

The CHRISTIAN



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ) *Visitor*

Regional Assembly Planned for October 5 & 6 *“Can We Talk?” Beginning a Conversation on Issues that Divide and Isolate*

It has been said, “Life happens one conversation at a time.” Whether it is two friends having coffee, a contentious board meeting, a political speech, a ‘middle of the night’ question from your child, or even one’s own internal dialogue with yourself, our ideas of reality and truth are discerned and affirmed or questioned one conversation at a time.

This year, the Regional Assembly will offer a time to have some of those important transforming discussions that perhaps can open our eyes, minds, spirits and hearts to each other in life affirming ways.

We will begin Friday night with an All Assembly Dinner and guest speaker Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, who will offer some ideas for how we can have meaningful and transforming conversation.

On Saturday, we will begin with conversations over breakfast. We will connect with friends from the region of Indiana, do the business of the church, hear the news of our ministry in Indiana, and be inspired by music and worship together. We will also have the opportunity to choose to join in conversations on topics that are challenging for all of us to have. We want to talk about issues that so often divide and

isolate us and offer ways to expand our conversation to be life affirming and creative.

Dr. Ron Allen, professor at Christian Theological Seminary, will be our preacher at closing worship. Allen has taught preaching and the New Testament at the seminary since 1982 and will be retiring this year.

Mark your calendars and save the dates of October 5th and 6th to gather with a few hundred of your closest Disciple brothers and sisters at Light of the World Christian Church in Indianapolis. For a full line-up of speakers and for more information on registration go to www.indianadisciples.org.

FCC’s Road Trip Revival 2018

Cane Ridge Meeting House

The site of the great revival of 1801 and the birthplace of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Registration Deadline July 13!
(More details on page 7)

PASTOR'S PEN
United in

I am holding you in prayer as Bruce and I do our summer travelling to western portions of the United States—mostly Montana and Idaho (via Denver to visit my son Sam and his wife Alaina).

I also thought about you last week when I read a reflection by Rob Fuquay, Senior Pastor at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Indianapolis. Rob, in naming the fact that there many issues that threaten to divide the church, asks "How united are Methodists anymore? (*Note: We could easily substitute the word Disciples for Methodists.*) What really ties us together?" Here is how he responds to the question.

"Our faith in Christ seems the obvious answer, yet people deeply faithful to Christ stand on opposite sides of the immigration divide, support of women in leadership, the inclusion of gay people in the church, gun control and dozens of other matters including Purdue vs. IU! I don't mean for that last comment to make light of the others, but I do wonder if Jesus laughs or cries over our division? This may seem simplistic but I see our ability to take a *united* stand [as Methodists] by asking where we look to Jesus on these matters: in front of us or behind us? If Jesus is behind us, then we look for our faith to support our already determined stands on issues. If Jesus is in front of us we truly seek His will and character in determining where we stand and how we respond to modern crises. We even become

open to having our opinions change on matters.

"Certainly it means having the fortitude to call out unjust actions even when they are taken for the cause of security and peace. In the end we will probably never be united around agreement on issues. If that is what it means to be united, our numbers will continue to reduce to the people we are most comfortable with. But what unites us is a savior who loves us in spite of our divisions and differences, and as long as we keep Him in front of us, He will help us find a way through."

I think Reverend Fuquay would make a good Disciple of Christ!

I look forward to being with you on my return. In the meantime, please be supportive of our wonderful "own" guest preachers by being intentional with your Sunday morning worship attendance!

See you in a few weeks!

Blessings,



Pastor Helen

In the FCC Pulpit on July 15 and 22

Join us in worship on July 15 and 22as we welcome FCC member-ministers David Presley and Heather Godsey to the pulpit. David attended seminary at Brite Divinity School of Texas Christian University, where he met and married his wife, Linda. Together, they co-pastored the first and last (full-time) churches of their careers. They are now retired. Heather grew up at FCC, and credits Kate Kroll with every Bible story she ever memorized. Heather has spent over 15 years in ecumenical campus ministry, recently finishing her tenure as Program Director for the Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

This Sunday, July 15, Rev. Dr. David Presley will bring the message about the decisive way Jesus went about challenging the way things have been. David will reflect on Matthew 27:35-37 in his sermon, “A Bandit? Yes, but Not a Proper One.”

Rev. Heather Godsey will deliver the proclamation on July 22, “Letting the Little Children Come,” while examining the text Mark 9:33-37: 10:13-16.

Please Pray for Our Middle School Campers

Middle School (grades 6-8) Camp is the final camp of summer. Maya Norris and Jetta Norris will be headed to Camp in Bedford July 16-21. Additionally, Haley Norris will be at camp as a lifeguard. Prayers for a happy, safe, and fun camp are appreciated. Notes of encouragement can be sent to:

Camper’s Name
Bedford Christian Camp
33 Church Camp Road
Bedford, IN 47421



In Our Prayers

Please keep Gerry Miller in your prayers. Gerry is recovering at Meadowood from surgery for a broken hip. No visits please, but cards and notes of encouragement are appreciated and can be sent to Gerry at 2455 N. Tamarack Trail, Apt. 130, Bloomington, 47408.

Continued prayers for Jan Parrot and Donna Ray are also appreciated. Jan continues to recover at Bell Trace following surgery for a broken arm. Donna is recovering from a severe bacterial infection.

For the latest newsletter, upcoming church events, or to give a financial gift online, visit our website: www.fccbloomington.org





FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

The start of our new Jazz Vespers Series

August 3 at 6:30 p.m.

An Invitation to Share in the Preparation

Our new First Friday Jazz Vespers series begins on August 3 with a new Jazz Trio – The Lenthe Trio - and a wonderful new set of monthly themes. Our new Director of Jazz Vespers will be Stefan Lenthe, who was the bassist for our trio last year and our new vocalist is Elena Escudero, who was a guest several times last season. Stefan is a recent graduate of the Jazz Studies program at the IU Jacobs School of Music and Elena will be a senior as a Vocal Jazz major in the Jazz Studies Program. Both bring their talents with a commitment to and understanding of First Friday Jazz Vespers at FCC.

If you have attended Jazz Vespers in the past you know that the 45 -minute service which follows the traditions of the Evening Prayer service, includes prayers, hymns re-cast in jazz harmonies and rhythms, sung Psalms accompanied by the trio, a time of meditation with the jazz trio providing beautiful music for contemplation, and readings of poetry and short essays relating to the theme of the service. If you haven't attended, we hope you will take the opportunity to visit one of the services and see why those who come have found them so moving. We would invite anyone who would like to share in the preparation of the services to consider the upcoming topics for the fall and send any suggestions for poetry or readings that particularly resonate with you to Pastor Helen as we design the upcoming services. Also, after the August service, those who wish are invited to stay for a few minutes to share their thoughts and suggestions about the service as we contemplate moving forward.

Here are the dates and topics for the Fall – please share your ideas:

August 3: Reap September 7: Journey October 5: Abundance

November 2: Quiet December 7: Anticipate

If you have enjoyed the music of vocalist Kathryn Sherman at our Jazz Vespers services, you have one more opportunity to hear her sing before she leaves Bloomington.

Kathryn Sherman and the Heartland Trio

July 27 at 7:00 pm

Conrad Prebys Amphitheater (on the IU campus)

(This event is free and open to the public)

Learn More; Love More – Starting the Conversation About Mental Health

This summer, we have had the opportunity to listen and share information on important topics surrounding mental health. Please join us each Sunday through the month of July at 11:15 am as we learn from and interact with people who have special information and insight into mental illness and its impact. Bring your open ears, minds and hearts; come learn in a safe and inclusive environment. All are welcome to join this important discussion.

Here is a list of upcoming events in this series:

- July 15** Guest speaker **Kaitlin King**, LCSW, Senior Clinical Therapist, Catholic Charities, will help us understand **childhood trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, and attachment**. Learn the importance of secure attachment with caregivers in early brain development, common symptoms and characteristics of trauma in children, recommended treatment options, and how to help children and families overcome these difficulties in their lives.
- July 22** **Two members of FCC** will share their **personal stories of living with obsessive compulsive disorder, depression, bipolar disorder, and attention deficit hyper activity disorder**. Welcome these brave individuals who aren't afraid to speak up, speak out and share themselves openly.
- July 29** Guest speaker **Forrest Gilmore**, Executive Director, Shalom Community Center, will educate us on the **role mental illness plays in homelessness**.

Summer Sunday Fundays at FCC!

During worship this summer through August the *PrayGround* will be open at the front of the sanctuary. In this sacred space, mats are laid out in advance, inviting children to work with quiet time bags or to read books about God and Jesus. We'll also provide a small "feast" for communion time. If you can be a caring presence among the children this summer, please contact Connie Myers.

After worship, **Sundays are FunDays** at FCC! We'll have games on the lawn and "Where Do You See God?" walks around the block. Inclement weather will find us indoors, enjoying Veggie Tales and popcorn, among other activities. We need adults *and youth* to keep our children safe while they're having fun! Please sign up for a Sunday or three at <http://signup.com/go/BhUEoDK>.

Bread of the World Provides a Christian Voice to End Hunger

In Pastor Helen’s message on July 1 she referenced an organization that works with churches, campuses, and other organizations to engage people in advocacy work to end hunger worldwide. We have received calls for information on this group and wanted to share a little background collected from their website. *Bread of The World* is an organization that works to change policy, programs, and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to exist in our world. This organization lobbies Congress and the administration on ending hunger in the U.S. and around the world.

The Bread for the World Institute (which is separate from the lobbying group) provides non-partisan policy analysis on hunger and strategies to end it. The Institute has been educating opinion leaders, policymakers, and the public about hunger since 1975. It publishes an annual *Hunger Report* that focuses on a particular topic and its relationship to the root causes of hunger and malnutrition. The Hunger Report has been published annually since 1975.

If you would like more information on Bread of the World go to www.bread.org.



Jan Parrot would like to thank her FCC family for all of the prayers, calls, visits, and notes as she has been recovering from surgery. She continues to recover at Bell Trace and hopes to be home soon!

Donna Ray called to let us know that she is feeling better and gaining strength every day. She asked that we extend a big thank you for all of the prayers, cards, and food. She is hoping to be back at FCC by the end of July.

FCC would like to thank those who participate in our hospitality team. You welcome people in both times of joy and sadness with such care and grace (and wonderful food). You rise to the occasion without a moment’s hesitation. Your service is greatly appreciated.



First Christian Church Presents:



Road Trip

Revival

2018

Join us on August 18-19 for a time-traveling adventure to the early 19th century! We begin in Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, once home to the third largest Shaker community in the United States. From there it's on to the Cane Ridge Meeting House near Paris, Kentucky, site of the great revival of

August 1801 and birthplace of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Throughout our weekend together, opportunities will abound for intergenerational learning, fellowship and memory-making.

Important Information

- **Cost:** \$20 per person, with a maximum of \$50 per family. The church will provide the following:
 - transportation (see below)
 - all meals
 - a guided tour and riverboat cruise at Shaker Village***Lodging is not included.***
- **Transportation:** The church will rent vans for the trip. (You may drive your own car, if you prefer.)
- **Lodging:** *The church cannot pay for hotel accommodations.* A block of rooms is secured at Comfort Inn & Suites, 2400 Buena Vista Road in Lexington, Kentucky. Hotel amenities include free wi-fi; free hot breakfast; indoor, heated pool and fitness center; microwave and refrigerator in guest rooms. **Call (859) 293-6113 and ask for the First Christian Church—Bloomington block. Rooms are \$89 + tax and will be held through July 13.** Double rooms accommodate up to four guests.

Deadline to Register is July 13!

August Birthdays

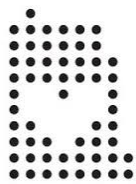
08/01	Emma	Walsh	9489 Edgestone Dr.	Noblesville	IN	46060
08/02	Matthew	Griffin	3830 Woodhaven Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/04	Joe	Lee	1028 S. Henderson St.	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/04	Ashley	Stafford	636 W. 172nd St., Apt. 42	New York City	NY	10032
08/08	Christine	Griffin	3830 Woodhaven Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/10	Tom	Walsh	1478 E. Commander Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/10	Lisa	Autry	4001 Rosewood Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47404
08/10	Marlene	Emery	4444 W. Tanglewood Road	Bloomington	IN	47404
08/13	Sarah	Knepper	3616 S. Kingsbury Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/14	Cindy	Welch	930 W. Second Street	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/15	Allie	Welch Smith	930 W. Second Street	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/20	Ryan	Hill	2886 Brooks Bend Dr.	Carmel	IN	46032
08/22	Amy	Hoover	3605 W. Cockrell Road	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/22	Sandy	Rampley	2228 Autumn Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/23	Lauren	Johann	3057 E. Chase Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/24	Linda	Abe	600 S. Hawthorne Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/25	Patrick	Walsh	3006 S. Olcott Blvd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/25	Brian	Brosmer	405 E. 17th Street, Apt. E3	Bloomington	IN	47408
08/27	Graedan	Robinson	4694 Viola Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/27	Barb	Cripe	3930 W. Tapp Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/27	Wendy	Breeden	3808 Woods Edge Bend	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/27	Gena	Breeden	3808 Woods Edge Bend	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/28	Allison	Ruari	175 S. Mulberry St.	Mansfield	OH	44902
08/29	Patti	Parkes	4215 W. Geranium Lane	Bloomington	IN	47404
08/29	Lilly	Sinn Trulock	901 Orchard Drive	Newburgh	IN	47630
08/30	Janet	Schell	909 S. Jordan Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47401

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

Communion Prep Sign-up

You can now find the sign-up sheet for elders and for communion prep on the reception desk. We are still growing the communion prep team at FCC. This is an easy way to help with an important part of worship. Prep and Clean up doesn't take very long (less than 30 minutes) and is a great way to contribute. You can help out once a month, or sign-up for an entire month. What ever works for your schedule. Contact Peggy Stafford with any questions.

Thank you!



2018 MCUM Challenge

2018 Goal: 2,000 pounds

Most recent trip: 162 pounds

Year-to-date: 1,270 pounds

July Pantry Needs!

MCUM is in need of peanut butter (medium jars), small cereal, canned beans, condensed soups, tomato products, canned chicken, canned and dried fruit, toilet paper, baby wipes, spray cleaner (all-purpose), laundry detergent, and dish soap.

MCUM also reuses plastic grocery bags to distribute items from their cleaning and hygiene closet and keep them separate from the paper bags used in their food pantry.

Please, consider donating what you are able!

Thank you for showing how much you care.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Sunday, July 15

9:00 am Learning Session I

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Summer Forum

11:15 am Sunday Funday

12:15 pm FCC Board meeting

July 16-21

Middle School camp

Tuesday, July 17

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Sunday, July 22

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Summer Forum

11:15 am Sunday Funday

12:30 pm Art Together

3:00 pm Meadowood service

Tuesday, July 24

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Saturday, July 28

10:00 am Elders meeting

Sunday, July 29

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Summer Forum

11:15 am Sunday Funday

12:00 pm Cuba trip meeting

Tuesday, July 31

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Friday, August 3

6:30 pm First Friday Jazz Vespers

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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www.fccbloom.org
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The Christian Visitor

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Summer Forum: Learn More; Love More

Join us following Sunday worship at 11:15 am for a thoughtful discussion on the important topic of mental health

July 15: Kaitlin King leads discussion about PTSD and childhood trauma

July 22: Members share personal stories

July 29: Forrest Gilmore leads discussion on mental illness and homelessness

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

July 15

Rev. Dr. David Presley preaching

July 22

Mark 9:33-37; 10:13-16

Rev. Heather Godsey preaching