

The CHRISTIAN



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH BLOOMINGTON

A Season of
Gratitude



New Worship Series Begins This Sunday!

For what are you grateful? During the month of November, our worship series will help us practice the spiritual discipline of gratitude as we reflect on generosity of a gracious God whose giving has no ending. Each week, we will lift up a passage from the New Testament that will help deepen our sense of gratitude for God's generous gifts, offered through Christ Jesus.

November 1: *Gratitude for the Saints*, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

November 8: *Gratitude for Forgiveness*, Luke 7:36-48

November 15: *Gratitude for Acceptance*, Luke 19:1-10

November 22: *Gratitude for Healing*, Luke 17:11-19

We will discover that as we practice gratitude, we will also find ourselves engaging in joyful and generous giving in response to God's over-the-top gifts of forgiveness, acceptance, healing, and love. As Pastors Helen and Bruce say each week, "We have freely received, let us freely give!"

Looking for a Bible Study Class?

Pastor Helen would like to lead a Sunday morning six week Zoom Bible Study for those who are not already involved and active in a Sunday morning FCC class or small group. She is looking for up to 12 participants to be part of this pilot study.

Better yet, please also consider participating in one of our excellent ongoing Sunday morning groups: Meditation, Campbellite, and Faith, Friends, & Film. They always welcome new participants! Please contact Pastor Helen to notify her of your interest.

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Also, you will find inside a very special insert with stories of gratitude from folks that you may know! What are you thankful for?

Volume 62, number 21 October 28, 2020

Pastor's Pen

Today, I am grateful for...

Gratitude is a spiritual practice that helps connect us to God, others, and ourselves. To help you practice gratitude, I've create a gratitude list for you to use daily during November. All you have to do is fill in the blank that matches the day of the week! By the end of the month, you will be surprised by the gratitude—and the joy!—that is growing within you. Please post this list where you will see it each day. Due to space limitations, I'm only going to give you half of the month. You'll receive the other half in two weeks!

Complete this sentence: Today, I am grateful for:

Nov 1: A saint in my life: _____

Nov 2: A special scripture passage: _____

Nov 3: A freedom I have: _____

Nov 4: A piece of advice I have received: _____

Nov 5: Someone who has accepted me as I am: _____

Nov 6: A song that satisfies my soul: _____

Nov 7: An object in the church that draws me to the Holy: _____

Nov 8: A gift I have received: _____

Nov 9: A challenge that I have faced: _____

Nov 10: A church friend or acquaintance _____

Nov 11: A word of wisdom I have received: _____

Nov 12: An act of kindness I have received: _____

Nov 13: A sacred space that reminds me of God's presence: _____

Nov 15: A simple pleasure: _____

Blessings,

Helen Hemphing
Pastor Helen

Being the Church We Say We Are **Anti-Racism/ Pro-Reconciliation Resources**

This past summer while the pandemic raged, so, too, did God's children. The killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor along with so many other people of color, the unjust treatment of brown immigrants, the divisive political climate – this was the background for the town hall series, *Love is an Action Word*, sponsored by the Office of General Minister and President and Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Here you will hear the voices of those impacted by the culture, by the systems, by hateful rhetoric. You will hear the human cost of ignoring the issue of racism.

Some of you may have joined these Town Halls as they streamed live on YouTube. The first Town Hall was held in late July with the eighth Town Hall being held October 22. All of these videos (eight in total) can now be viewed on The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) YouTube channel.

Each episode is about an hour long. They have been grouped together in a playlist. You can find the [playlist here](#). If you are reading this in hardcopy paper format, you can find the videos by first going to YouTube and then searching for "Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)". You may want to subscribe to this channel to more easily find it in the future. If you are reading this through email or online and the link isn't active for you, please copy and paste the following into your browser to find the playlist:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2EOD-rJvRNsnaZ9VjMtWq0S68i8qwl-l>

Red Cross Blood Drive at FCC!

In FCC's Great Hall on December 5 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

At FCC, we have always provided support for the community, meeting many needs of neighbors near and far. One of those needs that has caught our attention recently is the need for blood donation. The Red Cross reached out to us recently for help in providing a safe place for blood donation. They generally have regular blood drives on the IU campus, but have been restricted from doing so because of COVID-19. Still, the need for donating blood is real, and necessary. They were looking for a place where members of the IU community and others could donate.

We met with the local manager of the Red Cross to understand their needs for a drive, and after a good discussion, it was approved by the board at the recommendation of the COVID Advisory Taskforce.

FCC will host the IU Community Blood Drive in Great Hall on **Saturday, December 5 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm**. If you would like to donate blood, you can sign up for a time slot by going to the following link:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=fccbloomington>

You must register in order to donate.

Those who choose to donate will be provided a mask. Their temperature will be taken and they will respond to a health questionnaire before you enter the building. All surfaces will be wiped down, and hand sanitizer will be available. Volunteers are also needed. Call the church office if you'd like to help out. Thank you!

Update on FCC's 2020 Finances Your help is needed and appreciated!

As we gear up for our annual Stewardship Campaign, let's also shore up our year-to-date operations budget. After all, even though we are not meeting in person, our church still has bills and salaries to pay and ministries to carry out.

Our financial reports indicate that in both August and September, our received income was less than our budgeted expenses. You can help by "catching up" your pledged offerings and/or by giving a gift that goes above and beyond your regular offering. Please call one of our financial secretaries (Patti Parkes or Mary Swarthout) to receive the latest information about your giving. Also, if you are experiencing a financial crisis related to COVID 19, please contact Pastor Helen. She has some designated resources and is ready to offer support! Together, let's "be the church!"

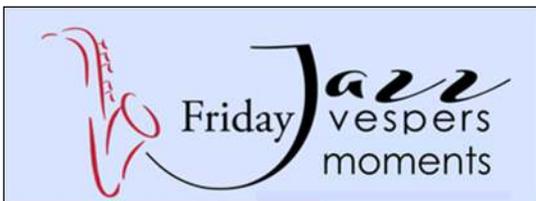
Online Worship Will Continue Through 2020

At its October 18 meeting, the FCC board approved the recommendation of our COVID-19 Advisory Taskforce to continue to worship online through the remainder of 2020, with plans to reassess the situation in early 2021. As hard as it is for us be apart, the board's first priority is for the health of all our members, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

Pastor Helen offers these words: "Even though we can't all be together in the same physical space, I am thankful that we are able to be spiritually together in expansive arms of a loving God. And I am thankful that we are still 'doing church' through caring acts of compassion, service, and online worship, learning, and fellowship. Let's hang in there together, dear friends in Christ!"

An Invitation to a ZOOM Coffee Fellowship Hour

First Christian Church of Bedford is hosting a weekly Zoom coffee fellowship hour and invites participation from those of you who are not already engaged in a Sunday morning class. At last week's inaugural gathering, participants not only enjoyed seeing each other, but enjoyed a lively and fruitful discussion sparked by Pastor Bruce's challenging sermon. Pastor Helen plans to "pop in" this coming Sunday, starting at 11:15 am. If you would like to get in on the ground floor of this new fellowship endeavor, please look for the Zoom link in Pastor Helen's "Pastor's Postcard" that will be emailed out on Saturday.



What We Have Wrought

After the pandemic changed our way of reaching out and worshipping together and our full in-person First Friday Jazz Vespers services were destined to be put on

hold, we scrambled to find a way of sharing the experience of short moments of reflection with jazz, scripture, poetry and prayer posted on-line. The challenge has resulted in something we never expected – a full series of short meditations to help guide us through these times! By the end of the year we will have created 35 “Moments”, which we hope will continue to bring sometimes comfort, sometimes challenge, and always spiritual insight into our human condition. Since the past Moments are archived and easily accessed on our website by clicking on the Jazz Vespers link on the home page of our website, we thought it would be interesting to see what the total picture looks like – a rich, continuing supplement to your times of meditation to which you could return to stop and reflect on some aspect of God’s presence in your life in a time of uncertainty and change.

Friday Jazz Moments Topics from May to December

ABUNDANCE

May 1: Abundance of Creation
 May 8: Abundance of Hope
 May 15: Abundance of Grace
 May 22: Abundance of Courage
 May 29: Abundance of Love

CALM

June 5: Calm in the midst of Despondency
 June 12: Calm in the midst of Grief
 June 19: Calm in the midst of Estrangement
 June 25: Calm in the midst of Frustration

COMMITMENT

July 10: Commitment to Service
 July 17: Commitment to Prayer
 July 24: Commitment to Love
 July 31: Commitment to Hope

LISTENING

August 7: Listening for Harmony
 August 14: Listening for Mercy
 August 21: Listening for Kindness
 August 28: Listening for Healing

TRUST

September 4: Trust in Patience
 September 11: Trust in Grace
 September 18: Trust in Forgiveness
 September 25: Trust in Compassion

REACHING

October 2: Reaching toward Thankfulness
 October 9: Reaching toward Vulnerability
 October 16: Reaching toward Contentment
 October 23: Reaching toward Wholeness
 October 30: Reaching toward Guidance

SEARCHING

November 6: Searching for Wisdom
 November 13: Searching for Vision
 November 13: Searching for Acceptance
 November 27: Searching for Purpose

ANTICIPATING

December 4: Anticipating Change
 December 11: Anticipating Reflection
 December 18: Anticipating Wonder
 December 25: Anticipating Joy

As usual, the links to the Jazz Vespers moments and a bulletin with the poetry and texts of the music are posted on the FCC website each Friday at 6:30 and remain up until 10:00 am worship on Sunday. The videos can later be accessed at any time on by clicking the Jazz Vesper Moments link on our fccbloomington.org home page.



In Our Prayers...

Please hold Xavier Stoutermire in prayer as he and his young daughter America mourn the tragic loss of his new bride, Jessica Reynolds-Stoutermire (28), who passed away on October 20 at Bloomington Hospital. Cards and notes may be sent to Xavier at 521 W. 6th St. #3, Bloomington, 47404.

Please hold the family of Helen Gotwals in prayer as they mourn her passing (Alzheimer's) on Tuesday evening (Oct. 27) in Greenwood. Services will be Monday (Nov. 2) at 1:00 pm with visitation from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm at the Funeral Chapel in Bloomington.

Please hold David and Natalie Garshaw in your prayers as David recovers from emergency abdominal surgery, which took place at Bloomington Hospital. He is now recovering at home. Notes and words of encouragement are deeply appreciated. Their address is 3740 N. Russell Road, Bloomington, 47408.

Family Ministries Update

Hello Families!

The next opportunity for a LIVE gathering will be our Candle Lighting service for All Saints Day on the church's front lawn at 5:45 pm on Sunday, November 1. ***It is very important that you RSVP for this event as we want to ensure there is plenty of space for everyone to physically distance.*** Call or email the church office by Thursday, Oct. 29 with your RSVP!

As usual, I will have your November at-home devotional kits at the event for you to pick up. Kids are encouraged to wear their costumes and pick up a treat bag to take home. I will also have some Ball jar lanterns for you to take home and decorate.

I am already planning for your Advent Devotional Bag. As usual, I am already providing these bags to our families with children, but I'd like to offer these special bags to others in our FCC family who might enjoy them. The Advent devotional bag for our families will include advent candles with a brass candleholder and devotional materials. ***If you would like to have a set of candles, candle holder and/or the devotional materials, please fill out the order form in the Oct. 14 newsletter (two weeks ago) and return it to FCC by Nov. 1. If you don't have an order form, just mail a check with your order on a note.***

We can order advent candles (\$3-5 donation) and a simple brass ring advent candle holder (\$5-7 donation) for anyone who needs one. We would appreciate a donation to cover the expenses. We will also have other devotional materials that will correspond with the Sunday worship service. There will be an opportunity to pick up your order at the end of November.

Sarah Lynne Gershon

Director of Faith Formation and Family Ministries



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



11/01	Fay	McIntyre	1918 S. Wilton Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/03	Peg	Albertson	1727 E. Windsor Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/03	Hannah	Watson	864 S. Coriander Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/04	Gale	Hill	1007 E. Sherbrooke Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/07	John	Ambler	3674 Tamarron Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
11/09	Scott	Fettchenhauer	5537 E. State Rd. 46	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/09	Sharon	O'Bryan	Jill's House, 751 E. Tamarack Trail, Rm. 203	Bloomington	IN	47408
11/09	Connie	Myers	4813 N. Ashcroft Ln.	Bloomington	IN	47404
11/11	Jasmine	Martoglio	4624 S. Whooping Crane Ln.	Bloomington	IN	47403
11/11	Aurelia	Martoglio	4624 S. Whooping Crane Ln.	Bloomington	IN	47403
11/15	Ken	Shafer	P.O. Box 1254	Bloomington	IN	47402
11/16	Gabby	Johnson	3359 John Hinkle Place	Bloomington	IN	47404
11/17	Joanie	Breeden	3808 Woods Edge Bend	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/17	Gary	Hill	1007 E. Sherbrooke Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/17	Rhonda	Trippel	1497 E Commander Ct	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/17	Maya	Norris	3194 N. Dahlia Lane	Bloomington	IN	47404
11/18	Charlotte	Irvine Sinn	2743 E. Buttonwood Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/18	Lilah	Knepper	3616 S. Kingsbury Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/21	Henry	Street	4153 Hector Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
11/22	Mildred	Blackburn	800 N. Bell Trace Cir. #107	Bloomington	IN	47408
11/25	Wren	Humphrey	900 South Grant Street	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/25	Mark	Knepper	3616 S. Kingsbury Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47401
11/26	Jenn	Richards	1651 W. Dove Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403

If you have a birthday that is not listed, please let us know so we can update our records.

First Christian Church
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The Christian Visitor

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