

# The CHRISTIAN



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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
*(Disciples of Christ)*

# Visitor

## Fall Programming Off to a Great Start

*Lots of groups and classes to explore with something for everyone!*

FCC's fall lineup of classes and groups is off to a terrific start. It's not too late to join in a new study or discussion group, explore a spiritual practice as a means of deepening your faith or connect with others who have similar interests. There are opportunities before and after worship on Sundays as well as during the week on a weekly or monthly basis.

Do you enjoy pondering questions of faith and contemporary life? Join Terry Daugherty on Sundays for a discussion group that will take on some challenging age-old topics that are still very relevant today in a small group setting. If you're looking for a weeknight opportunity, try David Garshaw's group that meets on Monday evenings to discuss the issue of the divinity of Jesus or join the Listening to God meditation group on Friday. Perhaps you are interested in a more traditional Sunday School class? The Emmaus Interpreters class will begin a Bible Study of the short letters of the New Testament beginning with Paul's first Letter to the Thessalonians and ending with the Letter of Jude. The Cambellite class will examine hard choices in personal life and in our society. Discussion is informed and challenged by Biblical characters and stories.

These are just a few of the new opportunities this fall. Additionally, there are great opportunities for young children and youth including Children's Worship and Wonder, classes, retreats and service projects. All of the programs are led by an amazing group of volunteers. Please see page 5 of this newsletter for special thanks and acknowledgment of everyone who makes these programs possible.

## MOPS Resumes on September 27

MOPs (Mothers of Preschoolers) is a group of fun-loving, chocolate-consuming moms who gather monthly to embrace the journey of motherhood. This incredibly supportive group includes moms of younger children (newborn-kindergarten) as well as mom-mentors whose children are grown. Join us on the last Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm here at FCC.

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## PASTOR'S PEN

### Tensions and Transitions

One of my favorite Christian bloggers (Carey Nieuwhof) recently wrote: "No church in the West can pretend we're not living in an age of heightened tension." He backs up his claim by listing the names of places that have experienced the effects of violence, racism, destruction, terrorism, and disaster and asserts that we have become so numb to these things that "we no longer even post *Pray for [Insert City Here]* graphics that used to earnestly spring up on social media whenever a new crisis emerges." While my own Facebook newsfeed would majorly challenge his assertion that we no longer pray for places and people in crisis, I *do* think he is onto something when he names the heightened tension in our culture.

He goes on to say that even though some people say that the church is part of the problem, he believes the church holds the key to the solution. Then, in typical blogger fashion, he highlights four ways Christians and the church can bring hope to the increasingly fragile culture around us:

- Be a confessor in a culture of blame
- Foster conversation in a culture that shouts
- Broker meaning in the age of information
- Be the counter-culture

Nieuwhof is onto something important, and I'm looking forward to unpacking his bullet points one by one in future newsletters.

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Now, on to "local" news. We have some transitions in leadership! First, after over 10 years of faithful service, John and Carole Ambler

have retired from their position as church treasurer. We are **truly** indebted to them for their selfless acts of service, and I encourage you to find a special way to say thank you to them. The good news is Jean Thompson, with years of professional administrative and financial experience, will serve as our new treasurer. Recommended by the finance committee and approved by the board, Jean has been working closely with the Amblers during this time of transition. The Amblers assure us that we are in excellent hands under Jean's leadership. Even as we sadly release the Amblers to serve in other ways, we also say "Welcome, Jean!"

Second, we have increased Mark Knowles' responsibilities/hours to include a focus on ministry with our youth. Mark (along with Andi Fletcher) spent last weekend at Holiday World with 11 middle school and high school youth, and everyone had a great time! You will hear more from Mark about this ministry in upcoming newsletters. In the meantime, I want to thank Andi, along with our fabulous youth sponsors Lily Hoover and Kate Myers, for their fine leadership during this time of transition.

Lastly, with her recently approved student visa, Jihye Choi is no longer our "guest organist" but our official Organist/Assistant Director of Music. Welcome Jihye!

See you Sunday!

  
Pastor Helen

## FCC Community Connections

By Amy Hoover

Recently, FCC extended hospitality and ministry via *Ripple Effect* and *Jazz Vespers* to the entire Bloomington community. These events were attended not only by FCC members, but also by people who attend other churches or no church at all. Just as we hope to share our ministries with others in the community, and just as we enjoy support from members of other churches and other members of the community, we hope to support other ministries as they seek to reach out to the community, and to benefit from their ministries as well. Now FCC has an opportunity to support a local ministry.

Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm, the FCC Sanctuary and Chapel Gathering Place will host *Story Church*. *Story Church* is a ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

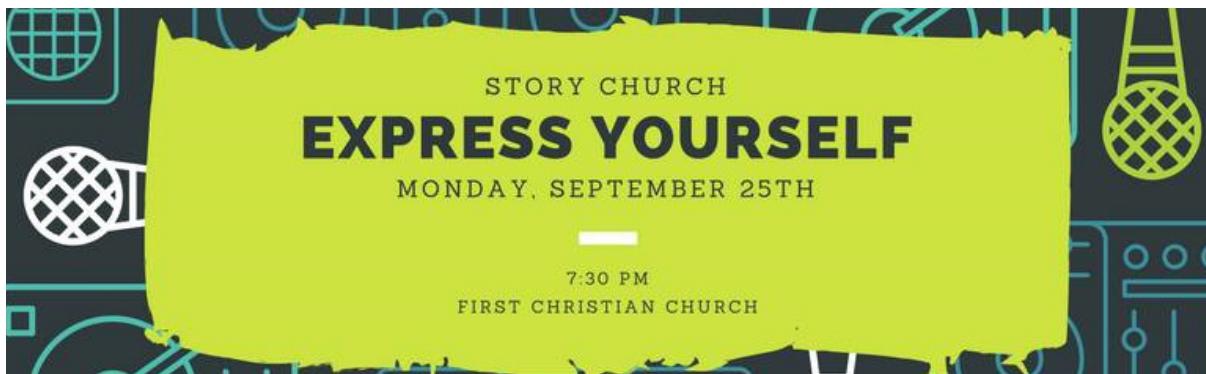
Here's what Rev. Mihee Kim-Kort, organizer of *Story Church*, has to say about the evening:

It will be a night of story-telling (in a similar vein as the <https://themoth.org/podcast>) and song. This service will be progressive and hopeful, unabashedly Christian, and open and inclusive to everyone. We gather around story because we believe it is the way we understand ourselves and live out our truest, fullest selves in God. When everyone is doing that, we're creating a better world especially in a time when there are so many destructive narratives around us. These are stories of resistance - stories of light and hope.

What to expect: It's Christian. There will be communion, singing, praying, listening, and some interaction, but how much you want to participate is totally up to you. Storytellers will speak on the theme for this month: EXPRESS YOURSELF. It's completely open to anyone and everyone, whatever your faith and religion, gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, ability, generation, and economic status.

For more information check us out at Facebook: [www.facebook.com/storychurchbtown](http://www.facebook.com/storychurchbtown). Contact Mihee at [miheekk@gmail.com](mailto:miheekk@gmail.com) for any questions or comments.

Don't miss this opportunity for connection with other seekers beyond our doors. Please come enjoy and support this local ministry! Thank you!





## INTRODUCING OUR NEW MUSIC STAFF MEMBERS

Our new Organist and Associate Music Director is **Jihye Choi** from Seoul, Korea. After receiving her Masters degree in organ and church music from the University of Cincinnati, Jihye is beginning studies for a Performance Diploma in Organ at the IU Jacobs School of Music where she is a student of Jeanette Fishell. She brings a long experience of brilliant organ playing and commitment to sacred music to us. She was the second prize-winner in the 2016 Arthur Poister Scholarship Competition and also won first prizes in the Young San Organ Competition in South Korea, and the Strader Organ Competition. Her father is a Methodist pastor in Korea and so she has shared her music in worship since the time she was a child. Jihye is recently married to Nara Lee, who is also a graduate organ student at IU.

Our music intern **Carter Adams**, who has already brought his enthusiasm and talent to our children and as an assistant to Jan, has a new staff assignment as Handbell Choir Director. His musicianship, commitment to teaching, and training as a fine percussionist and conductor made him the clear choice of the current bell choir members. All are invited to join the Handbell Choir which rehearses on Tuesdays, 6:30-7:15.

Filling our newest staff position as Director and Composer for the First Friday Vespers is jazz saxophonist and pianist **Will Barnard**. Based as a free lance jazz musician in Bloomington and his hometown of Chicago, Will recently graduated from the Jacobs School in Jazz Studies where he studied with Tom Walsh and Walter Smith III in addition to brief study with the late David Baker. Will brings with him his trio members: jazz drummer **Jake Richter**, bassist **Stefan Lenthe**, and vocalist **Kathryn Sherman**. Hear them at the next First Friday Jazz Vespers service at 6:30 on October 6.

Last but not least, we welcome back our wonderful returning Choral Scholar/Section Leaders: alto **Liz Culpepper**, tenor **Terrence Chin-Loy** and bass **Rivers Hawkins**. They are joined by our new soprano section leader **Maria Izzo-Walker**. An IU Jacobs School of Music graduate, Maria has performed as a member of and soloist with the Bloomington Chamber Singers, New Art Voices, Voces Novae, the early music ensemble Anima Fortis, Bloomington Pops, Apollo's Voice and the Indianapolis Symphony as well as singing in numerous theatrical productions with the Cardinal Stage and IU Theater Department. She is a member of the BloomingSongs Project whose mission it is to make music more accessible to kids and families. Maria is married to Ron Walker and they have three children Silvia, Nicky and Lucia.



Our volunteers make our Fall Programming shine!  
We appreciate your time and care in leading these  
meaningful programs.

**2017 Group and Class Leadership**

**Linda Abe**

(Children Worship & Wonder)

**Lisa Autry**

(Faith Leader)

**Jim Beeson**

(Men's book group)

**Joanie Breeden**

(substitute for David Class, grades 3-6)

**Andrea Dalton**

(MOPS group)

**Connie Daugherty**

(Children Worship & Wonder)

**Terry Daugherty**

(Talking Faith group)

**Christy Duffy-Paiement**

(Parents' Café)

**Jason Filer**

(Children's ministry volunteer intern)

**Andi Fletcher**

(Children Worship & Wonder; MOPS group)

**David Garshaw**

(Weekly book study)

**Nancy Heimer**

(Campbellite class)

**Amy Hoover**

(Journeying Together group)

**Lily Hoover**

(Nursery)

**Gabby Johnson**

(Nursery)

**Roger Heimer**

(Men's book group)

**Mark Knowles**

(Youth group)

**Joe Lee**

(Campbellite class)

**Danielle Murry-Knowles**

(Women's Arts & Crafts)

**Connie Myers**

(Children Worship & Wonder; Samuel Class, PK-grade 2)

**Danie Norris**

(Samuel Class, PK-grade 2)

**Andy Stafford**

(Emmaus-Interpreters class)

**Kathy Street**

(David class, grades 3-6)

**Thomas Thompson**

(Listening to God group meditation; The Sharing Table)

**Annemarie Wallace**

(Parents' Café; MOPS group)

**Tom Walsh**

(Listening to God group meditation)

**Jane Watkins**

(Campbellite class)

**Betsy Watson**

(Book Bunch women's book group)

**Jo Weddle**

(David class, grades 3-6)

**PREACHING FROM THE CHOIR  
SINGING TO THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU – THE POWER OF SINGING**

*Wisdom from Bill Murray to the Cast of the Musical “Groundhog Day”:*

“When you ever feel you don’t know what to do, sing to the person next to you, and that person will sing to the person next to that person, and then you will have this force that is even stronger”

(-quoted in the *New York Times*, August 8, 2017)

The power and benefit of singing has been acknowledged since the beginning of time – the Psalms, Martin Luther, John Wesley . . . even by a wise comedian in the *New York Times*!

I hope everyone will take the opportunity to gather after the Organ Postlude on Sundays to try singing together for 10 minutes with the intergenerational **Make a Joyful Noise Choir**. Our time together is to introduce a simple little tune and each week add something to it until it gathers into a full fledged piece for worship. All are welcome – we hope the adults will come and join with the children – learning together – even if you think you can’t sing - and helping them (and you) grow into the joy and spiritual strength that is singing

Here is the text of the current little tune – a short mantra based on the “St. Francis Prayer” that begins “Make me an instrument of thy peace” - what more important mantra is there for today’s world to carry around in your head?

*Make me an instrument of your peace. Lord, we pray to you. Where there is hatred, let us sow love.  
Make me an instrument of your peace. Lord, we pray to you. Where there is darkness, let us sow light.  
Make me an instrument of your peace. Lord, we pray to you. Where there is sadness, let us sow joy.  
“Make me an instrument of your peace” we pray to you. Lord, may we always live this prayer.*

Here is the tune:

Gail L. Grant

♩ = 72

1

2

Make me an in - stru - ment of your peace. Lord, we  
 Make me an in - stru - ment of your peace. Lord, we  
 Make me an in - stru - ment of your peace. Lord, we  
 "Make me an in - stru - ment of your peace," Lord, we

3

pray to you. Where there is ha - tred, let us sow love.  
 pray to you. Where there is dark - ness, let us sow light.  
 pray to you. Where there is sad - ness, let us sow joy.  
 pray to you. Lord, may we al - ways live this \_\_\_\_\_ prayer!

If you want, you can listen to an MP3 of this little tune at <http://www.glgc.com/smfc/StFrancis2011.mp3> and teach it to yourself and your kids. Better yet – come on down to the front of the sanctuary after worship Sunday Morning – how hard can 10 minutes of singing be?

Sincerely,

Jan Harrington, Director of Music



to Kate Kroll and Jim Beeson who so very graciously provided wonderful treats for our coffee fellowship time before and following Sunday worship this summer.



### MCUM Challenge

FCC has long supported Monroe County United Ministries. **FCC's MCUM 2017**

**Challenge is to donate a TON** of items to help fill their food and supply pantry. So far, we've donated 1,391 pounds! We have four months to donate 711 pounds and meet our goal!

**Needs are great.** You can find a list of needed items posted at different places around the church (near the water fountains and on the bulletin board near the staircase). Won't you take a list and shop for MCUM?

They are especially in need of cleaning products right now, including laundry soap. Canned soups and meats are also needed. Bring your donated items in paper grocery bags (they are stronger) to FCC.

**Thank you for caring!**

### UPCOMING EVENTS...

**Friday, September 15**

5:30 pm *Listening to God meditation*

**Sunday, September 17**

9:00 am *Learning Session I*

10:00 am *Worship with Children*

*Worship & Wonder*

11:15 am *Learning Session II*

12:15 pm *Board meeting*

**Monday, September 18**

6:00 pm *Garshaw book study*

**Tuesday, September 19**

6:30 pm *Handbell Choir rehearsal*

**Wednesday, September 20**

7:00 pm *Men's Book Group*

**Thursday, September 21**

4:00 pm *Book Bunch*

6:15 pm *Sanctuary Choir rehearsal*

**Friday, September 33**

5:30 pm *Listening to God meditation*

**Sunday, September 24**

9:00 am *Learning Session I*

10:00 am *Worship with Children*

*Worship & Wonder*

11:15 am *Learning Session II*

3:00 pm *Meadowood Service*

**Monday, September 25**

6:00 pm *Garshaw book study*

7:30 pm *Story Church service*

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**Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule**

**September 17: Book Bunch &  
Men's Book Group**

**September 24: Emmaus  
Interpreters Class**

**October 1: Sanctuary & Handbell  
Choirs**

**Scripture Readings  
for Sunday Worship**

**September 17**

Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

**September 24**

Genesis 32:22-30

**October 1**

Exodus 1:8-14; 3:1-10