Pastoral Ponderings

I worshipped this past Sunday at the Unitarian Universalist church in California where my brother and sister-in-law are members. A member of the congregation, with whom I chatted after the service, tried to make the point that the most important thing in all religions is their common commitment to loving one’s neighbor, not their belief in God or prayer. But then he noted conversations that he’s had with men and women of prayer who are Hindus or Muslims. He compared such conversations with ones that he’s had with leaders in his own Unitarian Universalist tradition. And he said, “You know, it’s funny; when I’m talking with our own leaders, I don’t get that same feeling of deep spirituality from them that I get from folks who are part of these other traditions.”

Well, maybe that’s because the other traditions take God seriously. Maybe that’s because the other traditions take prayer seriously. It is through prayer that we are deeply touched by the Holy Spirit, which in turn helps us to love our neighbor.

I encourage you, especially during this season of Lent, to spend some time each day in prayer. Pray for those on our Prayer List. Pray for our congregation. Pray for our city, our nation and our world. Or just sit in silence for a few minutes and listen for what God is saying to you. This too is prayer.

You will find in this Newsletter our new Prayer List. It will be in each issue of the E-caller or Newsletter, as well as appearing in our bulletin every Sunday. Please select one or two names from the list each Sunday or Wednesday and pray for those persons during the week.

I would like you to look at the new list with special care this week. If you know of someone whose name has been removed from the list who is still in need of prayer, please contact the Church Office or email Bonnie Fye (bonniefye_1@comcast.net) and we will make sure that the name will be added to the list for 30 days. You’ll find more specific details regarding our new Prayer List elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Maybe religion is about more than loving one’s neighbor. Maybe naming the Divine Mystery and drawing upon God’s strength in prayer is essential for loving neighbor with all of one’s heart and soul and mind and strength. Maybe that would be a good theory to test during Lent.

Blessings!
Pastor Bruce
**Deadline for April Newsletter**

We want to give lots of publicity to Holy Week, all the way from Palm Sunday to Easter. If you are having an event during Holy Week or anytime in April, please let the office know all the information by **March 23**. The April Newsletter will be going out a week earlier.

Keep an eye peeled for all the wonderful events happening next month. If you have any questions, contact the office.

---

**Updated Prayer List**

This Sunday we begin our new Prayer List. Prayer requests will remain in the bulletin for one month. If an individual for whom prayer has been requested still needs prayer after one month, please contact the church office, email Bonnie Fye at bonniefye_1@comcast.net or make the request during Praises and Prayers in church. Updates are always appreciated. And please remember those on our Prayer List during your daily prayers.

**Please Remember Our Members, Family & Friends in Prayer:**


---

**Adult Sunday School Class**

We are all familiar with the phrase, "Jesus died for our sins." What we will discover in our Lenten study is that this phrase has been understood many different ways over the course of Church history, and those different understandings don't always agree. Let’s try to make sense of it together. Please join Pastor Bruce in the library, each **Sunday, from 9:30 am - 10:15 am.**
Disciples Women’s Fellowship

Monday, March 9, starting at 7:00 p.m. We will gather in the Parlor to watch an Easter video and have a short discussion led by Barbara Sorrells. Then it’s off to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy some light refreshments prepared by Carol Mifflin, Marsha Ochs & Amanda Ochs. All women are invited to enjoy this wonderful time of fellowship.

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 10. It will start at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting is open to anyone in the congregation.

Between the Crowd is an ecumenical Youth Ministry in Bedford. It brings the good news of God’s love to many teenagers, including some for whom the inside of a church may not feel like a welcoming place. You can support this ministry during Lent for the price of 1 cup of coffee per week. Coffee cups are available on the Welcome Table, with instructions inside. Thank you for your generosity.
March

03/03 Leslie Downey
03/04 Treva Hooten
03/05 A.J. Holbrook
03/05 Treva Olson
03/05 J.K. Robbins
03-06 Stephen Fisher
03/10 Gary Ochs
03/10 Jackie Robbins
03/10 Bev Wray
03/11 Toby Fields
03/11 Ginny Schultz
03/13 Karen Briscoe
03/14 Bob Bailey
03/15 Barbara Hall
03/20 Landon Jones
03/22 Shirley McMunn
03/24 Bonnie Dixon
03/24 Barbara Roach
03/28 Darren Lewis
03/29 Tiffany Byford
03/29 Steve Schultz

Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday dear friends,
Happy Birthday to you.

Please let our office know if we don’t have your birthday.
March 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9:30 Sunday School  
10:30 Worship  
Youth Bake Sale | Daylight Savings Time Begins  
9:30 Sunday School  
10:30 Worship | 4:15 pm Parent Café  
(Private Event)  
Fellowship Hall, Toddler Room  
6:00 pm Historic Building Renewal Resources | 5:30 pm Prayer Ministry Meeting  
Holy Max!  
6:30 pm  
Choir Practice | 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm  
Holy Max!  
6:30 pm  
Choir Practice | 10:00 am Children’s Choir Rehearsal |
| 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| Daylight Savings Time Begins  
9:30 Sunday School  
10:30 Worship | 12:00 pm Ladies of the Roundtable Fellowship Hall  
7:00 pm Disciples Women Fellowship | 6:00 pm Board Meeting Fellowship Hall | 5:15 pm Elder’s Meeting  
Holy Max!  
6:30 pm  
Choir Practice | 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm  
Holy Max!  
6:30 pm  
Choir Practice | 10:00 am Children’s Choir Rehearsal |
| 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 9:30 Sunday School  
10:30 Worship  
12:00 pm Membership Meeting  
1:00 pm Homebound | 10:00 am Children’s Choir Rehearsal | 10:00 am Community Breakfast  
8:00 am - 10:00 am Fellowship Hall  
10:00 am Children’s Choir Rehearsal | 10:00 am Children’s Choir Rehearsal | 10:00 am Children’s Choir Rehearsal | 10:00 am Children’s Choir Rehearsal |
| 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 29  | 30  | 31  | 32  | 33  | 34  | 35  |

We are collecting **Cleaning Supplies and Toilet Paper** for L.I.F.E Pantry during the month of **March**. Please place all packages in the baskets located in the foyer. Any food you wish to donate is welcome any month.
SERVING SCHEDULE:

March

Elders
Pat Bennett
Tony Ledford

Deacons
*Francena Beasley
Becky Wright
Alvin Day
+Donna Myers
*Linda Smith
+Mona Miller

If you cannot serve, please contact another Elder, Deacon or Steward and arrange to trade dates.

Deacons marked with * are scheduled to assist the Elders with Homebound Communion on the third Sunday of each month.

Deacons marked with + are the microphone runners for joys/concerns.

Hospitality and Welcome Table

*March:

01    Suzanne Coleman
08    Cathy Allman
15    Linda Smith
22    Jackie Robbins
29    Barbara Sorrells

*March:

15th Street    Bev Wray
K Street        Donna Myers
Canopy          Ron Bell

*If you are unable to be a greeter or staff the Hospitality and Welcome Table, please find a replacement and arrange to trade dates.
Blessing Box offerings began on February 26, Ash Wednesday, and the boxes are to be turned in on Palm Sunday, April 5.

The Boxes are used in conjunction with your daily reading of your Lenten Calendar.
First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
1101 15th Street - Bedford, Indiana - 47421 - 812-275-4497

We are Disciples of Christ.  
A movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord’s Table as God has welcomed us.  

*Disciples of Christ Statement of Identity

Come Worship With Us!  
Sunday School  
9:30 am  
Worship Service  
10:30 am

CHURCH STAFF:  
Pastor:  
Rev. Bruce Ervin  
E-Mail:  
pastor@firstccbedford.org

Music Ministry:  
Choir Director:  
Jono Palmer  
E-Mail:  
jonbpalm@iu.edu

Organist:  
Mary Ruth Yates

Administrative Assistant:  
Mitzi Flynn  
E-Mail:  
office@firstccbedford.org

Custodian:  
Steve Harrell

UPCOMING WORSHIP READINGS

March 1  
Theme: The Kingdom of God: An Introduction to Luke  

March 8  
Theme: The Kingdom of God: Not What You Might Expect  

March 15  
Theme: The Kingdom Defined  
Text: Luke 4:14-21

March 22  
Theme: Parables of the Kingdom  

March 29  
Theme: Hospitality in the Kingdom  

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday - Thursday:  
8:45 am - 2:00 pm  
Closed Friday

PASTOR BRUCE’S OFFICE HOURS:  
Tuesday and Wednesday:  
9:30 am - 2:00 pm

CUSTODIAN’S HOURS:  
Monday - Friday:  
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

SOCIAL MEDIA

Web Page: www.firstccbedford.org

Facebook: First Christian Church Bedford - DOC

Camp Facebook: Bedford Christian Camp