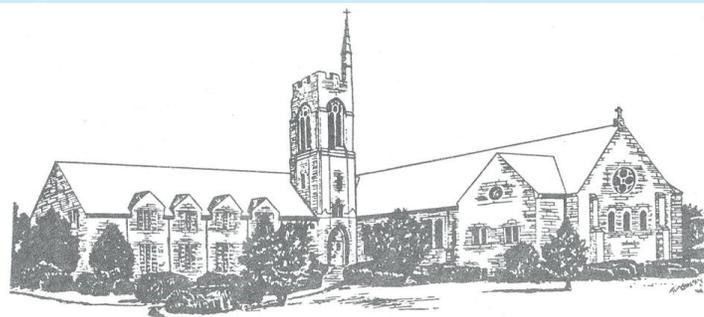




First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
2000 Bundy Avenue
New Castle, IN 47362

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The Christian Builder

Volume 84—Number 8

10/5/2020

Rev. Nathan's Notes

To remain relevant, a congregation – like a business or a community – must adapt as needs and circumstances change. Key to adapting faithfully is distinguishing between what never changes and what must change.

That's what we talked about in worship September 27th. We named three items that never change: God's motivation, God's message, and God's mission. Among the "must changes" we also named three: Our mindsets, our methods, and our ministries.

So far, so good.

The tricky part is in the details. That's where the rubber meets the road, the challenge intensifies, the really hard work sets in. You get the picture.

While working through the details it is essential, even critical, to trust God and each other.

We often want to rush to answers. What exactly should these changes be? When? How? We instant gratification people want, well, instant answers.

However, quick answers are often unreliable. And as it turns out, any answers – quick or otherwise – are less important than the process to discover them. In other words, how we go about changing is more important than what changes we make.

What should be the process for a congregation to decide about changes? Of course, there's no one size that fits all but there are common characteristics.

For instance, input from all is needed. As we said recently, this is a two-way dynamic. On the one hand, more inactive people could give, serve, contribute. At the same time, more active people could share the doing AND the deciding. Having new people at the table means creating space and maybe even changing tables.

There are other process characteristics. That's what we'll talk about in the weeks ahead.

Oh yeah, I hope you tune in or show up for worship this Sunday. We've started a new series about the most important prayer in the church. Rev. Nathan



Rev. Nathan Day Wilson

The LORD'S Prayer

On Sunday, October 4th, Rev. Nathan began a new series focused on the Lord's Prayer.

Why did Jesus include what he did in this much-loved and frequently said prayer?

How was the prayer similar to or different from other prayers at the time of Jesus?

And perhaps most of all, does this prayer make sense for us now?

Worship with us in person or online.



October is Clergy Appreciation Month. Have you met our new part-time Interim Minister, the Rev. Nathan Day Wilson? Get to know Rev. Nathan at a *Sunday Sit Down* (more information on page 7 of this newsletter).

You may also e-mail him at nwilson@cts.edu. He is available through text or phone call at 317-604-9352.

Read his work in the Indianapolis Star and follow him on Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram or Facebook: [@nathandaywilson](https://www.facebook.com/nathandaywilson)

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Katelyn and Trayton Brogan, Jillian Rose, Weston Whelchel, Alberta Hughes, David Williams, Jim Bell, Mel and Dee Igo, Terry Ewing, Glenda Baker, Stacey Crane, Brad Coffey, Don Evans and Family, Please pray for every single person affected by the Covid 19 crisis-globally and locally, the Worship Planning Team, the Pastoral Search Team, Billy Evans, Tony Hinton, Garrett Cooper, Addam Copp, Kaye Lindsey, Jagger Simons, Francis Malloy, Nettie Stroud, Byron Paul, The Family of Fannie Beall, The Family of Mary Parker, Marty & Debby Weaver and their Friends, Teachers and Students of Local Schools, Clients of the Henry County Foster Closet

Shut In, Homebound, or Special Concern: Kathryn DeVaughn, LaVaughn Douglas, Joan Paul, Jeff VanArsdol, Sheila Jackson, John and Joan Cleveland, Betty Yergin, Pat Sibert, Sharleen Heckley



Tami Eversole Named Nominations Chairperson

At the October 4, 2020 meeting of the General Board, Tami Eversole was unanimously named the Nominations Committee Chairperson.

Tami may be contacting you to serve on the Nominations Committee or to serve as a board member or head of a committee.

Please prayerfully consider serving the church.



Stewardship Chair, Todd Eversole, reminds all members and friends that our Fall Stewardship campaign will begin soon.

In preparation, the church office plans to mail out giving statements detailing 2020 giving to date.

Please watch for these statements in your mailbox and let the church know if you have any questions about your 2020 giving.

Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. Proverbs 16:3

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10



Henry County Foster Closet News

Warm Up Wednesday, a warm clothing give-away for youth in need, will take place in the FCC parking lot on October 7th from 4-6 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to set up and work the event.

Warm clothing donations are still being accepted. You may leave your new or gently-used donations at the back door of the church under the canopy.

Photo to the left: Foster Closet Director, Azure Cross, requests donations for Warm Up Wednesday

October Foster Closet Donation Focus is Hygiene Items

There are many factors contributing to great need in our local community. We see the results of job loss and other adverse experiences daily in our Foster Closet ministry. God calls us to share our time, talent and treasure with those in need. Won't you join us in our efforts to alleviate suffering?

During the month of October, we are putting out a call for hygiene items. Think about what you use yourself each morning and consider donating these items for others. We would love to have donations of: body wash, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, shaving cream, razors, deodorant, feminine hygiene items, travel size toiletries from hotels, body lotion, cornstarch baby powder, baby shampoo, toiletries for teen-age girls and boys.

Please place items in the Narthex donation bin or call 765-529-2403 for more information.



Left: Jan Lindsey and Claire Davis are faithful volunteers at the Foster Closet. Their normal job is keeping donated toys in good order. Thank you Jan and Claire!

Right: Johnny Cross and other volunteers tackled a very dirty job recently when they washed Foster Closet windows and cleaned out window wells. We send a big thank you for a job well done!



The Henry County Foster Closet at First Christian Church

*a community resource for Foster, Kinship or Relative placements through DCS,
Families Raising Children Other Than Their Own and Families in Need*

2000 Bundy Avenue, New Castle, IN 47362

Church Telephone: 765.529.2403

to find us on Facebook, search for:

Henry County Foster Closet at First Christian Church

To make an appointment to visit the closet, please call the church telephone number. If no answer, please leave a detailed message and we will return your call. You may also message us on Facebook.

We operate through appointment only but we are very responsive to requests.

We offer like new clothing (including seasonal clothing of all varieties) for infant through college age youth; equipment such as cribs, strollers, pack n plays; toys and games; bedding and blankets; shoes/ socks and new underwear

We welcome and appreciate donations of good quality, clean clothing for infants through college age youth.

We do not accept mature adult clothing. We cannot accept clothing with stains, holes or missing buttons. We are always in need of equipment such as cribs, car seats, swings and changing tables with **up-to-date safety features**.

Our clients love toys and puzzles with all the pieces intact, and books are a favorite item, too!

Please call for a drop off appointment.

You may also make monetary donations to the closet! Mail a check to First Christian Church or call the church at 765.529-2403 to use your Debit/Credit card

2020 Dan's Fish Fry Results and Photos

Our annual fish fry is more than a fundraiser. It is an opportunity for volunteers to come together in Christian fellowship for meaningful work and conversation. Many volunteers get to know one another better while working side by side at the fish fry. Working at the fish fry is FUN! If you have not volunteered, please consider joining in next year's effort. There are jobs for all ages and abilities.

2020 Results are: Tickets sold 409 adults and 16 children for a profit of \$1769.32.

First Christian Church sincerely thanks our Chairpersons, Gene and Julie Bundy, and Gene and Julie send a hearty thank you to all volunteers. Everyone offered their best effort during this time of global pandemic and it was a successful event! See you next year!

Top left: Don Denney, Todd Eversole, Olivia Neal Top Right: Brian Jackson, John Miller
Bottom Left: Linda Cross Bottom Right: Gene Bundy



Search and Call Committee Report

The Search and Call Committee met four of the five Wednesdays in September. We have been collecting data from the congregational surveys. We are very pleased that we received 59 responses for a 58.4% return rate. We are now in the process of analyzing the data and putting it into a summary to share with the congregation. When that task is complete, we will present it to the congregation in three ways. We will divide into small groups during church service and present the results so that each member will have the opportunity to add any input to our findings. We will also offer a Zoom meeting to go over the results for those members who are not attending church in person at this time. We will hold another meeting other than Sunday morning if there is a need, as well as personal phone calls for those who aren't attending in person and don't do Zoom. Your input is VERY important to the process.

We are also scheduling "Sunday Sit Downs with Rev. Nathan". It is very difficult to get to know Rev. Wilson and for him to get to know each of us because of Covid-19 restrictions. Rev. Wilson would very much like an opportunity to sit down after church to have a chat with our members in small groups of 6-8 people. We have three Sundays scheduled in October for these meetings: October 11th, October 18th, and October 25th. We have sign-up sheets in the Narthex. There are several slots available for each Sunday. Please sign up for one of these dates. You may sign up on Sunday, or call Sherry at the church office to hold your spot (529-2403). The meetings will only last 30-40 minutes. Let's all take this opportunity to get acquainted with Rev. Nathan.

Please continue to be in prayer for our Search and Call Team as we work together to call a new minister to First Christian Church.

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them. Matthew 18:20
Blessings,
Claudia Jackson

We understand that Covid 19 isolation
is difficult! Our Elders are available to talk.
Call 765-529-2403

REACH OUT—
WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!

2020 Trunk or Treat Information

Trunk-or-Treat (October 31st) is approaching very quickly. I have had many people ask if we are still hosting Trunk-or-Treat. I wish I had an easy answer, but honestly, I don't know. We are waiting to hear from the Health Department and our city government as to how to proceed. We desperately want to continue our tradition of serving our community by providing a safe place for the children to receive treats, and also to provide a simple supper for the families in our town. The important word in that statement is SAFE. We must think of the safety of all involved and follow the guidelines set for us. We have had many conversations, and our hope is that we will be able to host at the very least a "Drive Through" Trunk-o-Treat. We are working out the details as we wait for instructions from our city government. We are thinking that we will pool all of the candy and make ahead treat bags to pass out to each child that drives through. We will also have our hotdog, chips and drink meal ready to hand out as well.

I would like to start collecting candy this Sunday. Please bring your bags of candy and place it in the Narthex. If you are not attending in person, but would like to make a monetary donation to help with the expenses, please send your check to the church office and we will purchase the candy for you.

As soon as I have more information and details, I will pass it along. It will take many hands to pull this off, so please mark Saturday, Oct 31st on your calendar.

My mom always said, "Many hands make light work."

Claudia Jackson, Evangelism Chair

God's left hand

A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. "Look at the gorgeous leaves!" Grandma exclaimed. "Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!"

"Yep," said her grandson, "and he did it left-handed."

Perplexed, Grandma asked, "Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?"

"Because," said the boy matter-of-factly, "we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God's right one."

Services in our Church Building

9

We are happy to say we have reopened our church building for Worship services! We are practicing social distancing by sitting a minimum of six feet apart. Family groups are invited to sit together a minimum of six feet apart from other people. Our pews are marked off with bows. Please sit where there is a bow on the pew.

Hand sanitizer is available. Please sanitize your hands frequently.

We have individually packaged communion elements and we ask that you dispose of all used communion cups in the available trash can.

We have a drop box for you to deposit your gifts and offerings.

We are following Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb's face mandate. Masks are required in our building.

Please do not gather in the Narthex area before the service; proceed to a seat in the Sanctuary. After the service, please proceed directly outside for joyful fellowship! Outside is a much safer area to greet fellow congregants and share heartfelt greetings.

In the interest of safety, we will not have Coffee Hour at this time. Make sure to have a cup of coffee at home so you are ready to worship! We will also suspend greeting time. Because we want to do everything we can to keep you safe, we ask that only one person enter our restrooms at a time. Our restrooms are small, making social distancing a challenge.

We open our sanctuary windows during our Worship service for better ventilation.

Please help us keep our congregation safe. If you have any symptoms such as cough, nasal congestion, fever, headache, rash, etc., please do not attend Sunday worship services. You can watch us from home; text Sherry for details at 317-850-1072.

If you have been exposed to Covid 19, even remotely, we ask that you quarantine until you can say with certainty that you are Covid free.



⁶“Be strong. Take courage. Don’t be intimidated. Don’t give them a second thought because God, your God, is striding ahead of you. He’s right there with you. He won’t let you down; he won’t leave you.” Deuteronomy 31:6
The Message

To Our Out of Town Newsletter Recipients,

We would love to hear from you. Please send us a note to let us know how you are doing. We love keeping up with our members and friends! Send a note to 2000 Bundy Avenue, New Castle, IN 47362. Thank you!

**First Christian Church
2000 Bundy Avenue
New Castle, IN 47362**

