

The CHRISTIAN



 FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ) **Visitor**

Join a Small Group Meeting with FCC's Search Committee

Pastoral Search Committee is Meeting with Groups to Share Progress, Gather Insight

The FCC Search Committee is thankful for the rich responses received on the recent congregational survey. They are compiling the information and look forward to sharing the findings with you and using them to prepare the information packet that will be shared with prospective ministerial candidates.

The committee is organizing four congregational meetings starting in November to share results of the survey with you and to talk with you about some of the points raised in the survey. They are working to clarify what we, as a congregation, are seeking in a new Senior Pastor with your help. There will also be time in these small group meetings to answer any questions you may have about the process.

The dates of the meetings are:

- (in person) Sunday, November 7 at 11:15 am in Great Hall
- (in person) Wednesday, November 10 at 7:00 pm in Great Hall
- (via Zoom) Sunday, November 14 at 11:15 am via Zoom
- (via Zoom) Wednesday, November 17 at 7:00 pm via Zoom

An email with a link to an online sign-up form was sent on November 2. If you did not receive that email, or would rather sign-up via phone, please call the church office (812-332-4459) so that we can help you sign up for the meeting that works for you. Some meetings will be in person and some will take place via Zoom. If none of these days/times work for you, please let us know so that we can schedule additional small group meetings. Thank you! We look forward to meeting with you!



Will Writes

Serving Our Community and Celebrating the Work of Our Partners in Ministry

In 1987, while I was Associate Minister here at FCC, I travelled with a group of IU students and FCC members to Americus, Georgia on a spring break work trip. There, we worked with and learned from some of the founders of Habitat for Humanity. A visit to Koinonia Farms helped us understand the roots of what is now one of the most impactful non-profits in the world. In other years, our spring break trips connected us with the local affiliates of Habitat as we helped them rehab and build houses.

Out of those experiences, some of the students began asking how they might start a Habitat chapter here in Bloomington. They planted the seeds that today have blossomed into one of the most recognized Habitat affiliates in Indiana. More than 265 houses later and with ambitious plans to create a new community of sixty-nine homes over the next few years, our local Habitat chapter is making a difference in the lives of Bloomington residents.

At a Habitat gathering last week, I heard the testimony of a young woman whose family moved into their Habitat home when she was a high school freshman. She spoke of the pride her parents had in being able to own a home for the first time and of the stability it gave to her family; allowing her and her siblings to attend college and, for her, to be working on her master's in non-profit management here at IU.

Our Student Associate Minister, Sarah Lynne Gershon, has been working with the current Women's Build for Habitat. Several of us are supporting that effort. Others have been involved in various ways over the years.

While Marcia and I have long pledged our talents and giving to the churches we have served or attended, we also have offered what we could to community organizations such as Habitat. Here in Monroe County, we have many dedicated and effective non-profits that serve the community. I celebrate the work of our partners in ministry and encourage you to get acquainted, volunteer, and support the work of these organizations that make life better for so many.

Together, we are the hands and feet of Jesus!

Grace and Peace,



Will





MUSIC NOTES: Shout Out to the Sanctuary Choir Members!

When the pandemic began some two years ago and we (among many other things) had to stop singing together, the Sanctuary Choir all but disbanded except for some Zoom meetings to make some virtual short responses to be inserted into our streamed services.

Coming back together in person has been a joy and a surprise – the joy of singing together, even though masked and spread out in a huge circle in the Great Hall, and the surprise as to how much momentum had been lost over the two years. Over time, choirs in rehearsal and singing on Sundays create an accumulation of disciplines: regular vocal practice, skill in sight reading, tuning, diction, studying the music, learning each other’s vocal habits and areas of weakness and strengths, and creating an ensemble to join together in creating the best music we can share.

After essentially 2 years apart, we discovered that a lot of the momentum of improving these skills had gotten away from us, and that we were also missing many members through attrition. Some of those had moved away, or for health or personal reasons have not been able to come back. When we came back, we devoted ourselves to a challenging project of working on one of the great masterpieces of the sacred literature – Mozart’s *Requiem in d. minor*. The members of the Sanctuary Choir dug in to discover and experience the joy that can come from sharing great music, rehearsing their parts not only in choir rehearsal but individually at home for several weeks. This is a shout out and appreciation to those faithful volunteer members who were able to commit to regaining our footing and to creating a memorable worship experience last Sunday:

Sopranos: Patti Parkes, Elma Jessen
and Mary Swarthout
Altos: Bess Lee and Jo Weddle
Tenor: Joe Lee
Basses: Bob Thrasher and
Tim Jessen

Our Choral Scholars and a few guests filled out the sections, but it was the commitment of these regular singers that deserves the kudos for leading us forward. We hope that some of our former members will feel safe in returning to regular rehearsals soon, and that some new singers will be motivated to join us on Thursday evenings at 6:15 in the Great Hall as we begin rehearsing for Advent and Christmas and continue to join in the momentum as we grow weekly.

Anyone seeking information about the Sanctuary Choir or Handbell Choirs can contact Jan (harringt@indiana.edu) or Jihye (organist.jihye@gmail.com).

Third Friday
Jazz
VESPERS

— connection —

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19
6:30 pm

Garrett Spoelhof Trio
featuring Wynton Gage, Vocalist

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
Kirkwood & Washington



In Our Prayers...

We lift the family of Margaret Hathaway in our prayers. Margaret passed away on October 26. Her family will be planning a celebration of her life at a later date. Cards and notes of condolence may be sent to Margaret's son: Jeff & Jeanette Hathaway, 10695 Pimlico Circle, Carmel, IN 46280.

We mourn the loss of Peg Albertson, who became of a member of FCC in 2012 and was a member of our choir for a time. She passed away on October 15 at the age of 88. She was an accomplished musician, singer, and teacher.

Please also pray for the family of Maxine Dillard who passed away on October 26 at Gentry Park Retirement Community in Bloomington. Maxine is survived by her children: Marsha Wray (Joe) of Punta Gorda, FL. and Steve Dillard of Little Rock, AR.

Higher Education & Leadership Ministries
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Colleges & Universities

Seminaries & Divinity Houses

2021 Thanksgiving Offering

Disciplesmissionfund.org

Thanksgiving Special Offering November 14 and 21

Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. **The Thanksgiving Offering** benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your gift helps support thousands of students at our fifteen colleges and universities as well as our seven seminaries and divinity houses. We will receive this special offering on November 14 and 21. You will find an envelope in this newsletter. Bring it to church for worship or mail it to FCC by November 21.

From the Pulpit in November		
<p>November 7 Scripture: Mark 12:38-44 <i>Little Stories</i></p>	<p>November 14 Scripture: Mark 13:1-8 <i>Jesus, Give Me a Sign!</i></p>	<p>November 21 Scripture: John 18:33-37 <i>Telling the Truth</i></p>

Faith Formation and Family Ministries Update

By Sarah Lynne Gershon, Student Associate Pastor

Advent begins on November 28! It is right around the corner and I am looking forward to celebrating with you during this season. I am already planning the Christmas Eve Family service, gathering new Advent devotional materials, and planning a MCUM Christmas shopping trip. Please read on to learn how you can plug in to these opportunities, and please reach out to me if you would like to help make them a success!

It's Time to Order Your Advent Materials!

Sarah Lynne will be ordering Advent Materials very soon! Please turn in your order no later than Monday, November 8. Order forms are on the reception desk, or you can email Sarah Lynne with your order. The following can be ordered:



- Advent Candles (suggested donation of \$3-5)
- Brass Advent Candleholder Ring (suggested donation of \$6)
- Chalice Press' Daily Advent Devotional by Sandhya Jha *Traveling with Our Ancestors* (suggested donation \$5)

All orders will include an Advent Calendar handmade by Ashlyn Reynolds and weekly devotional materials that correspond with our Sunday worship's theme. Families with young children will also receive something for their children.

Advent Readers & Christmas Eve Family Service

We are also looking for family readers for the Advent candle lighting during our regular Sunday worship service as well as readers and soloists for our Family Christmas Eve service. Would your family like to be a reader? Would your children like to participate in the Family Christmas Eve Service? Please let Sarah Lynne 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 Prepare for Advent by Decorating our Beautiful Church!*



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



Join us on Nov 14 for a Lantern Walk!
We'll make Ball Jar Lanterns During Worship on Nov 7

Sarah Lynne Gershon is planning a Lantern Walk with Bloomington's Interfaith Friends on Sunday, Nov. 14 at 4:30 pm! This tradition initially began in Europe to celebrate Saint Martin's Day. He is known for his generosity to the poor, so we will be collecting warm mittens, hats and socks at this event for guests at the Shalom Center (Beacon).

We will make lanterns out of jars during worship on Nov 7. Then, on Nov 14 we will gather near the playground at Switchyard park to make paper lanterns, have some snacks and warm drinks. After sunset, we will begin our Lantern Walk with our little lanterns. All ages are welcome! See you all there!

Sharing Christ's Inclusive Love through Serving and Welcoming Outreach Opportunities at FCC

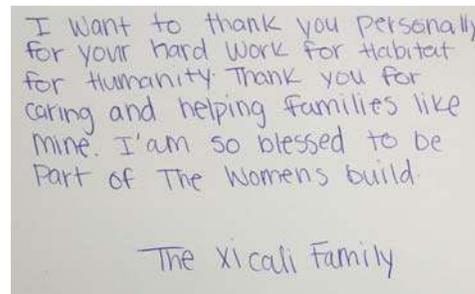
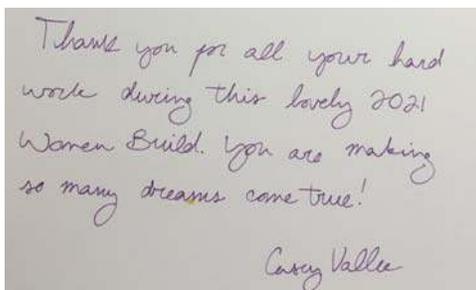
Would you like to share Christ's love by serving and welcoming Afghan Refugees?

Several women from FCC's *Voices of Faith* have expressed interest in supporting an Afghan family who is being resettled in Bloomington. We are currently gathering information about this opportunity. If we move forward, we would be working with Exodus Refugee Immigration in Indianapolis. We would need a team of 10 people to support one family. There is also the possibility of partnering with another team of ten. Please contact Sarah Lynne if you are interested in helping with refugee resettlement on an FCC team.

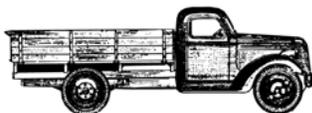
Habitat for Humanity Women's Build Update

Thank you to all who supported this year's Women's Build!

Here are thank you notes we received from the families!



PACK THE PICKUP FOR MCUM



We Provided Over 1,000 Pounds of Food and Supplies!

Thank you to everyone to participated in our October Food and Supply Drive for MCUM! We donated over 1,000 lbs of food and cleaning supplies in our drive! It was a great opportunity to see many of our FCC friends and get to know everyone who volunteered for this event.



The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. ~Psalm 24:1-2

The Earth is the Lord's: Reflections on the UN Climate Change Conference

Rev. Vy Nguyen
Executive Director, Week of Compassion

All of Creation is hurting. Our climate is inarguably shifting. And people of faith are among those calling for urgent action. This week, I am among a group of global leaders gathered for the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference. The 2020 gathering was cancelled due to COVID-19, and the two years since the last conference have seen one devastating disaster after another: from wildfires and severe drought to tornadoes, hurricanes, and typhoons, all made more complicated by the pandemic. Leaders—political leaders as well as faith leaders—are at a critical point of engagement to protect the earth and build stronger communities. Leading voices of faith are critical in this moment to remind us of the Creation that we are called to love and protect. The water we drink, the air we breathe, the church camps we grew up in—these are all sacred and have profound meaning to us.

Faith leaders are among those addressing the gathering, sharing testimonies and calling for urgent action on behalf of the communities they represent. Rev. James Bhagwan, General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches, shared a personal story about a cross that he wears around his neck. "Each of these shells were collected by my nieces and nephews, tied together with string, in the shape of a cross... This is the simple way in which the people of Kiribati make their jewelry: no diamonds, no gold, no silver. Just shells. And I wear this because they may not be able to do this for much longer. Because Kiribati is a poster child of sea level rise. This is the reality of my people, of the Pacific." Rev. Bhagwan went on to say, "In places like Fiji, people are already being forced to relocate because of sea level rise."

The mission of Week of Compassion is to alleviate suffering, and it is becoming more and more apparent that a growing climate crisis causes significant suffering for God's children around the world. That is why, along with our ecumenical and interfaith partners around the world, we are committed to supporting climate resilience programs. From Bosnia and Herzegovina to Puerto Rico, we help families to thrive through renewable technologies. From Honduras to Indonesia to Liberia and Sierra Leone, we support food security through sustainable agriculture. In these places, and in so many others, we work with partners to help empower farmers, families, and entire communities to thrive, despite mounting challenges to their livelihood and survival. The urgency of this moment, and the call for far-reaching systemic change, cannot be denied. "The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it," the Psalmist proclaims. As global leaders and voices of faith continue to remind us, that is good news. In this moment, it is also a call to prayer, to care, and to action. We hold in prayer all those world leaders gathered in Glasgow for this timely and critical conversation on climate action, and we pray for all people of faith, around the world, who will work together in the season ahead to ensure the continued thriving of the earth.

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SHARING CHRIST'S INCLUSIVE LOVE
SERVING | WELCOMING | LEARNING | SPIRITUAL CONNECTION

We are in the process of wrapping up our 2022 Stewardship Emphasis. Don't forget to return your Commitment Card for 2022. If you don't have a card, contact the church office so that we can send one to you.
Thank you for your commitment to FCC's ministries!

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

November 7
Mark 12:38-44
Little Stories

November 14
Mark 13:1-8
Jesus, Give Me a Sign!

November 21
John 18:33-37
Telling the Truth