



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
2000 Bundy Avenue
New Castle, IN 47362

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The Christian Builder

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Reverent Reflections

Rev. Alecia Gross

Stress. Anxiety. Fear. These words capture well the state of mind of many in America today. Companies downsize, insurance questions loom, housing markets falter – every day seems to bring another piece of economic uncertainty.

Studies show that about 80% of us are stressed out about the economy and our personal finances. Half of us are worried about how to provide for basic needs. More than half (56%) are worried about job stability. About the same number of folks report lying awake at night worrying about this. (American Psychological Association).

And yet, as a church we are preparing to begin our Stewardship Campaign. How do we reconcile these feelings of uncertainty and worry with our desire to grow our church and remain faithful to our God?

Adam Hamilton in his book *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity* explains it this way, “Inside us there is a brokenness. Our souls were created in the image of God, we were meant to desire God. But we have turned that desire toward possessions. We were meant to find our security in God, but we find it in amassing wealth. We were meant to enjoy the simple pleasures of life, but we busy ourselves with pursuing money and things.”

Ouch.

I don't know about you, but there are points in his

statement that hit too close to home for me. When I am stressed, I head to a yard sale. When I am happy, I pick up special treats for the kids and grand-kids. I let my moods dictate my spending.

I'd like for each of you to reflect on the following questions during August. In September, I will prepare daily meditations for further contemplation and prayer. But for now, let's think these things through:

There is a balance between making the acquisition of money and possessions your focus and not doing enough to provide for yourself. Read Proverbs 30:7-9. How do you maintain this balance?

Read and reflect on Ecclesiastes 5:10; Matthew 16:25; and 1 Timothy 6:10b. What is God saying to you through these verses?

What is next on your list of desired items to purchase? Would you say you have more stuff than you have room for, just the right amount, or less stuff than you need?

Money has great power in our lives and, when used wisely, helps us meet our goals, provide for our needs, and fulfill our life purpose. But how do we get back into balance when we are spending tomorrow's money today?

September's prayer focus will be on finding contentment, overcoming fear, and discovering joy through simplicity and generosity. I can't wait to begin those conversations.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Alecia



August 6-13-20-27

9:00 am Sunday School, 10:00 am Worship Service

August 3 and 17

6:00—7:00 pm, Women's Coffee Talk, Café Royal

August 4, First Friday Fun for Grades K-8, Fellowship Lounge, 6:30-9 pm

August 6, Board Meeting in the Fellowship Lounge

August 6, Worship and Wonder Training, 7 pm, W and W classroom

August 9, Renaissance Child School First Day of Classes

August 13, High School Lunch Bunch, Grades 9-12. Meet in Narthex after Worship Service

August 20, Elder's Meeting after Worship Service

August 27, Dan's Fish Fry Expense Meal right after Worship Service

August 29, Prime Timer's Potluck Luncheon, Fellowship Lounge, 11:30 am

Power Point Schedule

August 6-Pam

August 13-Corbin

August 20-Pam

August 27-Corbin

Worship Serving Schedule

Sunday, August 6— TEAM 2

Sunday, August 13—TEAM 3

Sunday, August 20—TEAM 4

Sunday, August 27—TEAM 5

Communion Prep and Clean Up

August-Jan Lindsey

September-Jane Kissane

October-Vikie Witham and Mitzie Devine

November-Brian and Claudia Jackson

December-John and Pam Davidson

Sunday School Schedule

Class K-4

Sunday, August 6—Elaine

Sunday, August 13—Tami

Sunday, August 20—Tracey

Sunday, August 27—Buck

Class Youth

Sunday, August 6—Claudia

Sunday, August 13—Tracey

Sunday, August 20—Todd

Sunday, August 27—Don and Sherry

Prayer Concerns: Margaret Adams, Craig Bailey, Dondena Boatman, Claudia Falck, Geoff Hoodlebrink, Phil and Yvone McGinnis, Dolores Seigler, Jace Griffin, Marsha New, Sharleen Heckley, Carol Inman, Cindy Furbee, Tony Young, Chris Hughes, Vicki Louins, Sharri Jackson, Rick Gann, The Family of Lavena Morgan, The Family of Debi Cole, Kim Clemens

Shut In, Homebound, or Special Concern:

Iris Alexander, Joy Baase, Dee Benson, Doris Canaday, Kathryn DeVaughn, LaVaughn Douglas, Marjorie Johnson, Joan Paul, Violet Wells, Jeff VanArsdol, Norma Doyle, Sheila Jackson, Dick Mullin, John and Joan Cleveland, Betty Yergin, Pat Sibert, Martha Masters, JoAnne Privett,



Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family **Lavena Morgan**. Lavena, age 89, passed away Monday, July 10, 2017. Left to cherish her memory are her daughter, Kimberly McConnell, two sisters, several grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins. Lavena often attended with her son Jeff, who passed away in 2016. Please remember the family and friends of Lavena in your prayers.

Please keep the Sheila Jackson family in your prayers as they have had a death in their family. Recently, Sheila's nephew, **Kevin McGinnis**, unexpectedly passed away in Florida.

Please Keep Us Updated!

If you are admitted to the hospital, please have a friend or loved one contact the church office so we will know you are there. If you are ill or have another need that requires a Pastoral visit, please contact the church office.

When we are notified, we will ask if you want to be placed on the prayer concerns list or prayer chain. If you wish to keep your information confidential, your privacy will be respected.

August Elder Serving Schedule

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Aug 6-Cup-Gene | Bread-Julie |
| Aug 13-Cup-Julie | Bread-Gene |
| Aug 20-Cup-Vikkie | Bread-Jan |
| Aug 27-Cup-Pam | Bread-Vikkie |



**Marty and Debby Weaver have moved! Their new address is:
3002 Hillcrest Drive
New Castle, IN 47362**

Flora Clampitt has moved and would welcome cards from her church family.

**Her new address is:
3000 Ashton Gardens Drive
Apt # 112
Venice, Florida 34292**

In Remembrance

Members of First Christian Church gather each week around the communion table, reciting the words of Christ and participating in the sacred meal ‘in remembrance’ of Jesus. That gift has been handed down generation to generation.

As we recall the names of those who have died, our minds are filled with precious memories. We are their legacy, and much of what we have-in both material and non-material things-have been handed down to us from them. But what will we hand down to those who follow? How will we be remembered? Will we leave more than an empty spot in the pew?

As you plan for the distribution of your assets at your death, consider a charitable bequest to First Christian Church. This is one way your faith can be transferred to the next generation. This, and other types of planned gifts, can undergird our congregation’s ministry in perpetuity, providing resources that will allow future generations of Disciples to worship, serve others and continue the vital ministries of the church.

Christians can also use their estates to demonstrate one final act of stewardship. Our possessions are gifts from God, and God has intended for us to use them wisely throughout our lifetimes. Through our estate plans, we can provide for our loved ones while also making a faithful distribution back to God to further God’s work. We will be remembered by our giving.

Please remember the church in your will.

Save
The
Date!



Dan's Fish Fry
here at the church
SEPTEMBER 14



Children and Youth grades K-8 are invited to watch a movie, eat lots of great snacks and join in the fun!

Hope to see you there !

August 4th
Grades K-8
Fellowship
Lounge
6:30-9 pm

High School Lunch Bunch!

Grades 9-12

Sunday, August 13th

Meet in the Narthex after
Worship Service for lunch
and fun fellowship!

Rummage and Bake Sale Results

Sales and Donations:

\$1850.51

Expenses

Courier Times Ad

\$25. 00

Facebook Ad

\$5.00

Net to the Faith Fund

\$1820.51

Thank You to everyone who helped in any way with the rummage and bake sale fundraiser. There was a joyful spirit of cooperation as we worked together to contribute to the faith fund line in our income budget.

**Fundraiser Meal for Dan’s Fish Fry Expenses, August 27
right after Worship Service in the Great Hall**

Gene and Julie Bundy are organizing a fundraiser meal to help pay for some of the expenses we incur during our Dan’s Fish Fry. You’re invited to enjoy a good meal and help raise money at the same time! Please make and bring your favorite recipe to share. Also, bring at least ten copies of your recipe. For a \$5.00 donation, you will get a fantastic meal and will have many great, new recipes to take home. Table service as well as tea and lemonade will be provided.

New Sermon Series Sept. 3

Symbols are both devotional and educational. They serve to remind us of the Christian faith; they create an atmosphere of worship; they provide food for thought. Symbols can be starting points and object lessons in introducing the great themes of our religion.

Beginning Sept. 3, we will embark on a sermon series, “Windows to Our Faith: Stories Told By Art and Architecture.” For six weeks, we will explore the building we worship in – its windows, its bell tower, the baptistry – and talk about why our house of worship is structured the way it is.

Sure, we could just as easily worship God in an open field under the stars, or in a modern facility with more multi-purpose furnishings – these would still be fitting and pleasing to God. But we are blessed to have newly-mulched grounds, and an impressive structure.

Let’s learn about how our “foundation” forms our faith. Hope to see you in our pews!



***Prime Timer's
Potluck Luncheon!***
**Tuesday, August 29
at 11:30 am**

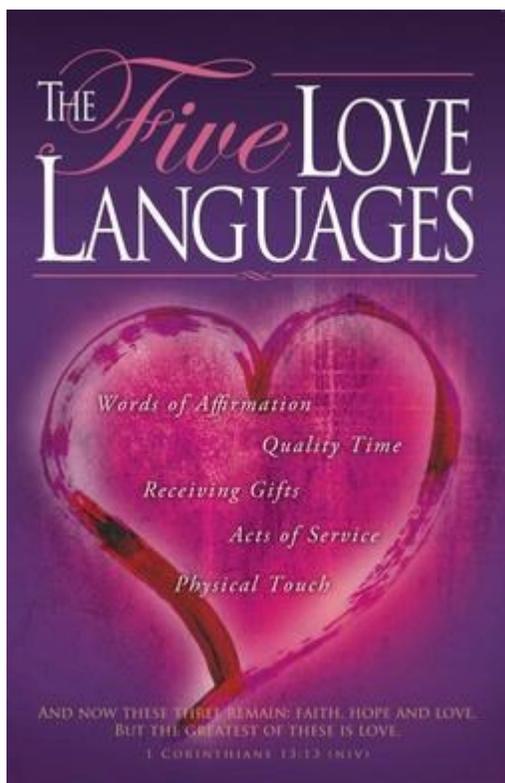
Fellowship Lounge

What is a Prime Timer? A Prime Timer is ANYONE that is free on Tuesday, August 29th at 11:30 am!

That's right! Any age person is welcome. Are you retired? You are welcome! Are you on your lunch hour? You are welcome! Can you bring friends of any age? Yes you can!

The meal will be totally potluck with the church providing table service and drinks.

Please join us for this fun luncheon! If it is a hit, we will schedule it monthly.



You are invited to participate in an upcoming small group study of the book, **The Five Love Languages** by Gary Chapman. The study will start September 3rd. Classes will be offered on Sunday (childcare available) and also during the week. Class days and times will be announced soon.

Volunteer leaders are needed. Please see Pastor Alecia to volunteer to lead a class.

Reflections on *Unbinding the Gospel, Real Life Evangelism*

For the past six weeks, we have been having daily devotions as a church based on Martha Grace Reese's *Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism*. I'm not sure how many of you have been following along with our daily emails, One-Calls and Facebook posts, but I have certainly been enriched through this focused, communal reflection.

Our goal in implementing this devotional series was to hone our spiritual discipline of prayer. We are in training if you will, to tune our ears to hear God's still small voice speaking.

On Oct. 1 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. we will gather as church leaders and potential leaders to form a vision for the next few years – to establish a goal or direction where we would like our mission and ministry efforts to steer towards. (More about this below).

I firmly believe that we are here at 2000 Bundy Ave for a purpose. In our current outreach efforts, God is working with us and through us to impact those in our community. And he has plans for us yet.

If you get a chance, read back over the devotions that Sherry has sent via email. Reflect on a favorite one – one that spoke to your heart. Then jot down one idea or hope or dream that you have for our future together.

There is a familiar Chinese proverb that says, “The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.” Lets start thinking about what kind of tree to plant and where it best fits in our current landscape.



*Mark your calendars: Board members, Elders, Church Leaders, Potential Church Leaders and Folks with Good Ideas – **Sunday, October 1 from 4 to 8** you are invited (and encouraged!) to participate in a Visioning Workshop for our congregation's future. Rev. Nathan Wilson, noted Indy Star columnist and member of Christian Theological Seminary's development team will serve as facilitator. Everyone is welcome to share their dreams and visions!*



Participate in these **SLOW SUMMER** activities with us! Grab a friend and try these activities at home.

August 6-Bubbles and Bouquets! Fill your house with flowers and blow bubbles! Bubbles of any kind: soap, gum or other; bubbles are great! Post pics on our Facebook group page!

August 13-Board Games Galore! Gather your neighbors and a cold drink. Play your favorite game!

August 20-Read a Book! Do you have a novel that is calling out to be read? Make time to relax with a good book!

August 27-Get Crafty! Dust off a favorite hobby or start a new one! Paint a picture or some furniture. The sky is the limit! Show us your handiwork by posting a selfie on FCC's Facebook group page!

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