

# The CHRISTIAN

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

## Special Worship Service on September 30

Join us on September 30th for the 3rd in our "5th Sunday" series that lifts up our partnerships with community organizations. We will highlight our ministry with Interfaith Winter Shelter at Wheeler Mission. Our guest preacher will be Kurt Buehler, member of the Presidents Advisory Committee for Wheeler Mission Bloomington. Kurt, a lay preacher, was the key organizer of the summer shelter at Genesis Church several years ago. He also heads up the Genesis Church volunteer crew that (like FCC) serves regularly at the Interfaith Winter Shelter. Special guests in worship will be Dana Jones, the new Director of Wheeler Mission Bloomington and current residents of Wheeler. Additionally, our own Dave Schilling will offer a brief word about FCC's connection to the Interfaith Winter Shelter.

***Whoever believes in Me will do My works (John 14:12)  
How can I help?***

The 2018 Interfaith Winter Shelter Season is just around the corner (Hard to imagine on a 90 degree mid-September day!). Shelter volunteers are being sought from participating faith communities. First Christian Church has participated in the Shelter from the Shelter's beginning. For those interested in supporting FCC's established commitment to this ministry by volunteering, a list of training dates, times, and locations is set forth on page 2.

This year's Shelter season, like last year's, will be hosted by Wheeler Mission at their facilities off of West Third Street. However, some changes have been made. Participating faith communities are being requested to provide volunteers only for the first shift (8:00pm-10:30pm), and for the clean-up shift (6:00am- 7:30am). Wheeler Mission will staff the Shelter between those shifts.

If you are not able to serve during one of the shifts, there are other ways to help. Coats, hats, gloves, and stockings are always needed and donations of those items are always appreciated.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### ***Inside this Issue...***

**Page 3** World Communion Sunday Jazz Service and International Feast!

**Page 4** FCC welcomes new Youth Director

**Page 7** Join us at the Regional Assembly

*Volume 60, number 17 September 19, 2018*

(Continued from front page)

Singers are also being sought for an Interfaith Winter Shelter benefit concert to be held at St. Thomas Lutheran on October 19, 2018. Interested singers should contact Sulaiman Zai at (812) 325-5657 or at szai@sbcglobal.net.

Those of you who have volunteered during past Shelter seasons know how rewarding the experience is. Those of you who have not yet volunteered are invited to find out. Serving this ministry is one way to do our Lord's work!

### Volunteer Training Sessions

September 25 at 7:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church (Tuesday)  
 September 27 at 7:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church (Thursday)  
 October 3 at 8:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church (Wednesday)  
 October 4 at 7:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church (Thursday)  
 October 6 at 10:00 am at First Presbyterian Church (Saturday)  
 October 9 at 7:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church (Tuesday)  
 October 11 at 7:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church (Thursday)  
 October 13 at 10:00 am at First Presbyterian Church (Saturday)  
 October 16 at 6:00 pm at St. Paul's Catholic Center (Tuesday)  
 October 17 at 7:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church (Wednesday)

### **Blessing of the Animals**

**Sunday, September 30 at 4:00 pm**

Join us on FCC's lawn on September 30 at 4:00 pm as we honor our animal friends with a Blessing of the Animals. This service is typically conducted on or near the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of Animals. *The Monroe County Humane Association will join us with their therapy animal teams from the VIPaws program. We will be accepting pet food donations for the Monroe County Humane Association.*

Come with your pet, or bring a picture of your pet and join us on the front lawn as we celebrate and bless our animal friends. We do ask that all pets are kept on a leash to ensure everyone has a good experience. What a great opportunity to share FCC's inclusive love with our greater Bloomington community.

### **Caregivers Create**



*Caregivers Create* is a **FREE** visual arts program for health caregivers, both personal and professional. It is designed to provide a bit of respite from the day-to-day tasks of caregiving, and to provide inspiration and relaxation for the health caregiver through an artistic adventure!

### **September 25 from 1:30-4:00pm– “Storm Water Art and Watercolor Creatures”**

Storm drains service various creatures, part of our ecosystem. Join us as we see how art can help prevent water pollution, where the storm drains that serve First Christian lead to, and what action can be taken to keep the water clean. Then, we'll use watercolors to paint some of those creatures who live in and near storm drains.

**Email [CaregiversCreate@gmail.com](mailto:CaregiversCreate@gmail.com) for more information or to Reserve a Spot!**

## PASTOR'S PEN

**Q: When is Jazz Vespers not Jazz Vespers? A: When it's held on Sunday morning!**

If you've always wondered what our "famous" First Friday Jazz Vespers service is like, I've got some good news for you: we're bringing our Jazz Vespers service to you on Sunday morning October 7! Because vespers refers to an *evening* prayer service, we're simply calling it Jazz Worship. All of the elements of this meditative service (except the evening hour) will be included in this very special time of worship.

The theme will be FEAST! Elements will include hymns, a solo (Great is Thy Faithfulness), communion, prayers (including the Lord's Prayer), psalms, scriptures, the readings of poetry and prose, candle lighting, gathering music, a postlude, and time to meditate, listen, or simply "be." Yes, all the elements of worship will be included. Here is what will make it a unique and truly memorable worship hour:

- The music will be arranged by jazz musician Stefan Lenthe, and led by his trio and soloist Elena Escudaro. These fine young musicians are already making their mark in the world of jazz. Trust me on this: whether or not you are a fan of jazz music, you will be blown away by their musicianship.
- It will be World Communion Sunday, which means that we will join with Christians everywhere as we feast at the longest and widest table in the world.
- Reflection Stations, set up around the sanctuary, will help us consider the theme.

- Artists from our "Art Together" community will offer their creative reflections on FEAST!
- Readings will lift up the joy of feasting 'round the Table even as it names the brokenness of a world where some do not find welcome.
- A special Reconciliation Offering—dedicated to alleviating systemic racism and poverty—will be received as we join with other Disciples to witness to the hope that one day all God's children will feast together at the Welcome Table.
- Classic jazz standards will be offered both before and after the service (so come early, by all means!).
- Afterwards, we'll gather in Great Hall for a **pitch-in feast** of international foods! Hosted by those who will be traveling to Cuba to build upon and strengthen the partnerships between our churches, this lively celebration will give the opportunity not only for fellowship but also to financially support this FCC initiative.

In summary, October 7 will be a *big day* for our congregation and the perfect time for you to invite a friend, neighbor or relative to join us. In the meantime, let's continue to hold each other in prayer as together we celebrate the gift of unity we have in Christ!

Blessings,



Pastor Helen

**Come to the Feast on Sunday, October 7!**

**All-Church International Pitch-in Feast following worship**

Bring your favorite international dish to church on October 7! Our 15 member Cuba-bound crew will be hosting this event, so all you need to do is: 1) show up with your dish to share 2) plan for a wonderful time of food and fellowship, 3) receive the invitation to support our FCC Global Mission travelers as they strengthen our Disciples partnership with Christians in Cuba.

### FCC Welcomes A New Director of Youth Ministries

Please help us to welcome our new Director of Youth Ministries Ashlyn Reynolds. Ashlyn will meet with parents and youth on Sunday (Sept 23) and plans to accompany the group on their upcoming annual Holiday World Trip. We give thanks to Mark Knowles for his leadership of our youth ministry since January. Mark has already handed over the responsibility of overseeing this ministry to Ashlyn. Below is Ashlyn's short introduction of herself.

*Dear Bloomington First Christian Church ,*

*My name is Ashlyn Reynolds. I was born and raised in Bedford, Indiana and I grew up attending Bedford First Christian Church. The church has been an incredible foundation in exploring who I am and my vocation. They have given me opportunities to be a leader within the church as well as the privilege of working with youth and children as sponsor, leader, teacher, mentor, and friend.*

*I graduated with a BFA in photography from Indiana University in 2017. After graduation I participated in the National Benevolent Association's XPLORE program. I was placed in the St. Louis House at Union Avenue Christian Church. During my residency I interned for Prison Performing Arts, an organization that provides theater programs for incarcerated youth and adults.*

*Through my internship I was affirmed in my passion for learning and education in the arts. I am currently pursuing a masters in art education at Indiana University. I hope to encourage creativity in middle and high schoolers.*

*Aside from photography, I also enjoy textile art such as embroidery. I also like reading and running. I currently live in Bedford with my dog Radar who is a very good boy.*

*I look forward to meeting and getting to know all of you, especially the youth!*

*Sincerely,*

*Ashlyn Reynolds*

### The Next Few Months

Mark Knowles, Director of Outreach and Service

Danielle and I will have more information in the coming months about our future, but for now I wanted to let everyone know what I'll be focusing on here in the area of Outreach and Service this fall. And you may notice that the *Youth Ministries* part of that title has been dropped. That's because the church has hired a new person for that area, Ashlyn, whom I think will be great at it, just like Andi was great at it before. This past year I've really appreciated and enjoyed this group of youth and their families, but it is important that they have someone devoted to this work primarily—and at more hours—and get continuity throughout the whole program year, so this is good news.

I still will help out with a youth event or two, and continue to do a lot of different things around the church, but I'm going to focus on a couple of specific areas in the next few months. The first is the Cuba trip, with 15 members of FCC going back to the Centro Memorial Martin Luther King the week of Thanksgiving to work with Cubans in both the city and the countryside. A big part of this trip is about connecting with people across real boundaries and building deeper ties with our partners through Global Ministries and local congregations, working in areas ranging from arts to agriculture and ages ranging from youth to older adults. And, of course, another big part of this trip will be the relational and spiritual formation that happens *within* the group before, during, and after the trip.

The second area is getting things lined up for FCC to potentially be a host site for the National Benevolent Association's XPLOR program starting in the fall of 2019. (This is the program outlined in our FCC Story where four young adults come here to live in community while working in areas of social justice and church ministry.) We won't know for sure until November 1<sup>st</sup> if we will be part of the program next year, but if so I want to make sure things are lined up for whomever takes over. So that means things like putting together a team, talking to local nonprofits, and figuring out living options for those residents.

Again, beyond that there are a number of other things I'll be doing—but know that a big part of this time will simply be about soaking up and enjoying as much of this church as we can, as being fully present members of this community is part of the way Danielle and I will take FCC to another part of the world.

### New FCC Groups and Studies Beginning Soon

We are so fortunate to have such a wide variety of small groups and classes to participate in this fall. Some classes/groups have already started, while others will be starting soon. Here is a quick look at a few classes that will begin in October.

***At Home in This Life***, by Jerusalem Jackson Greer serves as the launching point for discussion and practice that will help participants reflect on what it means to 1) give up our own will to the will of God, 2) serve God with the good things we have been given, and 3) keep our eyes open to what God is calling us to do. This book study, led by Sharon Robinson, Terry Daugherty and Pastor Helen will meet on eight **Fridays at 4:00 pm beginning September 28 at Pastor Helen's home.**

The popular water color class **Made to Create** returns to FCC on October 2. Artist and teacher Bess Lee leads this group through a four-week program that provides an opportunity to reflect on our relationship to God as Creator while also providing professional watercolor art instruction. No experience is necessary.

What's Christianity got to do with animals? Will animals go to heaven? Through videos, short readings, and lots of dialogue, the **CreatureKind** Course encourages Christians to consider what we believe about God's creatures and how we might move toward living out those beliefs as members of the body of Christ. Amy Cheek will lead this new group.

It's not too late to join one or more of our fall groups and classes. You can register online at [www.fccbloomington.org](http://www.fccbloomington.org) or fill out an interest card and return it to the FCC office or place it in the offering tray during Sunday worship.

#### Made to Create

Made to Create is a four-week program led by artist and teacher Bess Lee that provides an opportunity to reflect on our relationship to God as Creator while also providing professional watercolor art instruction. The Fall 2018 series will provide new watercolor opportunities different from past Made to Create courses.

**Spaces are still available! Register Now!**

**Meeting Dates/Time:** 4 Tuesdays, October 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

#### Materials to Bring

- Good, archival watercolors (For a good buy, Bess recommends Yarka)
- Acid free watercolor paper (140#)
- A good #6 watercolor brush
- Pencil and eraser
- Paper towels
- Large, clean containers for water (two 16 or 32 oz. yogurt containers are good)





### Join FCC Friends at Regional Assembly October 5-6

If you want to get a better sense of our Regional Church (as well as have some fun!), please plan to attend the Indiana **Regional Assembly on Oct 5-6 at Light of the World Christian Church in Indianapolis**. Registration includes Friday night dinner and Saturday breakfast and lunch, and FCC has budgeted funds to pay your registration fee! Please express your interest and desire to our Moderator Linda Abe or Pastor Helen.

### Art Together Update

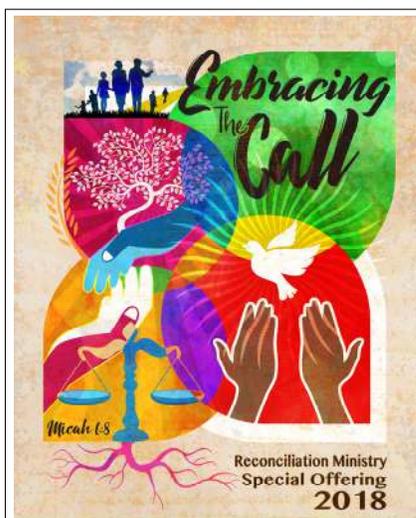
*Please Note the Change for the upcoming Project*

Art Together will not meet on September 23 as a group, but participants are still encouraged to create art independently around the Jazz Vespers theme of “Feast”. Artwork should be submitted by Thursday, October 4th and will be displayed at the October 5th Jazz Vespers service that will begin at 6:30 pm. Questions about this month’s project or how you can get involved? Contact Mark Knowles.

### Volunteers and Donations Needed for FCC Lawn Ministry during Lotus Festival on September 29

FCC will be offering hospitality and bottled water to Lotus Festival goers on Saturday, September 29. We will need donations of bottled water and ice. We will also need to borrow several large coolers. Volunteer shifts are from 2:00-4:00 pm and from 4:00-6:00 pm. Clean up is from 6:00-6:30pm. If you would like to volunteer for a shift or have a cooler that we can borrow, contact Jean Thompson. Bottled water can be dropped off at the FCC office.

**Thank You!**



### Reconciliation Special Offering September 30 & October 7

The Special Offering is used to fund our Church’s mission imperative to become a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church utilizing experiential education, inclusive worship and intentional dialogue. Our efforts to promote healing, relationship and restoration in the whole family of God are enlivened by funds from this offering. Through it we are able to provide programs for leadership development, curriculum for dialogue and learning, and partnerships within the Church and our communities.

**Will you support Reconciliation Ministry Today?**



### *In Our Prayers*

Please keep Koji and Linda Abe in your prayers as Koji recovers from surgery, prepares for additional surgery in Bloomington, and makes decisions regarding follow-up treatment. Cards may be sent to Linda and Koji at 600 S. Hawthorne Drive, Bloomington, 47401. Email messages (to [abels@indiana.edu](mailto:abels@indiana.edu)) would also be appreciated.

### October Birthdays

10/01	Dan	Goins	60 Bailliere Dr.	Martinsville	IN	46151
10/03	Ann	Moore	3308 S. Snoddy Road	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/03	Andrew	Donham	5900 N. Maple Grove Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47404
10/04	Rebecca	Klein	723 Olde Mill Circle	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/09	Story	Bolton	8841 S. Morning Glory Ct.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/10	Olivia	Walsh	3006 S. Olcott Blvd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/11	Regina	Niyonsaba Gasana	4199 Innisbrooke Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47408
10/11	Lindsay	Stafford	1427 E. 38th Place, Unit A	Tulsa	OK	74105
10/12	Riley	Curry	1107 Azalca Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/14	Maya	Jackson	3693 S. Sowder Square	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/14	Sparrow	Houchins	3821 S. Westmont Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47403
10/15	Ethan	Fletcher	6320 E. Bender Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/16	David	Austin	3040 N. Ramble Road West	Bloomington	IN	47408
10/16	Nancy	Brinegar	2726 S. McCartney Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/17	Mike	Rampley	2228 Autumn Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/20	Roger	Heimer	2455 Tamarack Trail Apt. 115	Bloomington	IN	47408
10/21	Jane	Zebendon	2309 Sussex Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/22	Caleb	Norris	3194 N. Dahlia Lane	Bloomington	IN	47404
10/24	Susan	Jenkin	3476 S. Knight Ridge Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/25	Scott	Cripe	3930 W. Tapp Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47403
10/25	Rachel	Rosolina	2004 Grovesnor Pl.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/26	Cindy	Kvale	1212 Skylark Ct.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/26	Jerry	Spore	901 S. Hastings Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/27	Maurice	Biggs	1213 S. Brooks Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/29	Mia	Walsh	3006 S. Olcott Blvd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/29	Jo	Weddle	5390 W. Shadybrook Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47403

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



First Friday **Jazz** vespers

Feast

**The Lenthe Trio**  
with vocalist  
Elena Escudero

October 5 at 6:30

### Hurricane Relief

Several of you have asked how the church is supporting those whose lives have been destroyed and disrupted due to Hurricane Florence. The heartening news is that through Week of Compassion, the church is one of the first responders. As a matter of fact, Week of Compassion has been present there since before Florence came to shore.

If you would like to support hurricane relief efforts related to Florence, you can make a check out to FCC (memo line Week of Compassion/hurricane relief). 100% of your gift will go to support relief efforts in the aftermath of Florence. If you want more information, you can go to their website:

[www.weekofcompassion.org](http://www.weekofcompassion.org)

or facebook page:

[www.weekofcompassion.org/our-impact/2018/9/14/hurricane-florence-update](http://www.weekofcompassion.org/our-impact/2018/9/14/hurricane-florence-update)

### UPCOMING EVENTS...

#### Sunday, September 23

8:30 am Mediation group  
9:00 am Learning Session I  
9:15 am Sanctuary Choir rehearsal  
10:00 am Worship  
11:15 am Handbell Choir rehearsal  
11:15 am Learning Session II  
11:15 am Cuba trip meeting  
3:00 pm Meadowood service

#### Tuesday, September 25

1:30 pm Caregivers Create  
5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

#### Wednesday, September 26

6:00 pm Enneagram workshop

#### Thursday, September 27

6:16 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

#### Saturday, September 29

Lotus Festival (FCC Hospitality on the lawn)

#### Sunday, September 30

8:30 am Mediation group  
9:00 am Learning Session I  
9:15 am Sanctuary Choir rehearsal  
10:00 am Worship  
11:15 am Handbell Choir rehearsal  
11:15 am Learning Session II  
4:00 pm Blessing of the Animals

#### Monday, October 1

7:00 pm Women's Arts & Crafts

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

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fcc@fccbloom.org  
www.fccbloom.org  
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*The Christian Visitor*

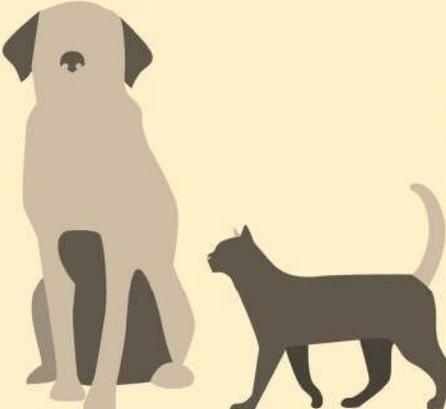
*Vol. 60, no. 17*

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30:**

**BLESSING OF  
THE ANIMALS**

**4 PM**

First Christian Church  
205 E. Kirkwood Ave  
fccbloomington.org  
(812) 332-4459



**Scripture Readings  
For Sunday Worship**

**September 23**

Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34:  
50:15-21

**September 30**

Exodus 3:11-14; 4:1-5, 10-12

**October 7**

Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8