



BFCC e-Caller

May 2020

Reaching Outward to Connect People with God's Abundance

Pastoral Ponderings

Dear Friends in Christ:

As I write these words, we are all wondering what Governor Holcomb will announce on Friday, May 1 regarding the State of Indiana's stay-at-home order. The order, of course, is set to expire that day. Whether or not it is extended, for how long, and under what kinds of protocols re physical distancing and crowd size will obviously have a major impact on when we will be able to resume worshiping in our building, and under what restrictions. Indiana is one of a handful of states that has identified religious entities as essential services. Thank you, Mr. Governor, for doing so! But even essential services must maintain protocols that will keep the coronavirus in check and maintain the progress that we've made against that little demon in recent weeks.

To help us discern when we might reopen the building for worship and other activities, Moderator Jamie is creating a new task force. This task force will investigate all of the steps and considerations that we ought to take in order to re-open the church in a safe and healthy way when the state's Covid restrictions are lifted, or at least eased. Please stay tuned as this task force begins its work and reports its findings to the Board and the congregation.

Even when we are back in the building for worship, it is clear to both Pastor Helen and me, and to many of our colleagues, that some form of online worship will be here to stay. My guess is that, with our return to the Sanctuary, we will be live-streaming our Sunday morning worship (which Our Future Story calls for anyway). The numbers alone suggest the wisdom of doing so. Between our two congregations, we have averaged close to 300 in worship since we began our online services on March 22. If we had continued to worship in our sanctuaries during that period, the total worship of the two congregations would have been about 200. Clearly, we are reaching people online that we aren't reaching through sanctuary worship alone. Pastor Helen and I are also convinced that churches will be holding more meetings via Zoom going forward, even when it is once again possible to meet face-to-face. It's easier to schedule, saves travel time, and we have noticed that Zoom meetings tend to be shorter than life meetings, while getting just as much done.

Toward that end, the Center for Congregations is offering technology grants to congregations so that they can purchase the equipment needed to enhance their online presence. Choir Director Jono Palmer is researching and pricing the equipment that will be needed, I will write the grant proposal, and we hope to have the money in hand before summer to move forward. We'll keep you posted regarding the progress that we are making on this front.

Continue on Next Page

Pastoral Ponderings Continued:

One final bit of news: At our April Board meeting, the Church Board approved a proposal that Bedford-First Christian Church become part of the Xplor Program of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This means that during the 2020-2021 church year we will have a young adult intern who will be working in the Bedford community for 30 hours a week and working as well at First Christian Church for an additional 6 hours a week. The exact nature of the church work will depend on the individual's gifts and passions. The community work will be with an organization called Hoosier Action. This is a non-partisan, citizen advocacy group that operates primarily in rural county seats in southern Indiana. It helps our neighbors in Bedford and elsewhere identify their needs and concerns and then organize across party, class and racial lines to address those needs and concerns. It's neighbor helping neighbor, reaching across the partisan and cultural divides that have come to dominate our nation. Churches are part of its growing network and it is very much based in such values as compassion, community, gentleness and justice.

That's all I've got! Stay safe, stay well, stay faithful, pray constantly and be of good cheer. We are in good hands! Thanks be to God!!

Blessings!
Pastor Bruce

Youth Sunday on May 3

Tune in to YouTube this **Sunday at 10:30 am**. The youth of Bedford and Bloomington First Christian Churches will be leading us in worship. Elder Ashlyn Reynolds, who also serves as Youth Pastor in Bloomington, is working hard with our young people to put this online worship service together. Watch for the link that Mitzi will send out on Saturday. And then stay online for our virtual Coffee Fellowship following worship. Pastor Helen and I are very much enjoying reading your online posts while sipping coffee after church each Sunday morning.



Passing of the Peace

Have you videoed your household offering the Peace of Christ yet?

Pastor Bruce can help you do so. You can email him at chisox5654@yahoo.com and he'll send you the instructions.

We look forward to seeing your smiling faces!

A Word about Church Finances

We are pretty much holding our own for the time being. Your ongoing financial support of our ministry is greatly appreciated! Thank you so much for all of the gifts that continue to arrive via mail; as well as those being dropped off at the church on **Wednesdays between 11 am and 1 pm**. Because of your generosity, our ministry is able to continue during these crazy Covid days. Thanks again!

Stewardship Is...



Love in Action

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>
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.



Praise be to God. . . Rejoice and Give Thanks

- **Bill and Winkie Bouldin** – the Bouldins are doing better. Bill was released from the hospital mid-March and is convalescing. Winkie is out of the hospital, back in long term care, and hanging in there.
- **Janet Fiddler** – Janet had back surgery mid-March and is doing wonderful now.
- **Stephanie Grissom** – had numbness in her fingers, but is back to normal now.

Prayer List

Prayer requests will remain in the e-caller for one month. If an individual for whom prayer has been requested still needs prayer after one month, please contact the church office, or email Bonnie Fye at bonniefye_1@comcast.net. Updates are always appreciated. And please remember those on our Prayer List during your daily prayers.



In Your Mercy, Lord, Hear Our Prayers

Our Friends and Family: Jan Adams, Sally Allen, Bob and June Briscoe, Brandy Busz, Danny Gillock, Karen and Jim Hackney, Jim Hill, Carol Lane, Erika McKinney, Carol Mifflin, Steve Mills, Sheila Miskuf, Riley Osmon, Linda Sanders, Dick Sides, Greg VanCleave, Sarah Wolf

Those away from home serving: the church, in military, civil service, education and work.

Those unable to be with us in Worship: Barbara Hall, Jacob Householder, Ellie Grissom, Shirley McMunn, Marilyn Olson, Laverne Speer, Carolyn Tumey, Jimmy Waggoner.

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



We are collecting Canned Meats for L.I.F.E Pantry during the month of May. Please place all packages in the baskets located in the foyer. Any food you wish to donate is welcome any month.

Dresses: If you have sewed a pillowcase dress, please drop it by the church during office hours or call Barbara Sorrells, 812-849-3975, and she will pick them up.

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Wednesday:

11:00 am - 1:00 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