

The CHRISTIAN

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

Two Special Music Performance Opportunities at FCC This Weekend

Join Us for J.S. Bach Cantata 12 This Sunday during Worship

Join us for a very special worship service at 10:00 am Sunday morning, March 27. Continuing our Lenten series of meditations on Lament, we will worship through the music of J.S. Bach's Cantata 12: *Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen* (Weeping, Crying, Sorrow, Sighing), sung in English by the Sanctuary Choir, Choral Scholars with guest instrumental ensemble.

Bach's cantatas are structured like any good sermon, intended to guide the worshiper to deeper understanding of the scripture's meaning to the believer's life. The text of Cantata 12 develops the basic ideas of the gospel of St. John 16:16-23, especially verse 20:

19 Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'?" 20 Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy."

You will find more details on Bach's Cantata 12 in Jan Harrington's article on page 3. We hope that you will join us, and bring a friend, this Sunday for a very special service of music as we continue our Lenten journey to the cross.

Ukraine Benefit Concert on Saturday, March 26 at 7:00 pm



FCC is grateful for the opportunity to host a benefit concert in support of Ukraine sponsored by the IU Ukrainian Studies Association. The concert, open to the public, is the culmination of the annual USAIU Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian Conference held at IU. The recital will be given by Yevanhelina But, a pianist from Ukraine, who currently studies Piano Performance at Carthage College (Kenosha, WI). She graduated from the Kyiv Lysenko State Music Lyceum and is the winner of many international competitions in Ukraine and the USA. She has also had recitals in Ukraine and abroad. Admission to the concert is free with an option to donate in support of humanitarian support of Ukraine.

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Will Writes

Sharing the Easter Story as COVID-19 Restrictions Decrease

My thanks to Sarah Lynne, Jan, Jennifer, Eve, Bess Lee, and others who made sure the “plates kept spinning” last week while Marcia and I traveled to Michigan to be with family (especially two of our three wonderful grandchildren). Church is always a team effort.

We have passed the halfway point of Lent and are just a couple of weeks away from Holy Week and Easter. After two years of shouting “He is Risen!” to a computer screen there will be special joy in gathering in person to share the Easter story. Our online options will continue for those who cannot be with us, and we celebrate all the ways we can be a community, in person and virtual.

Our **Palm Sunday** (April 10 - 10:00 a.m.) worship will be a unique sharing of the “passion story”. We join Jesus as he enters Jerusalem, shares the last supper with his disciples, prays in the garden, is arrested and tried, and then led to the cross. This shared reading of scripture is titled “*The Cry of the Whole Congregation*” and was written by Walter Wangerin, Jr., a Lutheran pastor and professor. A trio of readers, a children’s chorus, hymns, and our voices will invite us into the story. I encourage you to be present or to log on to our livestream and enter into this moving service.

On **Maundy Thursday** (April 14 at 7:30 p.m.) we will welcome back guest cellist Adriana Contino who will join Jan, Jihye, and our choir in guiding us through a service of communion and meditation. As we hear sacred music and the words of scripture, and share the bread and cup, we will extinguish candles leading us into the night and toward Good Friday.

The **Good Friday** (April 15) community service will be at First United Church on East 3rd at 12:10 p.m., running until 1:00 p.m. It will be livestreamed as well.

Our **Third Friday Jazz Vespers** falls on Good Friday (April 15). Come and share in the gift of music and meditation as we prepare ourselves for Easter. Jazz Vespers begins at 6:30 pm.

Easter Sunday (April 17 - 10:00 a.m.) concludes our Lenten journey as we come again into the light of Christ and celebrate the resurrection. A service filled with music and the joy of new life will invite us to renew our faith and enlarge our hope. Come and share the good news: **Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!**

Grace and Peace,

Will Jenks

Will



Lenten Prayers of the People

Throughout Lent, please continue to send us your prayer concerns, laments, and signs of hope. You can do this through a response button in the daily devotional email, by emailing them to Sarah Lynne and Will, or by sending a letter to the church marked “Prayers of the People.” We will be using your responses to help us shape the prayers of the people on Sunday mornings during Lent.



BACH'S SERMONS IN MUSIC A CANTATA IN WORSHIP - SUNDAY, MARCH 27

J.S. Bach Cantata 12: *Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen*
(Weeping, Crying, Sorrow, Sighing)

This Sunday morning, March 27, continuing our Lenten series of meditations on Lament, we will worship through the music of J.S. Bach's Cantata 12: *Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen* (Weeping, Crying, Sorrow, Sighing) sung in English by the Sanctuary Choir and Choral Scholars with guest instrumental ensemble.

Each Sunday, the cantata played a central role in German Lutheran worship, as it was based on poetry that elaborated on the scripture for the day. Bach's cantatas are structured like any good sermon intended to guide the worshiper to deeper understanding of the scripture's meaning to the believer's life. The text of Cantata 12, likely by the court chaplain Salomo Franck (1659-1759), develops the basic ideas of the gospel of St. John 16:16-23, especially verse 20.:

19 Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'? 20 Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy."

The cantata opens with a poignant instrumental piece for oboe and strings. The oboe's restless melody gives expression to deep grief and the restlessness of the spirit and sets the devotional tone for the lamenting opening chorus to follow. The arias which follow the opening chorus take us on a spiritual journey from the alto's exploration of the tribulations life can present us on our life's journey, through a transition sung by the bass to commitment to follow Christ and stay at his side. Finally, taking the preacher's role to conclude the sermon, the tenor confidently admonishes the believer: "Yes, there is hope through adversity, you must remain steadfast and trust". The cantata closes with a simple chorale (hymn) which summarizes the message of the cantata:

*"What God does is with reason done; This truth will not forsake me.
Although this life by thorny paths through toil and troubles take me,
I trust God will all caring be, and will with love enfold me. I will let God direct me."*

We hope that in this worship service, you can allow your feelings to follow the cantata's evolution from deep dejection to serene composure and courage to move through the travails that life might present.



Adriana Contino - Cellist

**Join us on April 14 at 7:30 pm for
A Maundy Thursday Service of Communion and Meditation
"Light To The Darkness"**

*A Tenebrae service with music by the Sanctuary Choir
and guest cellist Adriana Contino*

Third Friday Jazz Vespers
April 15 at 6:30 pm
Good Friday Reflections



FCC Family Ministries Update



Lent Pretzels! Palm Sunday after worship in the Great Hall

We will be making Lent Pretzels after worship on Palm Sunday. Lent pretzels are a fun activity that reminds us to focus on prayer during Holy Week. Thanks to Carie Johann for heading this up! *Please let Sarah Lynne Gershon know if your family will attend.*



Worship and Wonder has begun!

We are delighted to welcome all our kids to Worship and Wonder each Sunday. This program will be offered through May. All participants need to wear a mask and be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Please reach out to Sarah Lynne Gershon if you have a child or grandchild who is too young to be vaccinated but would like to participate. We are looking forward to worshipping with your children!

***Seeking Nursery Volunteers:** We currently have the nursery open for parents to take young children, but we do not have the nursery staffed. If you are interested in being a nursery volunteer please let Sarah Lynne Gershon know. Right now we do not have any nursery-aged children in worship, but if/when that changes we would like to be prepared to welcome these young children and families!*

Sign up for Summer Camp today!

We are happy to cover 50% of camp fees for all of our kids and youth. Please let Sarah Lynne know you are signing up. Make sure you indicate when you sign up that you are from First Christian Church of Bloomington, IN and pay **your** portion of the fee. If you need more help financially please don't hesitate to let us know. It is important to us that our kids are able to go to camp!

	GENEVA		BEDFORD	
	Start	End	Start	End
You and Me 1 (3 days)	June 13-15			(age 5+ and an adult)
New Beginnings (3 days)	June 13-15	June 27-29		(completed gr. 1-3)
Explorers	June 13-18	June 20-25		(completed gr. 4-5)
You and Me 2 (3 days)	June 20-22			(age 5+ and an adult)
M.A.D (Music Art Drama)	June 20-25			(completed gr. 6-8 & 9-12)
Middle School	June 27-July 2	July 11-16		(completed gr. 6-8)
High School	June 27-July 2	July 4-9		(completed gr. 9-12)
CROSS (Recreation/Sports)	June 27-July 2			(completed gr. 6-8 & 9-12)

Early Bird Fees: 6-day camps: **\$415**; 3-day camps: **\$235** (add \$25 after May 15th registrations)
 Visit genevacenter.org for Geneva camp registration/info. Visit indianadisciples.org for Bedford camp registration/info.
 Scholarships for Disciples campers at Bedford and Geneva camps are available. Visit indianadisciples.org to download.



**Lenten MCUM Drive
Pack the Pickup!**

We encourage you to make it a Lenten discipline to bring donations to FCC for our MCUM resource drive each Sunday during Lent.

On Palm Sunday, April 10, you will have one last opportunity to participate in this drive! You can drive through our Kirkwood alley and fill Pastor Will's pickup truck. He will be out there waiting for your donations from noon to 3:00 pm. MCUM would appreciate non-perishable pantry items, cleaning supplies, or supplies for their preschool.

Preschool Supply Requests

- Books for 1-4 year olds
- Blocks
- Dress-up items
- Classroom supplies (various art supplies)

Food Pantry Ongoing Needs

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Reusable cloth bags | Frozen meat |
| Canned meat | Canned Vegetables |
| Peanut Butter | Cereal |
| Dried Pasta | Ready to Eat Soup |

**Exodus Refugee Co-Sponsor Team Meeting
Sunday, April 24 at 1:00 PM**



**EXODUS
REFUGEE**
The life ahead.

It's not too late to join our team with Exodus Refugee Bloomington. Join us for a team meeting on Sunday, April 24 at 1:00 pm. This meeting will last for around 1.5 hours

and will provide you with all the information you need to make a final decision about joining an FCC Co-Sponsor team with Exodus Refugee Bloomington. Joining this meeting is not a commitment, but I will be asking you to send me your decision afterwards so we know if we have enough participants for a team. Thanks to everyone who is considering this exciting opportunity!

BMA F4RE Spring 2022 Community Book Read Capstone Event



Please join Bloomington Multifaith Alliance Faith for Racial Equity (BMA F4RE) in-person or online on April 3 from 2:00-4:00 pm. for discussions of housing discrimination and school segregation, issues covered in Heather McGhee's book "The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We can Prosper Together". Guest speakers include Ashley Pirani with the Monroe County Black Democratic Caucus and April Hennessey, MCCSC School Board Trustee. (Reading the book is NOT required to participate.)

In person at First United Church (masks will be required)
2420 E. 3rd St, Bloomington, IN 47401
Or online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82836810281>

Partnering to Respond in Ukraine

March 15, 2022



For us, like for many others, every day Ukraine is on our hearts. So begins a letter from Pieter and Nora Kalkan, missionaries to the Czech Republic, writing to their church family in the (American Baptist) International Ministries. Through IM, and the European Baptist Federation, Week of Compassion is on the ground in Ukraine and surrounding nations, responding to the emergent needs of those fleeing the country, and those who remain internally displaced by the war.

As stories of devastation and terror fill the international news, stories of compassion, generosity, and life-giving help flow in from our ecumenical partners as well.

In the port city of Mariupol, the basements of at least two central churches shelter several hundred Ukrainian people. In Lviv, EBF-connected volunteers have helped establish mobile hospitals, where local pastors provide spiritual and psychological support to patients and staff, and train others to do the same. Churches in every region are serving as centers of refuge, helping those in transit to other locations, as well as any needing overnight care.

Logistics centers in bordering nations receive and distribute aid, and churches have mobilized to take thousands of refugees. Winter weather has stranded many trying to cross borders, including several hundred Indian students. Even hundreds of miles from the Ukrainian border, rides are being organized to pick up refugees at border stops and carry them further into other nations, to relieve the crowding and pressure at the major crossings.

EBF contacts are trying especially to connect with African and Asian refugees from Ukraine who have been refused at some borders, but are finding refuge and access in other places. All refugees are being fed as soon as they arrive and are offered free transport and accommodation.

Even while the needs are dire and seem insurmountable, we remain a people of Gospel hope, a living witness to the goodness of Christ, alive in the world. Alongside you and all our ecumenical partners, Week of Compassion holds fast to the vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope.

We ask that you pray, prepare, and give.

Give to FCC While You Shop!

If you shop online on Amazon or if you shop for groceries at Kroger... you can give to FCC while you shop. Both companies have giving programs. At Kroger you give through your shopping card. Log in to your Kroger card and go to the Community Rewards page to choose First Christian Church. Amazon's program is through Amazon Smiles. Be sure to choose the Bloomington, Indiana First Christian Church. Thank you!



Honoring our 2022 Graduates!

Spring always brings warmer weather, beautiful flowers... and **graduations!** We are looking forward to celebrating our graduates and their accomplishments. We are developing our list of high school and college graduates now and will celebrate them soon! Please **email Sarah Lynne Gershon or call the church office** to let us know if you are graduating or have a child graduating that needs to be added to our list! We also need details on their accomplishments while in school and plans after graduation. We can't wait to celebrate our grads! Way to go class of 2022!!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



04/01	Anne	Johnson	708 S. Cory Lane #76	Bloomington	IN	47403
04/02	Joc	Parrott	543 W. Green Road	Bloomington	IN	47403
04/03	Jude	Walsh	3006 S. Olcott Blvd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
04/05	David	Garshaw	3740 N. Russell Road	Bloomington	IN	47408
04/06	Craig	Paicment	260 S. Lori Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
04/08	Connie	Gross	3485 S. Knightridge Road	Bloomington	IN	47401
04/10	David	Campbell	1087 S. Fieldcrest Ct.	Bloomington	IN	47401
04/11	Lily	Hoover	1250 W. Adams Hill Cir. Unit 702	Bloomington	IN	47403
04/12	Andi	Fletcher	6200 W. Maple Grove Rd.	Ellettsville	IN	47429
04/14	Mike	Griffin	3830 Woodhaven Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403
04/16	Kathy	Street	2604A E. 2nd St.	Bloomington	IN	47401
04/20	Tiffani	Sinn Trulock	901 Orchard Drive	Newburgh	IN	47630
04/23	Danielle	Murry-Knowles	1732 W. 7th St. Apt. 1	Red Wing	M	55066
04/26	Fred	Matthews	7263 S. Burch Rd	Bloomington	IN	47403
04/28	Haley	Norris	2677 N. Warren Rd.	Bloomfield	IN	47424
04/28	Lesley	Bolton	8841 S. Morning Glory Ct.	Bloomington	IN	47401
04/30	Mary Beth	Godsey	3403 N. Smith Pike	Bloomington	IN	47404

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

FCC Board Meeting April 3

The FCC church board will meet on Sunday, April 3 at 12:15 via zoom. Along with the regular, ongoing work of the board they will hear a report from the search committee who continue to work prayerfully and diligently seeking a new settled pastor. Your prayers of support are welcome as this team works on our behalf.

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
205 E. Kirkwood Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47408

812-332-4459
fcc@fccbloomington.org
www.fccbloomington.org
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**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

March 27

Bach Cantata 12
John 16:16-23

April 3

Psalm 42 and John 12:1-8
Thirsting for God

April 10

Palm Sunday
The Cry of the Whole Congregation