

# The CHRISTIAN



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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
*(Disciples of Christ)*

# Visitor

## Join us for the Season of Advent at FCC *Actively Waiting*



*Advent means “coming” or “arrival.” It’s the season of actively waiting and preparing for Jesus to be born, for God’s word to be made flesh to come into the world. This year, our Advent worship will be shaped by the poetry of Maya Angelou, the art and words of Joe Lee, and the intersection of Isaiah’s powerful prophecies with the stories of Mark and Luke. Advent devotional guides will be available that will help you enter fully into worship whether you join us in person each Sunday or worship virtually with your family.*

*Let us be actively waiting for the good news to be made real in our lives!*

### **November 28 - HOPE**

*Advent 1*

Isaiah 64:1-9 & Mark 13:24-37

Message: Sarah Lynne Gershon

### **December 12 - JOY**

*Advent 3*

Isaiah 61:1-4 & Luke 1:46-55

Message: Pastor Will Jewsbury

### **December 5 - PEACE**

*Advent 2*

Isaiah 40:3-5 & Mark 1:1-8

Message: Joe Lee “Forgiveness”

### **December 19 - LOVE**

*Advent 4*

Isaiah 9:2-7 & Luke 1:39-41

Message: Pastor Will Jewsbury

### **December 24 - Christmas Eve**

5:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service

7:30 pm Christmas Eve Concert

8:00 pm Service of Lessons and Carols

### **December 26 at 10:00 am**

*First Sunday after Christmas Day*

Service of Carols, Communion, and Cookies



*Advent Edition - Volume 63, number 20 November 17, 2021*

## Will Writes

### *Boldly Playing Your Part during the Season of Advent*

A junior high music teacher had just organized a band in her school. The principal was so proud of the music teacher's efforts that without consulting her he decided that the band should give a concert for the entire school. The music teacher wasn't so sure her young musicians were ready to give a concert, so she tried to talk the principal out of holding the concert, to no avail. Just before the concert was ready to begin, as the music teacher stood on the podium, she leaned forward and whispered to her nervous musicians, "If you're not sure of your part, just pretend to play." And with that, she stepped back, lifted her baton and with a great flourish brought it down. Lo and behold, nothing happened! The band brought forth a resounding silence.

Sometimes we in the church are like that junior high band, unsure of our parts, tentative in our roles, reluctant to trumpet forth the music of faith that God desires of us. And that's because we have trouble deciding what's most important.

Most of the choices we make in life are not between what is trivial and what is important. Rather, most of the choices we make are usually between what is important and what is more important. Advent is a time for us to boldly play our part as we slow down our rush toward Christmas and proclaim HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE.

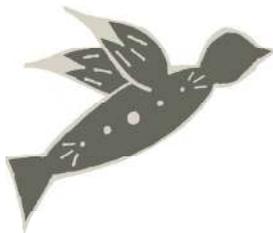
HOPE based on what God is doing in our lives and in the world. PEACE that comes through gifts of forgiveness and works of justice. JOY that is found in everyday beauty and the wonder of life itself. LOVE that overcomes the distrust and anger that plagues our world.

I pray that we can gather through these weeks of Advent, both in person for worship and in the various virtual spaces that we have discovered in the past couple of years, to talk about what is important in our lives, in the church, and in the eyes of God. Let us each play our part with resounding joy!

Grace and Peace,



Will



## MUSIC NOTES: PREPARING FOR WORSHIP - THE MUSIC OF ADVENT

### *Not your ordinary Christmas Carol*



Even before we enter December, the familiar carols of Christmas begin to fill the air - in the car, in the shopping mall and elevators, on tv and, yes, in our heads. For the church, however, the four Sundays before Christmas actually are observed as the season of Advent (which is derived from the Latin word meaning "coming"), and become a season of preparation - of prophesy, contemplation, awaiting, and preparing the place and heart to receive the coming of Christ.

Advent offers its own music of preparation - songs, carols and hymns sung perhaps only once a year, but which are part of the great tradition of hymnody that illuminate the season. Some of these can be found in the *Chalice Hymnal* between numbers 119 and 142, and many also appear in traditional Christmas carol collections. Their texts and music offer much to our meditation and understanding of this wonderful season. As an introduction, we can consider a few of the most familiar that come from different musical traditions and periods and will be part of our services in Advent. Also included here are some links if you would like to "practice" or become familiar again with them in advance.

Perhaps the most iconic is *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (#119) with its mysterious melody from a French 15th century chant and words translated from the Latin hymn *Veni Emanuel*. The text is of this Advent Song are based on the so called "O Antiphons" - an ancient set of 7 texts sung at subsequent Vesper services from December 17th to 23rd. Each begins with the petition "O" followed by a different title for the Christ - Emmanuel, Wisdom, Dayspring, etc. Each English verse of *O Come Emmanuel* begins with one of these petitions. The texts of the "O Antiphons" themselves can be found in the *Chalice Hymnal* #120 on the page opposite the hymn, or if you Google "O Antiphons", there are several links to tell you about them.

[https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=r\\_Ub7UUY1ck](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=r_Ub7UUY1ck)

The triumphant hymn *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*, heralds the coming of Christ in glorious terms. (Bloomington congregants will fondly remember that this was a hymn beloved by the late Rev. Roger Heimer, which he strongly encouraged us to sing at the beginning of each Advent Season.) Despite unclear musical origins, the result here is a characteristic early Methodist hymn tune, notable for its breadth and range. It effectively sets a text of similarly mixed sources, one that Charles Wesley regarded as related to "Thy kingdom come" in the Lord's Prayer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2x2xvFH310>

The season also begins with the equally positive Wesleyan hymn *Come, O Long-expected Jesus* (#125) is now traditionally sung to the stirring Welsh hymn tune HYFRYDOL.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=bt68JbPSAYs>

An Advent hymn from a slightly earlier period is the energetic *Comfort, Comfort You My People* (#122) which is a metrical (rhymed) 17th century version of the prophesy of Isaiah 40:1-8 sung to the compelling and singable tune from the 16th century Genevan Psalter of the Reformed tradition.

[https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=EVg\\_4zVSgqA](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=EVg_4zVSgqA)

I hope that you will find in these hymns poems to read and songs to sing to enrich our Advent time of preparation.

(This article, slightly altered here, first appeared in The Visitor for Advent 2020)



## Faith Formation and Family Ministries Update



FCC Families! We have a lot of wonderful things planned for the season of Advent! We will be featuring Worship & Wonder stories for our Children's Moment during worship on Sundays. We will be providing families with very special Advent Devotional Bags. We will go on our annual Christmas shopping trip for MCUM families. Normally, this activity is funded through our offering received during Sunday School classes. Since many classes have not been meeting in person, you can donate by bringing your donation (marked in an envelope) to FCC for Sunday worship, mailing it to FCC or by clicking on a MCUM Shopping donation button on the FCC website. That donation button will be in place very soon! We will also be preparing for FCC's Family Christmas Eve service. Below, you will find a calendar of family events to participate in. All of the events take place following worship, EXCEPT those noted otherwise. Contact Sarah Lynne Gershon or the church office with questions. Please join us and bring a friend too!

**Nov 28:** Pizza and MCUM family Shopping, Pick up your Advent Devotional Bags

**Dec 5:** MCUM present wrapping

**Dec 12:** fittings and rehearsal for FCC's Family Christmas Eve Service

**Dec 19:** fittings and rehearsal for FCC's Family Christmas Eve Service

**Dec 24 at 5:30:** Family Christmas Eve Service. Bring a friend!!

**Dec 26, 10:00 am Worship** - *Carols and Cookie exchange!*

## Advent Readers & Christmas Eve Family Service

We are looking for family readers for the Advent candle lighting during our regular Sunday worship service at 10:00 am. We are also looking for readers and soloists for our Family Christmas Eve service at 5:30 pm. Would your family like to be a reader? Would your children like to participate in the Family Christmas Eve Service? Please let Sarah Lynne Gershon know as soon as possible as we are planning for Advent and Christmas Eve now.

### **Hanging of the Greens on November 28 at 11:15 am**

#### ***Help us Decorate our Beautiful Church for Advent!***

Join us following worship on Sunday, November 28 for FCC's Hanging of the Greens. Peggy Stafford and Kathy Street will be leading this fun tradition as we decorate FCC for Advent.

***Communion Preparation Help is Needed*** in December and January. Please contact Peggy Stafford or the church office to help with this important, but simple task.

**Thank You!**



## In Our Prayers...

Please continue to pray for the family of Doris Brineman who passed peacefully in her home on November 4. A Celebration of Life service was held at FCC on November 13. Cards and notes of condolence for her family may be sent to Joanie Breeden at 3808 Woods Edge Bend, Bloomington, 47401.

## Sharing Christ's Inclusive through Serving and Welcoming Outreach Ministries



**EXODUS  
REFUGEE**  
*The life ahead.*

### Afghan Refugee Support

Exodus Indy Refugee is putting together "welcome teams" to provide friendship and help to refugees who are resettling in Bloomington. We are interested in forming a group of people at FCC who are interested in participating by offering help as they are able. The needs are wide-ranging, but expressing your interest in helping does not commit you to any particular task. Perhaps one week you could take someone to a doctor's appointment? Or help them learn to use a stove or navigate the public library? Would you like to hear about this need and learn more about being on a welcome team? Email [sarahlynn@fccbloomington.org](mailto:sarahlynn@fccbloomington.org) and let her know!

### Middle Way House Advent Donation Box

During Advent you will see a big collection box at FCC. We would like to fill this box with Christmas gifts for families at Middle Way House. Middle Way House exists to support victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking through services such as emergency shelter; a 24-hour help and crisis line; on-scene advocacy; support services; and transitional and permanent housing solutions. As you are making your holiday shopping lists and shopping, would you consider picking up a gift for someone at Middle Way House? You can scan the Q code on the side of the box for a wish list, or Sarah Lynne Gershon can provide one. They would appreciate personal care items, children's clothes, robes, diapers and toys for infants and toddlers. Just place your gift in the box when you come to worship.



### Holiday Shopping for MCUM

You are invited to join FCC families for our annual Holiday Shopping trip for MCUM families. We will be shopping on November 28 and wrapping gifts on December 5. This tradition is supported through our Sunday School class offering, but since classes haven't been meeting in person much lately, we are also asking for financial support for this project. You can place your donation in the Sunday offering tray (marked "MCUM Shopping") or mail it to FCC or use the MCUM Shopping button on the homepage of our website. Thank you!!

**Third Friday Jazz Vespers this Friday – November 19 at 6:30 pm  
with guest artist Rachel Caswell**

We begin Thanksgiving Week with a special Third Friday Jazz Vespers this Friday November 19 at 6:30 pm with Meditations, Readings, Scripture, and Jazz based on the theme of *Connection* with special guest artists **Rachel Caswell** and **Jamaal Baptiste**.

Jazz vocalist **Rachel Caswell** is known for her improvisational prowess, her pinpoint accuracy of pitch and rhythm, and her depth of delivery and interpretation of popular song. Rachel grew up in Bloomington, attended IU Jacobs School of Music where she had studied with David Baker from the age of 13. She received degrees with distinction in 1995 in classical cello and jazz studies and in 1998 completed her Master of Music Degree in Jazz Studies at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music. Since that time her career as a jazz artist has blossomed with performances throughout the United States from New York to Denver and Minneapolis and with critically acclaimed recordings both as a solo artist and in duet as the Caswell Sisters with her sister, violinist Sara Caswell. In Bloomington she was an active member of the First United Church and the Mount Gilead Disciples of Christ. In addition to her professional career, Rachel is also an Adjunct Lecturer in Jazz Studies at the IU Jacobs School.



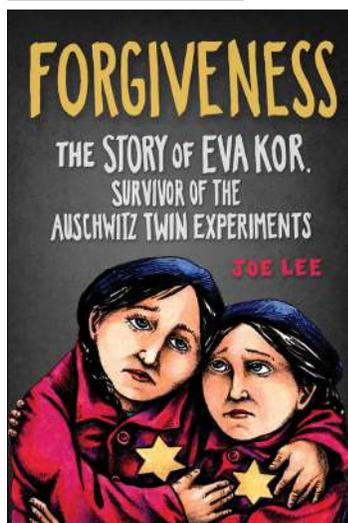
Rachel Caswell, Jazz vocalist



Jamaal Baptiste, pianist

Pianist **Jamaal Baptiste**, a native of Saint Nicolaas, Aruba, graduated from the Indiana University Jacobs School in Jazz Studies and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Ethnomusicology at Indiana University. At IU he has been an associate Instructor in the African American Arts Institute and an assistant at the Archives of African American Music and Culture.

We hope all will come out and bring a friend to experience the contributions of these artists to our Jazz Vespers worship. For those unable to attend in person, the will be streamed on the FCC Website, [www.fccbloomington.org](http://www.fccbloomington.org).



**Joe Lee Talks about His Book *Forgiveness* on December 5 at FCC!**

Joe Lee will be sharing stories of forgiveness during worship on Sunday, December 5. Joe's new graphic novel *Forgiveness: The Story of Eva Kor* chronicles the life of young Eva Kor, who survived the Nazi death camps as well as torture by Nazi doctor Josef Mengele during WWII. In 2019, Joe traveled with Eva Kor back to the death camp that she survived in Poland. There, she shared details of her life in the concentration camp as well as her amazing personal journey of forgiving those who killed her family.

Everyone is welcome to come hear Joe Lee's message during the 10:00 am service on Dec. 5. After worship Joe will be available in the Chapel Gathering Space where you can ask questions, purchase a book and have it signed. Please come out, bring a friend, and let's celebrate this achievement from Joe Lee and the wisdom we gain from Eva Kor's story.



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



12/01	Connie	Daugherty	4412 Hillview Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
12/02	Judith	Olmsted	4495 N. Benton Ct.	Bloomington	IN	47408
12/03	Linda	Campbell	507 E. Woodridge Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
12/04	Evelyn	Butler	2414 E. Fifth Street	Bloomington	IN	47408
12/04	Maria	Lee	3421 W. Tyler Lane	Bloomington	IN	47403
12/05	Mary	Polk	715 S. Meadowbrook Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
12/05	Elma	Jessen	3632 W. Indian Creek Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47403
12/07	Don	Wendling	510 Donna Dr.	St. Joseph	MI	49085
12/11	Thomas	Thompson	2430 Arlington Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47404
12/14	Dell	Cripe	3930 W. Tapp Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47403
12/14	Noah	Knepper	3918 S. Woods Edge Bend	Bloomington	IN	47401
12/16	Jennifer	Fettchenhauer	5337 E. State Rd. 46	Bloomington	IN	47401
12/16	Mary	Droste	800 N. Bell Trace Circle, Apt. 103	Bloomington	IN	47408
12/18	Iver	Gershon	909 N. Blair Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47404
12/20	John	Adams	3911 W. Maybury Mall #B19	Bloomington	IN	47403
12/21	Jean	Thompson	3636 S. Glasgow Circle	Bloomington	IN	47403
12/25	Marc	Wagner	2260 Olde Mill Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
12/28	Chuck	Jones	2615 E. Second St., Apt. 5	Bloomington	IN	47401
12/29	Gerry	Miller	2455 N. Tamarack Trail, Apt. 130	Bloomington	IN	47408
12/29	Cole	Watson	864 S. Coriander Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
12/31	Bess	Lee	1028 S. Henderson St.	Bloomington	IN	47401

*Please let us know if we have left anyone off of the birthday list!*

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*Vol. 63, no. 20*

*Join us for the season of  
Advent at FCC.*



*Join us for the season of Advent.  
It's the season of actively waiting and  
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to be made flesh to come into the world.  
This year, our Advent worship will be  
shaped by the poetry of Maya Angelou,  
the art and words of Joe Lee, and the  
intersection of Isaiah's powerful  
prophecies with the stories of  
Mark and Luke.*



**Scripture Readings  
For Sunday Worship**

**November 21**

John 18:33-37

*Telling the Truth*

Message: Will Jewsbury

**November 28**

Isaiah 64:1-9 & Mark 13:24-37

*Advent 1 - HOPE*

Message: Sarah Lynne Gershon

**December 5**

Isaiah 40:3-5 & Mark 1:1-8

*Advent 2 - PEACE*

Message: Joe Lee