

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

FCC Prepares for an Important Pastoral Leadership Transition

Join Us as We Give Thanks for Pastor Will and as We Welcome Pastor Kyrmen

A year ago, we welcomed Pastor Will Jewsbury as our Interim Minister. He has guided our worship, pastoral care and program life as our Search Committee has engaged in a process to define who we are and what qualities would be beneficial in selecting our next Senior Minister. The hard work of this past year is now drawing to a close as we show our appreciation to Pastor Will for his care and guidance and as we prepare to welcome Pastor Kyrmen Rea as our next Senior Minister.

Farewell Liturgy during Worship and Appreciation Lunch on June 26

Please plan on joining your FCC family in worship on Sunday, June 26 as we show our deep gratitude to Pastor Will Jewsbury. When Will arrived, we had been worshipping apart for over a year due to the pandemic, and church life was very different. Many felt isolated and disconnected, and Zoom had become the number one communications tool. Pastor Will guided FCC's Pastoral Search committee and held our church family together through a very unusual and difficult time. June 26 will be his last Sunday as our Interim Minister. Join us as we lift up his ministry at FCC during worship, and continue to show our appreciation with an All-Church Lunch in Great Hall immediately following worship. We will celebrate with a Fiesta complete with a taco bar and homemade desserts. There is an online sign-up to bring contributions for the meal. Call the church office for the link, or you can find a printed sign-up on the reception desk.

Join Us for the Installation Service of Rev. Kyrmen Rea on July 24

On Sunday, July 24 we will formally install Rev. Kyrmen Rea as Senior Minister of First Christian Church of Bloomington during worship. While her first Sunday preaching will be July 3, we will celebrate Pastor Kyrmen's installation with an All-Church reception/lunch in Great Hall immediately following worship on July 24.

Plan to join us for both of these important events in the life of our church, First Christian Church. We are asking people to sign up to help prepare food, set up before the events and/or clean up afterward. If you are able to help, contact Jennifer in the church office.

Bluegrass Music Sunday

June 12

Scott Cripe and Friends will play some favorites during worship and following at Lemonade on the Lawn!

Come and bring a friend!

Volume 64, number 11 June 8, 2022

Will Writes

The Potential for Ministry in Our Community is Great!

After just a little more than one year and with just a few weeks left to serve, I am already feeling the loss that comes with leaving. I appreciate the work and leadership of the many different folks we celebrated last Sunday in worship. I will cherish the relationships I have formed and those that were renewed after many years away. And I celebrate Pastor Kyrmen’s arrival as she joins you on this nearly 200-year journey of faith as First Christian Church of Bloomington.

I celebrate the staff who serve with you. Jan and Jihye are incredible partners in worship planning and leadership. Sarah Lynne has both challenged and supported me in these months we have worked together. She is a gift to this church and the wider church. Jennifer, Eve, and John are always stepping up to accomplish the work of keeping us connected and vital. Ashlyn Reynolds and Linda Abe radiate joy as they offer ministry in many different ways.

While the challenges of being church in this time are very real, the potential for ministry in our community is also great. I pray that FCC will continue to live into the statement that is informing my sermons this month: *First Christian Church exists to share the inclusive love of Christ, through serving, welcoming, learning and offering spiritual connection.*

Thank you for this opportunity to serve alongside you.

Grace and Peace,

Will



June Worship Series - *Living Into Our Why!*

June 12

Bluegrass Music Sunday

Camp commissioning

Welcome One Another

Romans 15:7-13

June 19

Learning

Present Yourselves

Romans 12:1-8

June 26

Spiritual Connection

Live Peaceably With All

Romans 12:9-21

The Minister's Missive

Dear Church,

Greetings to you in the name of our amazing, loving Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer! I am so excited that I will soon be greeting you in person! You are in my prayers daily. I would appreciate your prayers for my family as we make our way through the many tasks and details of moving to our new home on the northside of Bloomington.

A couple of weeks ago, I had plans to come to the last Jazz Vespers event of the season and afterward enjoy a time of fellowship with you. My youngest, Kidron, a music-lover, accompanied me. As we drove down I-69, we had just made it through the construction zone and were picking up speed when we had the startling experience of blowing out a tire. We were able to safely get to the side of highway where we spent the next two hours waiting for help while I lamented missing the opportunity to meet my new congregation. Let's just say that I was not in the best of spirits, and the words I was uttering were not words of praise. Finally rescued by a tow driver, we rode in the cab of his truck back to Greenwood. In the course of our friendly conversation, he shared with us about his very special family – he and his wife are raising six foster children. His love for them was obvious as he spoke of their individual accomplishments and personalities; he positively gushed with fatherly pride. Here was a man who was changing the world for the better because he had made the choice to share his home, his life, and his love with children who needed those gifts. While I did not get to build the web of connection with the people with whom I had planned to spend my evening, I reflect that God surrounds us with opportunities for connection everywhere we go if we are open to inviting others' stories and sharing our own.

When we begin our time together in July, I want to hear your stories. I encourage you to introduce yourself; tell me all about you and your family, what is important to you, what you love about the church, your dreams for FCC's future, and anything else you want me to know! The very most important thing to me in the first chapter of our ministry together is building relationships with YOU. So, I hope you will be prepared to chat with me over lunch or a cup of coffee, on the phone, after church, or in your home.

I am certain-sure that God has exciting things in store for First Christian Church, and I can hardly wait for us to begin blessing one another and our community through this new partnership! We've got hope-filled, joy-producing, Realm building work to do, and it's going to be great! See you soon!

Shalom,

Pastor Kyrmen





MUSIC TO OUR EARS THIS SUMMER

By Jan Harrington

Summer is upon us – choir and choral scholars on vacation – congregation needs to sing out with joy on the hymns – a variety of music in worship - Sing unto the Lord a New Song (Psalm 96:1)

We are looking forward to some special musical offerings in worship during the weeks ahead as summer travel plans give us an opportunity to explore a variety of music.

Do you know what a DOBRO is? We will hear one this weekend (June 12) as music is brought to us by **“Scott Cripe and Friends”** as they lead worship with some special *Americana bluegrass gospel music*. Scott’s group consists of John Gates on mandolin, Rick Abbott on guitar and dobro and Scott on bass and piano. What a joy!

On June 19 we will worship with our organist Jihye Choi who will present extra special music as she prepares to be gone for the summer and attend the American Guild of Organists Convention in Seattle where she is a finalist in the national organist competition. (See below for an invitation to a preview of her entire competition recital)

For Pastor Will’s final Sunday, June 26, we will have the choir and choral scholars back for a special worship service of Thanksgiving for Pastor Will’s ministry with us. Our guest organist will be Nara Lee – Jihye’s talented husband.

And the choir will be back again on July 3 for the first Sunday that our new Pastor Kyrmen Rea is in the pulpit, and on July 24 for her installation service.

Other special musical guests will join us later in the summer, including a return of the Sounds of Indiana barbershop choir on July 10. (Thanks to our choir member Bob Thrasher, who is also a member of Sounds of Indiana, for organizing this); and in August a chamber vocal ensemble called *Cloud 7* led by our newest choir member Steve Pollitt will be offering special music.

But mainly we hope this summer is an opportunity for the congregation step up to sing out with joy, leading in the hymns old and new!

Jihye Choi Organ Recital June 21 at 5:00 pm in Auer Concert Hall

Jihye Choi will be previewing her competition recital on the Auer Hall Organ at the Jacobs School of Music at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, June 21. All are invited to come out to hear our virtuosic and beloved organist as she prepares to leave for the competition in Seattle.





New FCC Refugee Welcome Team Is Ready to Go

We are excited to announce the formation of an **Exodus Refugee Immigration Welcome Team** at FCC! What is Exodus, you may ask?

Exodus Refugee Immigration, located in Indianapolis, is a refugee resettlement agency affiliated with Church World Service and only resettles people who have been granted refugee status by the United Nations. Their programs focus on receiving refugees as they arrive in the United States, helping them find apartments and jobs, learn English, and become financially self-sufficient. It has resettled refugees from Burma, Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria, Central African Republic, and Afghanistan, among other countries. Welcome teams/co-sponsor groups assist Exodus with their mission of providing short-term assistance to incoming refugees. The welcome teams commit to working with an assigned refugee family for approximately 3 months and to raising a set amount of funds to sponsor them.

Please join us on Sunday, June 19 when the Welcome Team will be present at worship, and afterward at Lemonade on the Lawn, to provide information about its mission, answer questions, and kick off a fundraising drive. Welcome Teams commit to raising \$5,000. \$4,000 goes directly to expenses involved in resettling their assigned refugee family and \$1,000 goes to Exodus to be pooled to help refugees who don't have a sponsor, so every dollar goes to direct support. In addition, the team commits to 10 activities to help the assigned family, including welcoming them at the airport, furnishing an apartment, providing food and supplies, and making home visits, as well as various activities like helping with English and providing transportation to appointments.

Sarah Lynne Gershon has led the effort to form the FCC team and is serving as liaison with Exodus and with Erin Aquino, the director of the Bloomington office. The group consists of Sarah Lynne, Ashante Thomas, Tim and Elma Jessen, Judith Olmsted, Joe Lee, Betsy Watson, Cindy Kvale, David Garshaw, Linda Abe, Eve Schultes-Ridge, and Jan Harrington.

We hope to see you on June 19. The love and support of our wonderful FCC family will be much appreciated!



FCC's All-Church Picnic Returns with Fun, Poetry and a Pie Contest! Join us on July 10 at 1:00 pm at the Lion's Den Shelter, Cascades Park

FCC has traditionally hosted an All-Church Picnic over Memorial Day weekend. Then the pandemic hit, and our picnic was put on hold. This year, we are bringing back this beloved tradition, but on a different date! We will be moving our picnic to **Sunday, July 10, at 1:00 pm at the Lion's Den Shelter at Cascades Park**. This gives you the opportunity to get to know our new minister, Kyrmen Rea, and also some much needed time to reconnect as a church family.

FCC will provide burgers (beef and veggie) and hot dogs, you bring a side or dessert to share. We will open with poetry written by a very special poet that we know! Finally, get out your most beloved pie recipe... and bring it for the FCC Pie Contest! YES! We are bringing back this tradition too! Prizes will be given to BEST OVERALL PIE, BEST HOOSIER SUGAR CREAM PIE, and BEST STORE-BOUGHT PIE! Don't miss out on your moment to shine! Get baking and bring your best on July 10th!



Lemonade on the Lawn



*a summer of
fellowship &
outreach*

Lemonade on the Lawn Summer!

This summer we will provide a time of connection to FCC's *Why* with fellowship and fun on the front lawn. There will be chairs, tables and awnings for people to sit and chat, lawn games and chalk for play, and light refreshments. Each week the theme will be slightly different, but they

will all be focused on connecting to FCC and God's work in our community. Table tents with discussion questions and information will be on each table. 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!

June Themes

Living Into Our Why!

June 12

Blessing Our Campers!
(Elders Host)

June 19

Sharing Christ's Inclusive Love
Through Serving and Welcoming
(Deacons Host)

June 26

Farewell Lunch in Great Hall
for Pastor Will

*Please signup to help with the taco toppings or
bring a dessert!*

July Themes

July 10

All Church Picnic & Pie Contest at 1:00 pm
Lion's Den Shelter at Cascades Park
Bring a side or dessert to share!

July 17

Refreshments and Starters
with the Campbellite Class

July 24

Installation of Pastor Kyrmen
Celebration lunch following worship
Please bring a dessert or salad to share!

July 31

Refreshments and Starters
with the Sharing Table group



Attention FCC Families!

Worship & Wonder will be on summer vacation beginning June 5, and will return after school resumes following Labor Day. We will provide Kids' Worship Bags and the PrayGround area will be open during the summer months. Thank you!



The youth will have a pool party at the Johann's on June 11 from 6:00-8:00 pm. There will be pizza, snacks, and an all around good time.

We will also have a skate night at Western Skateland on July 23...more details to come!

Also, a reminder to let Ashlyn or Sarah Lynne know if your kids are going to church camp this summer and which camp they are going to.

Thanks!!



In Our Prayers...

Please keep Mary Droste in your prayers as she mourns the passing of her daughter-in-law Doris Droste who passed away on May 1 following a stroke. Notes of condolence and encouragement can be sent to Mary at 800 N Bell Trace Circle, Apt. 103, Bloomington, 47408.



JULY BIRTHDAYS



07/02	Amy	Cheek	410 Eastside Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
07/03	Terry	Daugherty	4412 Hillview Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
07/07	Alexander	Trippel	1497 E Commander Ct	Bloomington	IN	47401
07/08	Alex	Cartwright	2927 N. Bankers Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
07/08	Jim	Watson	1026 S. Mitchell St.	Bloomington	IN	47401
07/09	Bob	Boyle	3816 Pepperchase Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
07/11	Lynn	Sinn	2559 S. Smith Road	Bloomington	IN	47401
07/15	Martha	Sullivan	1764 S. Ramsey Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
07/17	Jan	Harrington	537 E Fawn Ridge Trail	Bloomington	IN	47408
07/18	Peggy	Stafford	1628 S. Bellemeade Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
07/19	Carole	Ambler	3674 Tamarron Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
07/20	Roger	Isaacs	2959 N. Ramble Road West	Bloomington	IN	47408
07/23	Sandy	Bate	736 E. Moss Creek Circle	Bloomington	IN	47401
07/25	Claire	Johann	3057 E. Chase Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
07/27	Jane	Watkins	1144 E. Benson Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
07/28	Betsy	Watson	1026 S. Mitchell St.	Bloomington	IN	47401
07/31	Natalie	Garshaw	3740 N. Russell Road	Bloomington	IN	47408

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

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The Christian Visitor

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FCC All Church Events This Summer!

*Sign Up to Help Make These Events
A BIG Success!*

June 26: All Church Appreciation Lunch following
worship for Pastor Will Jewsbury

July 10: All Church Picnic at 1:00 pm
Lion's Den Shelter at Cascades Park

July 24: All Church Celebration Lunch following worship
and installation service for
Rev. Kyrmen Rea as Senior Minister of FCC Bloomington

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

June 12

Welcome One Another
Romans 15:7-13

June 19

Present Yourselfs
Romans 12:1-8

June 26

Live Peaceably With All
Romans 12:9-21