

The CHRISTIAN

 FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ) *Visitor*

Sunday Morning Summer Forum via Zoom

The Church Gathered and Scattered: Claiming our Disciples Identity In This Day
Sundays at 11:00 am June 7 - August 16

What does it mean to be the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and “do” church when we all can’t gather in the same building? This will be the guiding question this summer as we reflect on the Disciples long held 2020 vision: “God is calling us to be “a faithful, growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice.”

Each Sunday, members and friends of FCC Bloomington and FCC Bedford will gather via Zoom to hear a short presentation by a guest speaker, followed by informal discussion and time of reflection. Below are some confirmed dates and highlights. Dates not yet listed will be announced in the coming weeks. Pastor Helen will send you more information *and a ZOOM invitation* through her weekly Pastor’s Postcard emails. Stay tuned!

- June 7:** Rev. Bruce Ervin: **Connecting to our Stone-Campbell Roots**
- June 14:** Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President: **Disciples as a Covenantal Community**
- June 21:** Mark Knowles and Danielle Murry Knowles: **Lesotho and our Disciples Global Connections**
- July 19:** Dr. Ron Allen, Professor of Preaching and the Gospels, Christian Theological Seminary: **How Disciples read and receive the Bible**
- August 19:** Rev. Dr. Dick Hamm, former General Minister and President and author of *2020 Vision for the Christian Church: It’s now 2020: what happened and what’s next?*

Other topics (dates to be determined) include: an introduction to Disciples Spirituality, a discussion on a Disciples understanding of Baptism and Communion, spiritual practices for Disciples, Disciples as peace-makers, and some of our own members sharing stories about how they became Disciples.

Let’s consider together how we will remain *connected* as a faithful, growing church in these challenging times!



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Pastor's Pen

Much of this article was adapted (with permission) from an article written by Bruce Ervin

We received good news on May 19: we have been approved for a \$5000 grant that will permit us to “live-stream” our worship services when we return to the sanctuary. The funds will permit us to purchase cameras, microphones, mixers and other technical equipment. Services will then be offered in real time for anyone who feels that they cannot yet return safely to worship in the sanctuary. That same worship service will also be recorded so that it can be easily viewed at a time other than 10 am on Sunday.

By having the ability to live-stream and record, we will also be able to continue to worship with “visitors” who have found us online and seem to like what they’ve found! The grant was made available by the Center for Congregations, an ecumenical ministry in Indiana funded largely by the Lily Endowment.

Our Tech-to-Connect team, whose members and consultants spent many hours researching “the latest,” put together an excellent application that will allow us to purchase and install equipment that is high quality, user friendly, and will serve us well for many years to come.

All of this, of course, begs the question of when we might return to the sanctuary. We have no date yet. Our medical professionals are taking a very data driven approach designed to keep us—including our staff members—safe and healthy. We don’t want anyone to become sick because we’ve returned to worship too early or opened our doors to groups too soon. Nor do we want to return under conditions that are

so restricted that it doesn’t feel like worship. While many details still need to be worked out, we will need to anticipate that in-person worship will not be the same as it was before. (For example, there will be no bulletins or hymnals or singing. You’ll be asked to wear a mask. You’ll need to make reservations to attend worship service, and you’ll be assigned a pew.) Stay tuned, and please remember that returning to in-person worship will be complicated!

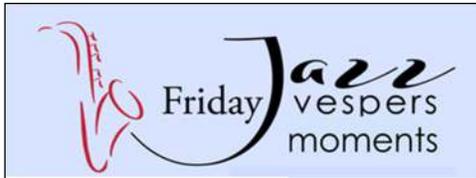
In the meantime, thank you for being the church without a building! The MCUM food drive—which is using the Hempfling Ervin driveway as a drop-off point—is filling up our garage with wonderful non-perishables. Zoom meetings are helping small groups connect. Teams and individuals are still serving at the Shalom Center. Cards and notes and prayers are still lifting up spirits of the young and old alike. Worship is still vibrant and personal. God is still being praised through faithful lives of service, thanksgiving and generosity.

I thank God for you!

Blessings!

Helen Hempfling
Pastor Helen





Reflection on Abundance of Love

Upcoming in June: Reflections on "Calm"

On this Friday – May 29th – we will offer the concluding Jazz Vespers Moment in the May series reflecting on Abundance. The poem and music will provide opportunity to meditate on the Abundance of Love in our lives. This Friday coincides with the upcoming Day of Pentecost, which celebrates the Holy Spirit's gift of love to the church and the world as a whole.

As usual, the link to the Vesper moment will be posted on our website and Facebook page at 6:30 on Friday. The link remains on the website page through Sunday morning's posting of the worship service. The "bulletin" that is posted on the website also contains the texts of the songs and poetry included in the recording.

Reflections on "Calm" (for June Jazz Vespers Moments)

Starting in June we will explore a new topic – **Reflections on "Calm"**. **Elena Escudero** and **Linda Abe** will continue to provide us with music and inspiration, along with the video editing help of Jono Palmer, Ashlyn Reynolds, and Jan Harrington. In these days of upheaval and uncertainty, we are called upon to "stay calm" in all kinds of circumstances. Below are the dates and topics for June, along with some "teasers" to offer some food for your own thought and exploration:

June 5: *Calm in the midst of Despondency*

A poem chosen that calls for mercy sets the stage for states of mind needing care and calm.

June 12: *Calm in the midst of Grief*

How do we find calm and acceptance in the midst of events – often beyond our control – that bring us an overwhelming sense of loss and grief?

June 19: *Calm in the midst of Estrangement*

This takes the third spot because it accentuates calm through the writer's state of analysis rather than angst.

June 25: *Calm in the midst of Frustration*

This one to end the series points to our desire for something beyond where we are - or in the words of Peggy Lee, "Is that all there is?"

Accessing Jazz Moment postings at any time

In case you miss any of the postings, or want to revisit the videos anytime later, it is good to remember that, like most of our services, the video is archived on the FCC website and can easily be accessed. The simplest way is to 1) open the www.fccbloomington.org page, 2) find the little magnifying glass search icon at the right hand top corner of the home page, 3) click on it, 4) type in "Jazz Vespers", and *voila* – links to the videos will appear on the screen!

Blessings to all from the Jazz Vesper Moments team!

The Book of Grace



Summer Sermon Series Begins June 7!

Christians sometimes think of the God of the Old Testament as a God of wrath, and the God of the New Testament as a God of mercy and grace. In fact, there is one God, whose unmerited grace runs through the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. We can see such grace in the gift of Creation, in the giving of the Law, in God's patience with God's wayward people, in the wisdom of the prophets, in Jesus Christ and in Christ's Church on earth. Grace lies at the very heart – the eternal heart – of the Holy. Pastor Helen and Pastor Bruce will explore this theme during June and July, drawing upon both Old Testament and New Testament passages, mostly as found in the Revised Common Lectionary.

June 7 Theme: A Creative Grace
Scripture: from Genesis 1:1-2:4a

June 14 Theme: The Writ of Grace
Scripture: from Exodus 19 and 20

June 21 Mark Knowles preaching
Theme: The Challenge of Grace
Scripture: from Jeremiah 20

June 28 Theme: The Promise of Grace
Scripture: Zechariah 9:9-12

July 5 Theme: The Countenance of Grace
Scripture: Matthew 11:25-30

July 12 Theme: An Earthly Grace
Text: Acts 4:32-37

July 19 Theme: The Power of Grace
Scripture: Romans 8:26-39



Join us for Pentecost Sunday Online! This Sunday, May 31, at 10:00 am

Let's make Pentecost, May 31, a special Sunday! This is the day Christians celebrate the birth of Christ's church. Here are some suggestions as you prepare for worship: **Wear red** or any color that reminds you of Pentecost flames. **Read Acts 2.** This is a dramatic story of how the Holy Spirit blew life into the church and lit a fire within the hearts of the disciples. Then, they were scattered into the world to both share and be the good news of Jesus. **Gather one or more candles** to light in addition to your Christ Candle. This is Pentecost, after all! Join us online at 10:00 am for this very special Sunday! You can find our worship service on our homepage at www.fccbloomington.org.

FCC Online This Summer Small Groups and Learning Opportunities for Adults

The Deeper Bible Study

Tuesday Evenings

Back by popular demand, this five week Bible Study course will to help you “go deep” as you engage scripture with your mind, your heart, and each other. Deeper Bible Study, which was offered as a pilot course last fall, proved to be such a positive experience for participants that we will be offering it for a third time. Chuck Jones will lead the group that will meet on Tuesday evenings via Zoom. Contact Chuck Jones at Mr.Chuck.Jones@gmail.com for more information

Breathing Under Water

Wednesday Evenings beginning June 3

This Book Group has been started by the Faith, Films and Friends small group! Beginning June 3, they will meet through Zoom at 6:30 each Wednesday for 14 weeks to discuss the Richard Rohr book *Breathing Under Water*. Contact Sharon Robinson at skrbsu@yahoo.com to join!

Making Sense of the Cross

Wednesday Evenings, tentatively beginning June 10

Pastor Bruce Ervin will lead this class that is tentatively scheduled to begin on Wednesday , June 10 at 7:00 pm. This will be a joint offering for both the Bloomington and Bedford First Christian congregations. The course will be built around DVD presentations and a book by the Rev. David J. Lose, a Lutheran pastor and seminary professor. The book is entitled *Making Sense of the Cross*. You can order your book online from either Amazon or Augsburg Fortress. If you are interested in the course, please email Pastor Helen or the church office at fcc@fccbloomington.org so that we can send you a Zoom invitation in June.

For the latest newsletter, upcoming church events, to make gifts online, and more,
visit our website: www.fccbloomington.org.

Get Ready for A New Summer Program for Families!

We are excited about our new summer program! Summer is usually filled with fun service projects, both near and far. This year we won't be able to gather together or travel for service projects, but extending God's love to our community is more important now than ever.

Consequently, we encourage families to participate in our (physically distant) Summer Missions Program! The theme is **Growing in God's Kingdom**, and we are partnering with Interfaith Friends' COVID Caring Calendar. Families should have received an invitation with details in the mail. You are encouraged to complete the weekly "mission" by choosing an activity from the COVID Caring Calendar and reporting back to Sarah Lynne Gershon or Ashlyn Reynolds about the experience. Please let Sarah Lynne know if you have not received your invitation in the mail.

Ashlyn Reynolds and Sarah Lynne are making a cloth "calendar" wall hanging and badges for participating families. We can't wait to hear about what families decide to do each week!



Summer Camps Canceled

Unfortunately, church camp has been cancelled for the summer. This is really difficult and disappointing for campers and counselors. Church camp is such an important community for faith formation. While nothing can replace the experience of church camp, the Outdoor Ministry team is currently brainstorming ways to support and connect with campers during the summer. Help us support our campers and camp counselors by sending an encouraging note or card. You can contact



In Our Prayers...

Please hold Anne Binkley Findlay in your prayers as she mourns the loss of her brother Jim Binkley. Anne and Jim grew up at FCC and are the adult children of Morris and Alice Binkley, pillars of FCC for many years. Anne and her husband Doug (who live in Australia) worship with us each summer during their extended stays in Bloomington. A private graveside committal service will be held at Rosehill Cemetery next Thursday. A memorial service will be held when Anne and Doug are able to travel to Bloomington. Email messages may be sent to Anne at findbink@att.net

Congratulations!

Congratulations are in order for at least two in the FCC family!

Our own Joe Lee was recently honored with First Place for Graphics and Illustrations in the state chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists' 2019 Best in Indiana Awards. The award was for his package about Holocaust survivor Eva Kor.

Congratulations and best wishes to Stephanie (Trippel) Schmig who was married to Alex Schmig on May 23 at Camp Bedford! Tom and Rhonda Trippel are the proud parents of the bride!

A Note to Families

from Sarah Lynne Gershon

Director of Faith Formation and Family Ministries

In collaboration with Interfaith Friends, Our Summer Missions: Growing in God's Kingdom program has gotten off to a good start with a lot of food collected for MCUM. I will announce the weight when I am able to drop it off. This week's mission is Elder Connections, and next week we will focus on encouraging Immigrants and Refugees. I hope you will continue to share this program with your youth and children as we share God's love in our wider community. You can find more information about upcoming weeks in our program on the Interfaith Friends Facebook page.

I have begun Zoom "office hours" on Thursdays from noon till 2pm. If you have not gotten that information and would like to drop in on Zoom to say hi or ask any questions please email me for the link. This is also a great time for your elementary-aged kids to tell me what they are doing that week for our Summer Missions program. Older youth are encouraged to connect with Ashlyn during the weekly bible study.

You remain in my prayers. I hope you are connecting well as a family and feel supported by your faith community!

Update on Access to the Church Building

The board has approved the recommendation of our medical professionals (who are tasked with overseeing our response to COVID-19) to keep our building closed "until further notice" to all but staff and volunteers who manage day-to-day operations of the church. The primary concern, of course, is for the health and safety of all who must do the work of the church from our building. Thank you for understanding!



June Birthdays

06/01	Max	Fettchenhauer	5537 E. State Rd. 46	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/03	Darren	Klein	723 Olde Mill Circle	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/04	Mary Alice	Martin	4243 W. Lynwest Drive	Bloomington	IN	47404
06/04	Dallas	Fox	4211 S. Orchard Lane	Bloomington	IN	47403
06/05	Sabrina	Gasana	4199 Innisbrooke Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47408
06/07	Allen	Griggs	9376 S. Harbour Pointe Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/09	Allyson	May	1 East Duxbury Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
06/13	Charlie	Wagner	2260 Olde Mill Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/15	Ryan	Robinson	4694 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
06/17	Don	Meadows	1322 S. Woodlawn Ave.	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
06/27	Jacob	Lee	3421 W. Tyler Lane	Bloomington	IN	47403
06/28	Ryan	Filler	4001 Rosewood Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47404
06/30	Carrie	Biddle	5736 E. State Rd. 46	Bloomington	IN	47401
06/30	Maely	Robinson	4694 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!

Pentecost Special Offering Received May 31 - June 7

In 2001, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) embraced a bold vision: to start 1,000 new churches in 1,000 different ways by the year 2020. Today, we have welcomed 1,034+ new places to worship into the Church! The Table around which we gather has grown in language, diversity, and life experience. Support the 2020 Pentecost Offering. Each year, half of this special offering stays in our Region to support and sustain new churches. The second half helps leaders across the United States and Canada through New Church Ministry programs. Make a gift to the 2020 Pentecost Offering.

Send Your Pictures!

While we are apart, please send your pictures so that we can see you, and share them with our FCC church family. Send them via our Facebook Picture group or email to jennifer@fccbloomington.org.



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The Christian Visitor

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BEDFORD & BLOOMINGTON FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

PENTECOST

Join us online for this special service
at 10:00 am this Sunday!
www.fccbloomington.org
Zoom coffee fellowship following worship
hosted by Jan Harrington

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

May 31
Pentecost Sunday - **Wear Red!**
Luke 1:39-57

June 7
Summer Sermon Series Begins!
from Genesis 1:1-2; 4a

June 14
from Exodus 19 and 20