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

Monday, May 7

7:00 pm Women's Arts & Crafts

Tuesday, May 8

1:30 pm Caregivers Create

Thursday, May 10

5:30 pm Handbell choir rehearsal

6:15 pm Sanctuary choir rehearsal

Friday, May 11

Noon Executive Committee meeting

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Sunday, May 13 (Mother's Day)

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

Wednesday, May 16

7:00 pm Men's Book Group

Thursday, May 17

5:30 pm Handbell choir rehearsal

6:15 pm Sanctuary choir rehearsal

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Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule

May 6:
Book Bunch & Men's Book Club

May 13:
Emmaus Interpreters Class

May 20:
Grades K-12 and Sharing Table

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

May 6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13

May 13
I Corinthians 15:1-26

May 20
Acts 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13