

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

Return to Worship Survey Results

Preparing for Hybrid Service on Sunday, May 2

As you might recall, we sent out a survey designed to help FCC prepare for a time and way to offer in-person worship services, and (as you might expect!) we received a variety of responses and opinions. 59 surveys were completed and returned (56 via online and 3 via paper). To the question knowing that the live worship service will be modified, are you interested in attending in-person worship services 35 (59.3%) answered “yes” and 24 (40.67%) answered “no.” Many of you shared helpful suggestions as well as lamented the reality that a return to in-person worship in these times will mean that the worship service will be modified to meet safety protocols. The “target date” for a return to modified in-person worship remains May 2. We will continue to offer online livestreamed services both now and for the foreseeable future.

For those interesting in attending worship in person, an online registration will be available through EventBrite.com. The link to the online registration will be sent via email this weekend, and will be posted on our website by Monday morning. You can also call the church to make a reservation. Registration will open on Monday and close by Thursday, April 29. You must make your registration by Thursday, April 29, at noon.

FCC’s 195th Anniversary Celebration

Livestreamed on Sunday, April 25 at 10:00 am

This Sunday, April 25, FCC will celebrate its 195th Anniversary with a special service of worship that will premiere a beautiful video that celebrates nearly two centuries of our life and ministry as Faithful Disciples.

Linda Abe, creative director of this Anniversary video project, has woven together vibrant images, revealing stories, poignant memories, and uplifting music to tell the larger story of this remarkable congregation. You won’t want to miss this worship service. Not only will it be a service of worship, but it will be a milestone **event** in the life of this congregation.

In This Issue...

Page 2 Summer Series that you won’t want to miss!

Page 4 New Sermon Series begins in May

Page 5 Are you graduating this spring?

Volume 63, number 8 April 21, 2021

Pastor's Pen*Guest Contributor Challenges FCC to “be the church we say that we are!”*

Note from Pastor Helen: I invited Sarah Lynne Gershon, our Student Associate Pastor, to be the guest contributor this week. The information her article contains is important to the life of the congregation. I trust that you will read it with great interest!

Our Summer Forum will look a little different this year because it will begin with a four week course on anti-racism, *specifically tailored for FCC* and led by Rev. April Johnson, Disciples Minister of Reconciliation.

This course is designed to help our congregation fulfill a statement—approved by the FCC Board last summer—that commits us to practicing anti-racism as a congregation. I am so grateful for our board’s leadership in this area. In particular, this statement expresses a commitment to “anti-racism training beyond our clergy to congregational members of every age.”

In order to include as many participants as possible, this course will take place on Zoom during our regular Sunday morning learning hour following worship from 11:15 am -12:15 pm. You will need to **register in advance** because we are asking each class member to commit to: 1) engage fully with the material to the best of their ability, and 2) uphold a group covenant that will help facilitate healthy discussion, deep learning and respectful relationships. Each session will build on the last one; however, if you know you will be unable to attend a session, please don’t let this become a barrier for your participation. Simply communicate with me and I will do my best to make the content available to you so that you can be “caught up” before the next session.

This “custom designed” course, which gleans from denominational anti-racism training materials, will offer us a special opportunity to develop some shared language and understanding around what it looks like to practice anti-racism and reconciliation in our church and wider community. I challenge each of you to make the commitment to attend this course and to enter the course with a curious and gracious mind.

Details on how to register will be provided in the next newsletter, and will also be available on our website as they become available. You will be able to register online or by filling out and mailing a form provided in the next newsletter. Dates are below, so mark your calendars for an important Summer Forum series.

Sarah Lynne Gershon

PS Starting in July the remainder of our summer forum sessions are designed for you to “drop in” as your schedule permits. The focus will be about “how to” practice anti-racism as a church. More information will be included in the next edition of the Christian Visitor!

Becoming the Church We Say We Are!

A Four Week Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Course with Rev. April Johnson

Sundays at 11:15 am • June 6, 13, 20, 27

Registration opens soon!



MUSIC NOTES

Trusting the Air Between Us

Yesterday, as Linda Abe and I were making the video recording for the April 30th First Friday Jazz Vespers Moment, I was struck by one of the lines in the poem she was reading, *These Days* by Lynn Ungar:

“I miss singing, the way we trusted the air that moved between us”

Research has demonstrated that singing together and singing in general are beneficial to life, better health, lowers our blood pressure, creates community – and yet for over a year we have been unable to do so.

Young solo singers now have to give their graduation recitals masked to nearly empty halls, with only a teacher and few colleagues allowed in the audience. At IU, they have even had to sing operas socially distanced and masked. Auditions for important career-building opportunities are video-taped instead of being in person. They sing from the heart relying on their voices alone to communicate without the benefit of facial expressions to further communicate their intention.

Choirs are pretty much disbanded for the time being – many reduced to making virtual recordings – each person singing alone to their phones and sending their contribution to someone who compiles the individual into the corporate through the magic of technology.

Soon we will be able to join each other for in-person worship, but, for safety’s sake, masked, without hymnals, and asked not to sing so that the air between us does not harm our neighbor.

The fourth admonition in John Wesley’s *Directions for Singing* from 1761 begins:

IV. Sing lustily and with good courage.

Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength.

Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard,
than when you sung the songs of Satan.

Now we might suggest that – in church – we **hum lustily** behind our masks and fill our hearts with the texts, contemplating them instead of singing them aloud. If watching from home, I hope you have been **singing lustily** along with your family or alone. Who cares how you sound – go ahead trumpet your belief. You will be healthier for it and spiritually nourished – maybe realizing that others are also joining you in their isolated spaces.

Liz Culpepper’s Final Doctoral Recital – 2:00 May 1 in the First Christian Sanctuary

On Saturday May 1 at 2:00 in the FCC Sanctuary, our alto Choral Scholar Liz Culpepper will give her final doctoral recital (masked) for her Doctorate in Vocal Performance. The audience will be limited to her committee of teachers and a few family members, but the recital will be live streamed on a YouTube Channel. (watch for address to be determined closer to the day).

Liz’s recital repertoire for Saturday whimsical – she’s entitled it “The Magical Menagerie Tour” with the theme being a menagerie of all manner of creatures. Songs by American Composers Jake Heggie, Richard Hundley, Samuel Barber, and John Duke, as well as a cycle by French Composer Maurice Ravel make up the program. Consider some of the song titles such as *The Haughty Snail King*, *Yet Gentle Will the Griffin Be*, *The Elephant Is Slow To Mate*, and *The Monk and His Cat* – and you will get the idea that this will be an enjoyable afternoon with Liz communicating the joy of singing even through her mask. Tune in to support her. (If you need a link please email Jan at harringt@indiana.edu and I will forward it to you.)



In Our Prayers...

Please hold in your prayers Pastor Helen and her family as they grieve the loss of her father, the Rev. Dr. Robert James Hempfling.

Notes and words of encouragement may be sent to Pastor Helen at 1222 E. Tremont Way 47401 and to her mother Nita Floe Hempfling at 1064 Parkhill Dr. Boise, ID 83702-1340

Sermon Series: May, 2021 *It's Not About Me!*

During the month of May, Pastor Helen will reflect on some of the scripture passages that have meant much to her throughout her years of ministry. While she found it very challenging to narrow her list down to five “guiding scriptures,” she hopes that these selected passages will offer you this truth: *It's not about her. It's not about you. It's about God!* Indeed, Pastor Helen hopes that you will sense a bit of what God is *about* as you reflect with her on these Holy words.

May 2

It's Not About Me!

It's about God's Creation

Scripture: from Genesis 1 and Psalm 65

May 9

It's Not About Me!

It's About God's Presence

Scripture: Psalm 23

May 16 (Graduate Recognition)

It's Not About Me!

It's About God's Children

Scripture: Luke 18: 15-17

May 23 (Pentecost, with baptisms)

It's Not About Me!

It's about Christ's Church

Scripture: from 1 Corinthians 12

May 30

It's Not About Me!

It's About God's Love

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1-7, 13;

Romans 8:38-39



The family of Bob Martin would like to thank everyone at FCC for their prayers and cards of condolence during his visitation and service.

One of his requests was to lie in state near the beautiful stained glass window in the sanctuary and with Pastor Helen's help, Holly got a poster of the stained glass window and framed it, placing it near his casket. He would have liked that.

We all miss him very much as he was “Mr. Fix It” for problem solving, but we hope he is resting in peace.

Sincerely,

Mary Alice Martin, Alice Martin Owings and Chris, Holly Martin, Austin and Andrea Fultz, Anna Fultz, Allison Fultz, Drew Fletcher, Makenzie Fletcher, and Brooklyn Fletcher



Honoring our 2020 Graduates!

Spring always brings warmer weather, beautiful flowers... and **graduations!** If you or family will be celebrating a graduate this year, please let us know. We are developing our list of high school and college graduates now and will celebrate them on May 16!

Please, send information about your graduate (including school name, honors received, sports or activities, and post-high school or post-college plans) by May 2 to Sarah Lynne Gershon at sarahlynn@fcbloomington.org. We want to be sure to recognize all graduates. We can't wait to celebrate our grads! Way to go class of 2021!!



MAY BIRTHDAYS



05/01	Tate	Knepper	3616 S. Kingsbury Ave.	Bloomington IN 47401
05/02	Donna	Cartwright	2927 N. Bankers Drive	Bloomington IN 47408
05/02	Zoe	Hill	8956 W. Rice Rd.	Bloomington IN 47403
05/03	Pam	Matthews	7263 S. Burch Rd	Bloomington IN 47403
05/03	Brett	Hamilton	1326 Dutch Ridge Rd.	Heltonville IN 47436
05/06	Carmie	Hamilton	1326 Dutch Ridge Rd.	Heltonville IN 47436
05/06	Heide	Watson	864 S. Coriander Court	Bloomington IN 47401
05/07	Julie	Donham	5900 N. Maple Grove Rd.	Bloomington IN 47404
05/08	Eve	Schultes-Ridge	5460 S. Victor Pike	Bloomington IN 47403
05/11	Scot	Moore	2526 E. Summer Creek Dr.	Bloomington IN 47401
05/11	Alasdair	Gershon	909 N. Blair Ave.	Bloomington IN 47404
05/12	Dale	Webb	532 Green Road	Bloomington IN 47403
05/14	Sharon	Goins	60 Bailliere Dr.	Martinsville IN 46151
05/15	Whitney	Gates	3493 E. Saddlebrook Ct.	Bloomington IN 47401
05/18	Jim	Barker	115 N. Lexington Drive	Bloomington IN 47408
05/20	Nick	Stevens	604 N. Smith Rd., Apt. 207	Bloomington IN 47408
05/21	Erv	Fettchenhauer	2604 E. Windermere Woods	Bloomington IN 47401
05/24	Mary	Swarthout	3521 W. Fairington Drive	Bloomington IN 47403
05/24	Kate	Kroll	2704 N. Browncliff Lane	Bloomington IN 47408

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

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. 63, no.8

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH BLOOMINGTON

**IT'S NOT
ABOUT ME**

SERMON SERIES | MAY 2021

During the month of May, Pastor Helen will reflect on some of the scripture passages that have meant much to her throughout her years of ministry. While she found it very challenging to narrow her list down to five “guiding scriptures,” she hopes that these selected passages will offer you this truth: *It's not about her. It's not about you. It's about God!*

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

April 25 (195th Anniversary)
Alleluia!
The Church that Celebrates
Philippians 4:4-9

May 2
It's Not About Me!
It's About God's Creation
From Genesis 1 and Psalm 65

May 9
It's Not About Me!
It's About God's Presence
Psalm 23