

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

Update Regarding COVID Safety Protocols

The board voted on Thursday night to accept the recommendations that came out of the COVID Taskforce's most recent meeting. The Taskforce's recommendations are based on scientific evidence, the effectiveness of the vaccine, a sensitivity to those who do not qualify for a vaccine, and out of respect for the Pastor, Music Director, and staff. They are as follows: 1) reservations and seat assignments will no longer be required, including for Pastor Helen's retirement picnic; 2) masks are required for children ages 2-12; 3) as a courtesy to those who are uncomfortable with some of the CDC updates (and at the request of the Pastor and the Music Director), please continue to wear masks—even if you have been vaccinated—and practice social distancing; 4) hymn singing with masks is encouraged!; 5) communion will be served in pre-packaged communion cups, and offering will be received at each entry to the sanctuary; 6) livestreamed services will continue to be offered; 7) church offices will be open during regular business hours (continue to use your door code or knock), and the volunteer workforce can begin to gear up for service; 8) small groups may meet in the church; 9) weddings and funerals may be held at the church; 10) coffee fellowship, choir, and children's/youth programming will start up in the fall, assuming the positivity rates continue to remain low. If positivity rates begin to tick up significantly, these recommendations will be re-visited. Thank you for your adaptability, cooperation, and patience in these unprecedented times!

Celebrating the Ministry of Pastor Helen Hempfling on May 30

Worship at 10:00 am and Picnic Reception from 2:30-5:30 pm

For over 25 years, Pastor Helen has nurtured, comforted, guided, and loved First Christian Church in Bloomington, Indiana. And for over 25 years the FCC community has loved her. Join us for a celebration of all the gifts that Pastor Helen has given to FCC and its people. We'll celebrate with two events on May 30.

The celebration will begin during worship at 10:00 am when we will lift up her ministry with a very special presentation by FCC Moderator Terry Daugherty and Regional Minister Rick Spleth.

The celebration continues from 2:30-5:30 pm with a picnic at the Lion's Den shelter at Cascades Park. Bring your own picnic meal. We will have grills fired up for anyone who wants to bring food to grill. We will provide bottled water and dessert! Now that COVID restrictions have been relaxed, there is no longer a need to sign up for the picnic, come anytime between 2:30-5:30 pm. *We will still host a "drive-through" reception line along the circle drive at the Lion's Den shelter from 2:00-2:30 pm for those who are not comfortable with in-person group gatherings. See you there!*

Volume 63, number 10 May 21, 2021

Pastor's Pen

Even though the day of my retirement is nearly here, it's still hard for me to believe that a month from now we'll be headed toward Boise. Bruce and I are excited about the next phase of our lives, but that doesn't mean that we won't miss you and remember you and pray for you and thank God for you!

I am confident that you will be served well by your interim pastor and your next settled pastor. I encourage you to support and bless them as you have supported and blessed me: with your prayers, your steady and generous giving, and your active participation in the life of the church. Whoever you call as your next pastor, I trust fully that he/she will be the "right one" to walk alongside you over the coming years.

As your (soon-to-be) former pastor, I will be intentional about "stepping aside" so that you can love and be loved and served by your next pastor. This means that (difficult as it might be) I will decline opportunities to participate in your life events and to engage with you via phone, text, mail, email, and social media.

That being said, just because I will no longer be your pastor, it doesn't mean that you should hesitate to look us up should you be "out west" on vacation! Idaho is a beautiful state, and (once we get settled) we would love to show it off to our former parishioners.

And, just because I will no longer be your pastor, it doesn't mean that you'll be able to keep me away from Bloomington five years from now. God willing, Bruce and I plan to return to help you celebrate your 200th Anniversary in 2026! So start planning now!

FCC has a lot of faithful living yet to do, and so do the Hempfling Ervins. As our adventures continue, always remember this: God loves you (and so do I!), and there is NOTHING you can do about it!

Blessings,

Helen Hempfling

Pastor Helen

Register now for our Summer Forum Series!
See brochure inside for more details on the 4-week series with Rev. April Johnson.



Theme for May: **Adapting**

May 21: Adapting to Farewell

May 28: Adapting to New Beginnings



MUSIC NOTES - SUMMER RE-RUNS

Does anybody remember back when there were only three or sometimes four TV networks on the air, and, by the beginning of summer, our favorite series would have come to some cliffhanger or conclusion, and the summer airwaves would then be filled with re-runs of the series episodes? Those were the days.

Well, in a way, our **Friday Jazz Vespers Moments** have come to the end of an entire season – somewhere around 55 episodes to be exact. So this summer, beginning the first Friday of June at 6:30 (same time, same station), we will post weekly re-runs of our favorite Friday Jazz Vespers Moments. The episodes will not be chosen according to any consecutive series, but rather as individual meditative moments that stand on their own. If any of you have suggestions of favorite episodes you feel were special, please email the name or date of the episode to me (harringt@indiana.edu) or Linda Abe (abels@iu.edu) and we will happily find a place for them in our summer lineup!

NEW FACES ON OUR MUSIC SCENE

Sara Dailey – Mezzo Soprano Choral Scholar

For the past two weeks we have enjoyed the presence and voice and artistry of our new mezzo-soprano Choral Scholar **Sara Dailey**. Sara is a Master's Degree student at the IU Jacobs School of Music from Portage, Indiana, studying voice performance under Julia Bentley. She has appeared on the IU Opera Theater stage as a chorister in Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, Bernstein's *Mass*, and Wagner's *Parsifal* (in which she also performed the prophetic Voice from Above), as well as the Mistress of the Novices in Puccini's *Suor Angelica* and recently in *Little Women* where she and choral scholar Joe Andreola joke that they were married on the MAC Stage since they were playing husband and wife. She has a wide range of musical interests ranging from early music to new music and production. The versatile Sara is also a violist and a devoted Musical Arts Center stage electrician. Recently she was a finalist in the School of Music's Project Jumpstart Innovation Competition, commended for her project *MUSE: A Visualized Chamber Opera* for which she was the conceptual and visual producer. Welcome to FCC, Sara!



Dr. Janette Fishell, guest organist

While our organist Jihye Choi goes home to Korea for a 6-week visit, we are excited to welcome her teacher **Dr. Janette Fishell** to the organ bench at FCC! Dr. Fishell is Professor of Organ and Chair of the Organ Department at the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University, where she teaches Applied Organ and Organ Pedagogy. Her previous academic and church appointments include the position of Distinguished Professor of Music at East Carolina University, Director of Music/Principal Organist at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Greenville, NC, and Artist-in-Residence at Christ Church (Episcopal) Cathedral, Indianapolis, and Organist/Choirmaster at the Episcopal Church of All Saints, Indianapolis. She is the recipient of the Jacobs School of Music's 2012 Oswald Gleason Ragatz Distinguished Alumni Award and St. Malachy's (New York, NY) 2014 Paul Creston Award, given in recognition of her commitment to the nurture of excellence in sacred music, both as a practitioner and educator. Dr. Fishell's students have distinguished themselves in academia, concerts and as prizewinners in competitions, both national and international, as well as serving in churches and on university faculties throughout the US, Europe and Asia, and include Fulbright award recipients. Dr. Fishell is also a published writer and composer of organ and choral music. We welcome this brilliant and exciting organist to our church this summer!

Pentecost Special Offering May 23

For the past thirteen months, many of us have stayed away from our places of worship to keep ourselves and our faith communities safe.

How have new church leaders responded? By spreading the word about Disciples through DoorDash, meeting with folks struggling with anxiety on Zoom, and addressing returning citizens' needs. Chaplains, pastors, and others have answered the call to be the new church.

To support them, contribute to the Pentecost Offering on May 16 and 23. Half of the gifts go to regions to support new church development. The other half goes to New Church Ministry, which trains, equips, assists, and multiplies new church leaders.



Let's all be the new church, together.

Please give generously to this year's Pentecost offering.



Building Update

Much needed repair work has begun on our building. Last week, workers began preliminary work that will lead to the removal and replacement of the large (compromised) beam that helps support the balcony as well as the floor below the narthex. This work is the first step of a 4 year comprehensive plan (approved by the board) to get the "bones" of our 100+ year facility in tip-top shape. The

Building Committee (Chris Martoglio, Charlie Sinn, and Mike Donham) are working with John Seest of Arsee Engineering to oversee our priority capital projects. Stay tuned for more information regarding upcoming projects as well as opportunities to help fund these projects.

Yard of the Month!

If there was a "Yard of the Month" competition in downtown Bloomington, FCC would surely capture that title! We owe a **HUGE THANK YOU** to Peggy Stafford, Tom, Rhonda and Alexander Trippel and John Adams for all of their hard work in weeding, planting and mulching our flower beds and to John for also keeping our lawn perfectly mowed and edged. Please thank these wonderful folks for spending time and working so hard to beautify our lawn for the entire community to enjoy. **It's so pretty!**



2021 Graduates

Class of 2021 High School Graduates



Lauren Johann

Lauren graduates from Bloomington South High School. She will attend the University of Indianapolis to pursue a degree in Occupational Therapy. Lauren is the daughter of Jeff and Carie Johann. Cards can be sent to Lauren at 3057 E. Chase Lane, 47401.



Olivia Walsh

Olivia graduates from Bloomington South. She will attend Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. Olivia is the daughter of Susan Garcia and John (Michelle) Walsh. Cards can be sent to Olivia at 3006 S. Olcott, 47401.

Olivia Werner

Olivia Werner graduates from Bloomington North HS this spring, headed to North Carolina to attend Wake Forest University. She will be starting in August. Olivia is the daughter of Brian and Erin Werner. Cards can be sent to Olivia at 4950 White River Dr., 47404.



2021 College and Graduate School Graduates

Joseph Andreola graduated from IU Jacobs School of Music with a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance. Cards can be sent to Joseph at 800 N. Smith Rd. Apt. D5, 47408.

Evan Bossenbroek- Bachelor's degree in Music Education from IU. Cards can be sent to Evan at 430 E. Melrose Ave., 47401.

Dell Cripe - Bachelor's of Science in Radio and Television and a minor in digital video production from the University of Southern Indiana. Cards can be sent to Dell at 3930 W. Tapp Rd, 47403.

Allison Donham graduated from University of Evansville with a Master's of Physician Assistant degree. Cards can be sent to Allison at 5900 N. Maple Grove Rd., 47404.

Lance Richards is graduating from IU with a BA in Media with a concentration of Media Advertising and a specialization in Advertising Creative. Cards can be sent to Lance at 1651 W. Dove Dr., 47403.

Ashante Thomas earned a Master's of Science in Business degree with a concentration in Strategic Management from The Kelley School at IU. Cards can be sent to Ashante at 800 N. Smith Rd., Apt. 1Y, 47408.

Emily Werner graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Health Sciences from Indiana State University. Cards can be sent to Emily at 4950 White River Dr., 47404.

Celebration of Life Gathering for Michael Engber

Cheri Engber and her daughters Sara and Kim will host a Memorial Gathering to celebrate Mike's life on June 12 from 3:00-5:00 pm at the Day and Deremiah Funeral Home. There will be no formal service, just family, friends, and laughter; the things Mike cherished most. FCC friends are invited to join Cheri and her daughters for this special time to remember Mike.

Welcome New Members!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members into our FCC Household of faith:



Welcome **Skylar Wappes**! Skylar grew up in Bloomfield, received undergraduate and master's degrees in Texas, and moved back to Indiana, where she is pursuing her PhD in Chemistry at IU. At the invitation of our own Mackenzie Colston, Skylar worshiped with us for the first time at our online Christmas Eve service. It was during that service that she experienced the powerful and life-changing love of God and a burning desire to become a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. She has worshiped with us each Sunday since Christmas Eve. Skylar joined FCC on May 9 by publicly affirming her faith in Christ. Her address is 1200 S. Rolling Ridge Way, Apt. 802, 47403.

Welcome **Noah Knepper**! Noah made his public confession of faith on May 16, thus confirming the faith that was proclaimed at his (infant) baptism. He has been part of FCC since childhood, participating in many of the congregation's programs and ministries. His spiritual gifts are encouragement, mercy, and generosity. Although his main activity is basketball, Noah loves all sports and plans to play football in the fall, where he will be an 8th grader at Jackson Creek Middle School. He is the son of Mark and Sarah Knepper and brother to Nate and Lilah. His NEW address is 3918 S. Woods Edge Bend, 47401.

Welcome, **Maya Jackson**! Maya, who made her public confession of faith and was baptized on May 16, grew up at First Christian Church and has attended Sunday worship services nearly every week of her life! Her spiritual gifts are administration, mercy, and generosity. Maya loves to read and to play volleyball. She will be a seventh grader in the fall, attending Jackson Creek Middle School. Maya's parents are Brian and Melissa Jackson. Her brothers are David and Ben. Her address is 3693 S. Sowder Square, 47401.





“We Are the Church”

Summer Sermon Series begins June 6

The book of Acts is the story of the church trying to get its “act” together. As I join you on FCC’s journey through this transition time, I am beginning with a sermon series on the book of Acts. We will look at how the church acts with power, generosity, acceptance, courage and more. I look forward to sharing with you in the weeks and months ahead. “We are the church... let’s ACT like it.”

Grace and Peace,
Will Jewsbury

June 6

We are the Church... Let’s Act with Power
Scripture: John 16:12-15, Acts:1:8, 2:1-4

June 13

We are the Church.. Let’s Act with Generosity
Scripture: Mark 6:30-44, Acts 4:32-37

June 20

Sarah Lynne Gershon preaching



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
06/07	Allen	Griggs	9376 S. Harbour Pointe Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/15	Ryan	Robinson	4694 S. Viola Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403
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 Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/18	Melissa	Jackson	3693 S. Sowder Square	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/20	Flossie	Fox	709 Keystone Ct.	Bloomington	IN	47408
06/22	Jennifer	Goins	4081 W. Ardsley Lane	Bloomington	IN	47404
06/24	Arch	Dalton	1322 S. Winfield Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/25	Rob	Hunter	503 E. Audubon Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
06/30	Maely	Robinson	4694 S. Viola Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403
06/30	Jackson	Cull	3144 S. Eden Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401

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

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.10



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH BLOOMINGTON
IT'S NOT ABOUT ME
SERMON SERIES | MAY 2021

During the month of May, Pastor Helen reflects 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**

May 23 (Pentecost)
It's Not About Me!
It's About Christ's Church
from 1 Corinthians 12
(Graduation Sunday)

May 30
It's Not About Me!
It's About God's Love
Romans 8:38-39
From 1 Corinthians 13

Join us on May 30th to celebrate the ministry of Pastor Helen Hempfling
Worship at 10:00 am
Retirement Picnic from 2:30-5:30
(Details Inside!)



Our Course Facilitator:

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. She collaborates with organizer trainers, regional and congregational staff leadership, anti-racism teams and ecumenical partners in her efforts to guide this work. Rev. Johnson has added mediation to the toolbox of Anti-Racism skills and practices in the church's pursuit to embody a Pro-Reconciling identity. In her capacity as both pastor and administrator, Rev. Johnson emphasizes the importance of building relationships across differences as one of the critical ways that we actualize God's plan for humanity and creation.

Prepare for April's course!

Watch

The Danger of a Single Story.

https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en

Read

Carolyn Helsel article

<https://reflections.yale.edu/article/lets-talk-confronting-our-divisions/white-fragility-and-response-ability-carolyn-helsel>

Register to receive excerpts from Joseph Brandt's Becoming an Anti-Racist Church

Our group covenant

and links to the video and article in your email!



Check out our 4 week course on becoming a pro-reconciling and anti-racist congregation! This will be lead by Rev. April Johnson, our Disciples Minister of Reconciliation. Please register for the course by going to our website, calling the church office, or emailing Sarah Lynne.

Sundays in June 11:15-12:15

FCCBloomington.org
812-332-4459

Sarahlynn@fccbloomington.org

This course will be offered via ZOOM to ensure as many people can participate as possible.

Our Commitment to Practicing Anti-Racism and Reconciliation as a Congregation:

(a statement adopted by the FCC Board June 21, 2020)

We commit

- to expanding our anti-racism training beyond our clergy to congregational members of every age.
- to support the efforts of groups seeking to raise the consciousness of our nation, including the Poor People's Campaign led by Disciples minister Rev. William Barber.
 - to holding public officials accountable for the abuse of power, supporting those who offer peaceful protest with our presence, our voices, and our votes.

Join us as we learn to practice Anti-Racism with the Disciples Minister of Reconciliation Rev. April Johnson!

Session One: Defining Messages and Moments.

There are many terms used in the conversation about race and racism. In this session we will explore the genesis and language that surrounds the ministry and message of anti-racism and pro-reconciliation. Participants will discuss “why” anti-racism and “what” does it mean to us in this reflexive moment for racial equity and justice. We will define anti-racism terms and together, build a shared language for each.

Session Two: Power of Our Story.

In this session, we will take a look at the ways ‘story’ perpetuates the reality and myths about race and racism. If race is a social construct, how is it a sustained reality in our current context? I will address the three difference expression of the misuse of power in racism. We will look at how story and history inform our interpretation of race and racism. Luke 13:18-21

Session Three: Parable Party

In the bible Jesus used parables to help people think about how power worked in their context and how power would work within God's kingdom. Thinking about our own context, how would you rewrite the parable for “The kingdom of God is like today?”

Session Four: The Miracle Story.

In this session, we will re-visit the topic of “knowing your why.” What would your miracle story look like if you prayed for an end to racism? How would you know in your work, your home, your church that it had happened? We will begin to draw a picture and a plan to be a part of God's unfolding miracle story to disrupt racism where we are and where we have influence. We will take our miracle stories and turn them into a next steps action plan.

Stay tuned for the rest of summer forum!

We will have a mix of “just-us” conversations and guest presenters.

