

# The CHRISTIAN

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

## **Join Us for the Ordination of Sarah Lynne Gershon on May 21** ***FCC Welcomes Sarah Lynne Gershon as FCC's Associate Pastor***

Having completed the requirements of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Sarah Lynne Gershon will be ordained into Christian ministry on May 21 at FCC. We are pleased to be among the congregations that have sponsored Sarah Lynne's vocational aspirations. Join us for this special ordination service on Sunday, May 21 that will begin with Sacred Harp singing at 2:30 pm in our sanctuary, followed by the ordination service at 3:00pm. A reception will follow in Great Hall.

Sarah Lynne has been an indispensable member of the FCC staff since 2020 (just before the pandemic hit), beginning as our director of Faith Formation and Family Ministries. As she moved through her education she became our Student Associate Minister working with Pastor Helen Hempfling, Pastor Will Jewsbury and now with Pastor Kyrmen Rea. She has now added oversight of FCC's Service and Outreach ministries to her responsibilities. Sarah Lynne created opportunities for FCC families to stay connected through the COVID lockdown in 2020, and continues to support FCC as we come out of that time of isolation. Her creativity and care in creating programs and ministries to support spiritual growth and connectedness is impressive.

We are excited to celebrate Sarah Lynne's ordination on May 21, and thrilled about her plans to continue her ministry at FCC. With the full blessing of the FCC Board, Sarah Lynne Gershon will be promoted to the position of Associate Pastor on June 1. We heartily congratulate Pastor Sarah Lynne Gershon!

## **Asset Mapping - Our Cup Overflows!** ***Important Congregational Event Following Worship on June 4***

Asset-based thinking is an approach that focuses on blessings instead of deficits. When we work from an asset-based perspective, we notice what we DO have instead of fixating on what we don't have. When we take stock of our church's many resources, talents, networks of connection, skills, and passions, we recognize that our cup truly overflows! As we figure out how to link our resources with the resources of other organizations in our community, we will find new ways for FCC to use its assets - including our building - to be a blessing in downtown Bloomington!

The Sacred Places Team invites the whole congregation to join them after church on June 4 in the Great Hall for an important event in the life of our church. All attendees will be invited to participate in a facilitated process of identifying our church's assets and exploring ways to use those assets to meet community needs. A pizza lunch will be provided. Your donation of \$5/person will offset the cost of the meal. Please come whether or not you are able to contribute monetarily; those who are able are encouraged to donate the cost of an extra lunch or two. Your donation can be made in advance or at the event.

*Volume 65, number 5 May 10, 2023*

## *The Minister's Missive* *Our Cup Overflows!*

In just a couple of weeks, on Sunday, May 28, we will celebrate Pentecost! On this special day, we remember that the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' disciples just as he had promised. The church was born as Jesus' spirit-filled followers took up the mission of sharing Christ's love and grace with the world. Pentecost is a day to celebrate that the Holy Spirit is still blowing, still directing us, still inspiring us. The church continues in its mission as we, the gathered community of Christ, seek to share the good news of Jesus with the world!

Pentecost is a great time for us to recall that, though the church faces challenges, still our cup overflows! It is tempting for churches to become fixated on the ways in which we see evidence of contraction: congregations are smaller, budgets are leaner, and churches have less cultural clout than they once did. For FCC and other congregations with large, aging buildings, there are constant needs for repairs and real questions about long-term sustainability. While these challenges cannot be ignored, despair will not make a way forward. If we become fixated on our perceived deficits, we will soon find that anxiety has displaced our ability to be innovative. Our fear could overcome our faithfulness.

Rather than focusing on what we *don't* have, we can choose to take stock of what we *do* have. When we begin to assess our church's many resources – our property, our skills, our expertise, our network of connections, our reputation in the community, our commitments and passions, and, most importantly, our identity as Christ's beloved, we will see that our cup is indeed overflowing! We have so much potential, so many bright possibilities ahead! There is still A LOT God can do with this church!

Once we have identified our assets, including some that might not be so obvious, we can begin to seek partners in our community who might have assets that complement ours. How might we work with other organizations that have similar priorities? What groups might we house in our building to support their work? Who might help support our priorities by becoming a paying tenant in our building? These are just some of the many questions that asset mapping will help us explore.

Most of you who are reading this are folks who love our church and who want to be a part of its continuing story. We need you to participate in figuring out how the plot of that story is going to unfold. Please make plans to come to the asset mapping event on June 4. I am confident you will leave the event feeling encouraged and hopeful about our congregation's future!

Shalom,

Pastor Kyrmen  
317-408-9782  
[pastorkyrmen@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkyrmen@gmail.com)





**Graduation Sunday  
is May 21**  
Send Information about  
Your Grad by May 14!

FCC will honor graduates of High School and College during worship on Sunday, May 21. If you or your son or daughter is graduating, please let us know. We would like to have a picture of our high school graduates along with information about their future plans. For college graduates, please send us information of future plans as well as a post-graduation address for cards and well wishes. Send that information to [sarahlynn@fccbloomington.org](mailto:sarahlynn@fccbloomington.org) Thank you!



**CLASS OF 2023**

Please join us for an open house  
to celebrate the graduation of

**JUDE REA-HEDRICK**

*Saturday, June 3, 2023  
1:00-4:00 p.m.  
1212 W. Acacia Ct.  
Bloomington, IN 47404*

**FCC Apartment Ministry Seeks Volunteers**

The FCC basement apartment is no longer being used after the XPLO program ended. Exodus Refugee has been looking for alternatives to hotel stays for newly arrived refugees who haven't signed a lease yet. This is a need FCC could fill and the board has approved use for refugees in Exodus' program or out of town guests of the church (like Mark and Danielle when they visit!). We can't meet this need without your help! We need 2-3 people to oversee short-term use of the apartment. There are already apartment use policies and a document describing the responsibilities of an Apartment Hospitality Team. You would oversee the scheduling of guests, which means you can schedule stays around *your* availability. Please contact Sarah Lynne or Betsy Watson if you are interested in learning more.



**Pentecost Sunday is May 28**  
*Special Offering collected May 21 and 28*

Pentecost Sunday is May 28, and at FCC that means wear your **RED** to church! Our celebration will continue following worship with cake in the Chapel Gathering Space.

The Pentecost Special Offering will be collected on May 21 and 28. This offering benefits new church starts in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Your gift helps ensure our movement *for wholeness in a fragmented world* continues to embody the Disciples of Christ vision: *to be and to share the Good News, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.* Thank you for giving to this offering.



## SING UNTO THE LORD A NEW SONG (OR AT LEAST AN OLD ONE)

## TUNE NAMES

HYFRYDOL, Aberystwyth, *Diademata*, Jeous Ahathonhia, *Llangloffan*,  
 O Waly Waly, St. Anne, *St. Thomas*, Nicaea,  
**Hymn to Joy**, *Lobe den Herrn*.

Could this be people speaking in tongues on Pentecost? Actually, no - these are hymn tune names. (You might notice them next to the hymn title on the right margin of each Sunday's bulletin.) Since hymn texts can, at least in theory, be sung to any number of melodies or tunes, the practice has developed of assigning "tune names" to these melodies. This custom supplies an easy way of identifying a melody without singing or humming its initial notes.

Hymn tune names come from a variety of sources: most frequently the tunes are given the names of saints or perhaps the composer or a friend, the names of cities or places, or original first lines. There are nearly 600 hymn tunes listed in the *Chalice Hymnal's* "Index of Tune Names," so it's no wonder that a few might be unfamiliar at first. But many appear associated with several hymns. For example, we've sung several different hymns to HOLY MANNA in the last few months.

## TUNE METERS

If you look at the hymnal, you will notice that various letters (e.g., L.M. or S.M.) (e.g.6.6.11.D) appear in conjunction with each hymn at the end of the music; these are not some mysterious code from outer space, but are called "tune meters" and indicate the number of lines in each verse and the number of syllables in each line. For example, common meter (C.M.) has four lines, the first and third lines having eight syllables, and the second and fourth lines having six syllables (8.6.8.6.)

O God, our help in ages past,  
 Our hope for years to come,  
 Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
 and our eternal home.

I hope each congregant will at least open their hymnal and, if you don't know the tune or text, can't read music, or feel you can't make a joyful noise aloud, at least you might read or mouth the words as they go by. The hymns are chosen carefully to enrich the worship experience for each Sunday. You might even find yourself humming a new tune by the end of the hymn.



*In Our Prayers...*

- ◇ We offer prayers for Dan Goins who is awaiting back surgery on May 18. Cards can be sent to Dan at 60 Bailliere Drive, Martinsville, 46151.
- ◇ We offer prayers for Bill Street who is recovering from surgery to amputate his leg. Cards and notes of encouragement can be sent to Bill at 2604A E. 2nd Street, 47401.
- ◇ We offer prayers for Gerry Miller, who is recovering from a recent surgery. Cards can be sent to Gerry at 2455 N. Tamarack Trail, Apt. 130, 47408.
- ◇ We offer prayers for Sandy Bate as she deals with severe bronchitis and COPD. Cards and notes can be sent to Sandy at 736 E. Moss Creek Circle, 47401.
- ◇ We offer prayers for Natalie Garshaw who began chemotherapy this week. Cards and notes can be sent to Natalie at 3740 Russell Road, 47408.



**Fun and Fellowship this Summer at FCC!**

Join us this summer for a fun and easy-going time to connect with your FCC family! Plan to stay after church June-August for casual (and playful) opportunities. Most of these will be kid-friendly, so don't hesitate to bring your children, grandkids, nieces and nephews, or the next door neighbor!

**FCC Fun & Fellowship activities in June**

***June 4– Asset Mapping Event with pizza lunch***

This is an important (and surprisingly fun) part of the Sacred Places project. We need your help learning about our church community's gifts! Join us in the Great Hall following worship for pizza and asset mapping!

***June 11– Getting to Know You***

Practice the art of not taking yourself too seriously and bring an adventurous spirit for some of Pastor Kyrmen's favorite get-to-know-you games. Let's have fun getting to know each other better!

***June 18–Show and Tell***

What's something you love that folks at church don't know enough about? Bring something you find meaningful to share with the group. Maybe it's a memento, something from your favorite hobby, or a family treasure. We want to celebrate what you love with you!

***June 25–Bring a Board Game***

This one's easy. Bring your favorite game to teach your church family! Join us for Fun and Games!



### **Crazy Bowling and Pizza**

**on Wednesday, June 14 at 5:30pm at Classic Lanes**

Families with youth and children are invited to get together for some crazy bowling at Classic Lanes on Wednesday June 14th at 5:30 pm. This is for totally non-serious bowlers of any age and ability! We will play up to 2 games and eat pizza at Classic Lanes. Cost: \$10/person, but please do not let the cost prevent you from coming! Donate what you can with the note that it is for "Crazy Bowling" on the envelope or check memo line. RSVP to Sarah Lynne by June 11 to ensure we reserve enough lanes.

Meet at **Classic Lanes** at 5:30 pm  
 (812)332-6689  
 1421 North Willis Drive

### **Pool Party at the Johann's on Sunday, July 16 from 5-7pm**

Families with children and youth are invited to the Johann's for a pool party and hot dog dinner. Please bring a side to share (chips, fruit, veggies or salad). Parents will be responsible for the safety of their children, so make sure you bring anything needed for safe swimming. RSVP to Sarah Lynne.

Meet at the Johann's at 5pm  
 3057 E. Chase Lane



### **Back to School with Gutter Sundaes Following Worship on Sunday, August 6**



Everyone is invited to gather on our front lawn for a good old fashioned Gutter Sundae to celebrate the start of a new school year. The church will provide lots of ice-cream and some traditional toppings (chocolate sauce, whipped cream, sprinkles, cherries). Please bring your favorite toppings to share! (And don't worry, you don't have to eat out of a gutter. If you prefer personal bowls, they will be provided.)

### **Time to Sign Up for Summer Camps!**

Have you registered your children for church camp? If not, don't wait any longer, get registered today! Prices go up after May 15! FCC kids generally attend camp at Bedford! FCC will automatically cover 50% of the early bird camp fees for any of our campers. More assistance is available for those who need it. Just let us know! . We want *all our youth and children to experience the fellowship and spiritual growth at camp*. Once you have registered for camp, let Sarah Lynne know. 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



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS



06/01	Max	Fettchenhauer	5337 E. State Rd. 46	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/04	Mary Alice	Martin	4243 W. Lynwest Drive	Bloomington	IN	47404
06/06	Samuel	Knowles	1732 W. 7th St. Apt. 1	Red Wing	MN	55066
06/07	Allen	Griggs	9376 S. Harbour Pointe	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/16	Sawyer	Houchins	3821 S. Westmont Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47403
06/16	David	Jackson	3693 S. Sowder Square	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/17	Cliff	Travis	4682 E. Heritage Woods	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/18	Melissa	Jackson	3693 S. Sowder Square	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/20	Flossie	Fox	709 Keystone Ct.	Bloomington	IN	47408
06/24	Arch	Dalton	1322 S. Winfield Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/25	Rob	Hunter	503 E. Audubon Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408

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

### Youth Lock-In planned for Early June Supplies Needed for Service Project

FCC's Youth is getting ready for a lock-in in a few weeks (early June). They are planning to have some fun, and make some additional care packages filled with personal hygiene essentials and some snacks. These "kits" will be passed out to our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness or other hardships.

If you are able to donate items for the kits, it is appreciated. Here is the list:

Crew length socks	Band-aids
Protein bars (not granola)	Body wipes
Toothbrushes and toothpaste	Chapstick
Menstrual products	Sunscreen

### Braver Angels Introductory Event on May 22 at 7:00 pm

You are invited to an introductory event with the Bloomington chapter of Braver Angels. FCC is hosting the event in the Chapel Gathering Space on Monday, May 22 at 7:00pm.

Braver Angels Indiana started following the 2016 Presidential election with a goal of seeing if Americans could disagree *respectfully*, and find common ground. By bringing people from both sides of the political divide together, and listening to each other's stories, people began finding common ground and began to appreciate each other's opinions. Seeing one another as neighbors instead of stereotypes.

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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**Scripture Readings  
For Sunday Worship**

**May 14**

*Mother's Day*  
Psalm 66:8-20  
Acts 17:22-31

**May 21**

*Graduation Sunday*  
Psalm 93  
Acts 1:6-14

**May 28**

*Pentecost Sunday*  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Acts 2:1-21