

The CHRISTIAN

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

Holy Week at First Christian Church

Our Lenten journey gives us the opportunity to reflect, learn, and grow in our relationship with God. As we near the end of this journey, we will continue to offer daily devotionals and spiritual practices to encourage you along your personal journey. The Fifth Sunday of Lent (March 26) our Sanctuary Choir will offer a Handel Cantata in worship at 10:00 am. Please come and bring friends, neighbors and family with you for this very special service.

Below are details on services offered during Holy Week as we journey to the cross and the empty tomb together. All are welcome!

April 2 - Palm Sunday *Worship at 10:00 am*



Join us for the Palm parade as we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Our "Springtime of the Spirit" series concludes as we explore the practice of courage.

April 7 - Good Friday *Worship at 7:00 pm*



We will share in a Tenebrae service as we hear the narrative of Jesus' crucifixion from the Gospel of John. If we are to be prepared to celebrate the glory of resurrection, we must first make the journey with Jesus to the cross.

April 6 - Maundy Thursday *Worship at 7:00 pm*



Join us for a service of reflections and music as we consider several rich metaphors for what we experience at the Lord's Supper. This service will incorporate music from our choir as we remember the events in the Upper Room and in the Garden of Gethsemane.

April 9 - Easter Sunday *Worship at 10:00 am*



Come and declare with God's people "Christ is risen indeed!" as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Please plan to remain after worship for our annual children's Easter egg hunt on the lawn!

The Minister's Missive
Attend to Your Spirit with Intention

Dear Church,

We are two weeks into the Lenten Season (1/3 of the way through). How is it with your soul? I wonder if you might take a few quiet moments to really consider my question.

Our "Springtime of the Spirit" sermon series has invited us to consider how taking up practices of solitude and of surrender might enrich our faith lives. In solitude, we give ourselves the space and opportunity to hear the voice of God when we choose to be undistracted. In silence, we may encounter the difficult questions that we typically try to avoid in the busyness of our lives. When we practice surrender, we lean into a deeper trust in God, letting go of our insistence that we must analyze, dissect, and intellectually "know" all things. We embrace that much about the universe is a mystery and that faith is the gift God gives us that allows us to lean into God's care even when we cannot fully understand or articulate our experiences. In the coming weeks, we will explore additional spiritual practices that can help us become more faith-filled and more faithful.



The key, though, with all these practices is this: intention. When we move through our lives doing the same old thing in the same old way, we are unlikely to discover new truths. Spiritual growth requires that we make some choices about how we will spend our time, how we will direct our thoughts, and what we will make truly important.

Have you made some time and space in these past two weeks to attend to your spirit? If so, how has that been for you? If not, might you consider making some choices that will give your faith room to grow? Nurturing the soul doesn't have to involve making huge changes. Something as simple as a 15 minute daily walk, reading a Psalm each day, adding a prayer to your mealtime routine, or driving to work with the radio off can do a lot to open up some breathing room for our souls.

You are God's beloved; you are cherished and adored. God wants to bless you with spiritual health and vitality. Not only that, God sure would like to spend some time with you. May you choose this Lenten Season to care for your soul. May you experience a springtime of the spirit!

Lenten Shalom,

Pastor Kyrmen
317-408-9782
pastorkyrmen@gmail.com





In Our Prayers...

- ◇ We express our sympathy and offer prayers for friends of Lawrie Hamilton, who passed away on February 11. Lawrie was involved with FCC several years ago as the leader of a centering prayer group. A graveside service was held on February 17.
- ◇ We offer prayers for Amy Lynn who is dealing with health challenges.
- ◇ We also pray for Jim Doucet, son-in-law of Jane Zebendon, as he makes treatment decisions regarding a rare form of cancer.
- ◇ We extend sympathy and prayers the family of David Parker who passed away March 7 following a battle with cancer. He is the son of Kathy Parker and the late Rev. Ron Parker, former pastor of FCC.
- ◇ Also pray for the family of Joan "Jo" Travis who passed away on Feb. 15 at the age of 90. Jo and her husband Cliff were longtime members of FCC. A service and visitation will held at the Canyon Inn at McCormick's Creek State Park on March 25 at 1:30pm.

Welcome Scott and Jennifer



Scott and Jennifer Fettchenhauer finally joined FCC after getting to know us the past 6 years. They join by transfer of membership from Community Christian Church in Kansas City. Scott is the Facility Support Contracts Manager at Crane and you probably recognize Jennifer from our front office where she works as our Executive Administrator. They have a son, Max, who will graduate from Ball State in May. Recent empty nesters, they are also the proud parents of Lucky (a Redboned Coonhound) and Luna (a Goldendoodle) who promise never to leave and run off to college. Welcome, Scott and Jennifer to FCC!

Praying For One Another

Do you wonder what happens to your prayer concerns when you write them on the back of your yellow attendance card? Your concern is read by our assistant administrator, Eve, who creates a prayer list. Concerns that you specify are "for the pastor only" are shared with Pastor Kyrmen. All of the other concerns are included in a weekly list that is emailed to the pastors, elders, and those who have volunteered to be part of the prayer ministry. If you have marked that your concern may be shared with the congregation, it may be included in the prayer concerns in the newsletter or during prayer time in worship.

You are encouraged to share when there are concerns over which you would like others to pray. However, once concerns are added to the list, Eve rarely receives messages indicating that the situation has resolved and the request can be removed. The result is that we end up with a prayer list that is extremely long and that contains requests that may no longer be relevant.

So, moving forward, prayer requests will stay active on the prayer list for one month and will then be removed. If you are aware of a request you made being resolved, please let Eve know (eve@fccbloomington.org) so she can take it off the list. You are, of course, welcome to repeat your prayer request if you feel it should continue to be on the list. With this updated approach, we hope to maintain a list of concerns that is manageable and meaningful.

If you do not currently receive the weekly prayer request emails and would like to, please ask Eve to add you to the list!

WORDS FROM THE CHOIR - 25 YEARS BEFORE MESSIAH HANDEL SINGS THE PSALMS


On March 26 during worship, the Sanctuary Choir, with a small orchestra, will sing George Frideric Handel's beautiful contemplative setting of Psalm 42 *As Pants the Hart*, composed nearly 25 years before he completed his most famous oratorio *Messiah*.

Handel and J.S. Bach were both born in Germany the same year – 1685. However unlike Bach, who never traveled outside of his home country and spent the majority of his career as Kappelmeister to the churches of Leipzig, the more cosmopolitan Handel traveled, worked, and composed in Germany and Italy, and ultimately settled in London in 1710. In the summer of 1717 – during a hiatus of opera production in London – Handel joined the household of wealthy nobleman James Brydges, the Duke of Chandos as composer-in residence at the duke's palatial home at Cannons. The Duke had among his staff a small ensemble of resident singers and musicians who also served as servants for the estate.

Between 1712 and 1718 Handel composed eleven works for this small ensemble— all cantata-like settings of Psalms now known as “Chandos Anthems” intended for the services which the duke held in the chapel adjoining the house. The music with its orchestra was too extensive for ultimate adaptation into regular Anglican cathedral services but could be worked into the lengthy services as held at Cannons. The estate at Cannons had a remarkably short life due to the cost of its upkeep and the Duke's financial imprudence, so, after his death in 1744, it was demolished and the contents sold off at auction. It is nevertheless Handel's inspired music that has survived as perhaps the most significant memorial of his patron's transient grandeur.

The libretto of *As Pants the Hart* is taken from Psalm 42 and has been attributed to Scottish physician and satirist John Arbuthnot. The text was based on several earlier translations of the Psalms – the metrical version of Tate and Brady and, from verse two on, the 1662 version of the Book of Common Prayer. As a result of the size of the forces at Cannons there are only two violin parts, cello, bass and bassoon, and a wonderfully expressive solo oboe part. The small chorus is for only three parts – Soprano, Tenor, and Bass.

The Handel scholar Donald Burrows writes: “Expressed in the first person throughout, the verses of the psalm (as chosen by Handel) present a progression from doubt and isolation to faith and self-confidence, the turning point coming when the psalmist remembers going “with the multitude to the house of God.” For our worship, the movements will be incorporated into our regular worship order as we observe Lent 5: Springtime of the Spirit: Thankfulness.

Here is the text and link to the music to guide your preparation for worship: <https://youtu.be/Xi-AFYOoRdw>

1. Sonata
2. Chorus: As pants the hart for cooling streams, so longs my soul for thee O God.
3. Soprano Solo: Tears are my daily food, while thus they say: where is now thy God?
4. Tenor Recitative: Now, when I think thereupon, I pour out my heart by myself,
for I went with the multitude and brought them out into the house of God .
5. Chorus: In the voice of praise and thanksgiving among such as keep holy-day.
6. Duet Alto and Tenor: Why so full of grief, O my soul? Why so disquieted within me?
7. Tenor Solo and Chorus: Put thy trust in God, for I will praise him.

The worship for March 26, Fifth Sunday of Lent promises to be a redemptive event moving from lament to trust and praise just as the text of the final chorus proclaims “Put thy trust in God for I will praise him!”

-sourced from notes by Anthony Hicks © 2009 and Daniel Burrows “Handel's *As Pants the Hart*” in *The Musical Times*, February 1985.



Our Sacred Place

Update Following First Training Session

On Saturday, February 25, Pastor Kyrmen, Shari Sprinkle, Chuck Jones, Charlie Sinn, and Linda Abe traveled to the Interchurch Center in Indianapolis for the first training session for Sacred Places' New Partners, New Dollars program. Along with representatives from nine other Indiana Disciples and United Church of Christ congregations, we explored approaches and tools that can assist us as we assess key issues regarding our church's heritage, identity, and ministry. We heard from an architect who works with historic houses of worship as he provided some guidelines for choosing and working with architectural professionals. Finally, the team learned about how to construct a case statement as we anticipate talking with potential community partners and donors about the reasons they would want to support our church and its work in the community.

It was a long and full day; FCC's team members had a lot to talk about on the ride home! Our next step is to hold a meeting that will include the New Partners, New Dollars team and the Capital Building Projects task force. We will begin to sift through the tools and information Sacred Places has provided and begin assessing where we are and where we are going in regard to the repairs and renovations to be done to our historic building. The next New Partners, New Dollars training will take place on March 25.

The New Dollars, New Partners program will eventually lead us into some wider conversations with the congregation about how we desire to use our building to live out our mission. Stay tuned for opportunities to be a part of the conversation!

Time to Sign Up for Summer Camps!

It's time to sign up your children for church camp at Bedford! ***Please sign up before May 15.*** FCC will cover 50% of the early bird camp fees for any of our campers. Let Sarah Lynne know you are registering. Please also reach out to Sarah Lynne if you need additional help covering the camp fees. We want *all our youth and children to experience the fellowship and spiritual growth at camp!* 2023 Early Bird Camp Fees (before May 15): 6-day camps: \$440; 3-day camps: \$250

Geneva

- June 12-14 **You & Me 1** (age 5+ and an adult)
- June 12-17 **Explorers** (completed grades 4-5)
- June 15-17 **New Beginnings** (completed grades 1-3)
- June 19-21 **You & Me 2** (age 5+ and an adult)
- June 19-24 **M.A.D.** (Music Art & Drama - completed grades 6-12)
- June 26-July 1 **High School Traditional** (completed grades 9-12)
- Middle School Traditional** (completed grades 6-8,
- June 26-July 1 **C.R.O.S.S.** (Christian Recreation and Outdoor
Sports Skills - completed grades 6-12)

Bedford

- June 19-24 **Explorers** (completed grades 4-5)
- June 26-28 **New Beginnings** (completed grades 1-3)
- June 29-July 1 **You & Me** (age 5+ and an adult)
- July 3-8 **High School** (completed grades 9-12)
- July 10-15 **Middle School** (completed grades 6-8)



The Road to Ordination - By Sarah Lynne Gershon

In this column I will share about my journey as we move toward my ordination this spring.

Welcome back to my “Road to Ordination!” Last month I wrote about how I decided to seek ordination through the Disciples of Christ. Then I promised to share more about the Indiana Region Christian Church (DOC) ordination process.

The basic requirements for ordination in Indiana DOC is a Masters of Divinity degree, two years supervised ministry, Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), discernment with a Nurture and Certification committee, and approval from an ordination council and the Commission on Ministry.

I just completed the penultimate stage of the ordination process: the Nurture and Certification ordination interview! Nurture and Certification (Nurt & Cert) is a group overseen by the Indiana Regions Commission on Ministry. These teams are made up of clergy and lay people (*you could volunteer to join one!*). Each person who seeks ordination is assigned to one of these teams. I met with my team twice a year for three years.

When we began meeting I wrote essays about my sense of call, my beliefs about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, and my beliefs about baptism and communion, the mission of the church and my approach to ministry. We discussed these essays and talked about my experiences in ministry at First Christian Church. We also talked about my questions and thoughts regarding my sense of call to ordained ministry. The ordination interview was my last meeting with my Nurt & Cert team. I had to update my initial essays and give them the supervisor’s feedback and my reflections from Clinical Pastoral Education. Then we spent two hours discussing all these documents.

We spent a lot of the time discussing my concept of ministry... So I thought I would let you read it! Here is some of what I wrote about the church’s work and my role as a pastor:

“The church is the community of disciples who stand against the gates of hell (Mt 16:18) through the kind of discipleship described above and through their witness and caritas in the world. The church is also a place to practice faithfulness (to our covenant with one another and obedience to healthy mentors) and forgiveness (Mt 16:19). We “bind and loose” in discernment and grace as we work through conflict... We also both “carry each other’s burdens” and carry our own load (Gal 6:1-5). Which means we are well-differentiated... This is aspirational, but it is what our discipleship is striving towards.

The church is oriented around their worship of God, discipleship to Jesus and the communion table as a weekly remembering of Christ and a “prefigurative politics” of the Kingdom of God. The sharing in Christ’s grace and love, as well as the sharing of our basic necessities in the bread and the wine, reminds us that offering grace and love to one another includes our economic well-being. The church should be shaped by this weekly practice, extending the communion we experience at the table into our lives together by developing our affection for one another in joys and sorrows (Hebrews 13:1) and by learning to share our resources with one another (Acts 4:34). In this way the kingdom of God dwells in and among us (Luke 17:21).

From this foundation we can also extend Christ’s love in the world. We have the foundation to welcome strangers and offer generous hospitality. We seek to change laws and advocate the well-being of the marginalized and oppressed. We visit the prisoner and care for the sick. We work to dismantle racism, capitalistic greed, and sexism in our midst and in the world. This is how we stand against the gates of hell and proclaim the good news of God’s love... Healthy Christian community and discipleship within a church is the foundation for extending “communion” into the world.

(Continued on page 7)

(Road to Ordination -continued from page 6)

My ordination is theologically an affirmation from the church that I am called to offer pastoral ministry in the church, marked by teaching, pastoral care, visioning, empowering congregants for ministry, and practical guidance for institutional and personal health of church members. Practically speaking, I don't take the place of professionals that specialize in these areas, but I offer wisdom and guidance for the church as whole and for church members... Ordination is important theologically because it affirms that I am a servant of the church and my call to pastoral leadership is recognized by the church."

The final stage in my ordination process is the ordination council. I have already invited people to serve on my counsel. There is an ecumenical representative (someone from another denomination, usually UCC), members of my two sponsoring churches, and representatives from my Nurt and Cert team on the council. Next week I am traveling to visit one of my sponsoring churches, Church of All Nations in Columbia Heights, MN. Then, I will meet with my counsel the week after on March 23. They must approve me for ordination before I can send out invites for my ordination service... so stay tuned!

FCC Gift for Sarah Lynne Gershon's Ordination

As we prepare for Sarah Lynne Gershon's ordination in May, we are proud to be able to present her with a gift from the congregation for use as she begins her ministry. If you would like to contribute toward the cost of this gift, please send that contribution to FCC by May 15. Checks can be made out to First Christian Church with "ordination gift" in the memo line.

Also, mark your calendar for May 21 and join us for her ordination service here at FCC. More details to come in the April and May newsletters.

Thank you for supporting Sarah Lynne as she makes this important journey to ordination.

De-escalation Training – ALL are Welcome and Encouraged to Attend

On Wednesday, April 12, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., Rev. Forrest Gilmore, director of the Shalom Center, will provide FCC members and friends with training in de-escalation skills.

What is de-escalation? De-escalation involves using techniques to calm down a tense situation. When confronted with a person who is upset, aggressive, or violent, the use of de-escalation techniques can help the agitated party regain their composure and self-control. The use of de-escalation promotes keeping potentially dangerous situations from becoming violent.

Who needs to learn about de-escalation? YOU do! Everyone can benefit from knowing how to diffuse a tense situation. Whether we are at church, the grocery store, the library, or the bus stop, we all have the potential to find ourselves face to face with someone who is agitated and losing control. Wouldn't you like to be equipped to deal with such a situation? Even in our personal lives, we may find that de-escalation techniques can help us to navigate our relationships when faced with an upset family member or friend.

Please mark your calendar for this important date and learn how to care for yourself and for others by being equipped to be a peacemaker when faced with tense situations.

Join Disciples Men on Wednesdays at 8:00 am

We "doubled" our number of men attending this week, but still welcome more to join us! We are keeping the time (8:00 am) but changing the location to the seating area near the Coffee shop (Starbuck's) in the Kroger shopping center on College Mall road. Find us there each WEDNESDAY and enjoy the fun and fellowship~ (We end at 9:00!).

GIVING • SERVING • MEETING • SHARING

Come join FCC members as we share a light breakfast and minister to each other and those in need in our community. Volunteers for the Welcome Table Breakfast each Sunday from 7:50 am – 9:50 am are needed now. Please contact Sandy Bate at sbate1@icloud.com or (812) 320-1250 for a list of open shifts.

Coffee Fellowship Hour (after worship)

This fellowship time is a long-standing tradition, but our strategies for providing the Coffee Fellowship treats need to be refreshed. The fellowship committee has decided to try inviting congregants to bring food on different weeks based on last name. That means that all of you are encouraged to contribute. If this time together is something you value and you are able to provide food, then please bring something during your week (based on the first letter of your last name). We love store bought pastries and snacks, so you don't need to be Betty Crocker to contribute! And, of course, treats are welcome anytime you feel inspired.

Here's the schedule:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| First Sunday: S thru Z | Second Sunday: K thru R |
| Third Sunday: F thru J | Fourth Sunday: A thru E |
| Fifth Sunday: The church provides donuts | |

Monroe County United Ministries

SPRING INTO ACTION



Help MCUM Break the Cycle of Poverty in March and April! Bring your donations to FCC!

SITUATIONAL POVERTY

Drop off items M-F 8a-4p at MCUM 827 W 14th Ct. Bloomington, IN 47404 OR host your own food drive! chill@mcum.org for more details!

- Pasta
- Breakfast items
- Rice-a-Roni
- Canned meat
- Crackers
- Jiffy Mix
- Dish soap
- Laundry soap
- Shampoo
- Baby wipes
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels

GENERATIONAL POVERTY

Donate by sending a check or scan below to support one of our programs that help clients succeed & end generational poverty. Questions: dcasey@mcum.org

- Compass Early Learning Center
- Self-Sufficiency Center
 - Your Path
 - Microloan Program

SCAN HERE





APRIL BIRTHDAYS



04/01	Anne	Johnson	708 S. Cory Lane #76	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
04/08	Connie	Gross	3485 S. Knightridge Road	Bloomington IN	47401
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
04/22	Kid	Rea	1212 W. Acacia Ct.	Bloomington IN	47404
04/23	Danielle	Murry-	1732 W. 7th St. Apt. 1	Red Wing MN	55066
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!

It's time to order your Easter Lilies!

We are now taking orders for Easter Lilies to adorn our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. The Lilies are \$15.00 each. The deadline for ordering is March 20. An order card can be found in this newsletter. Bring your card to church on Sunday or mail it to the church office. Payment must be made at the time of the order.



Don't forget to advance your clocks forward an hour THIS Saturday night for the time change on Sunday, March 12!

Candy Needed for Easter Egg Hunt!

Once again FCC's youth will host our annual Easter Egg Hunt after worship on Easter Sunday! They stuff LOTS OF plastic eggs... and that means we need lots of candy! No nuts in the candy please. Bring donations by March 26!



First Christian Church
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**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

March 12

Springtime of the Spirit: Testimony

Romans 5:1-11

John 3:1-17

March 19

Springtime of the Spirit: Compassion

Psalm 130

John 11:1-45

March 26

Handel's Cantata

Springtime of the Spirit: Thankfulness

Psalm 42