

The CHRISTIAN



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



Join Us this Summer for Lemonade on the Lawn

A Summer of Fellowship and Outreach Following This Summer



This summer we will provide a time of connection to FCC's "Why" with fellowship and fun on the front lawn after worship each Sunday, beginning June 5. Chairs and tables will be set up (some under canopies in the shade) for people to gather and chat. Lawn games and sidewalk chalk will be available for play, and light refreshments will also be provided. Each week the theme will be slightly different, but the focus of them all will be *connecting to*

FCC and God's work in our community. Table tents with discussion questions and information will be on each table to help guide conversation.

Most of all though, we just want to gather and enjoy each other's company, so come prepared to relax, eat treats, and have fun! All of this fun will take some help. Would you like to contribute sweet and/or savory snacks for our Coffee Fellowship table? We need 3-4 people/families (per Sunday) to sign up to provide snacks for June 5, 12 and 19. Please contact the church office (812-332-4459 or fcc@fccbloomington.org) if you would like to help one of those Sundays!

Weekly Themes for Lemonade on the Lawn in June

Discussion Based on the June Sermon Series: "Living Into Our Why!"

June 5

Pentecost!

Celebrating our Gifts with Cake and Cards

June 12

Blessing Our Campers!

Celebration continues after worship!

June 19

Sharing Christ's Inclusive Love

through Serving & Welcoming

Sandwich Making for Wheeler Mission

June 26

Farewell Liturgy during worship

Thank You All-Church Luncheon
for Pastor Will

***See our next newsletter (on May 18) for details on July and August!**



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Will Writes

Making a Difference Through Church Giving

When I started seminary, I was informed that I had received a scholarship from a congregation in Indiana. It wasn't a lot of money, about \$500 if I remember correctly, but it made a difference for me both financially and as a source of encouragement for the journey.

That congregation and many others had created named scholarships at their nearest seminary, often in honor or memory of a beloved pastor. Those funds were invested, and the proceeds have been used through the years in support of students. Today, most Disciple students at CTS receive free tuition because of the growth of those named funds.

When I have been in workshops about church finance, I have been told that church funding (much like our family lives) can be seen as a three-legged stool: one leg is annual operating funds giving through pledges and tithes. The second is periodic "special" giving such as capital campaigns or mission offerings. The third is bequests or designated permanent funds. All three legs are needed to support the church. Sole reliance on annual giving leaves the church vulnerable to abrupt changes in community economics. Too frequent use of one-time drives wears us out. Permanent funds take time to build up and produce revenue.

FCC is fortunate to have built up a solid permanent fund. At the present it provides about 1/3 of our annual funding. Leaving a bequest or making a gift to the permanent fund will allow you to carry on a legacy of giving into the future. Talk to Jim Watson or call the church office to learn more about how to make a gift.

We are also fortunate to have a strong annual giving base. 2/3 of our annual operating budget comes from your annual pledges and gifts. Your weekly or monthly giving undergirds everything the church does.

Other than small projects like the current appeal to replace the dishwasher (We are almost there! Thanks for your generous gifts.), we have not had a major capital drive recently. The exterior work on the building and the replacement of a beam under the sanctuary are still being planned. It is likely that we will need to do a capital drive in the coming year or so to fund the needed reinforcement of the exterior walls and complete other exterior work.

Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness in supporting the ministry we all share. Just as I was supported by a congregation I had never been a part of, our ministry touches lives in ways we may never know.

Grace and Peace,



Will



MUSIC NOTES

by Jan Harrington

Farewell and Thanks to Ben Wesenberg



We are saying farewell to our Director of Online Worship Ben Wesenberg as he leaves Bloomington having completed his degree work from the Jacobs School of Music. We are grateful to Ben for his tireless work and professionalism as he designed, and installed the media equipment and software for our Online Worship ,and (together with Ashlyn) ran the online streams weekly. He is an extraordinary human being whose presence will be missed, especially by the FCC staff with whom he has worked. Ben graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Audio Engineering and Sound Production with minor in scoring to Visual Media from the IU Jacobs School of Music. Our members may not know that Ben is also a fine pianist. He is seeking internship opportunities in Audio and Production, and already has plans for a summer internship at a Music Festival in Santa Barbara, California. Cards can be sent to Ben at 956 E. Hillside, Bloomington. Godspeed, Ben, on success in your new ventures!

Introducing Our New Director of Online Worship Braeden Janes

(the one on the left of the picture)

We welcome our new Director of Online Worship **Braeden Janes** as he takes over this Sunday May 8. (He's a clearly a dog lover so how great is that!) Braeden is from Westfield, Indiana where he attended Westfield High School and the J. Everett Light Career Center for Music/Sound Production.

He began taking drum lessons at seven years old, and soon after began playing with the School of Rock in Carmel, IN, where he would later go on to work as a camp instructor and year-round teacher for students aged 5-7. During his high school years, he organized a 7-piece funk band called the Indy Gorgeous Club and through their performances got a start in recording and producing, ultimately establishing his own production company Gorgeous Records LLC. When the pandemic struck Braeden became the live sound engineer at his home church New Joy Lutheran in Westfield. During the past academic year Braeden has been serving at FCC as an assistant to Ben for the sound set up for our Third Friday Jazz Vespers. He is entering his sophomore year at the IU Jacobs School of Music where he is majoring in audio engineering. We look forward to our collaboration with him as we enter this new phase of our worship life together.



****See information on May's Third Friday Jazz Vespers on pages 4 and 7. See you there!***



**Meet Pastor Kyrmen following Jazz Vespers
May 20 at 6:30 pm**

While we will officially welcome Pastor Kyrmen Rea in July, we are pleased to have the opportunity for you to meet her later this month. FCC's Board and Search Committee are hosting a *Meet & Greet with Pastor Kyrmen* following our May Jazz Vespers service in the Chapel Gathering Space.

So plan to attend Jazz Vespers at 6:30 pm on May 20th and then join us immediately following the service in the Chapel Gathering Space for an informal introduction and time to meet Kyrmen. What a nice way to head into a lovely weekend! **See you at Jazz Vespers!**

Join FCC's Welcome Team for Exodus Refugee!

We are on track to become a Co-Sponsoring Welcome Team with Exodus Refugee and we are inviting everyone at FCC to support this work!

We would love for at least two more people to commit to being on the core-team.

Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to this work. Everyone at FCC will have the opportunity to join us through financial contributions, spreading the word about needs to friends and family, and on-going prayer. Stay tuned for more details about how to share Christ's love through welcoming a refugee family to Bloomington!

Our group attended an informational meeting with Exodus Refugee Bloomington's director Erin Aquino. Email SarahLynne@FCCBloomington.org for recording of the informational meeting if you are interested in joining the core team.



**EXODUS
REFUGEE**
The life ahead.

May Sermon Theme – “We Are Disciples of Christ”

May 8

“People On a Journey”

Romans 13:8-14

Mother's Day and a Celebration of our Bell Choir

May 15

“One with the Whole People of God”

Philippians 13:8-14

Sarah Lynne Gershon preaching

May 22

“People of the Table”

I Corinthians 11:23-33

May 29

“People of the Book”

Romans 14:1-12



Bloomington Multifaith Alliance: Children & Youth
Presents
Consumer-Free Kids
Making room on Earth
by consuming less

SAT., MAY 14
10:00-11:30 A.M.

at First United Church
2420 E. Third St., Bloomington, IN 47401

Learn about...

- Zero-Waste Lunchboxes
- Mend It! Fix It!
- Eco-Bricks
- No-Buy Day
- Toy Swap (bring your gently used toys)
- A Sycamore Landtrust Presentation
- and More!

Questions? Contact 812-217-7211, kelley@fpcbloomington.org

**Sustainability Event Brought by
Bloomington Multi-Faith Alliance**

May 14 from 10:00-11:30 am

First United Church
2420 E. Third St.

Interfaith Friends has joined the Bloomington Multi-faith Alliance and is now called BMA Children and Youth. This group started when some downtown churches (including FCC) decided to provide summer and occasional special activities together for families. We have often focused on our shared values relating to community and justice. Their next event is focused on sustainability and is on May 10 from 10:00-11:30am.

Families and Kids are invited to join this community event called “Consumer-Free Kids.”



2022 Summer Camps
Christian Church in Indiana (Disciples of Christ)

	GENEVA	BEDFORD	
You and Me 1 (3 days)	June 13-15		(age 5+ and an adult)
New Beginnings (3 days)	June 13-15	June 27-29	(completed gr. 1-3)
Explorers	June 13-18	June 20-25	(completed gr. 4-5)
You and Me 2 (3 days)	June 20-22		(age 5+ and an adult)
M.A.D (Music Art Drama)	June 20-25		(completed gr. 6-8 & 9-12)
Middle School	June 27-July 2	July 11-16	(completed gr. 6-8)
High School	June 27-July 2	July 4-9	(completed gr. 9-12)
CROSS (Recreation/Sports)	June 27-July 2		(completed gr. 6-8 & 9-12)

Sign up for Summer Camp today!

We are happy to cover 50% of camp fees for all of our kids and youth. **Please let Sarah Lynne know you are signing up.** Make sure you indicate when you sign up that you are from First Christian Church Bloomington, IN and pay your portion of the fee. If you need more help financially please don't hesitate to let us know. Contact Sarah Lynne, Ashlyn or the church office. It is important to us that our kids are able to go to camp!

Early Bird Deadline to register is May 15th!

DISHWASHER UPDATE

Thank You! Thank You! We have received several significant gifts toward replacing the dishwasher and think it is doable. While we may need a little more, our property team is working with the supplier and installer to make sure we can get the unit installed soon. Watch this space for updates.



WELCOME BRAEDEN!

We welcome Braeden Janes as our newest staff member. You will find Braeden each Sunday at the tech desk in the rear of the sanctuary where he will be keeping us connected to our wider church family through our live stream. (More details in Braeden in Jan's Music article on page 3.) Stop and say hello this Sunday!

THANK YOU!!



Church staff and our families want to publicly thank Jennifer and Scott Fettchenhauer for planning and hosting a bar-b-que Sunday evening for staff. While the event was in part a farewell event for Ben, our esteemed tech guru, it was also a wonderful opportunity to build relationships and celebrate spring. Thank You!

Help Us Get FCC's Building Spruced Up *Sign up for a Project to Complete On Your Own Schedule*

Do you see cobwebs from your favorite pew on Sunday mornings, perhaps a burned-out light bulb or dirty windows? Your help is needed to spruce up the building before our new minister arrives! Instead of one "work day", the Property Commission is asking for volunteers to do the work on their own timeframe by July 1. So, there is plenty of time to get lots of projects done!

Projects will need to be done in coordination with the church calendar as some events are scheduled for May and June. Volunteers can work alone, with a friend, or a group. Supplies will be provided as needed. You will find a sign-up sheet on the reception desk, or you can call the church office to sign up. Please consider pitching in as you can! Many hands make light work!

Projects include but are not limited to: window washing, changing light bulbs (requires climbing on ladder), helping clean the kitchen (group project), dusting of furniture. If you have a project in mind please inform Jennifer, Cindy, or Peggy to make sure the project is not being duplicated by others. Questions can be addressed to Cindy Welch or Peggy Stafford. Thanks!



CHRISTIAN CHURCH | (DISCIPLES of CHRIST) | in INDIANA

Cheryl Russell Called as Associate Regional Minister

The Christian Church in Indiana is pleased to announce a new regional staff member. Rev. Cheryl Russell began serving as Associate Regional Minister in January 2022. Her primary responsibilities will be staffing the Region’s Faith Formation Commission and Indiana Women’s Council, working with children, youth, and adults to increase their faith and leadership development, especially through our summer camp program.

Cheryl has a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education, with a Spanish concentration, from Eureka College, and a Master of Divinity degree from Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Prior to seminary she served as a middle school teacher. Cheryl was ordained by the Indiana Region in 2013 at her home congregation, Zionsville Christian Church.



She has been active in the life of the Region as a camp counselor and director for seven years. She served on one of our Nurture and Certification Teams working with ministerial students and is a current participant in our FLOURISH! Program on financial literacy. She has traveled on regionally sponsored pilgrimages to San Luis Potosí, Mexico and Mbandaka, Democratic Republic of Congo.

She most recently served as the Interim Minister at First Christian Church, Kokomo, and previously at First Christian Church, Noblesville, First Christian Church, Owensboro, Kentucky, and Geist Christian Church, Indianapolis and Fishers. We welcome her to our Regional staff.

Third Friday
Jazz
VESPERS

rejoice

Friday, May 19th - 6:30

The Garrett Spoelhof Trio
with Marina Alba Lopez, Vocalist

A JOYOUS THIRD FRIDAY JAZZ VESPERS COMING UP ON MAY 19 at 6:30 pm

All our urged to attend our Third Friday Jazz Vespers on May 19th as we celebrate spring and the Easter Season with the topic of “Rejoice.” This Jazz Vespers will be the final service in this season as we take a hiatus during the summer months. We will welcome back the wonderful vocalist Marina Alba López and Garrett Spoelhof and his trio to lead us in joyous music, meditation, and poetry. A reception with our new Pastor, Kyrmen Rea will follow the service.

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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Bloomington, IN 47408

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www.fccbloomington.org
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The Christian Visitor

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May Sermon Series
Being a Disciple in a Time of Change

May 8: People on a Journey!
May 15: One People!
May 22: People of the Table
May 29: People of the Book!



**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

May 8
Romans 13:8-14
People on a Journey

May 15
Philippians 13:8-14
One with the Whole People of God

May 22
Corinthians 11:23-33
People of the Table