



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

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The Christian Builder

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Rev. Nathan's Notes

I like riding bicycles. Always have. On road, off road. Multiple gears, single speed. I like riding bikes.

As a kid, I was especially attracted to the speed. As an adult, I'm especially attracted to the distance. But most of all, both as a kid and as an adult, what I like most is the freedom to see new things and eventually arrive at some place new.

There are two fundamental realities I know about riding bikes:

If you stop peddling, you stop making progress. It's not complicated. To move, you must peddle. To make progress, you must put in effort.

If both feet don't peddle forward, you don't move. One-foot peddling forward and one peddling backward won't work. You won't move.

Congregations aren't a whole lot different. People must peddle (put in work, help, engage) for the congregation to progress. And the peddling must be forward – toward something new – and not backward – toward something that may or may not have existed in the good ole days.

My hope and prayer for FCC New Castle is that you progress. This community and God's world need you.

Rev. Nathan



Rev. Nathan Day Wilson



May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

*10:00 A.M. Worship Service in our Sanctuary and Online
To join online, visit our YouTube channel:
firstchristiannewcastlein*

May 2

Board Meeting right after Worship Service

May 9

*Join us in Worship Service as we celebrate all women. Don't miss it!
Rev. Ron Allen is our Guest Minister*

May 16

Graduation Sunday in our Worship Service. Reception to follow. See page 7 of this newsletter.

May 23

OUTDOOR Worship Service at ten a.m.

May 31

Memorial Day, church office closed

Special dates in May

- National Day of Prayer, May 6, 2021
- Mother's Day, May 9, 2021
- Ascension Day, May 13, 2021
- Armed Forces Day, May 15, 2021
- Pentecost, May 23, 2021
- Victoria Day (Canada), May 24, 2021
- Trinity Sunday, May 30, 2021
- Memorial Day, May 31, 2021

A prayer for Memorial Day



We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



To Our Church Family,
Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers you sent us during this difficult time. It meant so much. Again, thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness.

Sincerely, George and Susan
Caldwell

Dear FCC, Thank you for the flowers. They are very pretty.

Sincerely, Kathryn DeVaughn

To The First Christian Church,
On behalf of myself and my family, I want to thank you for the love and concern you have shown to us during the holidays. Thank you for the Christmas basket and clothing. The recent Easter gift card was such a blessing. We appreciate your love and concern and we want to thank you.

Love in Christ, Jennifer Walker and Family

Dear First Christian Church,
I wanted to express my gratitude to you all for coordinating and putting together the donation boxes for Henry County Resource Parents for Foster Care Appreciation Month in February. Your donations absolutely made the day for our homes and also all of our staff who saw these were excited for the receiving families. You all are awesome! Thank you so much!
Mariah Mason and the DCS Foster Care Team

To all the Elders,
Thanks so much for all the cards, notes, goodies and prayers. I can feel it every time a card shows up in my mailbox.
Love and Hugs to All,
Bev Potts





PRAYER CONCERNS: Jim Bell, Terry Ewing, Glenda Baker, Unspoken Prayer Requests, an end to Covid 19 and help for all affected, The Clients of the Henry County Foster Closet Ministry, Tony Hinton, David Parrish, Connie Quigley, The Family of Barbara Groce, The Family of Archie Alexander Cox, Debby Weaver, Our Graduating Seniors

Shut In, Homebound, or Special Concern: Kathryn DeVaughn, LaVaughn Douglas, Joan Paul, Jeff VanArsdol, Sheila Jackson, John and Joan Cleveland, Betty Yergin, Sharleen Heckley, David Williams, Evelyn Keith, Mel and Dee Igo, Melba McKnight

Kiva Loans to Honor All Women and Men

Every May and June since 2012, the congregation of FCC has participated in Kiva loans to improve the lives of women and men around the world. We do this to honor the important men and women who have parented us, helped us, taught us and loved us. We honor mothers, fathers, Sunday School teachers, mentors, and volunteers in our church and community.

More than 1.7 billion people around the world are unbanked and can't access the financial services they need. Kiva is an international nonprofit, founded in 2005 in San Francisco, California that allows people to lend money via the Internet to low-income entrepreneurs and students in 77 countries.

Kiva's mission is "to expand financial access to help underserved communities thrive." Kiva does this by crowdfunding loans and unlocking capital for the underserved, improving the quality and cost of financial services, and addressing the underlying barriers to financial access around the world. Through Kiva's work, students can pay for tuition, women can start businesses, farmers are able to invest in equipment and families can afford needed emergency care.

Kiva believes, "lending alongside thousands of others is one of the most powerful and sustainable ways to create economic and social good. Lending on Kiva creates a partnership of mutual dignity and makes it easy to touch more lives with the same dollar. Fund a loan, get repaid, fund another. "

Since 2012, First Christian has loaned \$2,775 to men and women all over the world. We have been repaid \$2,184 so far and have only lost \$58.88 through loan default.

FCC loans for 2021 include Charlyn from Ginatilan, Cebu; Ening from Indonesia; Jona from the Philippines; Brijan from Albania; Juan from Nicaragua and Alexandru who lives in Moldova. Their projects include items that we might take for granted such as: sanitary toilet facilities and water connections in their houses; a furnace to keep a family warm. Requests are also granted for plans to increase income such as planting a cherry tree orchard like Brijan from Albania who states, "I want to increase my income as I plan to create my own family and also take care of my parents,"

The funds to grant these loans are included in the FCC expense budget each year. Thank you, FCC congregation, for supporting global outreach and improving the lives of people all over the world.

Creation-wide praise chorus

"All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing!" These words — just one paraphrase of a text by St. Francis of Assisi — seem a fitting description of springtime, when leaves and flowers pop out afresh, birdsong is heard again and hibernating animals emerge from dens and burrows, many with new babies in tow.

Psalm 148 may have served as inspiration for Francis, calling not only "young men and women alike, old and young together" (v. 12, NRSV), but also animals and birds, wind and water, mountains and trees, to praise the Lord. James L. Mays writes: "We human beings ... should recognize that we are in the list with all the creation and creatures as creature and creation ourselves. We are in our obligation to praise no different from and no more than all the rest."

When you head outside on a bright spring day, notice what praise looks like in non-human form and how it sounds from nonhuman voices. How can we best join "all creatures of our God and King" in worship?

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Joys of motherhood

- A hug for no reason.
- Belly laughs.
- The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.
- Smiles and giggles.
- Mud pies.
- Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.
- Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.
- Quiet moments on the couch.
- Reading aloud together.
- A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.

Proverbs 31:26:

"She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue."



Outdoor Worship Service to be held May 23rd, Pentecost Sunday

The Worship Planning Team of FCC announces our first outdoor service of 2021 will be held on Sunday, May 23rd. The service will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Join us at the shelter house for music, fellowship, the celebration of communion and an inspiring message. It is a custom in many traditions to wear red on this date to celebrate Pentecost Sunday. The Rev. Linda McKiernan-Allen will be our Guest Minister.

On worshipping and talking to God among his creation-

George Washington Carver called nature “an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in.”

Martin Luther said, “God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars.”



On the first Thursday of May, people of all faiths are invited to join together in prayer.

On April 17, 1952, President Harry Truman signed a bill proclaiming the National Day of Prayer into law in the United States. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, designating the first Thursday of May each year as the National Day of Prayer.

This year's observance is Thursday, May 6th.

Keep moving! As they proudly processed across the stage to receive their diplomas, each graduate heard two messages from the principal: “Congratulations!” (in a loud voice) and “Keep moving” (in a whisper). Although the administrator was merely trying to facilitate the flow, she was actually offering sound advice to the young adults: Don't stop or stagnate! Proceed from here and continue learning. This is the beginning, not the end, of a journey. Keep moving!

Worship Leader Schedule

5/2/2021	Buck Quigley
5/9/2021	Tami Eversole
5/16/2021	Tracey Bell
5/23/2021	John Miller
5/30/2021	Don Denney
6/6/2021	Brian Jackson
6/13/2021	Beverly Matthews
6/20/2021	Claudia Jackson

Search and Call Team News

The Pastor Search Team meets on Wednesday evenings to search for a new minister for First Christian Church.

The Search Team Chairperson is Claudia Jackson. She is available to speak with you should you have any questions or concerns.



You are invited to join in as we honor our graduates on Sunday, May 16 at ten a.m. during the worship hour. FCC's 2021 graduates are: Mallory Cross, Carter Dickerson and Eliza Madden

A reception with refreshments will follow outside at the shelter house.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.— Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

Graduate Spotlight, Mallory Cross



***Ball State
bound!***

Pre Med Major

Mallory Cross is the daughter of Johnny and Azure Cross. She will graduate from Blue River Valley High School on May 30th.

Mallory is a lifetime member of FCC and was dedicated to God here as a baby by the Rev. David Livingston.

Her activities here at FCC have included going on mission trips and helping with Sunday School & art classes. She has also volunteered many hours in the Foster Closet



Mallory's high school career has been exemplary! Her academic awards have included honor roll, MEC Academic All Conference for volleyball, basketball, tennis and track, academic All State awards in basketball and volleyball and the Rising Star of Indiana award.

She has a love for sports that is reflected in her participation in volleyball (4 year letter winner), basketball (4 year letter winner), tennis (3 year letter winner) and track (2 year letter winner).

Known as a student leader, Mallory has served as her class treasurer, volleyball and basketball team captain, vice president of the art club and National Honor Society treasurer.

Her club and organization participation list shows that over eleven groups have benefited from Mallory's care and knowledge.

Graduate Spotlight, Carter Dickerson



Carter Thomas Lee Dickerson was born on September 27, 2002. He is the son of Shelly and Richey Dickerson. His siblings include: Parker, Cordell and Zoey. He is a proud uncle to Kenzie Lynn.

Carter will attend the University of Northern Ohio where he will study to obtain a degree in Automotive/Diesel Technology, Medium/Heavy Duty.

Carter attended New Castle schools until early this year when he transferred to Blue River Valley High School. He was in choir and also active in sports; he participated in football and while on the track team his events were discus and high jump. Currently he is on the Blue River Valley High School baseball team (his first passion) and also the golf team.

Here at FCC, Carter has been an active and willing volunteer. He has helped with Called to Create art class, the annual rummage sale, Dan's Fish Fry and Trunk or Treat.

*May he give you
the desire of your
heart and make all
your plans succeed.
Psalm 20:4*



Graduate Spotlight, Eliza Madden



Eliza Madden is the daughter of Amy and Jayson Madden and has been a member of FCC since she was born. In April of 2012, Eliza was baptized here by the Rev. Mandye Yates.

Eliza has had an amazing school career! She is a 3 time state champion in volleyball and throws shot put and discus in track. She continues to set and achieve personal records during her senior season.

She is president of the Red Hot Blues (a competitive mixed show choir) and an alto in New Castle's Jazz/Madrigal choir, the Swing Street Singers, and the women's barbershop quartet. A member of National Honor Society, she is active in student government, and also finds time to work at 1000 Degree Pizza in Mt. Summit.

Eliza will attend the University of Saint Francis in Ft. Wayne, where she will play volleyball and be a member of the University Singers, an a Capella group on campus. She will major in nursing and minor in music. Her end goal is to be a nurse practitioner who works with NICU babies. She hopes to incorporate music therapy into patient treatment plans.

Eliza's message to FCC:

"I want to thank my church family for all of your love and support throughout the years. Please continue to pray for me and my fellow graduates as we move forward in this trip called life!"



*Whatever you do
work at it with all
your heart.
Colossians 3:23*

**THERE ARE 2 WAYS
TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP SERVICE !**

We are back in our beautiful church Sanctuary in person and
we have a YouTube channel.

Our YouTube channel is firstchristiannewcastlein

Missed church on Sunday?

You can watch our services on YouTube anytime, NIGHT OR DAY!

Perhaps you'd like to watch the service all over again! Past services are available.

Simply visit our YouTube channel and watch as many times as you'd like.

Please subscribe to our channel on YouTube!

**The Henry County
Foster Closet**

at First Christian Church

Update on The Henry County Foster Closet Ministry: this special ministry of FCC is making a HUGE difference in the lives of foster families and people in need. Azure Cross is the Director. Tami Eversole and Jan Lindsey are regular and devoted volunteers.

The May 2021 donation drive is new UNDERWEAR and SOCKS! These items are always in very high demand. If you can help, please send a check or order items online to be shipped to the church. Thank you! We love our donors!

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