



BFCC e-Caller

October 2020

Reaching Outward to Connect People with God's Abundance

Pastoral Ponderings

Pray for our nation. That's what I did following the first presidential brawl – I mean, debate – of this campaign. Pastor Helen and I both shook our heads in frustration and near despair and said that we'd never seen anything like it. One candidate who had no respect for the rules or for his opponent; the other candidate who couldn't clearly articulate his policy positions. And one of these men will be the leader of the free world for the next four years? God help us!

And yet, the choice that we have is the choice that we have. There is no way around it. Failing to vote or voting for some third party candidate who has no chance of winning would be utterly irresponsible at this critical juncture in the nation's history. I agree with the pundits who claim that this is the most consequential presidential election in several generations; certainly the most consequential since the Great Depression and perhaps since the Civil War. And if you don't like either candidate, please bear in mind that elections in this sinful world are almost always about choosing between the lesser of two evils.

I have never endorsed a presidential candidate in 40 years of ministry, and I certainly won't in this last election before I retire. A public endorsement from the pulpit suggests that a particular candidate is somehow God's choice; that a particular candidate somehow embodies the virtues of the Kingdom of God. Hogwash! There never has been such a candidate. The preacher's responsibility is to uphold the lofty ideals of the Kingdom. The politician's responsibility is to work out approximations of those ideals through the give and take of the legislative process, where compromises are worked out between conflicting interests and values. The policies that are produced by those compromises will inevitably fall short of Kingdom values. But compromises come closer to those values than the self-righteous proclamations of any candidate who refuses to compromise, as if he/she alone knows the will of God.

As you contemplate whom to vote for – up and down the ballot in the upcoming election – I urge you to bear in mind these traditional norms; which I understand to be approximations of Kingdom values:

The rule of law. All people and all nations are ultimately accountable to God's law, as expressed in the Ten Commandments and summarized by Jesus as love of God and love of neighbor. Laws help us to live together as communities and nations. And no one is above the law.

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Pastoral Ponderings Continued

Equal protection under the law. This norm is derived from the biblical call for justice. If no one is above the law, neither is anyone beneath the law. The law must be a protection for all, not a burden on the backs of some. As the Bible says, “Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream” (Amos 5:24).

Telling the truth; more often than not telling the truth. For, as Jesus said, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free” (John 8:32).

Winston Churchill once said that democracy is the worst possible form of government, except for all the other forms of government. So pray for our nation, and for all nations. Pray that law and justice and truth might be respected by all who govern, or seek to govern, all around the world. And, whatever else you do, VOTE – in person or by mail – by November 3. As a Christian citizen of a nation under God, it is your solemn duty to do so.

Blessings,
Pastor Bruce



Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

Making Sense of the Cross: a 6 week book/DVD/discussion study via Zoom of different understandings of the Cross. Lutheran biblical scholar David Lose will be the teacher on DVD, with Pastor Bruce providing local leadership.

The class is held on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm.

Call the church office for the Zoom link.

The 2020 dates for the Outreach Ministry

Coat Bank

Saturday:

October 24—

November 21

Times are

10:00 am - 1:00 pm



Children must be accompanied by parent/guardian or adult.

If you or someone you know needs a winter coat, please come to one of the dates listed above or contact Janet Cunningham or Barbara Sorrells.

If you want to be a part of this wonderful outreach, please call Barbara Sorrells, 812-849-3975 or 812-583-3469 and she will put you on the schedule. Extra help is needed each Saturday. Thank you for your willingness to help.



The Return to Live Worship Continues

It was good to see so many people back in church for live, in-person worship this past Sunday. We had 48 people in the Sanctuary, with up to 17 more joining us online. There were a few glitches, of course, but we are working on these. Thanks to those of you who provided feedback; it helps us to know what we need to work on. We'll have our new camera up and running this coming Sunday. That and some other adjustments will help a great deal.

Live worship continues this **Sunday, October 4, at 10:30 am**. If you're worshipping at home, look for the link that will be sent out on Saturday. We will try to be live by 10:20 am. If you're worshipping in the Sanctuary, the Prelude will start in the vicinity of 10:25.

See you online or in church!

New Office Hours

As we try to return to some degree of normalcy amidst the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic, we are expanding the hours when the office will be open and Mitzi will be behind her desk.

Please note these new office hours:

Monday and Wednesday:

9:30 am – 2:00 pm

Please remember to wear a mask any time that you are in the church building.

Pastor Bruce has increased his time in Bedford – either in the church building or in the community – as well. At the moment those times are rather flexible, but he's happy to talk with you: either over the phone or in person. Just text or email him, or give him a call, to set-up an appointment. Friday continues to be his day off, so texts, emails and voice mails left on Fridays may not be answered until Saturday.



But, of course, in case of an emergency, he's available 24/7.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

October

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

10/05

Rachel Ranjbar

10/11

Tony Ledford

10/14

Becky Wright

10/15

Delores Crane

10/15

Christie Maxwell

10/27

Ron Bell



**Please let our office know if
we don't have your birthday.**



- ◆ **Alexander Curiel**, a gentleman in his 90's, is recovering from COVID19. Alexander's daughter and son, Bernie and Louis, caught the virus also, and are recovering nicely. We give praise for their continued healing. Lord, hear our praise!
- ◆ **Shirley McMunn** has moved to Bell Trace and is feeling more positive. Lord, hear our praise!
- ◆ **Betsy and Randall Williamson** are moving forward in coping with the death of Betsy's parents, Bill and Winkie Bouldin. Lord, thank you for being with Betsy and Randall in this trying time.

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: Bill Anton, Paula Austin, Bev Bailey, Charles Bouldin, Bob and June Briscoe, Greg Brooking, Hannah Brooking, Brandy Busz, Megan Clark, Aaron Evans, Rev. Steve Fisher, Maggie Flynn, Danny Gillock, Rita Jenkins, Jean Martin, Felix Miller, Steve Mills, Sheila Miskuf, John and Deanna Moore, Danny Owen, Kathy Owen, John Robbins, Dick Sides, Greg VanCleave, Doris Wykoff

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, Marilyn Olson, Laverne Speer, Carolyn Tumey, Jimmy Waggoner.





On June 2, 2020, District 25-E was awarded an LCIF \$10,000 emergency grant, designated to help our two Lawrence County hospitals buy COVID-19 related medical supplies. Bedford Lions Jan Allen, Judy Heichelbech, Laura Williams, and PDG Gary Ochs researched and wrote the grant application, with the approval and assistance of DG Sheryl Schafer and Treasurer Richard Kaiser. Shown in the photo are, from L-R: IU Health Bedford Hospital President Brad Dykes, Bedford Lion Secretary Jan Allen, PDG and LCIF MD 25 Chairperson Gary Ochs, and Manager of Clinical Nursing Baili Campbell.

More than 250 IU Health team members and all visitors to IU Bedford Hospital will be impacted by the new personal protective equipment and respiratory hygiene stands which were purchased with its \$5,000 of the LCIF grant. "The funding from this grant will have a long-term impact on our overall disaster supplies," said IU Health Bedford Hospital President Brad Dykes, FACHE, MHA, MBA. "This grant positively impacts our overall stock thus allowing our team members to have immediate access to critical equipment needed to provide excellent and safe care to our patients."

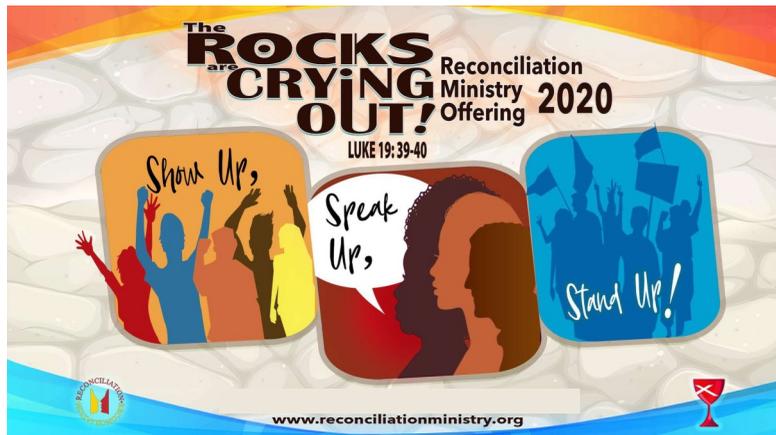
St. Vincent Dunn Hospital has ordered \$5,000 worth of specialized respiratory monitoring equipment, the Masimo Rad 97 with Radius PPG. Up to 100 patients daily can be monitored instantly and continuously, whether stationary or moving about the room. This will be utilized for COVID-19 patients as well as children with RSV. Indirectly all clinical staff will benefit from the Masimo Rad 97 with Radius PPG. The upgraded equipment will give staff remote monitoring, require less PPE to enter rooms multiple times, and enhance overall patient care and outcomes. It will give clinical staff critical patient data at a glance.



Reconciliation/World Communion Sunday, October 4

The first Sunday of October each year is traditionally the one Sunday in the year when all Christians, all around the world, gather at the Lord's Table. Different Christian traditions celebrate Communion at different times: some daily, some weekly, some monthly or quarterly. But on World Communion Sunday, those traditions that celebrate Communion quarterly are on the same page – or, better yet, at the same Table – as those who celebrate weekly or daily. So come to the Table this Sunday!

In the Disciples tradition, we also receive our annual Reconciliation offering on World Communion Sunday. Funds received through this offering provide grants to congregational and regional ministries that address issues related to racism and alienation between the races; ministries that seek reconciliation between God's people, regardless of race, creed or color. You'll learn more about the Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as we view a short video presentation by our General Minister and President, the Rev. Terri Hord Owens, this Sunday. She will be on the big screen in the Sanctuary and on your computer screens at home. Envelopes for our Reconciliation Offering will be in the pew racks. You can also send a check or drop your offering off at the church. Please clearly mark all such gifts as Reconciliation Offering. We have freely received; let us freely give.



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 Sweet Potatoes and Stuffing for L.I.F.E Pantry during the month of October. for L.I.F.E Pantry during the month of October. Please place all packages in the baskets located in the foyer. Any

CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor:

Rev. Bruce Ervin

E-Mail:

pastor@firstccbedford.org

Music Ministry:

Choir Director:

Jono Palmer

E-Mail:

music@firstccbedford.org

Organist:

Mary Ruth Yates

Administrative Assistant:

Mitzi Flynn

E-Mail:

office@firstccbedford.org

Custodian:

Steve Harrell

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday 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