

May 2019



BFCC e-Caller

Reaching Outward to Connect People with God's Abundance

Pastoral Ponderings

While Pastor Helen and I frequently preach on different texts, each week we brainstorm sermon ideas with each other. Sometimes she'll research my text, I'll research hers, and we'll share ideas. This week, while I work on the story of Thomas (John 20:19-31), she is working on the story of Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40). The story in Acts is an evangelistic encounter on the wilderness road between Jerusalem and Gaza, where Philip interprets the Word to an Ethiopian civil servant, and then baptizes him. Not long before this, the apostles and deacons had been holed-up in Jerusalem. Jesus had instructed them to go into all the world and preach the Gospel, but for some reason they were having trouble getting motivated. And this is a full five chapters after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. If that hadn't lit a fire under them, it's hard to know what would! Well, what finally got them outside of their comfort zones was persecution. The threat of arrest and execution forced them from Jerusalem, and they found themselves reaching outward to connect others with God's love.

How very human of them! We humans will go to great lengths to avoid a challenge. We'll stay within our comfort zones until it becomes too uncomfortable to stay there any longer. The threat of death will do that to you! The deacon, Stephen, had been stoned to death already, and there was every indication that the rest of the leadership of the primitive church would face the same fate if they stayed put.

A significant threat will force us out of our comfort zones. For example, I've recently started to work out twice a week. It's torture! Very much outside of my comfort zone. So why am I doing it? Because I'd like to live to be 100. But if I let my body go to waste any more than it already has, I may not make it to 80, with who knows how much pain and illness along the way. The threat of death is a great motivator. And lo and behold, I'm already discovering some benefits to my new routine. Earlier this month Helen and I walked nearly 8 miles in one day. And some of it was actually fun!

Like those first Christians, we at Bedford-First Christian are also called to the ministry of reaching outward to connect people with God's abundance. They were called to reach out beyond Jerusalem; we are called to reach out beyond our building; or at least reach out to others whom we don't know yet who find their way into our building.

Our next big opportunity to do this will be on Wednesday, May 15, when the parents of our Children's Community Chorus members will be in our building for an end of the year mini-concert and reception. Please come and introduce yourself to the parents, and invite them to join us for church some Sunday. And that is, of course, the other big opportunity that we have to reach out to folks whom we don't know yet: on Sunday, when we have visitors.

Reaching out to people and sharing God's love with them. It's not always comfortable. But it may prove to be less uncomfortable than the alternatives. It may even prove to be fun!

Blessings!

Pastor Bruce

ALL CHURCH Fellowship Rescheduled

Fellowship Hours scheduled for **Sunday, May 5 & Sunday, June 2**, have been rescheduled to **Sunday, May 26**. Please make these changes on your calendar.



We will have a farewell luncheon for Christa, David, Jude and Luca on **Sunday, May 26**, immediately following the service.

This luncheon is a pitch-in, so please bring a gummy dish to share. It can be sweet or it can be savory or it can be both.

If you have any questions, contact Jackie Robbins or the church office.



The children's chorus would love to have all our friends and supporters join us for our final rehearsal on **May 15 from 5:00 pm-6:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall of First Christian Church.

We will present a small informal concert and then have a brief time of farewell fellowship for the season!

You all have been very gracious and loving with your support of the children, and we would love one last chance to sing for you!

-Christa Tahere

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May

02	<i>Amanda Ochs</i>
02	<i>Thomas Wilkerson</i>
11	<i>Donna Pace</i>
11	<i>Jacob Rumsey</i>
12	<i>Jack Maxwell</i>
22	<i>Pat Bennett</i>
23	<i>Taylor Dixon</i>
25	<i>LaVerne Speer</i>
28	<i>Sarah Holbrook</i>



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.

May 2019



We are collecting Canned Meats for L.I.F.E Pantry during the month of May. 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  Choir Practice 5:00 pm Youth 6:00 pm Adult 7:00 pm Prayer Ministry Meeting	2	3	4
5 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 Worship	6	7:12:00 pm Camp Revitalization Meeting - Library 4:15 pm Parent Café (Private Event) Fellowship Hall and Kitchen	8  Choir Practice 5:00 pm Youth 6:00 pm Adult	9	10	11
12  8:45 Elder's Meeting 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 1:00 Homebound Communion	13  7:00 pm Disciples Women's Fellowship	14  6:00 pm Board Meeting - Fellowship Hall	15  Choir Practice 5:00 pm Youth Concert and Farewell Soiree	16  4:15 pm Pastor's Class	17	18  Free Community Breakfast 3rd Saturday of the month ★ 8 am-10 am Fellowship Hall
19 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	20	21	22  Choir Practice 5:00 pm Youth 6:15 pm Adult	23	24	25
Pastor Bruce Study Leave May 20 -25						
26 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Farewell Luncheon for the Tahere's	27  Church Office Closed	28 7:00 pm Outreach Ministry Meeting	29  Choir Practice 5:00 pm Youth 6:15 pm Adult	30  4:15 pm Pastor's Class	31	

SERVING SCHEDULE:

May

Elders:

Pat Bennett
Jackie Robbins

Deacons:

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

Steward:

Liz McKenzie

June

Elders:

Karen Anderson
John George

Deacons:

+Cathy Allman
+Sally Allen
Bill McFadden
Bev McFadden
*Susan Maxwell Lewis
*Mike Dixon

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.



Hospitality and Welcome Table

***May**

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

***May:**

15th Street	Bob Bailey
K Street	Bonnie Duncan
Canopy	

***June:**

15th Street	Francena Beasley
K Street	JoAnn George
Canopy	Cathy Allman



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

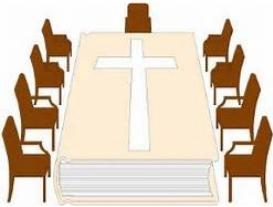


Disciples Women's Fellowship

Monday, May 13, starting at 7:00 p.m. We will gather in the Parlor to discuss business and have a short devotion by Pat Bell. Then it's off to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy some light refreshments prepared by Carol Mifflin, Marsha Ochs and Amanda Ochs. All women are invited to enjoy this wonderful time of fellowship and bring a friend with you.

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, May 14, Fellowship Hall
It will start promptly at **6:00 pm.**



The meeting is open to anyone in the congregation who would like to attend.

Pastor's Class



Pastor Bruce will be offering a Pastor's Class for youth who are considering baptism, or who

simply want to learn more about what it means to be a Christian; what following Jesus is all about. Pastor's Class will begin on **Thursday, May 16 at 4:15 pm.** We look forward to celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism in June. Please contact the Church Office if there is a young person in your home who may be interested in participating in the class.

Blessing Box Offering

The monies are in and counted. Our total this year was **\$268.70**, which goes to support the missions of the DOC/Christian Church both nationally and internationally. Thank you for your participation in this annual project.

Helen S Merchant

Disciples of Christ Indiana Regional Camp Dates at Camp Bedford:



- June 24-26:** New Beginnings (*Grades 1-3)
- July 1- July 6:** High School (*Grades 9-12)
- July 8-13:** Explorer (*Grades 4-5)
- July 15-20:** Middle School (*Grades 6-8)

*Completed Grade Level

It's not too early to be thinking about church camp!

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

May 5: Resurrection for Non-Believing Believers

Text: John 20:19-31

May 12: Fruitful Knowledge

Text: John 21:1-19

May 19: Hope Beyond History

Text: Revelation 7:9-17

May 26: Make a Joyful Noise!

Scriptures: Psalm 100, Colossians 3:12-17

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