

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor



Leaning Into Lent at FCC

Lenten Prayers of the People and FCC's Lenten Devotional

Thank you to everyone who sent in laments for our Lenten Devotional. That devotional is now available to pick up as a hard copy at FCC. We are also sending a daily electronic version to people on our email list. This year we are using the Psalms of Lament as we process all of the change, loss, and pain the last couple of years have brought. If you have not been receiving the emails, but would like to receive them, please contact the church office so that we can add you to the email list.

We also ask that throughout Lent you 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 directly to Sarah Lynne and Will Jewsbury, 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 during worship on Sunday mornings during Lent. This Sunday, FCC's Student Associate Pastor Sarah Lynne Gershon will be preaching during worship. Her sermon "*Leaning into Complaint*" will be focused on Psalm 137.

Thank you Linda Abe for creating the beautiful banners hanging in the sanctuary for Lent. They certainly help set the tone for this important season in the church.



Ukraine Benefit Concert at FCC on March 26 at 7:00 pm

Ukrainian pianist Yevanhelina But will Perform

On Saturday, March 26 at 7:00 pm, FCC will host a 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 Ukrainian pianist Yevanhelina But who currently studies at the Carthage College (Kenosha, WI) in Piano Performance major. In 2020, she graduated from the Kyiv Lysenko State Music Lyceum. Yevanhelina is the winner of many international competitions in Ukraine and the USA.

Admission is free with an option to donate in support of humanitarian support of Ukraine.

Will Writes
Bringing Balance into Our Lives and Joy to Others

I have had money on my mind in recent days. It has come up in many ways. Marcia and I have been working on our taxes, which creates lots of conversation around spending and saving. We have been hearing about inflation both in our nation and worldwide and I am quite aware of what it costs to fill my gas tank. Much of the discussion around the war in Ukraine is on economic sanctions as a way of punishing (and hopefully deterring) Russian aggression. On the other side there are calls for the world to provide humanitarian relief alongside military equipment and supplies. And I have recently had several conversations with people in the life of the church about giving, both our regular weekly/monthly giving and the impact of bequests or planned giving that sustains the life of the congregation through our permanent fund.

Many years ago, I was introduced to double-entry bookkeeping. It was a pain in paper ledgers, but computers make it easy. Essentially, double-entry bookkeeping treats every transaction as both a credit and a debit, changing the checking account balance while also affecting a budgeted line item. The goal is to always have balance between the two sides of the ledger. It is a powerful tool for tracking the economic life of a business or organization.

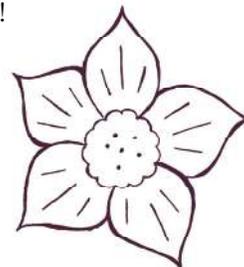
I wish that managing our lives was as easy. On Sunday, I joined two small groups as we began *Sacred Rhythms*, a conversation around spiritual disciplines. The first session did not launch us into a discussion of fasting or meditation, but rather asked us to identify our desires. Like Bartimaeus calling out to Jesus for healing, we were invited to dig down deep and identify what we most desired.

Desires do not fit neatly into the balance sheets of our lives. You and I may be able to balance our checkbook but finding balance in the rest of our lives is often elusive. Our desires become intertwined with how we spend our time, money, and energy. We find ourselves making choices every day. Do I buy this and wait on that? Do I attend this meeting or visit a neighbor? Am I too tired after a long day to take a brisk walk around the neighborhood, even though I know it would do me good? I desire peace in Ukraine, but am I willing to pay higher energy prices to help that happen? (For me, the answer is “yes”!)

In this Lenten season, I invite you to consider what it is that you desire in your life, in the church, and in our world. And, as you do, consider what you need to do to make those desires reality. What are you willing to “pay” to bring balance into your life and joy into the lives of those around you? I doubt that life can ever be fully balanced like an elegant spreadsheet, but we can reach our hearts toward God and loving hands toward our neighbor. There we will find peace!

Grace and Peace,

Will





**BACH'S SERMONS IN MUSIC
A CANTATA IN WORSHIP MARCH 27**

J.S. Bach Cantata 12

Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen (*Weeping, Crying, Sorrow, Sighing*)

Bach's cantatas are among the great devotional treasures of both music and the church. The cantata played a central role in German Lutheran worship, as it was based on poetry that elaborated scripture. Much like a sermon, then, the cantata would guide the worshiper to deeper understanding of the scripture's meaning to the believer's life. On March 24, we will worship through the music of Bach Cantata 12: Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen (*Weeping, Crying, Sorrow, Sighing*), which was composed for the post-Easter season in 1714 – before Bach went to Leipzig – and performed again in Leipzig in 1724. Bach's choir was small - not much larger than our own - 2 or 3 each of sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. The orchestral forces in Bach's earlier cantatas was also small – often one player per part. We will sing the cantata in an English translation to better connect with the congregation as we worship. The text, likely by the court chaplain Salomo Franck (1659-1759), develops the basic ideas of the Gospel for that Sunday, 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"

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

THIRD FRIDAY JAZZ VESPERS MARCH 18 at 6:30pm



This month's theme is "Lament" - Join us as Jazz Vespers continues the exploration of FCC's Lenten theme of "Lament" with music, prayer, meditation and poetry, including poems by W.H. Auden and Mary Oliver.

In Person or livestreamed at
www.fccbloomington.org.

WHEELER MISSION PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY TEAM

John Adams has reached out about getting PB&Js made for Wheeler Mission again. A lot of people have been seeking shelter there and they could use snacks. If you are interested in helping John make PB&Js for Wheeler Mission, send Sarah Lynne an email to get connected.

LENTEN MCUM DRIVE - BRING YOUR DONATIONS EACH SUNDAY!

The traditional Lenten practices are prayer, fasting, and charity. In Christian thought, charity is a discipline of self-giving love in imitation of God's love for us. This year you are encouraged to *intentionally engage in charity towards MCUM. Please consider how you will contribute to our MCUM resource drive this Lent.*

For example:

- Each week when you make a grocery list remove some treats and add items for MCUM.
- Consider what some of your favorite pantry items are and purchase these items each week for MCUM when you go grocery shopping.
- Google "food stamp benefit chart" and see if you can bring your grocery budget closer to what you would have if you needed food stamps (for example one person gets \$204/mo). Use the extra money to donate or buy supplies for MCUM.

MCUM would also appreciate supplies for their preschool. Consider how you can make space in your time and budget for gifts to MCUM children. Hold MCUM children in prayer as you purchase gifts for them. MCUM is asking for the following:

Books for 1–4-year old's (hard or soft cover)

Classroom supplies (art supplies, paint, paper, crayons)

Building blocks

Dress-up things

Bring your MCUM donations to worship each week. We will also do another drive through "Pack the Pickup" event in April. Stay tuned for that date.

BMA F4RE Bloomington-Wide Read of *The Sum of Us* + Capstone event

*Join us in reading *Sum of Us* as we make the way for racial justice work in Bloomington!*



FCC will be hosting a discussion group on zoom on **Tuesday, March 15th from 7:00-8:15 pm on Zoom**. This will be co-led by Voices of Faith member Sue Fettchenhauer and Sarah Lynne Gershon.

The zoom link will be shared the week before. You can also contact Sarah Lynne for the link.

BMA F4RE is hosting a capstone event on **April 3 from 2:00-4:00 pm**. The Capstone event will be available on Zoom and will feature local presenters and time for discussion. They encourage participants to read *The Sum of Us* before this event, but welcome anyone who wants to work for racial justice in Bloomington. Stay tuned for more details.

Family Ministry Update

Worship and Wonder has begun!

We are delighted to welcome all of 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 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!

Lenten Pretzel Making Following Worship on April 10th

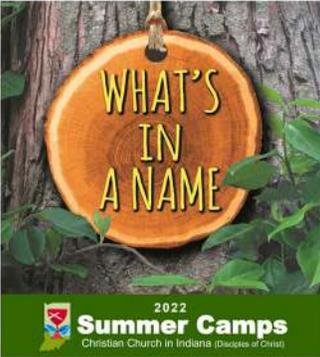
We will be making Lenten Pretzels after worship on Palm Sunday, April 10. Baking Lenten pretzels is a fun activity that reminds us to focus on prayer during Holy Week. Thanks to Carie Johann for heading this up! Please let Sarah Lynne know if your family will attend.

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 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 | |
|---|-----------------------|------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| | You and Me 1 (3 days) | June 13-15 | | |
| 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.



*Don't forget...
to set your clock ahead
before you go to bed on Saturday!
Daylight Savings Time
begins on March 13th!*



Cindy Welch would like to thank everyone for all of the prayers, cards, and messages during her recovery from health issues. She is finally back to work, but still battling shortness of breath and fatigue. The pneumonia is now gone and the blood clots are stable. It's a long road, but making progress! It is so wonderful to have such a loving church family!

Freida Hoffman would like to thank everyone who sent cards and notes wishing her a Happy 98th Birthday! She also wants to thank her newsletter crew for her birthday celebration. Happy Birthday indeed!

Voices of Faith Greeting Card Mailing

Voices of Faith, the FCC network of Disciples women, will be mailing greeting cards again this year to our congregation. They began this outreach last year to stay in-touch during the pandemic and decided to send cards again this spring. Watch your mailbox for your card from a member of Voices of Faith!



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. Mail or drop off your card by Monday, March 20. Please include payment at the time of the order.

Proceeds from this order are applied to FCC's Permanent Fund. You are welcome to simply donate to the fund if you do not wish to have a lily. Thank you.

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!



Disciples Ministries Across the Church Respond to Ukraine

Across The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), General Ministries are responding to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. General Minister and President, Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens released a statement on March 4, 2022 joining ecumenical and global partners.

From immediate response to refugees, to working with global partners, to working within the US and Canada to welcome Ukrainian refugees, to the ongoing financial divestment from Russia, the church responds across its many manifestations to create a more compassionate world. Learn more about the way the church has collaborated with ecumenical and international partners to reveal God’s limitless love.

Statement from Rev. Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens

On March 4, 2022 Rev. Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens released a statement on Ukraine saying, “As a follower of Jesus Christ and a minister of the gospel, I must condemn this premeditated and unprovoked aggression and violence against the people of Ukraine. The Russian initiative to occupy and annex Ukrainian lands and populations stands in contradiction to the value of human life as well as principles of international law that deem the acquisition of territory by force illegal.”

Week of Compassion

Week of Compassion, the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), is working collaboratively with partners on the ground in Eastern Europe to address the emergent needs of refugees and internally displaced persons. Through Week of Compassion partners like ACT Alliance and the European Baptist Federation, they are focused on providing relief and response.

Global Ministries / Division of Overseas Ministries

On March 3, 2022 The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) released a joint statement with the United Church of Christ as part of our shared ministry through Global Ministries. General Minister and President Rev. Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens joined Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, Rev. LaMarco Cable, President of the Division of Overseas Ministries and Co-Executive of Global Ministries and Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson, Associate General Minister for Wider Church Ministries and Co-Executive of Global Ministries in saying “We mourn that, yet again, the desire for power, control, and expansion has taken precedence over respect for human lives, livelihood, and dignity. We condemn in the Russian initiative to occupy and annex Ukrainian lands and populations, in contradiction to principles of international law that deem the acquisition of territory by force illegal.”

Pension Fund & Christian Church Foundation

On March 1, 2022 Pension Fund and the Christian Church Foundation released a joint statement from Rev. Dr. Todd A. Adams, President/CEO Pension Fund of the Christian Church, and Rev. Gary W. Kidwell, President of the Christian Church Foundation regarding their ongoing commitment to protect the church’s financial assets and engage in ethical investment strategies.

“Together, we seek to fulfill God’s call for a peaceable realm and raise matters of justice across the spectrum from economic justice, racial justice, and certainly the rights of a sovereign, democratic nation to maintain its own borders.”

Go To: www.disciples.org (for more information)



Easter Lily Order Form

Please turn in this card with
payment by Sunday, March 20th.
Thank you.

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

You are invited to provide a lily in memory or honor of a loved one to be placed on the chancel on Easter Sunday. Or you may choose to make a donation of \$12.00 or more to the Permanent Fund in lieu of flowers.

I wish to order _____ **Easter lily(ies)** at **\$15.00** each = \$ _____

I wish to make a donation to the Permanent Fund of \$ _____

My gift is to be listed in the bulletin (**please print legibly**):

In **Memory** of:

In **Honor** of:

Given by:

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ payable to First Christian Church.
Completed card must accompany payment. The deadline to order is **March 20**. Thank you!

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

812-332-4459
fcc@fccbloomington.org
www.fccbloomington.org
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Bloomington, IN 47408
Permit #217



The Christian Visitor

Vol. 64, no. 5



**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

March 13

Psalm 137

Leaning Into Complaint

Sarah Lynne Gershon preaching

March 20

Psalm 32

Leaning into Lament - Trust

Will Jewsbury preaching

March 27

Bach Cantata 12

John 16:16-23