

# The CHRISTIAN



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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
*(Disciples of Christ)*

## Visitor

### Multi-Faith MLK Celebration: A Single Garment of Destiny *This Sunday, January 10, 4:00-5:00 pm via Zoom*

All members of FCC are invited to participate in this year's Multi-faith MLK Celebration. Our own Sarah Lynne Gershon will be among those who will briefly reflect (from their own faith tradition) on the theme "A Single Garment of Destiny," based on some of what Dr. King wrote in his Letter from the Birmingham Jail:



*In a real sense all life is inter-related. All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a **single garment of destiny**. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be... This is the inter-related structure of reality.*

Guest Speakers include Melody Cooper (Self-Advocate Specialist at The Arc of Indiana) and Maqube Reese (Assistant Director of the Office of Diversity Initiatives at IU). In addition, there will be special music.

Plan to join FCC friends AND multi-faith friends in what promises to be a wonderful celebration! Here's the link to the event invitation on Facebook:  
<https://fb.me/e/1waFnKYW6>

The Bloomington Multi-Faith Alliance is organizing this event. More information about this event can be found on their Facebook page. You will find the Zoom link within the information in their Facebook event invitation. Simply click on that link this Sunday (Jan. 10) at 4:00 pm.

Meeting ID: 929 3335 4041  
Passcode: 718381

*Dear First Christian Church,*

*We are humbled by your expressions of affirmation and support as expressed through your generous Christmas gifts. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude. We are honored to serve such a wonderful congregation and look forward to the coming year!*

*Sincerely,*

*The Staff of First Christian Church*

**Pastor's Pen: Guest Columnist**  
*A Personal Word from Pastor Bruce Ervin*

A recent article in the Herald-Times talks about the psychological and social benefits of living with an attitude of gratitude. Well, I must tell you all how grateful I am for your outpouring of love and support in these past few weeks as I have moved into retirement. Thank you, thank you, thank you, FCC Bloomington! Your cards and notes and emails and texts have warmed my heart beyond words. And knowing that you were worshipping online during my farewell service on December 27 gave me a sense of the gathering of the saints. It was wonderful!

Had we been able to hold a proper farewell reception in Bedford, I would have had the opportunity to express my gratitude to you in person, as I know many of you would have made the trip down there. As it was, we encouraged just the members of the Bedford congregation to come through the Sanctuary, masked, and spaced out by name and time, so that Helen and I could speak briefly with them (two-on-one) as we stood in the Chancel. The initialized cuff links, tie pin and tie clasp that the Bedford folks gave me will be wonderful to wear, once it is safe to hold events – like live, in-person worship – for which I can get dressed up!

There is plenty to do in retirement: I will continue to chair the board of the Men's Warming Shelter in Bedford through January, I have one remaining responsibility related to fundraising at Bedford Camp and Conference Center, and there are – one might say – a *few* things to do around the house. I've already started to cull my books and my files, pitching the materials I've kept for 20 years or more that I thought maybe I would use again. The recycling bin is going to be pretty full in the coming weeks. I'm finding it quite liberating to let go of those old files and resources.

I will still be around. Helen has asked me to preach for her once or twice, and I will be on the lookout for new projects to take on, especially once we've moved to Boise. I suspect that I can find some kind of social justice or social advocacy organization out there that could use a new volunteer.

Thank you, dear saints of First Christian-Bloomington, for your partnership in the Gospel as together we have served God's Kingdom at various times over these past 10 years. You are a remarkable congregation and I count it among my richest blessings to have served with you.

Blessings indeed!

*Pastor Bruce Ervin*



## MUSIC NOTE

By Jan Harrington

### “Binge-Watching” Some Old Seasons of Friday Jazz Vespers Moments?

I wonder how many of you have the guilty pleasure of “binge-watching” old (or new) TV series - as in all of the episodes of *The Crown*, or *The British Baking Show* or even old series like *Six Feet Under* or even *I Love Lucy*? In one sitting or over a few days? ( I will confess that we just finished a series that had nine seasons – took a week – probably should have read a novel out loud to each other instead, but hey...)

What if you added to your binge-watching or meditation discipline looking back at old “seasons” of Jazz Vespers Moments? Depending on how many Fridays were in any month, each monthly season of four or five “episodes” lasts a total of around 45-50 minutes and explores a different theme. One parishioner wrote recently that one perk of the online services is that he and his wife “found them fantastic and gave them time to go back and listen to something more than once when they wanted to.” It is easy to explore and discover more about the poems, hymns and visual interpretations with multiple viewings (or even be guided in contemplation of the familiar Lord’s Prayer through Elena’s extraordinary insights revealed each week).

If you click on the Jazz Vespers link on our home page, the thumbnail pictures of all of the Jazz Vespers Moments will appear in reverse chronological order for your viewing pleasure.

The seasons since May explored insights into the topics of:

**Abundance, Calm, Commitment, Listening,  
Trust, Reaching, Searching, and Anticipating.**

And of course you can still look forward to our new seasons for 2021 first posted each Friday at 6:30 pm. January’s topic of “**Reflecting**” offers:

**January 1:** Reflecting on Patience  
**January 8:** Reflecting on Resilience  
**January 15:** Reflecting on Possibility  
**January 22:** Reflecting on Healing  
**January 29:** Reflecting on Memories

We hope you will receive blessings in this new year from the Jazz Vespers team,

*Linda Abe, Elena Escudero, Stefan Lenthe, Jan Harrington, and Jono Palmer*

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## **FCC is Now Livestreaming Sunday Worship Services**

*Join us at 10:00 am on [www.fccbloomington.org](http://www.fccbloomington.org)*

We hope you were able to join us online on January 3 as we brought our very first livestreamed worship service from the FCC Bloomington sanctuary. The move from prerecorded to a livestreamed service will give us more flexibility, given that it is a “live” worship service being delivered in “real time.” It will also free up time spent editing the service each week. All you need to do to access the livestream is to go to our homepage at [www.fccbloomington.org](http://www.fccbloomington.org) and click on the “livestream” button. Don’t worry if you miss the livestream service. We will upload the recorded service once it has ended and process it on YouTube. That could be later on Sunday or on Monday morning. You will find the recorded service on the homepage until Friday when we post our Jazz Vespers Moment. We also archive all of our services on the “sermon” page of our website. It will take us a little while to get used to the new way of bringing worship to you. Please, be patient as we work through the early bumps in the road.

### **Call and Response**

*New Worship Series Begins Sunday*

Call and Response is a rhythmic liturgical form often thought to have been brought to North America by enslaved Africans. However, similar patterns can be found in some of the ancient liturgies going all the way back to the psalms. When the leader calls out a word or phrase, those present respond with a symbiotic word or phrase, sung or spoken. Thus the entire community is engaged and strengthened.

But when the Holy calls, what is the appropriate response? And how should God's call and the Church's response build-up the Beloved Community that is the Kingdom of God? In this 6-week sermon series, Pastor Helen will help us ponder this question as she reflects on scripture passages taken from the Revised Common Lectionary, especially from Mark's gospel.

#### **January 10**

The Holy Speaks: Jesus Responds

Scripture: Mark 1: 4-11

#### **January 17**

Come and See: A Skeptic Responds

Scripture: John 1:43-51

#### **January 24**

Jesus Invites: Some Workers Respond

Scripture Mark 1:14-20

#### **January 31**

Jesus Commands: Even an Unclean Spirit Responds!

Scripture: Mark 1:21-28



#### **February 7 (Bruce Ervin Preaches)**

Jesus Heals: A Woman Responds

Scripture: Mark 1:29-39



## *In Our Prayers...*

Please hold Julie Donham in your prayers. The Donham family thanks their FCC family for prayers during the time of Julie's hospitalization. She remains in the hospital but has been removed from the ventilator and is gaining strength. The family asks for your continued prayers. You can send cards and notes of encouragement to the Donham family at 5900 Maple Grove Rd., Bloomington, 47404.

## Family Ministries Update

*By Sarah Lynne Gershon  
Student Associate Pastor*

I hope you all had a nice Christmas break and a good first week of the new year. I am currently working on getting devotional bags ready for Lent and Easter. Until then I will be sending weekly devotionals and coloring pages through email. If you would like them printed and snail-mailed to you, please let me know. (Hi, newsletter-reading adults, I can send these coloring pages to you too! They are from Illustrated Ministry and are great for grown-up coloring.)

Our next LIVE event will also be in February for Fat Tuesday/Ash Wednesday. This will likely be on Zoom. Look for details in upcoming emails.

Finally, camp registration for 2021 is open! While I know that COVID is still ominously looming, I am hopeful summer camp will be able to go on as planned. Please let me know if you register your children, so we know who is going from FCC. Here are the dates:

### **Bedford**

- June 21-26 Explorers (completed gr. 4-5)
- June 28-30 New Beginnings (complete gr. 1-3)
- July 5-10 High School (completed gr. 9-12)
- July 12-17 Middle School (complete gr. 6-8)

### **Geneva**

- June 14-16 You and Me 1 (age 5+ and an adult)
- June 14-16 New Beginnings (complete gr. 1-3)
- June 14-19 Explorers (completed gr. 4-5)
- June 21-24 You and Me 2 (age 5+ and an adult)
- June 21-26 MAD (Music, Art, Drama) (completed gr. 6-12)
- July 5-10 Traditional High School (completed gr. 9-12)
- July 5-10 Traditional Middle School (completed gr. 6-8)
- July 5-10 CROSS (Recreation/Sports) (completed gr. 6-12)



### **January Birthday Clarification!**

Just a note that it is Joe Parrot Jr. who has a birthday on January 24 (not his Dad Joe Sr.). If you'd like to send Joe a note or card, his address is 2390 E. Winding Brook Dr, 47401.

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH BLOOMINGTON

*call*  
&  
*response*

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**Scripture Readings  
For Sunday Worship**

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Mark 1:4-11

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