

April 2019



BFCC e-Caller

Reaching Outward to Connect People with God's Abundance

Pastoral Ponderings

Death...For something that has "lost it's sting," as St. Paul says (1 Corinthians 15:55), it sure can hurt. I experienced that pain most recently this past Sunday. A dear colleague and friend, the Rev. Roger Heimer, passed away in early March. He and his wife, the Rev. Nancy Heimer, retired to Bloomington about 20 years ago and joined First Christian Church there. The Memorial Service was held last Sunday afternoon. My wife, Pastor Helen Hempfling Ervin, presided, and she asked me to offer the homily. Roger grew-up in rural Nebraska, as did my dad. The two of them thought and approached life in similar ways. Thus I experienced a double dose of grief last Sunday. Early April will mark the seventh anniversary of my dad's passing.

So, yes; I've felt death's sting this past week, despite Paul's comforting words. In fact, death's sting lingers over much of this season of Lent. And I suspect that Paul experienced that sting more than he let on. In Lent, as in Paul's journey, as in all of our journeys, we are aware of God's call to die to our old selves and be raised to newness of life in Christ Jesus. And that hurts. It's hard. I've been dying to that old self since my baptism in high school. And there's still plenty about him of which I am rather fond. But he is kind of an arrogant rascal who's prone to think that he's always right. Not unlike Paul's old self; the one who had accomplished so much. Yet Paul countered all such accomplishments as "garbage" when compared to the "surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (Philippians 3:8). Thus Paul continued the journey of dying to that old self, forgetting what lies behind, and pressing on toward the prize of the heavenly call in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13-14). We replicate that journey of death and resurrection in our lives when we take Lent seriously.

Death is hard; whether it is the little deaths of letting go of the past that we die along the journey, or the big death that awaits us all. But we are an Easter people. The sting of death is tempered by the hope of new life that lies beyond. We can dare to let go of our old selves, our old ways of doing things, and our loved ones when we remember God's promise of an Empty Tomb. Which is one of the reasons why I'm looking forward to Easter Sunday. There are all sorts of new adventures that lie ahead; in both this world and the next. But you have to let go of the old in order to fully experience them.

I'll be wearing my dad's cuff links on Easter; as I always do. They once belonged to his dad. They are, for me, a reminder that we honor the best of the past, even as we die to it and move on. And they are a reminder as well of all of the new adventures, and all of the loved ones whom we will see anew, in both this world and the next. Because death, even as it continues to hurt, has ultimately lost it's sting.

On to the Empty Tomb!

Blessings,
Pastor Bruce

Camp Work Day:

Saturday, April 6, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Come out and help us get our beautiful campground all spic and span for the up-coming season. There will be plenty to do for all ages.

Memorial Service for Jim Love:

Saturday, April 6, immediately following the work day.

Location at camp to be announced later.

Contact Don Mains for more information.



Future Story Chatter--Come Chat with Us

On **Sunday, April 7**, we will hold an open-forum to allow all church members an opportunity to celebrate accomplishments, pose questions, air concerns, or simply listen to the status of our Future Story progress to date. We might not have all of the answers to our questions at this point in our journey; however, asking all of our questions will help to add clarity as we continue to move forward. This will be the first of our quarterly forums. Our goal is to insure that you as a member of our church can be involved and informed as we move into the future together.

The forum will start at approximately 11:15 am in the Sanctuary and will last until 11:45 am.

This is our Fellowship Hour Sunday.

Please bring a dish to share as we will enjoy a meal together after the forum closes.

Disciples Women's Fellowship

Monday, April 8, starting at 7:00 p.m. We will gather in the Parlor to discuss business and have a short devotion by Linda Smith. Then

it's off to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy some light refreshments prepared by Helen Merchant, Barbara Sorrells & Suzanne Coleman.

All women are invited to enjoy this wonderful time of fellowship and bring a friend with you.





Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, April 9, Fellowship Hall
It will start promptly at 6:00 pm.
The meeting is open to anyone
in the congregation who would
like to attend.



Ministry Planning Retreat
Saturday, April 13, 9 am – Noon,
Fellowship Hall

The Ministry teams will come together for a half-day of reflecting on the programs that we should continue, those that we should pause, and new programs that we may be called to develop. Our touchstone for this process will be “Reaching Outward to Connect People with God’s Abundance.” The Ministries will draft budget requests for the work that they hear God calling them to do. If you are a member of one of our Ministry teams, we look forward to seeing you there.



Candy for Easter Egg Hunt

Sweet/Sour, Fruity and Full of Sugar. The Easter Egg hunt is coming soon and Bunny needs your help. Look around the church for the green tubs to deposit scrumptious bags of goodies. Thank you in advance for the sweet treats!

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 20: 1:00 pm

Bedford Christian Church Camp

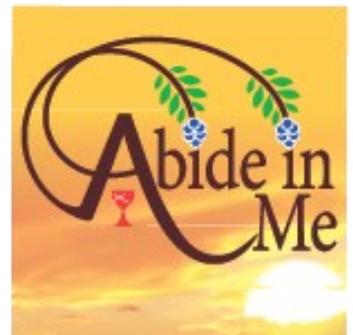
Ages: **Itty Bitty-6th grade**

Remember to bring
your baskets



Easter Offering

Sunday, April 14 and 21, will be your opportunity to give to this special offering. As Disciples, we all benefit from the fruit, the gifts, of our general ministries. These fruits are made possible only through the connections and support that grow in collaboration with our regions and congregations. During Holy Week let us give of our own fruits to tend to the whole. Our ministries grow through your tending, nurturing, and caring. Thank you in advance for giving generously to this year’s Easter Offering.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April

4/10

Steve Harrell

4/16

Janet Cooper

4/21

Vahn Billberry

4/26

Susan Maxwell Lewis



*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.

April 2019



We are collecting Cereals for L.I.F.E Pantry during the month of April. All packages can be placed in the baskets located in the foyer. Any food you wish to donate is welcome any month.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 4:15 pm Parent Café (Private Event) Fellowship Hall and Kitchen	3 Lenten Lunches First Baptist Church 12 noon - 1:00 pm 5:00 pm Youth Choir Practice 6:00 pm Adult Ministry Meeting	4	5	6 9:00 am Camp Bedford Work Day and Memorial Service for Jim Love, immediately following work day.
7 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 Worship Future Story Forum 12:00 pm Fellowship Hour ALL CHURCH	8 7:00 pm Disciples Women's Fellowship	9 6:00 pm Board Meeting - Fellowship Hall 	10 Lenten Lunches First Baptist Church 12 noon - 1:00 pm 5:00 pm Youth Choir Practice 6:00 pm Adult	11	12	13 9:00 am Budget Planning Retreat - Fellowship Hall
14 8:45 Elder's Meeting 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 1:00 Homebound Communion	15 9:00 am St. Vincent Dun Aux Luncheon - Fellowship Hall and Kitchen	16	17 Choir Practice 5:00 pm Youth 6:15 pm Adult	18 8:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service and Prayer Vigil 	19 Prayer Vigil ends 12:00 pm Good Friday Service and Light Luncheon	20 <u>Free Community Breakfast 3rd Saturday of the month</u> ★ 8 am-10 am Fellowship Hall 1:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt Camp Bedford
21 Easter Sunday 7:00 Sunrise Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	22 Easter Monday - Church Office Closed	23 7:00 pm Outreach Ministry Meeting	24 Choir Practice 5:00 pm Youth 6:15 pm Adult	25	26	27 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm Private Event - Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary
28 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	29	30 Bring your family, your friends, invite your whole neighborhood. All are welcome. We hope to see you there. Donations accepted.			<u>Free Community Breakfast 3rd Saturday of the month</u> ★ 8 am-10 am	

SERVING SCHEDULE:

April

Elders:

Christie Maxwell
Jack Maxwell

Deacons:

Susan Maxwell Lewis (April 7 only)
Bev Wray (April 14-28)
Junior Deacon
*Cathy Allman
+George Sorrell
*Bev McFadden
+Steve Harrell

Steward:

Marsha Ochs

May

Elders:

Pat Bennett
Jackie Robbins

Deacons:

*Gary Ochs
+Junior Deacon
Alvin Day
+Francena Beasley
Bonnie Duncan
*Bill McFadden

Steward:

Marsha Ochs

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.



***April:**

15th Street	Bill McFadden
K Street	Sally Allen
Canopy	Bev McFadden

***May:**

15th Street	Bob Bailey
K Street	Bonnie Duncan
Canopy	

Hospitality and Welcome Table

***April:**

07 Jackie Robbins
14 Linda Smith
21 Barb Sorrells
28 Bonnie Duncan

***May**

05 Pat Bell
12 Cathy Allman
19 Sally Allen
26 Carol Mifflin



*If you are unable to be a greeter or staff the Hospitality and Welcome Table, please find a replacement and arrange to trade dates.

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

A service of scripture readings and Holy Communion, as we journey with Jesus from the Upper Room to the Cross amidst the gathering darkness. We will gather in the Sanctuary of First Christian Church.

Easter Prayer Vigil

Begins at **9 pm on Maundy Thursday** in the Parlor, and continues until **Noon on Good Friday**

Good Friday Service

A brief service at **Noon on Good Friday, April 19** as we remember Jesus' suffering love on the Cross and hear his last words. The anthem will be offered by the Bedford North Lawrence High School Women's Ensemble. We will gather in the Sanctuary followed by a light lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

Easter Sunrise Service

April 21, 7:00 am

A joint service with First Christian Church, Bloomington

We will gather at Bedford Christian Camp at first light to celebrate the good news of the Empty Tomb. As of press time, we are trying to arrange for rides out to Camp from the Church parking lot. Please stay tuned. Breakfast will be served following the service.

10:30 am

The Celebration of the Resurrection in the Sanctuary

Easter Lily Order Form

You are invited to provide a lily in memory or honor of a loved one to be placed on the chancel for Easter Sunday and then you may take it home after the service.

I wish to order _____ Easter Lily(ies) at \$10.00 each = \$_____

My gift to be listed in the bulletin (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY):

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

Attached is a check for \$_____ payable to **First Christian Church**. Mail completed form along with your payment to **1101 15th St, Bedford, IN 47421**. Order deadline is **April 14**.

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:

Christa Tahere

E-Mail:

christa.tahere@me.com

Organist:

Mary Ruth Yates

Administrative Assistant:

Mitzi Flynn

E-Mail:

office@firstccbedford.org

Custodian:

Steve Harrell

UPCOMING WORSHIP READINGS

April 7

Shortened Service - Future Story Forum

April 14 - Palm Sunday

Theme: Crashing the Party

Text: Luke 19:28-40

April 21 - Easter Sunday

Theme: Shazam!

Text: Luke 24:1-12

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday:

8:00 am-4:00 pm

Closed 12-12:30 for Lunch

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