

# The CHRISTIAN



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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
*(Disciples of Christ)*

## Visitor

### **Our Sacred Place - Update**

On Saturday, March 25, Pastor Kyrmen, Terry Daugherty, Charlie Sinn, and Betsy Watson traveled to Indianapolis First Friends Quaker Meeting for the second Sacred Places training event. The focus for the day was asset mapping, a process that helps organizations assess their strengths. The team learned strategies for helping our congregation focus not on scarcity, but on the many gifts that bless our congregation. Those assets include not just our property and money, but also the talents and abilities of our congregants, our reputation in the community, our relationships with individuals and organizations in Bloomington, and more! Becoming aware of our church's many assets will help us to consider how those gifts may be used in new and creative ways that will also involve responsible and generous stewardship of our building.

On Sunday, June 4, at 11:30 a.m., the Sacred Places Team invites the whole congregation to attend an interactive event in which we will work together to identify our assets and to consider how those gifts might be used to bless our community. Until then, stay tuned for more information about what asset mapping is and how it can help FCC envision new ministries and new community partnerships that help us to live out our vision of sharing the inclusive love of Christ!

### **Join Us for an All-Church Luncheon Following Worship on April 23**

*Local Historian to Speak about Bloomington's African-American History*

Join your FCC family for lunch, catered by Potbelly Sandwich Works, on Sunday, April 23 at 11:30 am, immediately after worship. Meet new friends, connect with old ones, and enjoy a meal together as we learn about Bloomington's African-American history through local historian Elizabeth Mitchell. To secure your meal selection, reservations are needed by Saturday, April 16.

*(reservation card on page 9 of this newsletter)*

If you'd like to cover the cost of your meal (*or someone else's*), consider a donation of \$11/person by bringing a check to FCC anytime before the lunch, or you can donate online through our online giving button on our website. Just look for the All-Church Meal button when making a donation. (*You can also pay at the event.*) Everyone is welcome, so don't let the expense keep you from coming. If you would like to help with set up or clean up, please contact the FCC office at 812-332-4459 or [fcc@fccbloomington.org](mailto:fcc@fccbloomington.org). Look for an email next week (April 11) with more details on the lunch.

*Volume 65, number 4 April 5, 2023*

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*The Minister's Missive*  
*It's Really Okay to Take Care of YOU!*

Dear Church,

A few weeks ago, Sarah Lynne and I attended an active shooter training for church leaders held at Trinity Episcopal. The presenter was Captain Scott Oldham from the Bloomington Police Department. I was dubious, having participated in such trainings before and finding the approaches offered ran counter to much of what I believe about being the church and showing hospitality. I was pleased to hear a different approach!

Captain Oldham had one central message regarding what we need to do if faced with an active shooter or any threat to our safety: get out. You may have heard the advice that, if faced with such a situation you should run, hide, or fight. Captain Oldham explained that we may become paralyzed by trying to decide which option to choose. Rather than deliberating, his advice was to get out any way we can as quickly as possible. Statistically speaking, shooters do not leave once they have entered a building. Getting out means being safe.

One of the most striking moments in the training was when Captain Oldham asked our group of about a dozen adults how many ways there were to get out of the fellowship hall in which we were seated. Every person present surveyed the room and responded that there were three ways to exit. But when Captain Oldham counted, he found upward of eighteen ways out! While the participants only noticed the doors, Captain Oldham saw every window as an exit. "Pick up a chair, throw it through the window, and get out!" he said. "The window is insured; it's just some broken glass."

He went on to explain that adults tend to be hung up on being courteous and on waiting for an authority figure to tell us what to do, even when our lives are in danger. **It is okay for us to take care of ourselves. We don't need permission.** If we feel threatened, we should not wait for someone to tell us what to do. We should head to the nearest exit and move to safety. This means it's a good idea to know how to get out quickly from any space. Our church has a lot of doors and staircases; if you don't know where they lead, you may want to spend some time exploring our building.

We can extend Captain Oldham's advice to other health and safety concerns besides the threat of a shooter. We need to exercise our agency and take care of ourselves. If you find yourself sitting in the sanctuary near someone who seems to be ill, it is okay to get up and get a mask or even to move to a different seat. If you find yourself having an allergic reaction to someone's perfume or cologne, it is okay to move away from them. If you are in terrible pain from sitting on a hard pew for too long and you need to stretch, it's okay to step out of the sanctuary. We need to be less concerned about our fear that someone will think we are rude and exercise responsibility for ourselves.

We are God's beloved creation, made in God's own image. God wants us to be healthy and safe. May we remember that God has gifted us with eyes and ears, discerning minds, and sharp perceptions; may we use those gifts to keep ourselves safe and well.

Shalom,

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



## The Road to Ordination - By Sarah Lynne Gershon

*In this column I will share about my journey as we move toward my ordination on May 21: Sacred Harp Concert at 2:30 pm and Ordination service at 3 pm.*

Welcome back to my “Road to Ordination!” This will be my last column because my road to ordination is coming to a close. I have met with my ordination counsel and was approved for ordination on Thursday, March 23. Pastor Kyrmen moderated this meeting and representatives from my sponsoring churches and the region asked me questions (again!) about my perspectives on ministry. Jennifer Fettchenhauer provided us with a light soup supper. I felt encouraged, supported, and challenged by our time together.

I am now working with Pastor Kyrmen and Jan Harrington to plan my ordination service. This will occur on Sunday May 21 at 3:00 pm. I hope you all will be able to attend two worship services that Sunday as our congregation’s presence will mean so much to me. This church has been a huge blessing for myself and my family as I have walked this path of ordination. This is not just something I did, but something YOU did with me. The experience serving Jesus with you has taught me so much about what it means to share Christ’s love and minister in a church. Most seminary students are not blessed with steady income through a paid year-round position in ministry while seeking ordination, so I also feel honored to have been trusted with that work. My ordination is as much First Christian Church Bloomington’s accomplishment as my own.

I also hope this ordination service will be fun! Many of you know that I love Sacred Harp singing. I have chaired a few of the All-day Singings in Bloomington and helped start a monthly singing in Indianapolis. Some of my fellow singers have offered to sing for you all the half hour before my ordination service, so plan to come at 2:30 to listen to this unique, American style of hymn singing! After the service there will be a delicious fellowship meal and my friends Kaitlyn Ferry and Elizabeth Duffy will be providing some music. Their duo is called *Sister Sinjin* and you can hear their songs on Bandcamp or Spotify.

Thank you again for all your support and I can’t wait to celebrate with you on May 21!



You're Invited

THE INDIANA REGION & FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(DOC), BLOOMINGTON INVITE YOUR PRESENCE AT  
THE ORDINATION TO CHRISTIAN MINISTRY OF  
SARAH LYNNE GERSHON

SUNDAY MAY 21, 3PM; SACRED HARP SINGING AT 2:30  
RECEPTION FOLLOWING SERVICE

205 E. KIRKWOOD AVE  
BLOOMINGTON, IN 47404

CLERGY WEAR ROBES AND RED STOLES  
LIVESTREAM WILL BE AVAILABLE






*In Our Prayers...*

◇ We offer our sympathy and prayers to Amy Cheek, whose mother, Enid Bobbitt, passed away on March 20. A memorial service was held for Enid on March 24 in Greenwood. May Amy and her family know God’s comforting presence.

◇ We offer prayers for Amy Lynn as she deals with health concerns and as she undergoes surgery on April 19. We pray for Amy’s strength and healing.

◇ We offer prayers for Natalie Garshaw as she awaits medical test results.

**Welcome New Member,  
Erica Eckensberger**

**Thank You!**

Thank you to all who sent lovely get well cards, notes, texts and more while I recovered from surgery. I can truly say that each time I look at the cards, I feel God’s presence. I am so thankful for my First Christian Church “family.”

- Jean Thompson

Thank you for your prayers and cards. They have been a comfort since my Mom’s passing.

Sincerely,  
Amy Cheek



Please give a warm FCC welcome to Rev. Erica Eckensberger, who joined by transfer of membership from United Congregational Church in Worcester, Massachusetts. Erica was born and raised in Indiana, grew up in Mitchell, and attended IU, where she graduated with a degree in Social Work. In 1994, Erica decided to attend seminary, receiving her Masters of Divinity in 1998 from Christian Theological Seminary and becoming ordained in 1999. Erica’s ministry has focused on social justice issues, serving the LGBTQ community as well as ministering to the homeless, the disabled, and those with substance abuse as an addiction therapist.

Erica and her dog, Prince, live at 624 Valley Mission Lane, Bedford, 47421. Welcome, Erica!

**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.

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



### A SPRINGTIME OF RECITALS

April always brings a slew of wonderful graduation recitals from our FCC Church Musicians. We hope you will be able to support and enjoy these opportunities to celebrate our talented folks as they move to the next stage of their academic careers.



**Shayla Van Hall – DM Organ**

Friday April 14 – Auer Hall (IU)  
Recital at 8:00 PM

**Tiara Abraham, MM Soprano**

Saturday, April 15 at Ford Hall (IU)  
Recital at 1:00 PM (reception follows)



**Anthony Josep, BM Voice**

Saturday, April 22 at First Christian Church  
Recital at 5:00 PM

**Connor Stratton, BM Voice**

Sunday, April 23 – Recital Hall (IU)  
Recital at 10:00 PM



**Tyler Williams, BM Voice**

Monday, April 24 – First Christian Church  
Recital at 5:00pm



### New Adult Study Opportunity!

How does forgiveness work? How do I forgive others? How do I forgive myself? How do I accept the forgiveness others offer me? Just what is forgiveness anyway? If you have ever asked yourself these questions, the study *Embracing Forgiveness* is for you! Pastor Kyrmen will lead this study which includes video content provided by Episcopal priest and spiritual director Barbara Cawthorne Crafton. The heart of the experience is the invitation to engage in rich small-group discussion.

The study group will meet for **five Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. beginning May 9**. All meetings will take place at Pastor Kyrmen's home. Participants will need to purchase the workbook *Embracing Forgiveness: Barbara Cawthorne Crafton on What It Is and What It Isn't* (ISBN 978-1606741986). Please register by contacting Pastor Kyrmen or the church office by Thursday, May 4. This study will be limited to fourteen participants.

### **De-escalation Training – April 12 at 6:00 pm**

*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. If you would like to participate in this important training, please contact Sarah Lynne at [sarahlynn@fccbloomington.org](mailto:sarahlynn@fccbloomington.org).

### **Narcan Training at FCC on Wed. April 26 at 6:00 pm**

*ALL are Welcome and Encouraged to Attend*

Amy Harrison, Monroe County Health Department, will provide training to use Narcan on April 26 at 6:00-7:00 pm at FCC. This medicine helps reverse overdoses, saving the lives of people who suffer from substance use disorder. Amy will provide our church with nasal Narcan.

This training is open to all congregants. They provide skills and resources that will help you show love to people in the Bloomington community both within our church and beyond our doors. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Sarah Lynne. The church will provide light refreshments since it is over dinner.

### **Important update about Kirkwood Avenue**

This is a reminder that the 2023 Expanded Outdoor Dining season began Monday, April 3. This program closes 2 ½ blocks of Kirkwood Avenue to all for expanded outdoor dining and a pedestrian thoroughfare, and parklets, which expands outdoor dining in parking spaces closed off by orange jersey barriers directly outside the participating businesses in the downtown area. Installation of bollards and barriers will take place between April 3rd and 5th.

Kirkwood blocks closed will be:

- Full block between Dunn St. and Grant St.
- West half of the block from Washington St. to Walnut St. (alley will remain open)
- Full block between Indiana Ave. and Dunn St. (OPTIONAL)

You can learn more about the program on the City's website. Please let them know if you have any questions.

## Time to Sign Up for Summer Camps!

Sign up your children for church camp at Bedford! Please sign up before May 15. FCC will automatically cover 50% of the early bird camp fees for any of our campers. Just 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.*

Please also plan to attend worship on June 4th when we will commission our campers!

### 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)
- June 26-July 1 **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)

## Stages Performs at FCC

For the past several months, FCC has enjoyed hosting Stages, a Bloomington youth theater organization, for rehearsals and classes. If you are in our building on Monday or Wednesday evenings or on Saturday mornings, you will hear the exuberance of 45 third through eighth graders acting, singing, and dancing their hearts out!

Now, our congregation has an opportunity to get a taste of the talents of Stages' young performers. On **Sunday, April 16**, please plan to remain in the sanctuary after worship as Stages presents a couple of musical numbers from their upcoming production of *Frozen, Jr.*

Stages full performance of *Frozen Jr.* will be April 21-23 at The Warehouse on S Rogers St.



## Honoring Our Graduates!

Each Spring we look forward to honoring our high school and college graduates during worship. We will recognize the accomplishments of these hard-working young people on Sunday, May 21.

*Please, send information about your graduate (including a picture, name of school, honors received, sports or activities, and post-high school plans) to Sarah Lynne Gershon. We also need post-graduation addresses for our college graduates.* We want to be sure to recognize all graduates. So, please let us know if you are graduating.



FCC's Youth is hosting FCC's Annual Easter Egg Hunt after worship on the FCC lawn (or downstairs if weather is bad). We still NEED CANDY donations for the eggs that will be stuffed that morning! Drop off your donation at church before worship! All Youth please let Ashlyn know if you are planning to help stuff and hide eggs on Easter morning at FCC! Bring a basket and join the fun!

**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](mailto: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 |                         |





### MAY BIRTHDAYS



05/01	Tate	Knepper	3918 S. Woods Edge Bend	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	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
05/18	Jim	Barker	115 N. Lexington Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
05/21	Erv	Fettchenhauer	2604 E. Windermere Woods Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
05/24	Marv	Swarthout	3521 W. Fairington Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403
05/24	Kate	Kroll	2704 N. Browncliff Lane	Bloomington	IN	47408

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

**I'm Coming to the All-Church Lunch on April 23**

*(Please Return this Reservation by April 16)*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of People in Reservation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\$\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to pay for our meal(s) (suggested donation of \$11/person)**

**\$\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to donate toward the cost of the event**

We look forward to seeing you following worship on April 23 in Great Hall for this All-Church lunch and program with local historian Elizabeth Mitchell who will speak about Bloomington's African-American history.

Checks to support this event can be made out to First Christian Church and brought or mailed to church before the lunch, or the day of the lunch. Online donation is also available. See you there!

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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*The Christian Visitor*

*Vol. 65, no. 4*

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH BLOOMINGTON

# HOLY WEEK

<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> APRIL 2   10AM	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> APRIL 6   7PM
<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> APRIL 7   7PM	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> APRIL 9   10AM

*Join us for Holy Week*

### Scripture Readings For Sunday Worship

#### April 9

*Easter Sunday*  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 28:1-10

#### April 16

Psalm 16  
John 20:19-31

#### April 23

Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
1 Peter 1:17-23