

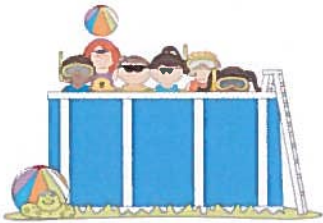


The MESSENGER



➤ *Congregational Meeting*

Sunday, April 30, 10:00 AM, in the Sanctuary for the purpose of electing Officers/Ministry Stewards



➤ *Youth Group Pool Party*

Sunday, April 30, 2:00-4:30 PM
at Four Seasons for Grades 3-12
Cost is: \$3. Contact Holly Irvin to sign up.

➤ *Gifts for Another Table*

Non-perishable food items brought to church during the month of April will be kept in the church office for our neighbors who stop by needing food. During the month of May, our gifts will be given to Ministries & More food pantry.

➤ *Bake Sale at the Farmers' Market*

This is a fundraiser for our Block Party. Please bring baked goods to FCC Friday, May 12, between 7:15 AM – 12:45 PM. There is a sign-up sheet and instructions at the Information Center.

➤ *Mission Trip Food*

Look near the Information Center for a poster with post-it notes of many pantry items the congregation could donate to help offset our Mission Trip's food budget.

➤ *Regional Alternative School Brunch*

Please contact Julie Robinson (838-4335) if you would like to help provide a brunch during the month of May for the teachers at Regional Alternative School.

➤ *Disciples Women's Ministries*



You still have time to sign up to attend the Spring Tea, Thursday, May 4, at 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.

This event is for anyone interested in learning about children's services in our community. We will have people from Baby Fold, Boys and Girls Club, and Children's Home and Aid here to tell us about their agencies. The sign-up sheet is at the Information Center. You are welcome even if you do not sign up – but it helps us as we make plans for the event. There will be coffee, tea, and finger desserts available. If you have friends who might be interested in hearing about these facilities, please bring them and know they will be welcome.

➤ *"What will be your legacy?"*

Guest speaker Enrique Ocasio May 7



First Christian Church just celebrated an incredible milestone ... the 180th anniversary of its founding! This is truly an amazing testimony to the dedication of those who have gone before us and to the love of our faithful God! Throughout the years, the thoughtful planning of many members has contributed to our church's ability to continue its mission. The legacy of these members lives on in the worship and work of our church today.

On May 7 guest speaker, Enrique Ocasio, will be asking "what will be your legacy?" Enrique is an ordained Disciples minister and representative of the Christian Church Foundation in Indianapolis. The Foundation was established in 1961 as a way to encourage, receive, and invest bequests and special gifts to perpetuate the ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). To learn more about the Foundation, visit www.christianchurchfoundation.org.

Enrique will be preaching at both services and will also be available to provide additional information and answer your questions. The trustees will also be available that day, or anytime, to discuss how you may become a member of the Legacy Circle.



**Mission Trip
May 27-June 1**
To Union Avenue
Christian Church,
Urban Mission Inn,
St. Louis, MO

For youth entering 6th Grade – 12th Grade,
College, and Adults.
Cost is \$125 -- includes Six Flags,
Cardinals Game, Zoo, and City Museum.
For more information, see:
www.union-avenue.org/urban-mission-inn
Sign up by May 15 with \$125.

Witness of the Faithful

Attendance: 4/16: 43, 310, 54 4/23: 152, 32
Offering: \$10,361.60

Prayer Concerns

OSF St. Joseph: Patti Meyer

Aftercare: Deb Bomeli, Bob Braun, Alan Chapman,
Lori Craig, Mary Helen Haskell, Forrest Kaufman, Brian
Metz, Mary Smart

Hospice: Darlene Bethel, Virginia Warren

Treatment: Dave Eyman, Sharon Warren

Assisted Living: Alma Samuels (Taylors' home)

Nursing Homes: Judy Feezor (Aperion); Richard
Anderson, Merle Murray, Virginia Warren (Heritage,
Blm.); Sonna West (Heritage, El Paso); Harold Goyen,
Joe & Jan Violano (Heritage, Normal); Corena Meyer
(Liberty, Clinton); Dave Dungan, Lois Murray (Martin
Health); James Fry, Eugene Hunter, Marilyn Kopp
(McLean Co.); Roberta Blomgren (Sugar Creek)

Military: Chris Kavanaugh (Marines, CA);
Harley Scott (Phillis niece/Navy, VA)

Congratulations

Erica Corbett, Professor of Biology at SE OK State
Univ., received an award for outstanding research and
scholarly activity in the School of Arts & Sciences.





Thank You

... Posted on the bulletin board at the Information
Center are cards from Judy Fisher and the family of
Stella Jacobs (sympathy).

... Because of your generous response to offering
cleaning services for the Warrens, we have collected
enough to provide this for a very helpful length of
time. Thank you for your kindness, and thank you to
the Warrens for allowing us to do something that
shows our love for them.

-- Kathie Chapman, Faith Russell, Jill West

MAY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Congregational Meeting 10:15 AM One and All Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 1:00 PM New Route Theatre 2:00 PM Youth Pool Party 6:00 PM Seedling Meeting	1 10:30 AM Bridge 11:45 AM CCIW 5:30 PM Elders' Circle 5:45 PM Bridge	2 8:00 AM Wellspring Homeschool 9:00 AM Building Use 9:30 AM Staff 5:00 PM NA 5:15 PM Choristers 6:15 PM Music/Movement	3 12:00 PM Bible Bunch 3:00 PM Seedling Encore 5:30 PM Hand Bells 6:30 PM Choir 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	4 8:30 AM Wellspring Homeschool 1:00 PM Disciples Women's Ministry Spring Tea 5:00 PM Community Grief Group 5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons	5 7:00 PM Square Dance	6 1:00 PM Seedling Encore Show
7 Enrique Ocasio Visit Gifts for Another Table 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM One and All Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 5:00 PM Youth Groups	8  BOARD MEETING 10:30 AM Bridge 1:00 PM CCIW 1:00 PM Deeper Discipleship 4:30 PM Trustees Meeting 5:30 PM Board Meeting 5:45 PM Bridge	9 8:00 AM Wellspring Homeschool 9:00 AM Building Use 9:30 AM Staff 5:00 PM NA 5:15 PM Choristers 5:30 PM Block Party Meeting 6:15 PM Music/Movement	10 12:00 PM Bible Bunch 6:30 PM Choir 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	11 5:30 PM Private Voice Lessons	12  We're having a Bake Sale 7:15 AM Bake Sale Pricing	13  BAKE SALE Bake Sale @ Farmers' Market Work Day at Camp Walter Scott
14  9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM One and All Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 5:00 PM Youth Groups WILL NOT meet	15 10:30 AM Bridge 5:45 PM Bridge 7:00 PM Illinois Theatre	16 9:00 AM Building Use 9:30 AM Staff 5:00 PM NA 5:15 PM Choristers 6:15 PM Music/Movement 7:00 PM Illinois Theatre	17 12:00 PM Bible Bunch 6:30 PM Choir 7:00 PM Illinois Theatre 7:00 PM One and All Rehearsal	18 5:00 PM Community Grief Group Lessons 7:00 PM Illinois Theatre	19 6:00 PM New Route Rehearsal	20 1:00 PM Seedling Workshop 6:30 PM New Route Rehearsal

A long obedience in the same direction...

Generous Orthodoxy

There are many different groups of Christians: conservative, charismatic, evangelical, progressive, fundamentalist, liberal, etc. Sometimes those categories can help us understand where someone is coming from, but I've never been entirely comfortable using those labels to describe me. However, I recently came across a phrase that seems to come close to who I am.

Yale theologian Hans Frei coined the term *generous orthodoxy*, and I've found it helpful in understanding who I am as a Christian. To me, *generous orthodoxy* means that one humbly holds Christian beliefs that are centered in Jesus Christ and lead to greater love for God and neighbor, and is open to listening to and being in conversation with those who do not hold the same beliefs. There is for me a sense of tradition associated with generous orthodoxy, but it's not a closed-off tradition that discounts and dismisses those who disagree. Rather, it's a tradition that is always open to other viewpoints and is always willing to learn and grow.

We live in a world that is divided and broken, and that's also true for Christianity. Each Christian faction believes it has a corner on the truth and is therefore better than the others. Generous orthodoxy takes a different approach. It emphasizes the need for right beliefs and practices, but it also admits that we can only know God's truth partially. We need to admit that we, as the Apostle Paul writes, "now see in a mirror, dimly." We have much to learn from each other.

The word *generous* is essential to understanding the orthodoxy described here. One author understands generous to signify that we practice this orthodoxy with humility, charity, courage, and diligence.

Humility allows us to admit that we may be wrong. *Charity* is our posture toward those who disagree with us, because they may understand some things better than we do. *Courage* is necessary to be faithful to what we believe, even when it is unpopular, dangerous, and difficult. And *diligence* calls us back to the true path of our faith when we lose our way, which seems to be rather often.

When our church is at its best, we make space to practice a generous orthodoxy. We don't demand that everyone believe the same things. We remain open to a variety of views and

beliefs and seek to understand and appreciate each other.

That's very threatening to some people. They want to be surrounded by people who believe the same things. They don't want to be challenged, and feel safe in their homogeneous bubble.

I value openness, dialogue, and diversity. I believe we are stronger, not because we all hold the same beliefs, but because we don't. Growing and learning together make our faith stronger, even if we never all agree.

I want to practice a generous orthodoxy. I want to stand humbly with my sisters and brothers in Christ and learn from them, acknowledging that I have a long way to go.

The Christian faith has many different traditions, none of which has ever – or will ever – discover all of the truth. Our divisions don't need to be threatening. Instead, differences can be enlightening and life-giving, and can help us become better, more faithful Christians.

Let's all practice *generous orthodoxy*, especially that *generous* part, with one another.

-- Jim Warren



You Asked for It – Again

Last summer's sermon series, *You Asked for It*, proved so popular that I'm going to do it again this summer. I'll start Sunday, June 11, and continue through Labor Day weekend.

Here's how it works. Between now and the end of May submit to me a question or topic you'd like to see addressed in a sermon. You can email me, call me, or write it down and put it in the offering basket on Sundays. I'll go through the questions and develop a schedule for the summer. Each Sunday I'll tackle one of your questions.

We had more questions last summer than Sundays to explore them. If you submitted a question and it wasn't addressed, submit it again! I'll try not to repeat a question that we've already heard about.

Last year's questions and topics were quite varied. We hit on some "hot button" issues, like LGBTQ concerns, gun control, and Black Lives Matter. There were also questions about suffering, proof of God, communion, and sin. If there's something you'd like to see addressed biblically and theologically from the pulpit, please get it to me soon!

I'm looking forward to receiving your questions and exploring them with you!

-- Jim Warren

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bloomington's Oldest Continuing Congregation - Founded 1837

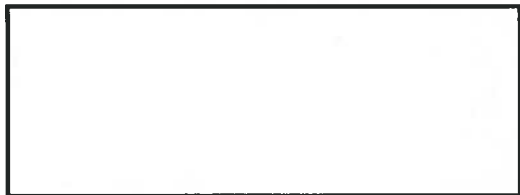


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Serving Sunday, April 30

Acolytes: Carson Damery, Campbell Damery
Child Care: Trish Logan, Kim Cox
Deacons: 9:00 Nancy Guither, Vicki Hall
10:15 James & Liberty Nussbaum
Jr. Deacons: Teagan Gramley, Jaden Eft
Driver: Darrell Arvik
Elders: Kathie Chapman, Madonna Courtright
Homebound Elders: Chip & Patti Jamerson
Fellowship Host: Pam Yerkes
Fill Candles: Kathie Chapman
Greeters: Jim & Carolyn Hepperly, Ron & Nancy Gramley
Information Center Host: Shelley Hunt
Recycle: John & Debbie Schultz
Scripture: Susan Cleaver
Sound Tech: James Nussbaum
Time for Children: Patty Thompson
Video Tech: Chip Jamerson
Worship & Wonder Greeters: Sue Bandy, Sue Brumme
Pulpit: Jim Warren - I Peter 1:3-9 - "A Living Hope"
This passage says although we have to suffer various trials,
our hope and faith keep us confident.

Serving Sunday, April May 7

Acolytes: Ellie Chapman, Maddie Chapman
Child Care: Trish Logan, Heather Damery
Deacons: 9:00 Stacey Erickson, Liberty Nussbaum
10:15 Naomi Kosier, Tom Crutchley
Jr. Deacons: Alea Cleaver, Averie Kiesewetter
Driver: Ralph Lehmann
Elders: Don & Marianne Dungan
Homebound Elders: Kathie Chapman, Madonna Courtright
Fellowship Time Host: Vicki Hall
Fill Candles: Connie Rapp
Greeters: Shirley Wotherspoon, May Jackson
Information Center Host: Martha Hunter
Scripture: Art Taylor
Sound Tech: Dave Phillis
Time for Children: Matt Chapman
Video Tech: Nate Damery
Worship & Wonder Greeters: Heather Damery, Jenny Hall
Pulpit: The trustees are hosting guest speaker Enrique Ocasio
I Chronicles 22:5 - "What will be your legacy?"

Mailed: April 26, 2017

Sunday Traditional Worship 9:00 AM
One and All Worship 10:15 AM
Sunday School for All Ages 10:15 AM
Youth Groups..... 5:00 PM

Senior Pastor

James Warren.....212-6873
jwarren@blmfcc.org

Minister Emeritus

John Trefzger

Music

Holly Irvin, Director of Music & Youth Ministries
hirvin@blmfcc.org

Lou Ann Fillingham, organ/piano

lafillingham@comcast.net

Bill West, One and All Music Coordinator

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M-F 8:00-4:30; Closed Noon-1:00

FAX.....829-2865

Website & Calendar.....www.blmfcc.com