

# The CHRISTIAN



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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
*(Disciples of Christ)*

# Visitor

## Get Ready for FCC's All-Church Retreat in September

*Plan to Join Your FCC Family at Camp Bedford on Sept. 18 & 19*

The FCC All-Church Retreat is back! After a year of isolation, loss, and grief during this pandemic, our retreat's theme will focus on *Circles of Support*. During our time together we will focus on identifying and connecting to resources and relationships that empower us to live a life of resiliency, healing, and joy.

FCC's All-Church Retreat is for the whole FCC Family: young, old, single or married. The retreat will include sessions and activities for younger children as well as adults. Parents of very young (Pre-K and under) might appreciate childcare during the sessions. If you would like childcare for your little ones please email Sarah Lynne Gershon or contact the church office *no later than August 31st*.

It takes a team to plan activities and prepare meals for a retreat. If you would like to help with an activity or help in the kitchen, contact Sarah Lynne. More details on the retreat will be coming in the August newsletters. For now, please save the date and plan to join us for a meaningful and FUN weekend at Camp Bedford.

## Changes Coming in August to Our Online Giving Program

If you currently use (or have used) our online giving platform, please look for an email within the next month about changes to that program. We will be moving to a new provider, Vanco, that interacts more easily with our church database provider. This will make it easier for our financial secretaries to record giving for our many ministries at FCC and for the Greater Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). More information on changes to online giving as well as other ways to give to FCC will be provided in future newsletters. You can also contact the church office with questions about giving. Thank you for continuing to support important ministries through your giving to FCC!

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## Will Writes

The seven “Acts” of the church that have informed our current sermon series are: *Power, Generosity, Acceptance, Creativity, Perseverance, Courage, and Witness*. Just as these actions marked the emergence of the early church in the book of Acts, they shape the story of the church of every age. They continually raise questions for us: “What is our priority? How will we support the work of the church? Who is in or out? Where is God leading? What will we say to our community and world?” In other words: “What is the “story” of who we are and whose we are?”

Once in a while, we all need to sit down and renew the conversation about our lives and how we share the story and stories that shape us. So, you are invited to take an hour or so in August and gather for conversation and storytelling. Small groups will be meeting each Sunday in August. You can choose whatever session works for your schedule. We are meeting in homes around the community, at the church, and virtually through Zoom. Light refreshments will be served, but the real focus is on telling our stories.

Here are the details:

### TELLING OUR STORY

**Groups will be limited to 12 (except at church and Zoom)**

**August 1** - 4:30 p.m. Chapel Gathering space

**August 8** - 4:30 p.m. Host - Kate Kroll – 2704 N. Browncliff Lane

**August 15** - 4:30 p.m. Hosts: John Walsh and Michelle Dalmau - 3006 S. Olcott Blvd.

**August 22** - 4:30 p.m. Host - Sue Fettchenhauer 2604 E. Windermere Woods

**August 29** - 11:15 a.m. Zoom gathering - host – Pastor Will

A sign-up link will be posted on our website and sent out next week, or you can call the church office to reserve your spot.

I will be joining each session to hear your stories as will members of the search committee as they begin to shape the “church profile” that will be shared with potential ministerial candidates in the future.

Our stories intersect with the story of the church and the Good News of Jesus to make us who we are. Let’s be the church together.

*Grace and Peace,*

*Will*



### **MUSIC NOTES - Jazz Vesper Moments “Re-runs” for the Next Four Weeks**

For our 12 weeks of summer Jazz Vesper Moment “re-runs”, we’ve chosen one of our favorite moments from each month’s broadcast from the 12 months of Moments since May 2020. Here are the ones to expect from the middle of July to mid-August. Each one will be posted as usual each Friday at 6:30 and continue to be posted through the Sunday Service. You can also find them on the FCC YouTube Channel at any time. We hope you will continue to find them a meaningful entrance to quiet meditation.

#### **July 16, 2021**

(First Broadcast November 13, 2020)

Theme: Searching

Searching for Vision

#### **July 30, 2021**

(First Broadcast January 29, 2021)

Theme: Reflecting

Reflecting on Memories

#### **July 23, 2021**

(First Broadcast December 11, 2020)

Theme: Anticipating

Anticipating Reflection

#### **August 6, 2021**

(First Broadcast February 12, 2021)

Theme: Contemplating

Contemplating Loss

### **Welcome New Member Erin Kelley!**

Erin Kelley joined the FCC family by reaffirmation of faith on May 24. Erin grew up in Posey County, Indiana where she attended and was baptized at First Christian Church in Wadesville. In her travels, she's attended Catholic, Southern Baptist, and Lutheran churches, but none of them felt like home.

When she returned to Bloomington in 2017, she was looking for a church that “walked the walk”: was open to all, was of service to the community, and was willing to grow and change as the world did, while still having a more traditional style of worship. FCC Bloomington fit the bill.

Erin works at IU as a grant manager, where her work takes her out into the rural communities of Indiana in search of ways to help revitalize historical places; this summer, she’s working with Beck's Mill down in Washington County. She writes poetry, gardens, hangs out with her cats, and is a recently certified yoga teacher who looks forward to sharing her gifts with us! Welcome Erin!!



**August Sermon Series  
“Of Puppies and Princesses”**

Doing “Grandparent Daycare” for the past year gave Pastor Will a new realm of images and stories that are not just for children.

Join him as we reflect on the power of story as told by Disney and others.

**August 1 - Age and Understanding – “Frozen 2”**

Ephesians 3:14-21

**August 8 - A Quest for Healing and Unity (Raya and the Last Dragon!)**

John 6:24-35

**August 15 - All “Tangled” Up with One Another**

Ephesians 4:11-16

**August 22 - Like Father, Like Daughter**

1 Kings 3:3-14

**August 29 - Prayers, Puppies, and Power**

Ephesians 6:10-20



**“We Are the Church” Sermon Series**

*Based on the Acts study “We Are the Church... Let’s Act Like It”  
by Linda Tower Pevey*

**July 18 – *We Are the Church... Let’s Act as a Witness***

Acts 26:19-32 (and excerpts of Acts 24 – 28)

**July 25 - “We are First Christian Church Bloomington: Let’s Share the Inclusive Love of Christ”**

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Sarah Lynne Gershon is preaching as we conclude this sermon series. We’ve spent the last 5 weeks looking at Acts to understand what it means to be the church. This morning Sarah Lynne will wrap up this series by turning to our own vision of “sharing the inclusive love of Christ” and Paul’s letter to the church in Corinth. In particular, we will consider how sharing “the body of Christ” at the communion table helps us understand what the inclusive love of Christ looks like today.

## FCC's Summer Forum 2021: *Practicing Anti-Racism* On Zoom, Sundays at 11:15 am

Look for the link in emails and on our Facebook page.



### July 18—Practicing Anti-Racism in Our Spiritual Disciplines

Cassidy

Hall is an author, filmmaker, podcaster, trained counselor, pastor, and MDiv/MTS student at CTS who has developed a particular focus on spiritual disciplines in her work. During her research on Trappist monk Thomas Merton, Hall visited all seventeen Trappist/Cistercian Monasteries of the United States. While there, she wrote, interviewed monks and nuns, and photographed her entire experience within these seventeen spaces. Out of this experience came an award winning short-film on Merton called *Day of a Stranger*. Cassidy also has a podcast *Contemplating Now* that explored the intersection of contemplation and social justice.

In the midst of her exploration of Merton, Cassidy started to wonder about the intersection between anti-racism and mysticism. She explored contemplative practices intended to challenge racism within herself. In this Summer Forum Cassidy Hall will lead discussion about her journey and what she has learned along the way.

### July 25—Practicing Anti-Racism in Our Bible Study

FCC's Sarah Lynne Gershon will lead this conversation after we first watch a sermon from the biblical scholar Miguel De La Torres on the Canaanite women. Then, we will consider the ways De La Torres' experience as a Latino person contributes to his understanding of this passage, why it is important to engage diverse voices in our small groups and classes, how we have already been doing this and what we would like to do in the future.

### *Coming in August...*



### Aug 1 -Practicing Anti-Racism for Personal and Social Transformation

Our guest presenter is anti-racism educator L. Glenise Pike. She is an author, public educator, and lecturer whose passions live at the intersections of race, identity, leadership, human connection, and storytelling. Her antiracism resources and other academic works are rooted in a desire to provide leaders and organizations with critical tools for sustainable change in the collective effort for racial equality. Her work can be found at **We Change. We Inspire.**, where she facilitates workshops and intensive trainings for passionate individuals looking to lead by example in antiracism. Her upcoming book, *Inspire Change By Being*, an expanded edition of the previously printed and international selling *Becoming Antiracist* journal, is scheduled to be released in early Fall 2021.



### Aug 8<sup>th</sup>—Practicing Anti-Racism as a Church

On August 8 representatives from St. Andrew’s Christian Church (DOC) will share their work over the last year practicing anti-racism in their church. Like us, they responded to George Floyd’s death with a commitment to anti-racism. This forum will provide the opportunity to learn from and share ideas with another Disciples church.



### Aug 15<sup>th</sup>—Practicing Anti-Racism in our Wider Community

Last year, the statement adopted by our board expressed a commitment 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.

This week we will engage in conversation with Bloomington community organizers with the Poor People’s Campaign as we consider how God might be calling us to support their work.



The banner features the text "NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD ROMANS 8:35-39" on the left, a large blue double arrow pointing right in the center, and "DISCIPLES VIRTUAL GATHERING SATURDAY 08-07-21" on the right. There is also a "REGISTER NOW" button and a circular logo with "God's LOVE" and "Let's die for the church we say we are."

## Disciples Virtual Gathering

Disciples from around the world will be gathering virtually on **August 7**. The Disciple Virtual Gathering is a one day “assembly” that begins with Bible study, offers workshops and virtual exhibit hall, and then ends with a joyous time of worship.

With no need to travel and the opportunity to gather with hundreds, if not thousands, of other Disciples, this will be a fun and enriching event.

For more information and to register go to [Disciples.org/2021-virtual-gathering](https://Disciples.org/2021-virtual-gathering)

## Family Faith Formation Update With Sarah Lynne Gershon

Hello Families!

The end of summer break is coming fast and we want to make sure your kids are connected and supported as they make their way back to school.

Join us August 1 at 5:30 pm for pizza, buttons, and backpack blessings. We will spread tables out in the Great Hall to share a pizza dinner, there will be a button making station for students to make buttons for their backpacks (and adults too!), and around 6:30 pm we will pray a blessing over the students who are heading back to school.

Please RSVP, and if your family is coming, tell me the size and two toppings your family would like for their pizza. Due to COVID I am not planning on having shared food, but you are also welcome to bring a side salad for your meal. We ask that all unvaccinated people wear a mask when they are not sitting at their table to eat. I hope to see you then.

I am planning to start regular programming for kids (Worship and Wonder, and Sunday learning hour) after Labor Day. Stay tuned!



Mary Droste would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and notes of encouragement while she recovered from an injury recently. Her recovery has gone well, and she is now back in her home at Bell Trace.

Jennifer Fettchenhauer (along with the Fettchenhauer and Waco family) would like to thank everyone for the overwhelming show of support following the death of her father Rev. Dr. Michael Waco. Words cannot express how much the cards, calls and emails have meant. The flowers sent were so thoughtful and lovely. We are also thankful of your prayers for Jennifer's mother, Linda, as she continues to recover from an infection and surgery. Her health is improving, and we are hoping she will be able to go home soon. I am so grateful to be part of the FCC Family.

*Thank  
you*

## COVID TASK FORCE UPDATE

### *New protocols approved by FCC Board on July 1*

Our COVID-19 Task Force recommended the following update to our guidelines at a special meeting of the FCC Board on July 1. The FCC Board met via Zoom to review and approve the following changes.

- **Fully vaccinated congregants may be mask free (and may sing maskless) during the worship service.**
- **Unvaccinated congregants should wear a mask (including when singing) and socially distance themselves at all times.**
- **Families with children ages 2-11 years old should sit in a special section in the front with the children wearing masks.**
- **The choral scholars and Jan will continue to wear masks.**
- **Windows and doors will be closed since the chiller is on now.**

We are grateful that we have this team and a responsive Board guiding us through this time. As new information is received and our local situation continues to change, we may need to adjust the guidelines in the future.

Each of us is encouraged to be respectful of one another. Mask wearing and social distancing are choices that each person will make based on their needs and feelings of safety. This is truly a time to “love our neighbor” by respecting one another.

This information was sent to the congregation via email on July 2, 2021. If you did not receive this email, but would like to be included on future emails, please contact the church office (812-332-4459 or [fcc@fccbloomington.org](mailto:fcc@fccbloomington.org)).

### **Communion Preparation Help Needed!**

If you are looking for a way to help us out at FCC in a meaningful way, but are short on time... we have a great opportunity for you! We are looking for new volunteers for the communion prep and clean-up team. Preparation takes 30 minutes or less and can be done anytime from Thursday afternoon through Sunday morning before worship. Clean-up takes less than 30 minutes as well, and is usually done right after church.

Contact Peggy Stafford if you have questions or are interested in joining this worthy opportunity.



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



08/02	Matthew	Griffin	3830 Woodhaven Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/04	Ashley	Stafford	583 W. 215th St. Apt. B9	New York	NY	10034
08/04	Joe	Lee	1028 S. Henderson St.	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/08	Christine	Griffin	3830 Woodhaven Drive	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
08/10	Marlene	Emery	2455 N. Tamarack Trl. Apt. 121	Bloomington	IN	47408
08/13	Sarah	Knepper	3918 S. Woods Edge Bend	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/14	Sam	Cull	3144 S. Eden Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/14	Cindy	Welch	930 W. Second Street	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/20	Ryan	Hill	1007 E. Sherbrooke Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/22	Sandy	Rampley	4064 Viewcrest Loop	Floyds Knobs	IN	47119
08/22	Amy	Hoover	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	Janice	Lyon	4385 Lynwest Drive	Bloomington	IN	47404
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
08/27	Graedan	Robinson	4694 S. Viola Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/29	Patti	Parkes	4215 W. Geranium Lane	Bloomington	IN	47404
08/30	Janet	Schell	909 S. Jordan Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47401

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

First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
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SAVE THE DATE

*Sept 18 & 19*

FCC ALL-CHURCH  
RETREAT  
at Camp Bedford

**Join Us at Camp Bedford!**

**Scripture Readings  
For Sunday Worship**

**June 18**  
Acts 26:19-32  
(with excerpts of Acts 24-28)

**July 25**  
1 Corinthians 11:17-34  
*Sarah Lynne Gershon preaching*

**August 1**  
Ephesians 3:14-21

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John 6:24-35