

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

Holy Week with FCC

All Services Can Be Accessed From Our Homepage

Palm Sunday, March 28, 10:00 am: Please prepare for this livestreamed service by going into your yard and cutting off a branch that you can wave during the opening hymn. This traditional service marks the beginning of Holy Week as we journey with Jesus to Jerusalem. While it begins with what we call “The Triumphal Entry,” this service will end on a more somber and reflect note as we sing “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.”

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7:00 pm: Pastor Helen and Pastor Bruce will offer leadership for this very special service of worship that will begin with the Lord’s Supper and then move into a Tenebrae Service, also known as Service of Shadows. Please prepare by gathering communion elements and up to seven candles. We will extinguish the candles together as we recount the disturbing events that led to Jesus’ death on the cross. This moving service will help prepare us for the joy of Easter morning.

Good Friday, April 2, 12:10 pm: This ecumenical service will be led by the pastors who serve four historic “First Churches” of Bloomington: First Christian, First Presbyterian, First Methodist, and First United. Pastor Helen, Sarah Lynne Gershon, and our choir will provide leadership from FCC. This year the service will be livestreamed and hosted by First Presbyterian Church. A link to the service will be provided on our homepage www.fccbloomington.org.

Easter Sunday, April 4, 10:00 am: The chancel will be filled with the scent of lilies and sound of trumpets as we proclaim the risen Savior! This live-streamed service will give us the opportunity to sing uplifting hymns, hear words of hope and promise, and celebrate the triumph of life over death!

Bonus: Easter Egg Hunt on the FCC lawn will begin at 11:30 am! Children and grandchildren (along with their parents/grandparents) are invited to participate in this fun annual event, which has been designed to follow COVID safety protocols.

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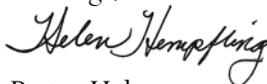
Pastor's Pen
Holy Week Confession

Every year, I am sorely tempted to skip over the heaviness of Holy week and to jump straight into the Halleluiahs of Easter. This year, in particular, the temptation to skip out on Holy Week services is greater than ever, because (truth be told): 1) COVID has made it feel like we've been in the dark season of Lent not for 40 days but 400 days, 2) I already know the disturbing story of Christ's passion, so why should I allow my emotions to be stirred up, and 3) we've pre-recorded our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services—which means that ya'll won't even know whether or not I'll be worshipping with you during Holy Week! 😊

Tempting as it may be to slide effortlessly into Easter, I still plan to worship with you next week on Thursday at 7:00 pm and Friday at 12:10 (see the front page for details). Why? Because life has taught me that the miracle of Easter—with its joy and light and elation—is experienced to its fullest when you've journeyed in the valley of darkness, despair, and death. Author Madeleine L'Engle expresses it like this: "You have to know the darkness before you can appreciate the light." And the words of the traditional spiritual "Do Lord" also ring true: "If you don't bear the cross, then you can't wear the crown."

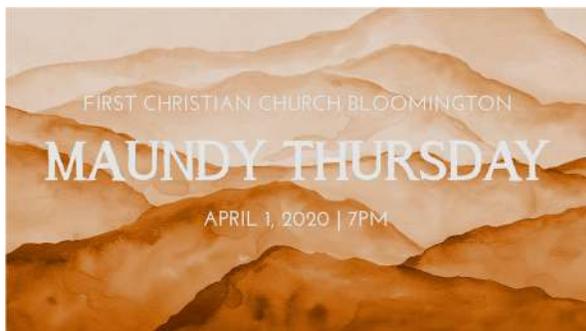
So, this Holy Week, I'll lean into the darkness again. Better yet, I invite you to travel that dark valley with me! And as we travel that road together—even as we struggle with the meaning of suffering and death—let's trust that the morning light of Easter WILL come. Let's trust that the powers of death WILL be defeated. Let's trust that love WILL win and one day all WILL be well! Indeed, let's trust that NOTHING will ever be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord! (Romans 8:39)

Blessings,



Pastor Helen

PS: Please note that you will be able to access our Ecumenical Good Friday Service through a link posted on our website homepage: www.fccbloomington.org.





MUSIC NOTES

Organ Music for Holy Week and Easter

I often write about the vocal music we are singing - hymns, anthems, cantatas, etc, - but usually neglect commenting on the wonderful organ music that so enhances our worship in “Organ Voluntaries” – the music of the Prelude, Postlude, and Offertory that prepare us for prayer or send us out into the world.

Recently, Jihye has offered music of the Baroque period by J.S. Bach and others that are forms which are sets of two pieces called Prelude and Fugue; in these forms, the music of the Prelude is usually in a free form and its accompanying piece, the Fugue, is more complex with independent lines that imitate each other and are developed into a joyous complex web of counterpoint.

Other common forms are treatments of hymn and chorale tunes where the melody becomes a basis for an interpretive treatment; this form, perfected in the Baroque period (we have heard several by J.S. Bach and Brahms in this past season), is still common today where familiar hymns are treated in a similar way. On **Palm Sunday**, the prelude will be a setting by the early 19th-century Austrian composer Simon Sechter of the Palm Sunday hymn tune ST. THEODULPH (All Glory Laud and Honor). This prelude will foreshadow our own singing of the hymn during the Processional of the Palms at the beginning of the service. On **Maundy Thursday**, the prelude will be a setting by J.S. Bach of the chorale “O Sacred Head Now Wounded,” which will also have a significant place in the service.

Finally, for **Palm Sunday** and **Easter**, Jihye is providing us with wonderful movements from **Charles-Marie Widor’s** last organ symphony, *Symphonie romane*. The first and last movements of the Symphony will be the prelude and postlude on Easter Sunday. This masterwork is based on Gregorian Chant themes related to the Easter season, especially the chant for Easter HAEC DIES –Psalm 118 “This is the Day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it”.



Gradual

T HIS day is the day that the Lord has
made. Let us all sing and re-joice

On Palm Sunday, the postlude will be the more lyrical meditative third movement of the Symphony, based on the Easter chant VICTIMAE PASCALE (Christians, to the Paschal Victim)



(continued on page 7)



In Our Prayers...

Please hold in your prayers the Lee families as they mourn the death of Joe and Maria's mother, Jean Lee, who passed away March 12. A funeral mass will be celebrated at 10:00 am on Friday, April 16, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Olney, IL with a graveside service to follow.

Cards and notes of condolence can be sent the following addresses:

Maria (and son Jacob): 3421 W. Tyler Lane, Bloomington, 47403

Joe, Bess (and son Brandon): 1028 S. Henderson St., Bloomington, 47401.



Easter Offering
a special day offering of Disciples Mission Fund
March 28 and April 4, 2021

Several times a year, congregations receive a special offering to support the ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These gifts are given above and beyond the regular core support of Disciples Mission Fund.

The Easter Offering, received on March 28 and April 4, 2021, supports several of the general ministries of the Christian Church. Your gift supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, the formation of new congregations, support for pastors and chaplains, and so much more.

You may return the envelope included in this newsletter with your gift for the Easter Offering to FCC or you may give online by going to www.fccbloomington.org and clicking on the Easter Offering log on the homepage of our website.

Thank you for your support of the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Easter Lily Order Pick-Up on April 5



Did you order a lily to adorn our sanctuary on Easter morning? That lily will be available for pick-up on Monday, April 5th.

Diane and Bob Thrasher will meet you in our alley (between the FCC sanctuary and Habitat) between 11:00 am-12:30 pm. No need to get out of your car. We can bring the lily to you for a safe, socially distanced pick-up.

If you can't make it during those hours on Monday, call the church office (812-332-4459) to arrange a time to pick up your flowers.

Upcoming Youth Events

Attention FCC Youth: Would you like to help stuff and hide Easter eggs for this year's Egg Hunt? Please contact Ashlyn for details on this fun tradition!

FCC Youth is planning a fun (and safe/socially distanced) hike near Lake Griffy in April. If you'd like to join us, contact Ashlyn Reynolds!

Family Ministries Update

By Sarah Lynne Gershon
Student Associate Pastor

Hello Families!

We are just a couple weeks out from Easter and I hope you have saved the date and are able to come to our Easter egg hunt on the FCC lawn! This will take place on Sunday April 4 following the livestreamed worship service. We will start the first hunt at around 11:30 am. Please wear masks and be aware that the church building will not be open. I will have a new at-home devotional bag for Eastertide through Pentecost, and then we will take a break from the devotional bags for the summer. I hope to see you on Easter!

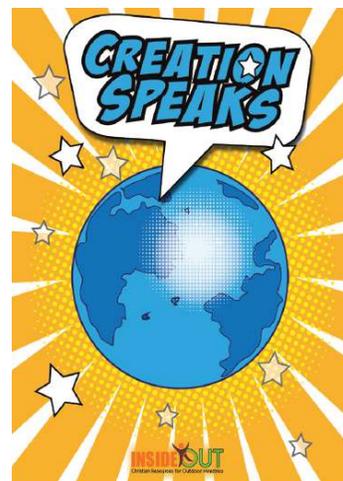
Do not forget to register for camp! Please let me know if you have registered. The early bird rates are in place until May 15, so make sure to sign up before then! Don't hesitate to email me if you need help with registration. Here are the fees and dates:

Bedford Camp

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

Geneva Camp

June 14-16	You and Me 1 (age 5+ and an adult)
June 14-16	New Beginnings (completed grades 1-3)
June 14-19	Explorers (completed grades 4-5)
June 21-24	You and Me 2 (age 5+ and an adult)
June 21-25	MAD (Music, Art, Drama) (completed grades 6-12)
July 5-10	Traditional High School (completed graded 9-12)
July 5-10	Traditional Middle School (completed grades 6-8)
July 5-10	CROSS (Recreation/Sports) (completed grades 6-12)



Fees (FCC Scholarships are available)

6-Day Camps:	\$395
4-Day Camps:	\$285
3-Day Camps:	\$225

Finally, please save the date for a family ministries **campout** in support of Beacon's **Solidarity Sleep Out**. This will take place Friday evening, **April 30**, and conclude on Saturday morning. We will spread out for a socially distanced campout in Scott and Jennifer Fettchenhauer's yard! I will send more details in an email and reach out to see if you are interested.

Monroe County United Ministries
Spring into Action!
Cleaning & Hygiene Drive



Poverty can feel like a puzzle that is difficult to solve.

MCUM offers both basic needs assistance and longer-term goal setting with clients as they piece together their own puzzle.

Please, consider giving to this campaign!

Help us raise:

\$40,000
&
1,000 lbs.
cleaning & hygiene
products

Most Needed Items:

- General cleaner
- Laundry detergent
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Deodorant
- Razors
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Dish soap
- Kleenex
- Soap

Items can be dropped off at MCUM Monday-Friday from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
827 West 14th Court, Bloomington, 47404



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



04/01	Anne	Johnson	708 S. Cory Lane #76	Bloomington	IN	47403
04/02	Joe	Parrott Sr.	543 W. Green Road	Bloomington	IN	47403
04/03	Jude	Walsh	3006 S. Olcott Blvd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
04/05	Allison	Donham	5900 N. Maple Grove Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47404
04/05	David	Garshaw	3740 N. Russell Road	Bloomington	IN	47408
04/06	Craig	Paiement	260 S. Lori Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
04/08	Connie	Gross	3485 S. Knightridge Road	Bloomington	IN	47401
04/10	David	Campbell	507 E. Woodridge Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
04/11	Lily	Hoover	1250 W. Adams Hill Circle Unit 702	Bloomington	IN	47403
04/12	Andrea	Fletcher	6200 W. Maple Grove Rd.	Ellettsville	IN	47429
04/14	Mike	Griffin	3830 Woodhaven Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403
04/16	Kathy	Street	4153 Hector Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
04/23	Danielle	Murry-Knowles	c/o Suzanne Murry, 300 Red Wing Ave. South, Unit 318	Red Wing	MN	55066
04/26	Fred	Matthews	7263 S. Burch Rd	Bloomington	IN	47403
04/26	Steve	Fettchenhauer	2201 E Wimbleton Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
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

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

(continued from Music Notes on page 3)

The *Symphonie romane*, in its spiritual depth and transcendent beauty, leaves a powerful impression upon the listener. Those who heard Widor play describe aptly what one feels upon hearing this symphony: "He seems to send out a marvelous shower of light, from the organ loft down onto our heads!" "He stirs the soul to the depths, he transports it into the regions of the infinite, and casts it, transfixed into the world beyond."

This is not simply "background music". We hope that listening and letting this music flow through you will inspire you as you celebrate the season.

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The Christian Visitor

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH BLOOMINGTON
**A HEART THAT
CELEBRATES**
EASTER SUNDAY 2021

Join us online at 10:00 am on April 4 for the sound of trumpets as we proclaim the risen Savior! This live-streamed Easter service will give us the opportunity to sing uplifting hymns, hear words of hope and promise, and celebrate the triumph of life over death!

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

March 28 (Palm Sunday)
A Heart of Humility
Mark 11:1-11

April 4 (Easter Sunday)
The Heart that Celebrates!
Matthew 27:62-28:10