

The CHRISTIAN

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

Sacred Places Update

Two Very Exciting Projects Coming to FCC

The Sacred Places team has concluded its training and is now undertaking two very exciting projects! Following up on our congregational asset mapping event, the team will host a breakfast gathering called “FCC Community Connections” on Tuesday, August 8. Potential community partners from a variety of non-profit organizations as well as local civic leaders are being invited to come and tour our building and spend some time in discussion with the team as we explore how we might share our space and/or work in collaborative relationships. Our goal is to forge new relationships with community partners that will lead to more faithful stewardship of our assets, chiefly our building. This event begins an exciting new chapter for FCC!

The Sacred Places Team is also working on a grant proposal for obtaining funds to engage the services of a fundraising consultant to conduct a feasibility study. The purpose of this study is to guide us in better comprehending our fundraising capacity as we move forward on the path of addressing the needed repairs and updates to our building. Once the feasibility study has been completed, the team will apply for a larger, matching grant to be used toward building needs.

Our Sacred Place

Capital Projects Team Making Plans to Move Forward on Three Projects!

The Capital Projects Team has continued meeting with the Sacred Places Team and Property Commission and is making plans to move forward on three exciting projects!

1. The roof leaks on the southeast corner of the building that are causing plaster damage and staining to one of the sanctuary pillars will soon be mended! Once the leak is addressed, cosmetic repairs will follow.
2. The work on the termite-damaged beam under the choir loft will soon be completed with the installation of a steel beam.
3. (Drum roll please. . .) The team has reviewed multiple proposals for newly renovated, accessible bathrooms on our main floor!! Three unisex, ADA compliant, single bathrooms will replace our current men’s and ladies’ rooms. The team has selected a plan and received a ballpark estimate. Hard pricing and a timetable for starting the project are being sought at this time!

More details will be shared as they become available. In the meantime, let’s celebrate the positive steps our congregation is taking into its future!

The Minister's Missive *Living Into the Future*

Dear Church,

My message to you this month is going to be a bit different than usual as I want to use this space to draw your attention to a recent report to the Board from the chair of FCC's Capital Projects Team, Chris Martoglio. Chris' report is so very important because it addresses questions about which many of you may be wondering.

In 2016, FCC proudly embraced the Future Story which resulted from the church's work with Hope Partnership. Years have passed and much has happened not only in the life of the church, but in a much-changed world. Many of you may be wondering what role the Future Story plays for our church now, particularly as it relates to plans for our building. Chris' report addresses this beautifully. Please take the time to read this excerpt:

Background

Extensive efforts were put forth by multiple committees on the development of the FCC Story. This included obtaining engineering reports and developing plans for significant improvements to the sanctuary and the rest of the building. However, the structural issues that the engineers surfaced are significant. In my prior report to the board, I summarized these as:

- 1. Termite Damaged Beam Below the Narthex and Choir Loft*
- 2. Choir Loft Structural Integrity*
- 3. Choir Loft Arch*
- 4. Window Well Walls*
- 5. Interior West Stair Well*
- 6. Windowsills*
- 7. Window Covers*
- 8. Exterior Limestone Veneer*

In addition, I discussed another issue regarding the southwest corner foundation. Fortunately, this has been resolved as not being a pressing issue through further discussions with the engineer and those involved in prior improvement work in that area.

FCC Story is No Longer a Reasonable Path Forward

Given the engineer's estimate of the cost to address the eight items above being at least \$1.5 million, it is clear that the original interior design plans developed as part of the FCC Story are not attainable. Therefore, the committee is focusing its efforts on addressing the most critical structural and accessibility issues of the building.

(Minister's Missive is continued on page 3)

(Minister's Missive is continued from page 2)

The Capital Projects Team is well aware that a comprehensive, strategic plan for fundraising will need to be developed and implemented. The work of the Sacred Places Team is opening new avenues for the church regarding fundraising as the team has gained some skills in this area and as our church has the potential to receive some significant grant money to help with needed projects. But, in the meantime, the Capital Projects Team has made the decision to move forward by prioritizing a few projects that can be completed with the funds we already have available. You can read more about these projects in the "Our Sacred Space" article on the front page of this newsletter.

Many people in our congregation poured many hours and great devotion into the development of the FCC Future Story. That story described some wonderful dreams and plans for the future, and some of those dreams were brought to fruition. It is understandable that some among us may feel a sense of disappointment or even grief at letting go of those plans. But the reality is that, not only did the church discover enormous structural issues after the writing of the future story; it also survived a worldwide pandemic! In many ways, we are a different church with a different set of needs.

Let me assure you, Church, that letting go of the Future Story does not mean letting go of the future! FCC is beginning to dream some new dreams, and God is providing us with guidance to seek new directions. Our Welcome Table Breakfast is now well-established and feeding over 70 people on Sunday mornings, once more turning our building into a place of hospitality for those who are in need. Through the breakfast, new people are finding their way into the fellowship of our congregation, some of them becoming members of our church! Our church has welcomed 10 new members in the past year from all walks of life! Stages Community Theater is sharing our building, bringing boisterous activity where there has been too much quiet, and they are just one of several community groups using our space. As we continue to make connections with other community organizations, I am confident that we are going to find our building brimming with activity and blessing Bloomington in new, creative, bold, and wonderful ways!

We are living into FCC's future right now, and it is an excellent story in which to play a role. May we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit's leading, screw on our courage, open our hearts to show compassion for our neighbors, and trust that God's love can and will transform lives through the work of First Christian Church!

Shalom,
Pastor Kyrmen





In Our Prayers...

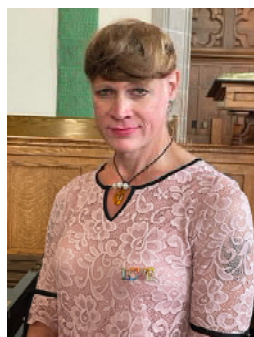
Please offer prayers for Loretta Orr and family as they grieve the passing of Bob Orr on June 21. We pray for God’s comforting peace to surround them during this difficult time.

You may read Bob’s obituary here:

<https://www.allencares.com/obituaries/Robert-Orr-16/#!/Obituary>

Please offer prayers for Cheryl Engber, who was recently hospitalized. We pray for God’s healing and strength. Cards and notes of encouragement can be sent to Cheri at 2731 S. Silver Creek Dr., Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

Welcome New Members!!



Rebecca Haviland

Rebecca joined FCC by profession of faith on Sunday, July 9. She has been attending worship with us faithfully for several months and also participated in the spring study on forgiveness at

Pastor Kyrmen’s home.

Rebecca enjoys writing and feels a deep sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit in her life. She will soon be assisting in the FCC office answering the phone at the reception desk. Be sure to introduce yourself if you hear her friendly voice on the other end of the line! We are pleased to welcome Rebecca in the FCC family!



Nick and Lynae Mitchell

The Mitchells began attending FCC services online two years ago and were taken by Pastor Will’s “Puppies and Princesses” sermon series. They have also

participated in several classes and groups at FCC. They were also judges in last year’s pie contest!

Nick is a professional chef, currently retired from the kitchen and working at IU. Lynae is a cardiac rehabilitation nurse and currently working on a PhD in Nursing at IU.

They have already offered their skills in worship and with fellowship dinners and Pastor Sarah Lynne’s ordination reception.

Thank You to FCC’s Outgoing Board Members!



**Chuck Jones
Amy Wardlow
Chip Welch**



We appreciate your commitment of time, prayer, love and care for your FCC family and for the ministries of our church.

(In case you wonder what happens at these meetings, apparently, they involve ice cream!)



How and why to sing in the choir

(Spoiler alert: you don't have to be a star to participate)

1. Commit to rehearse 1 hour and 15 minutes Thursdays - 6:30-7:45 pm.
2. Commit to arrive at 9:00 am on Sundays (Note that if you come to worship anyway, you would be adding barely 2 hours to your weekly schedule - counting travel time!)
3. Ask Jan or Shayla or one of the section leaders if you feel you need extra help. We could arrange help before or after choir!
4. Be willing to make a joyful noise. You'll get better and more confident over time.
5. Be open to learning. There is no shaming in the FCC choir. Only joy.
6. Reap the benefits of expressing the inexpressible, participating actively in worship, joining together, plus reams of research show that singing in choir will improve your physical and emotional health and wellbeing. (One doctor in the UK is so passionate about the enormous, emotional benefits of choral singing, he has been trying to persuade the medical profession to prescribe singing instead of Prozac!)
7. So join our community of singers. All are welcome! Contact Jan for more information harringt@indiana.edu

REHEARSALS OF THE SANCTUARY CHOIR WILL RESUME AUGUST 17
6:30 PM IN THE GREAT HALL

FCC Fun and Fellowship This Summer!



FCC's Faith Formation Commission has provided a learning hour focusing on fun and fellowship again this year! We hope you've been participating in the fun after church this summer! There are still fun opportunities ahead so join us for casual and fun opportunities to connect with your church family this summer.

FCC Fun & Fellowship activities

July 16—Two Truths and a Story

A fun get-to-know-you game for the whole family!

July 23—Camp Sing-a-Longs and Hymns

Claire Johann, Maya Norris, Ashlyn and Sarah Lynne will lead us in some favorite camp songs—silly fireside songs and vesper hymns.

July 30—Doughnuts and board/card games with Andi Fletcher

Bring your favorite board or card game to play after church! FCC will provide doughnuts.



Aug 6—Back To School Gutter Sundae

FCC will provide the ice cream and you bring your favorite sundae topping to share! Let's celebrate the beginning of a new school year.

Aug 13—Fish Bowl Dialogue: experience at General Assembly

Participants of this year's GA will discuss their experience and you will have an opportunity to ask questions.

FCC Prepares to Attend General Assembly

The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) begins July 29 in Louisville, and FCC is sending twelve folks to attend! Attendees are staying in two Airbnb rentals, so, in addition to enjoying the learning, worship, and fellowship of the Assembly, FCC's participants will also be connecting more deeply with one another! Please offer prayers for those who are participating . (* denotes voting representatives):

Jennifer Fettchenhauer
 *Crystal Hammon
 *Jean Thompson
 *Linda Abe
 *Pastor Sarah Lynne Gershon
 Brett Gershon
 Alasdair Gershon
 Iver Gershon
 Chu Jones
 *Mackenzie Colston
 Erica Eckensberger
 *Pastor Kyrmen Rea

**KINDOM
 OF GOD
 WITHIN US
 AMONG US**

GENESIS 11:1-9 • LUKE 17:20-21 • 2 PETER 1:3

July 29 - August 1, 2023 - Louisville

On Sunday, August 13, General Assembly participants will engage with the congregation about their experiences during Fun and Fellowship time after worship.



FCC's Annual All-Church Picnic and Pie Contest on Sunday, Sept. 3 at 12:30 pm



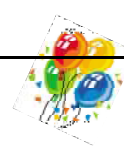
Mark your calendars

The festivities will begin at 12:30 pm at the *Lion's Den Shelter* in Upper Cascades Park. We will provide burgers and hot dogs; you bring a side to share and a pie for the contest! So, mark your calendar now for this Labor Day Weekend picnic with your FCC Family! And... if you'd like to help out with organizing the picnic and pie contest, please contact the church office, or Cindy Welch at cswelch0814@yahoo.com. See you there!





AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



08/02	Matthew Griffin	7300 W. Ison Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/04	Joe Lec	1028 S. Henderson St.	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/08	Christine Griffin	7300 W. Ison Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/10	Tom Walsh	1478 E. Commander Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/10	Lisa Autry	4001 N. Rosewood Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47404
08/13	Sarah Knepper	3918 S. Woods Edge Bend	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/14	Cindy Welch	930 W. Second Street	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/22	Amy Lynn	4301 S. Clear View Court	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/23	Lauren Johann	3057 E. Chase Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/24	Linda Abe	600 S. Hawthorne Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/24	James Rea-Hedrick	649 Cherry St., Apt. 329B	Terre Haute	IN	47807
08/25	Brian Brosmer	2479 S. Brittany Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/25	Patrick Walsh	3006 S. Olcott Blvd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/27	Barb Cripe	3930 W. Tapp Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/28	John Babcock	3742 S. Tyler Lane	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/29	Patti Parkes	4215 W. Geranium Lane	Bloomington	IN	47404
08/29	Lilly Sinn Trulock	2557 S. Smith Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/30	Janet Schell	909 S. Eagleson Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47401

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



**FCC Summer Fun and Fellowship
July 9th - Making Camp Crafts**



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Join us for Fun & Fellowship at FCC
this Summer following worship!

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

July 16

Psalm 65

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23

Psalm 86:11-17

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30

Rev. Tim Jessen preaching

Romans 8:26-39