

The CHRISTIAN

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

The Ripple Effect Is Coming To FCC On July 20th!

FCC will welcome The Ripple Effect choir from South Bend at **7:00 pm on July 20th** for a special concert designed to promote unity and social awareness. *"If You Knew Me, You'd Love Me"* will be an evening of music and words as songs are woven with personal narratives from individuals from different backgrounds and life experiences, including the inspiring story of FCC's John Adams.

This is the inaugural event of our emerging multi-faceted FCC Story (formerly called Future Story). We want it to be highly successful! You can help by: 1.) sharing the Facebook invitation (found on FCC's Facebook page) with all your Facebook friends; 2.) attending yourself, and; 3.) issuing personal invitations to others to join you!

This community event is a great opportunity for us to introduce others to FCC. A freewill offering will be collected to support The Ripple Effect choir and the ministries of FCC. See you there!

New General Minister and President Elected at General Assembly

A group of five FCC delegates joined staff, clergy and friends in Indianapolis this week for General Assembly. The week included numerous learning and worship opportunities and culminated with the election of a new General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Reverend Teresa Hord Owens was elected to the position on July 9th and led worship the final evening of the General Assembly. A Disciple since young adulthood, Rev. Hord Owens is a widely sought after preacher, speaker and worship facilitator. Her ministry and intellectual interests include a theology of reconciliation, cultural intelligence, developing inclusive and multi-cultural congregations, and the mentoring of youth and young adults. Rev. Hord Owens was chosen from a field of 40 nominations.

Thank you to all who attended. FCC Delegates included Mark Knowles, Danielle Murry-Knowles, Kip and Connie Myers, and Natalie Garshaw. Voting clergy included Helen Hempfling, Bruce Ervin, David Garshaw, and Linda Abe. We look forward to hearing about General Assembly from our delegates who will share details during our forums following Sunday worship throughout the summer.

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Volume 59, number 13 July 12, 2017

PASTOR'S PEN

Odds and Ends, in Somewhat Random Order

I am still glowing from the surprise celebration you all pulled off to recognize my 20 years of ministry at First Christian Church. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you! You are a wonderful congregation! Thank you for loving me through the ups and downs of our life together. My life has been richly blessed because of you!

I am looking forward to the remaining Sundays in July, when I begin a new sermon series titled "Road Trip!" We'll see what we can glean from some of the many road trip stories recorded in the Bible. Also in July, our 11:15 am Forum series will offer us the opportunity for more fellowship and learning as each week our FCC delegates to the General Assembly share their experiences with the wider church.

Perhaps the most important thing I want to share with you today is this: *Please make every effort to attend the Ripple Effect Concert on July 20, and bring someone with you!* As you may be aware, this concert is the inaugural event of our FCC Story, and we want to be at our best as we welcome the community into our space and invite them to connect with us—the Body of Christ—in ways that add meaning and purpose to life.

Last week, we received a certificate from the Christian Church in Indiana that recognizes and thanks FCC for our

stewardship and generosity in giving to the Disciples Mission Fund and Special Day offerings in 2015. Among the commendations are: 1) top five in Disciples Mission Fund giving, 2) top five in Special Day Offering giving, 3) top five in dollar increase in giving, 4) top twenty in per member giving. Well done, FCC!

Speaking of giving: during the summer, will you please remember to keep up with your giving? In these leaner "Road Trip" summer months, church expenses still continue. Thanks in advance for your thoughtful generosity.

Finally, Bruce and I will be taking our own road trip in August. We'll be in Idaho (visiting my sister), in Denver (Sam's wedding and family reunion), and Chicago (Bruce's Chi Rho camp 50 year reunion!). While we are away, you will be well cared for! Mark Knowles and Sue Call (not Cull) will preach. There will also be some very special music, including the men's Barbershop Chorus!

See you Sunday!



Pastor Helen

Gathering Place Breakfast: Updates and Needs

Mark Knowles, Director of Outreach and Service Ministries

I was sad to learn recently that both Kathy Curry and Gale Hill would be retiring from The Gathering Place Breakfast this summer. While they have both put in more than their fair share, it was still sad to hear.

Kathy and her family started this program 11+ years ago, and in that time they have filled numerous roles, from flipping pancakes, to visiting with guests, to making sure we have all our food and functioning equipment each week. While these tasks will be missed, it is the spirit with which Kathy (and Doug!) has approached them—and, more importantly, our guests—that really will be missed. She clearly has the respect of all who come here for a meal on Sunday mornings.

Gale has also been key to this program in recent years. She, too, has made sure we have the food we need each week, and has taken the lead in forming new monthly teams that give our regular crew much needed breaks. What has always struck me about Gale (and Gary!) is how she sees this as an act of faith, one in which God is present in ways most of us don't even look for. Needless-to-say, that has been an encouragement to me.

Also needless-to-say, we now need new people to help out with the Breakfast! We need more subs to come in and fill open slots when our regular workers are gone; we need more people as regulars in the rotation, especially now on first Sundays of the month; we could use more people to come visit with guests; but, above all, we need at least a couple more dedicated people to help get food each week. **Would you consider doing this?!?** If so, please contact me.

Finally, a big thank you to all those who have made this Breakfast happen! From those here weekly for the past decade to those who have joined in the past few months, it is much appreciated. It is the tremendous volunteer effort of our members (and nonmembers) who make this happen. Know that we are grateful.

Dedication of the CommUnity Interfaith Build home for the Diaz Family!

Join us to celebrate the hard work of the Habitat CommUNITY Interfaith Build as we gather to welcome the Diaz family *HOME!* This special dedication will take place on:

July 22 at 4:00 pm
The Diaz Family Home
520 W Duncan Drive
Bloomington, Indiana 47403



 Habitat for Humanity
of Moore County

From Future Story to The FCC Story

When the Future Story was written, it was — very deliberately — written about a day that “someday” may come to First Christian Church. The story was about a tomorrow, a future, a time to come on the horizon.

But now, the story is real and we are living it today. Thus, it becomes The FCC Story. We are using that new name to identify our strategic initiative for mission, ministry, and sustainability of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Our initiatives in Avenues, Openings, and the sanctuary-related work of Cornerstone will be continuing elements of The FCC Story.

Affirmation of Identity and Purpose

Who are we? We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one Body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord’s Table as God has welcomed us.

Why are we here? We are here to share the inclusive love of Christ, through learning, welcoming, serving, and offering spiritual connection:
In the name of the One who calls and equips, empowers and unites, and sends us into the world.

FCC Story Teams

The **Avenues** Team shares Christ’s inclusive love by creating and delivering new avenues to engage church members and the boarder community in activities that encourage and support seeking, growing, healing and connecting.

The **Openings** Team shares Christ’s inclusive love by welcoming groups to use our sanctuary and by helping them plan concerts, recitals, plays, weddings, lectures, and other events.

The **Cornerstone** Team seeks to share Christ’s inclusive love by making our sanctuary a welcoming space for all.

The **Communications** Group shares Christ’s inclusive love by helping to create and disseminate messages that will inform, inspire, and motivate action in support of The FCC Story.



Thank you to Natalie Garshaw for representing First Christian Church on the Board of Directors for Monroe County United Ministries.

Follow the Good Shepherd August 26-27 All-Church Retreat

FCC's 2017 all-church retreat—"Follow the Good Shepherd"—is NOT just for kids or young adults. If you're not up for an overnight retreat, join us after Sunday worship at FCC. It's a beautiful drive to Bedford Christian Camp, and once there, you will enjoy amenities and activities including the following:

- Secluded, wooded setting
- Climate controlled meeting space
- Walking trails & Pool time
- Arts & Crafts tutorials
- Bible study, Evening worship & Meditation

Full schedule and registration forms will be available July 30. Contact Lynn Sinn or Connie Myers with any questions.



In Our Prayers

Please continue to hold in your prayers **John and Gerry Miller** as John continues his recovery from a stroke earlier this month. John is in the hospital (no visitors please) where he continues rehab therapy. Gerry and John thank everyone for all of the well wishes, cards, texts, emails, and notes of encouragement.

Also, please pray for **Helen Sturbaum**, whose sister **Majorie Hill** passed away on July 1. A memorial service will be held at Robin Run Retirement Village in Indianapolis on July 21 at 10:00 am. Cards may be sent to Helen at 616 W. 3rd Street, Bloomington, 47404.

Fall Programs begin September 10

We hope that you're having a wonderful summer. We are already planning for a fabulous fall here at FCC! Mark your calendar that classes will resume on September 10th. Look for more details in the August edition of *The Christian Visitor*, including a complete list of opportunities. No doubt there will be something for everyone and all ages! Meanwhile, join us following Sunday worship for Bridges & Blessings and our Sunday Forum.



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



Late July and Early August Birthdays

07/17	Jan	Harrington	537 E Fawn Ridge Trail	Bloomington	IN	47408
07/18	Peggy	Stafford	1628 Bellemeade Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47401
07/19	Carole	Ambler	3674 Tamarron Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
07/20	Roger	Isaacs	2959 Ramble Road West	Bloomington	IN	47408
07/23	Sandy	Bate	736 E. Moss Creek Circle	Bloomington	IN	47401
07/25	Claire	Johann	3057 E. Chase Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
07/27	Jane	Watkins	1144 E. Benson Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
07/28	Betsy	Watson	1026 S. Mitchell St.	Bloomington	IN	47401
07/31	Liz	Knapp	3687 Tamarron Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
07/31	Natalie	Garshaw	3740 N. Russell Road	Bloomington	IN	47408
07/31	Pat	Wise	49 W. 72nd St., Apt. 8E	New York	NY	10023
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
08/11	Barbara	Council	8277 North Fox Hollow Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47408
08/13	Sarah	Knepper	3616 S. Kingsbury Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/14	Cindy	Welch	930 W. Second Street	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/14	Sam	Cull	158 Oak Lane	Hightstown	NJ	08520
08/15	Allie	Welch Smith	930 W. Second Street	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/15	Hillary	Walsh Harpold	3871 S. Laurel Ct.	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/17	Robby	Johnson	4001 Rosewood Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47404
08/20	Ryan	Hill	2886 Brooks Bend Dr.	Carmel	IN	46032

Please, let us know if we have missed someone's birthday.

If You Knew Me, You'd Love Me

Join us on July 20 at 7:00 pm as First Christian Church sponsors *The Ripple Effect*, a choir that is dedicated to unity and social awareness. Inspiring songs will be woven with personal narratives from individuals living with adversity.

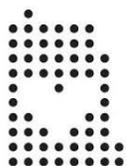


The Ripple Effect
A VOCAL VISIONARY PROJECT

July 20 at 7:00 pm
First Christian Church

This concert is open to the public.

A freewill offering will be received to support The Ripple Effect and the ministries of FCC.



MCUM Challenge

2017 Goal: 2,000 lbs.
Amount Donated: 1077 lbs.
Last Trip: 58 lbs.

June Items Wanted:

canned tuna, chicken, canned fruit, canned soups, laundry detergent, all-purpose cleaner, dish soap

Thank you for showing how much you care.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Sunday, July 16

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Bridges & Blessings
Noon Board Meeting
2:00pm Pool Party for families with young children

July 17-22

Explorer Camp

Tuesday, July 18

5:30 pm Paint & Play water colors

Thursday, July 20

7:00 pm The Ripple Effect Concert

Friday, July 21

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Sunday, July 23

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Sermon Series Forum
11:15 am Bridges & Blessings

Tuesday, July 25

5:30 pm Paint & Play water colors

Friday, July 28

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

*You're Invited to attend a celebration
in honor of Dan and Sharon Goins 50th Wedding Anniversary
Saturday, August 12 from 2:00 - 5:00 pm
Holiday Inn Express & Suites (Morgan Room)
2233 Burton Lane in Martinsville, Indiana*



Please RSVP to Jen Goins by August 7

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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Join us at 7:00 pm on July 20th for a special night of music with The Ripple Effect Choir from South Bend. FCC is sponsoring this special concert titled “If You Knew Me, You’d Love Me” is designed to build unity and understanding. All are invited to attend, so bring a friend! A freewill offering will be collected to support The Ripple Effect Choir and the ministries of FCC.
See you there!

**Scripture Readings
for Sunday Worship**

July 16
Genesis 3:1-12, 20, 23

July 23
Matthew 10:1-15

July 30
James 5:19-20