

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

Important Updates from the FCC Board *Board Votes to Transition to In-Person Worship*

On Sunday, March 28, the board voted to accept the recommendation from the COVID Taskforce that we transition to a “hybrid” worship service starting May 2! This means that (assuming positivity rates remain low) the sanctuary will be open to a limited number of people on Sunday mornings, and we will also offer livestream worship for those who choose to worship from home.

Please complete and return (no later than April 18) the enclosed survey, designed to help us prepare for the transition back into the sanctuary for worship. The survey (which can also be accessed online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/FH2Y6YB) will tell you what to expect from in-person worship. (hint: worship will not be “back to normal”). The survey will also ask you to indicate how likely you are to attend an in-person worship service. Thanks goes to our return-to-worship subcommittee of the COVID Taskforce: Peggy Stafford, Jenn Richards, and Rhonda Trippel.

Board Votes to Call Rev. Will Jewsbury as Interim Pastor

At its March 28 board meetings, the FCC board voted (unanimously and enthusiastically) to receive the Search Committee’s report that the Rev. Will Jewsbury has accepted a letter of call to become FCC’s Interim Pastor! Some may remember Will when he served here as FCC’s Associate Pastor in the 80’s. While in Bloomington, he was a key leader in the creation of the Monroe County Habitat for Humanity. From Bloomington, he moved to Evansville, where he served for 15 years as Senior Pastor of Bethany Christian Church in Evansville, followed by 17 plus years as Senior Pastor of First Christian Church in Kokomo.

Since retiring from “settled” ministry, he has taken training in interim ministry and served as Interim Senior Pastor at Central Christian Church in New Albany. He will begin his ministry with FCC on June 1.

195th Anniversary Celebration!

Mark your calendars for April 25, as FCC celebrates its 195th Anniversary with a very special service of worship at 10:00 am.

*More details can be found
on page 4 of this newsletter.*

Pastor's Pen*A Personal Update About Your Pastor and Her Family*

This past year has been *a lot* for everyone, including your pastor and her family. Here (at your request) is the latest personal news from us:

In preparation for our move to Boise (where my parents are living with my sister and her husband), **Bruce and I** have been working toward the goal of putting our house up for sale in late May or early June. Thankfully, we have a permanent place to land in Boise, which is a very good thing. You see, when we made the decision to move to Boise, the city's housing market was on the verge of exploding—to the point that my sister worried that we wouldn't be able to find a decent home at a price we could afford. So, as an act of generosity (and enlightened self-interest!), she and her husband purchased exactly what we were looking for: a lovely one-level condo that we will buy from them at the same price they paid for it. It's located in a small and well-maintained condo community within walking distance of shopping and the city's river-walk trail, and it's an easy 11 minute drive to their house. It's serving as a rental house until we make our move. As predicted, Boise's housing market *has* exploded, so we are very glad for my sister's foresight and generosity.

Allison and Jared and Silas are still living in Nashville, TN, where she serves as Associate Minister at Vine Street Christian Church. I truly enjoy the frequent "Facebook" chats, when I get

to interact with Silas (17 months), who is—and I speak the truth—adorable with a capital A! Not only that, but he loves the world, is curious about everything, and is not afraid to dive into his next adventure!

At this very moment, **Sam** and his wife Alaina are moving east—from Denver to Springfield MA—where Sam recently accepted the position as head coach of the varsity men's rugby team at American International College. With rugby among the fastest growing collegiate sports for both men and women, he is fortunate to be in a place where he can live out his dream of coaching the sport he loves! (Alaina's job allows her to work remotely from anywhere in the country.) While their long-term goal is to live in the west, this position will give him the opportunity to build up his resume as he builds on his already impressive win-loss record.

Jonathan continues to thrive as an 8th grade math teacher at Carmel Clay Middle School, where he also helps coach football and wrestling. He and his girlfriend Erin share many passions: playing/watching rugby, eating well, staying fit, playing golf, and finding ways to make a difference in this world.

Thanks for taking an interest in our personal lives. And thanks for allowing me to use this column to offer occasional updates. I feel blessed!

Blessings,



Pastor Helen



MUSIC NOTES

**Two Upcoming Recitals:
Jihye Choi, Organ and Joseph Andreola, Baritone**

Two of FCC's finest musicians will be giving graduation recitals soon.

Our organist, **Jihye Choi**, will give her second Doctoral Recital on the IU Auer Hall Organ on Tuesday, April 13 at 8:00 pm. Her program will include J.S. Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in Eb, BWV 552* and Charles Marie Widor's 19th-century French masterpiece *Symphonie Romane*. While no in-person audience is permitted yet, you can hear Jihye's recital online at IUMusicLive! (Google IUMusicLive! for the link on the day of the concert or type in <https://events.iu.edu/musiclub/event/181481-doctoral-recital-jihye-choi-organ>).



Our baritone Choral Scholar **Joe Andreola's** final Master's degree recital will be held in the First Christian Sanctuary on Sunday, April 18 at 5:00 pm. Joe's recital will include songs by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Paola Tosti, Maurice Ravel, and Arnold Schönberg. No audience is allowed at this time due to COVID-19 protocol, but the recital will be the first to be livestreamed from our sanctuary. Information about how to access the recital will be posted on our Facebook page as the recital approaches.

I hope you will want to support these fine musicians as they perform. I know you will be rewarded with an enjoyable musical experience!

Jan

**Upcoming Jazz Vesper Moments
Posted at 6:30 on Fridays**

- April 9:** Longing for Attachment
- April 16:** Longing for Nourishment
- April 23:** Longing for Serenity
- April 30:** Longing for Promise



If you miss any of the Moments, here is a reminder that all of the past Jazz Vespers Moments can be accessed by simply clicking on the "Jazz Vesper Moments" link on the FCC Home Page.



In Our Prayers...

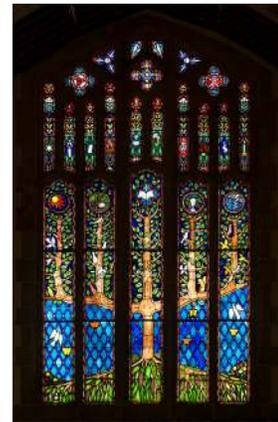
Please hold Chad Whaley in your prayers as he grieves the death of his father, Paul Whaley, who passed away on March 17. Cards and notes of condolence may be sent to Chad at 6000 W. Merry Way Lane, Bloomington, 47404.

FCC's 195th Anniversary Celebration

Livestreamed on Sunday, April 25 at 10:00 am

On 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.



Summer Forum Series Kicks Off with Rev. April Johnson *Four Sessions of Disciples Pro-Reconciliation Anti-Racism Training*

Mark your calendars for four Sundays beginning June 6 as we kick off an important Summer Forum Series with the Rev. April Johnson, Executive Director of Disciples' Reconciliation Ministry. Rev. Johnson will be creating four sessions specifically designed for FCC. A year ago, FCC committed to being a pro-reconciling, anti-racist congregation.

Rev. April G. Johnson serves as the Minister of Reconciliation for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She brings to this work a deep passion for racial understanding, justice and compassion. As Minister of Reconciliation, Rev. Johnson facilitates the church-wide process of awareness, analysis and action toward healing the fractures in the body of Christ that are caused by systemic racism. Rev. Johnson's forums will offer Disciples-based training that will put us on the path to achieving our goal of lifelong learning as a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church.

These forums will be online (via Zoom) and you will need to register for this series. Information on registration will be available in the next newsletter (April 21). **Mark your calendar and plan to attend** these important sessions that will take place following worship on Sundays beginning June 6. Questions? Contact Sarah Lynne Gershon at sarahlynneg@fccbloomington.org.

FCC Kids Raise Money for Homeless Families while “Walking a Mile” to Raise Awareness

Submitted By Maia Duffy-Paiement (walker, advocate)

When my mom pointed out the *Hotels 4 Homeless* fundraiser in the newspaper, I knew right away that I wanted to do my part in the community. I had been looking for ways to help people and animals and decided that this would be the perfect opportunity. We decided that my brother and I would walk one mile every day for a week straight, just like those experiencing homelessness in Bloomington have to do every day from Seminary Square, where they set camp, to the Community Kitchen, where breakfast is served. We sent out email after email telling about the fundraiser, and seven snowy walks later, we discovered we had raised almost 400 dollars for the cause, helping a whole family have shelter and food for a week. After it was over, I realized that I still wanted to help our community and am researching ways to help all of the homeless animals in our country. This simple but effective fundraiser started a whole army of people who, like me, are driven to fix the many problems in our world.

Family Ministries Update

*By Sarah Lynne Gershon
Student Associate Pastor*

Hello Families!

I had so much fun celebrating Easter and watching the kids scurry around the church lawn hunting for eggs. Scott Sprinkle hid a special sparkly golden egg that Mia Walsh found and her prizes were 4 extra eggs he had “hid” up high on the church window sills. Thanks to generous donations of candy and plastic eggs we had over 200 eggs to search for, so all the kids made out like candy bandits!

Our Eastertide devotional bags are ready for pick up in the church lobby. They have supplies for making your special Easter Christ Candle, Easter proclamation bells, and the ingredients for marshmallow “resurrection rolls,” among other things.

Our May Family Ministries live gathering will be a little early in the month. In fact, it starts April 31! We will gather for a campout in Jennifer Fettchenhauer’s backyard in support of Beacon’s annual Solidarity Sleep Out starting at 5:00 pm April 31-May 1 (through breakfast). Please RSVP with me ASAP if your family is planning to come. Then go to <https://givebutter.com/sleepout2021/first-christian-church-family-ministries>, click the fundraise button and join the FCC family ministries team. You can then share that same link with friends and family requesting that they sponsor you by clicking the “donate” button. All the donations go to support Beacon’s ministries (formerly called Shalom Center). (Psst! Anyone can donate to sponsor our team by going to that link).

I look forward to seeing you all again next month! Thank you again for all you do to support our church community and your children’s growing faith.



Eastertide Alleluias
New Sermon Series Begins
April 11

Alleluia, which means "God be Praised!" or "Glory Be!", offers a succinct way to express great joy for what God has done in this world. The season of Eastertide gives us ample opportunity to sing our Alleluias in praise of God's mighty acts of forgiveness, love, and victory over death in the raising of his son Jesus the Christ.

Our April sermon series, Alleluia!, is designed to help us celebrate Christ's living presence in this world. Each Sunday, we will celebrate the power and presence of God who--in Christ Jesus--continues to do great things in this world.

April 11

Alleluia!
 (Bruce Ervin preaches)
 The Christ in Community
 Luke 24: 13-35

April 18

Alleluia!
 The Christ Who Commissions
 Matthew 28:16-20

April 25

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



Thank you Linda Abe!

We are so fortunate to have such a wealth of talent at FCC! We were especially blessed this Easter by the creative work of Linda Abe who carefully constructed the beautiful Easter banner that adorned our sanctuary. It's a truly amazing and intricate work of art. Thank you Linda for sharing your creative gifts with your FCC family!

It's Time to Register for Summer Camp!

Early Bird Deadline is May 15

Do not forget to register for camp! **The early bird rates are in place until May 15**, so make sure to sign up before then! Please let Sarah Lynne Gershon know if you have registered or if you need help with registration. You can find all the details (dates and rates) about camp at www.indianadisciples.org. Just click on "Camps".

Remember that FCC has camp scholarships available too! Just contact Sarah Lynne or Pastor Helen about a scholarship.



Meet the 2021 Disciples Peace Fellowship Interns Including FCC's Kate Myers

For more than forty years, DPF's Peace Intern program has provided a vital witness for peace within church camps and other youth events of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Peace Interns are young adults who provide educational and program support at church camps and other church-related assemblies and events about peace and justice issues, serving as counselors and resource people, and modeling the lifestyle of peacemakers for youth and adults alike.



Marisa Black (she/her)

A Junior double major at Wichita State University, Marisa studies Special Music Education and Music Performance (flute). A member of First Christian Church in Wellington, Kansas, she grew up attending camp at Disciples Center at Tawakoni. In fact, after completing her time as a camper, Marisa has returned to Tawakoni as a summer staff member, leading Challenge Courses there. One of her references described her like this: "The church is Marisa's deepest love. She has known such love within the walls and spaces of the church that she can't help but seek more opportunities and to share her convictions." More than anything else, she hopes to share the full welcome and inclusion of a loving God with everyone she meets this summer. Fun fact, Marisa's hometown of Wellington, KS is known as "The Wheat Capital of the World!"



Kate Myers (she/her)

Kate will graduate in December with a degree in Ethics and Social Change (with concentrations in Sociology and Religion) from the University of Evansville. Daughter of Kip and Connie Myers, Kate grew up at First Christian Church in Bloomington, IN. In her application she noted that "the idea that I could get paid to travel around the country and teach children and adults about social justice sounds like a dream come true to me!" Kate has a passion for justice and a heart for creating meaningful dialogue. Intending to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker focused on therapy work, Kate hopes that this internship will help her develop her skills as a small group leader and facilitator of difficult conversations. Fun fact: Kate is taking a jewelry making class as an elective this semester and she hopes to keep up with it even after the class is over!



Ashlyn Baldwin (she/her)

Ashlyn grew up attending church camps in the Alabama/Northwest Florida Region, and Peace Interns were a huge part of her faith development. "I thought that they were amazing and their passion inspired me to be more conscious about social justice topics. I have always loved hearing the stories they had and learning what they knew," she says. Ashlyn has a strong desire to be a change agent in a broken system and a heart for reforming institutions from the inside. 2021 will be a huge year for Ashlyn: In December she will graduate from the University of North Alabama with a degree in Criminal Justice and in August she is getting married! Fun fact, Ashlyn has a cat named Loki, another cat named Calamity, a dog named Meeko, and a bunny named Tennant, all named from her favorite movies, shows, and video games!

FCC Survey on Return to Worship

The purpose of this survey is to gauge interest in returning to in-person worship services at First Christian Church – Bloomington. The tentative start date would be May 2, 2021 and services will be conducted on a week by week basis pending review of COVID positivity rates by the FCC Medical Task Committee.

Please answer the questions (on the back) or by following the link below with the understanding that there will be limitations on the worship experience. These limitations include but are not limited to the following:

- Masks will be required while in the building.
- Hand sanitizer will be required upon entry/exit to the building.
- Seats will be assigned (with social distancing parameters in place), and reservations required in advance.
- Entry/Exit may be restricted to specific doors where you will need to enter/exit the building.
- No singing by congregants will be allowed.
- No hymnals or Bibles will be available for use.
- Bulletins will be available; however, you could print out your own and bring with you or use an electronic device (e.g., phone, iPad, etc.)
- Communion will be provided in your pew or you have the option to bring your own with you.
- Offering will be placed in a basket or offering plate when exiting the building or you will have the option to give online through the FCC website.
- Restrooms will be open on a limited basis only (and only if needed for urgent matters).
- Sanctuary and entry/exit routes will be the only areas open. The rest of the building will be off limits.
- There will be NO coffee fellowship time or in-person Sunday morning classes. Congregants must leave immediately after the service concludes.
- No childcare services will be available.

Link to online survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FH2Y6YB>



Survey is set to close at midnight on Sunday, April 18, 2021

FCC Survey on Return to Worship

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone number: _____

Circle your answer:

1. Knowing that the live worship experience will be modified, are you interested in attending in-person worship services? **Yes / No**
2. Reservations would be required to attend the worship service. How would you prefer to make your reservation? **Online through the FCC website / By calling the church office and speaking with a live person or leaving a phone message.**
3. If you are interested in attending in-person worship service, how many people from your household/housing unit would likely attend? **1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / Greater than 4**
4. Seats will be assigned so that social distancing can be maintained. This means that congregants will be spread out throughout the entire sanctuary. Even if you attend in-person service more than once, your seat assignment will change (e.g., one time you may be sitting towards the front and the next time you might be in the back of the sanctuary). Do you have an objection to the rotating seat assignments (limited disability will be taken into consideration if applicable)? **Yes / No**
5. Would you be willing to offer your seat to a first-time visitor who arrives unexpectedly to worship with us? **Yes / No**
6. You may be required to have a ticket for entry and go into the building through a specific door so that social distancing can be maintained. Do you have an objection with this type of restriction? **Yes / No**
7. Live streaming will still be happening during the in-person worship service. If given the option, would you prefer to continue to watch the service using this technology from the comfort & protection of your home. **Yes / No / Don't care either way**
8. Please provide any additional comments that you may have regarding the in-person worship experience.

Deadline to submit is Sunday, April 18, 2021

Thank you for completing the Return to Worship survey! God Bless You and Keep You Safe.

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

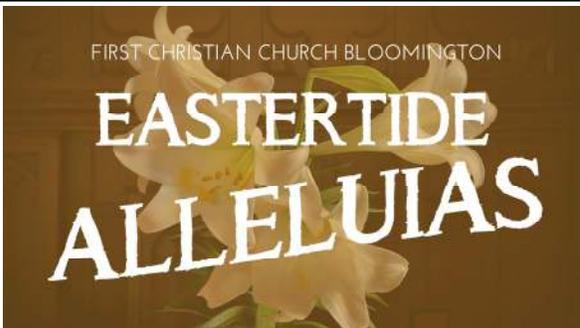
812-332-4459
fcc@fccbloomington.org
www.fccbloomington.org
Return Service Requested

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



The Christian Visitor

Vol. 63, no. 7



The season of Eastertide gives us ample opportunity to sing our Alleluias in praise of God's mighty acts of forgiveness, love, and victory over death in the raising of his son Jesus the Christ. Join us for our April sermon series, *Alleluia!*, as we celebrate Christ's living presence in this world.

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

April 11 (Bruce Ervin preaches)
Alleluia!
The Christ in Community
Luke 24:13-35

April 18
Alleluia!
The Christ who Commissions
Matthew 28:16-20

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