

The CHRISTIAN



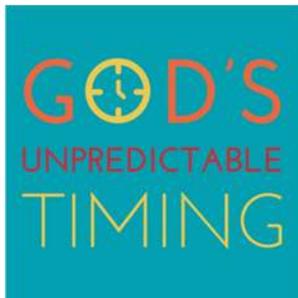


FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

FCC's All-Church Retreat August 24-25

Join us at Bedford Christian Camp for Fun, Fellowship and Friendship



Hopefully, you have already marked your calendar to attend the All-Church Retreat next month at Bedford Christian Camp. If you haven't "saved the date," what are you waiting for? FCC's retreats are carefully planned as intergenerational events that have something for everyone, no matter the age or stage in your life's journey.

This year's theme is "God's Unpredictable Timing." Consider all of the ways we keep time: smart phones, apps, clocks, watches, calendars. How about birthdays, anniversaries... and other milestones? How does our view of "time" compare to a Biblical view of time? We'll reflect on Biblical stories and consider many images of time as we also consider God's seemingly unpredictable timing.

This retreat will include time for small group and/or individual study and worship, as well as plenty of free time to enjoy nature, swim, play games, and build lasting friendships. You can share your talents in our Talent Show, toast s'mores around a campfire, and enjoy a lunch with our XPLOR Residents. You can count on making memories and possibly a new friendship.

Retreats provide a unique opportunity to leave behind the usual distractions to strengthen connections with God and your FCC family. Come and stay for the entire weekend, or join us for part of the retreat. Participate as much as you like. Look for the registration brochure inside this newsletter for details and a schedule of events as well as information on how to register. If you have concerns about payment, Pastor Helen would be happy to confidentially discuss scholarship options.

We hope you'll decide to join us and be a part of this year's retreat **August 24-25**. Connie Myers and Lynn Sinn can answer any questions that you have about the retreat. See you at Camp Bedford!

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Volume 61, number 12 July 17, 2019

XPLOR Apartment Open House following Worship on August 18

Join us for this Open House and Fill the Pantry Event

A team of FCC volunteers led by Chuck Jones has been working diligently to prepare a cozy and comfortable space for our XPLOR residents who will arrive in August.

This work has been daunting at times and rewarding (even fun) at others. The skill and creativity of our FCC team of volunteers is transforming former classrooms in our basement into a 2-bedroom apartment complete with full bathrooms and a shared kitchen and family room.

James Harris, Cindy Welch, Judith Olmstead, Ashante Thomas and Rhonda Trippel have been instrumental in coordinating all of this hard work with many others who have stepped in to paint, hammer, shop, and lovingly prepare a space that we hope will make the XPLOR Residents feel welcome here at FCC.

Please join us on August 18th following worship for an *Open House* and *Fill the Pantry* event following worship on Sunday, August 18. You will get to tour the XPLOR living space and get information on how you can get involved! We will also be *Filling the Pantry* for our XPLOR Residents during this event. So, bring a favorite non-perishable staple(s) to stock the shelves of the XPLOR pantry (canned goods, cereal, pasta sauce, cleaning supplies, etc.). If the grocery store is not your favorite destination, consider shopping our gift registry at www.target.com or make a donation to help buy the basics.

We are so excited to welcome these new XPLOR Residents who will spend 10 months at FCC exploring a life of service while living in

community and working with local non-profits.

Shop for XPLOR on the Target Gift Registry

You can build an apartment with hammer and nails, but you make it a home by creating a welcoming space complete with furnishings and supplies. While we are accepting some gently used items, we would like some things to be purchased new (like towels, rugs, bedding, etc.).

A gift registry makes shopping easy. It shows you exactly what is needed and how much each item costs. If you would like to help us provide furnishings for the XPLOR apartment, consider looking at our gift registry at Target, either online at www.target.com or at the store.

The Target gift registry is under “*First Christian Church Bloomington*.” We have selected various bedroom, kitchen, bath, office and cleaning items to furnish the apartments.

We are accepting gently used end tables, nightstands, dressers (or chests), and a coffee table. Please email a picture of the item that you would like to donate to the church office at fcc@fccbloomington.com. A member of the XPLOR volunteer team gathering furnishings will be in contact to collect the item if it is still needed.

Thank you for your help in creating a cozy, welcoming space.





Music Notes by Jan Harrington

FIRST FRIDAY JAZZ VESPERS – AUGUST 2 – 6:30 – “REST”

Farewell to our Jazz Singer Elena Escudero and Pianist June Lee

Make a point to include August 2 First Friday Jazz Vespers in your summer calendar! This Vesper Service will mark our farewell to the extraordinary singer Elena Escudero and jazz pianist June Lee whose partnership have given such inspiration and joy with their artistry for the past two years. Elena is leaving Bloomington to pursue her career as a jazz singer in Chicago, and June Lee also will be leaving to begin a doctorate in Jazz and Composition at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. If you have not yet experienced the moving worship experience of Jazz Vespers with its format of music, meditation, poetry and prayer around a specific theme, this month's service around the theme of “Rest” will be extremely special and your last chance to hear this extraordinary quartet. If you have been a “regular” at Jazz Vespers, you are already aware of the inspiration and beauty the service provides under the leadership of these two musicians. Don't miss the chance to wish them Godspeed and thanks for their contribution to our lives at First Christian.

P.S. September will bring a new musical team to Jazz Vespers. Details will be announced in our August newsletter.

Elena at IU Jazz in July Friday July 19

Fans of Elena Escudero can hear her featured in concert at IU's Jazz in July Series this Friday - July 19 at 7:00 - at the outdoor Conrad Prebys Amphitheater on the IU Campus (behind the Musical Arts Center.) The concert is Free. In case of rain, the concert will move to the Recital Hall in the IU Music Building.

SANCTUARY CHOIR – PLAN AHEAD! - NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Sanctuary Choir will meet **before worship at 9:15 on Sunday August 18** to prepare an anthem to sing in the service that day (no Thursday rehearsal before that!). The anthem will be easy, but hopefully moving for the congregation. All are welcome – new and old - to take part that day!! **Regular Rehearsals** for Sanctuary Choir will begin at 6:15 on Thursday, August 22. New Church Musical Season: Ready, set, go! Bring a friend!



In Our Prayers

General Assembly begins in Des Moines, Iowa July 20 and continues through July 24. Please pray for FCC staff and members as they travel to General Assembly. Let us also lift up in prayer our voting members as they consider the business of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and also pray for staff and members attending General Assembly for spiritual growth, learning and worship experiences.

Services for Koji Abe on August 3 and 4

Linda Abe wishes to thank everyone for loving support through words, messages, cards, and assistance. A Celebration of Life Service for Koji Abe will be on Saturday, August 3, at 1:00 pm at First Christian Church. An Interment of Ashes Service will be on Sunday, August 4, at 1:00 pm at Washington Park East Cemetery. 10612 E. Washington Street, Indianapolis. A luncheon will follow the interment service. Please, let Linda Abe know if you plan to attend the interment service and lunch so that she can make appropriate preparations.

Volunteerism is Alive at FCC!

Are You Available to Help?

THRIVING CONNECTIONS - Four times each year a group of FCC members prepare and serve dinner to families who are part of the South Central Community Action Program called Thriving Connections. We have participated in this ministry for the past several years. Families involved in this program are ones who are striving to make a major change in their life by gaining help and support to move out of the cycle of poverty. The TC group meets every Thursday where they have a dinner followed by meetings and trainings for the adults and their children. On the dates we participate we plan a meal which we cook and serve at St. Mark's Methodist Church. Our next upcoming dates are September 5 and November 7. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, **contact Jo Weddle** at 812-345-6217 or jweddle2@comcast.net.

WHEELER MISSION - FCC has been connected and involved with assisting those in our community who are homeless and need support. Though we are no longer providing a warm, safe sleeping place during the months of November through March, we are still part of the work now being provided by Wheeler Mission. Every Friday, we prepare peanut butter and jelly sandwiches then deliver them to Wheeler along with fresh fruit for an evening snack. A different group of FCC members prepare the sandwiches on Friday mornings. This task generally takes about 1 to 1 ½ hours of time starting at 10:00 am. Leaders for this ministry are: **2nd Friday of the month, Kate Kroll** (katekroll@comcast.net); **3rd Friday, Cindy Welch** (cswelch0814@yahoo.com); and **4th Friday, Jean Thompson** (lajean_2000@yahoo.com). An outside group does this task on the 1st Friday and our church provides pizza on the months with a 5th Friday. Contact Kate, Cindy or Jean if you are willing and able to help.

August Birthdays



08/02	Matthew	Griffin	3830 Woodhaven Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/04	Ashley	Stafford	636 W. 172nd St., Apt. 42	New York	NY	10032
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 Rosewood Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47404
08/13	Sarah	Knepper	3616 S. Kingsbury Ave.	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	2886 Brooks Bend Dr.	Carmel	IN	46032
08/22	Sandy	Rampley	2228 Autumn Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/22	Amy	Hoover	3605 W. Cockrell Road	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/23	Lauren	Johann	3057 E. Chase Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/24	Jonathan	Enari	1222 E. Tremont Way	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/24	Linda	Abe	600 S. Hawthorne Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/25	Brian	Brosmer	2479 S. Brittany Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/25	Patrick	Walsh	3006 S. Olcott Blvd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/26	Rivers	Hawkins	604 N. Smith Rd., Apt 104	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/27	Barb	Cripe	3930 W. Tapp Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/27	Graedan	Robinson	4694 Viola Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/28	Allison	Ruari	175 S. Mulberry St.	Mansfield	OH	44902
08/29	Patti	Parkes	4215 W. Geranium Lane	Bloomington	IN	47404
08/29	Lilly	Sinn Trulock	901 Orchard Drive	Newburgh	IN	47630
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.

FCC Heads to General Assembly 2019 in Des Moines, IA

This week, a delegation from FCC will head to Des Moines, Iowa to join thousands of Disciples for General Assembly. Helen Hempfling, Chuck Jones, Ashlyn Reynolds, Amy Hoover, Lily Hoover, Judith Olmstead and Bob Bernacki will represent FCC at this year's General Assembly.



They will have the opportunity to worship with thousands of Disciples, attend workshops and classes that will include both inspiration and practical topics, and participate in business sessions that are open to all registered attendees, with some being designated by FCC as a voting representative. It promises to be exhilarating to worship with literally thousands of Disciples, and energizing to gather new ideas and insights from speakers and learning communities. General Assembly 2019 will also feature some very special history with a celebration of the Merger Agreement between the National Christian Missionary Convention and the International Convention of Christian Churches resulting in 50 years of The Design, our foundational document.

The FCC delegation will share their experiences from General Assembly in August. Please pray for the FCC delegation and all Disciples as they travel and attend General Assembly.

Nursery Ministry Seeking Volunteers

If seeing babies and toddlers at church makes your heart happy, please consider becoming part of our nursery ministry. Our two nursery staff members, Lily Hoover and Gabby Johnson, need a volunteer team of adults and older youth who can serve with them on Sunday mornings and during other church activities. All volunteers must agree to a background check and be trained in FCC policies for child safety. Making our space safe and welcoming for the youngest of God's children is a vitally important ministry of love. Please stop by the nursery or contact Lily or Gabby to share your interest, fill out paperwork, and learn about upcoming trainings.

For the latest newsletter, upcoming church events, or to give a financial gift online, visit our website: www.fccbloomington.org





The
Elena Escudero
Quartet

Join us on Aug. 2 at 6:30 pm
for First Friday Jazz Vespers!



Thank you to everyone who donated during our MCUM food and supply drive during the season of Easter. We are excited to report that we donated a total of 295 pounds through this drive, bringing our total for the year to 725 pounds. Our goal for 2019 is 2,000 pounds. So, let's continue the generosity by bringing non-perishable goods and supplies to FCC. A bin for those donations can be found in the hallway outside of the Fireside Study.

Thank you for caring!

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- July 20-24**
General Assembly in Des Moines, IA
- Sunday, July 21**
Linda Abe preaching
10:00 am *Worship*
11:15 am *Summer Forum Series*
11:15 am *Children's Reading Program*
12:15 pm *FCC Board Meeting*
- Tuesday, July 23**
5:30 pm *Listening to God meditation*
- Thursday, June 27**
5:15 pm *Daring Greatly* book study
- Sunday, July 28**
10:00 am *Worship*
11:15 am *Children's Reading Program*
11:15 am *Summer Forum Series*
3:00 pm *Meadowood Service*
- Tuesday, July 30**
5:30 pm *Listening to God meditation*
- Thursday, August 1**
5:15 pm *Daring Greatly* book study
- Friday, August 2**
6:30 pm *First Friday Jazz Vespers*
- Sunday, August 4**
10:00 am *Worship*
11:15 am *Summer Forum Series*
11:15 am *Children's Reading Program*
- Monday, August 5**
7:00 pm *Women's Arts & Crafts*
- Tuesday, August 6**
5:30 pm *Listening to God meditation*

First Christian Church
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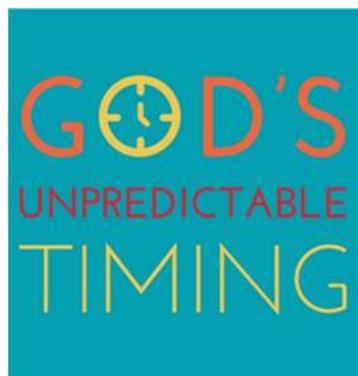
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The Christian Visitor

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**All-Church Retreat
August 24-25**

Join us for FCC's All-Church Retreat on August 24-25 at Bedford Christian Camp. Be sure to read the front page article and then find a brochure with details and registration information inside this newsletter.

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

July 21

Linda Abe preaching
Jeremiah 31:31-34

July 28

Abide in Me
John 15:4-12 3:12-17

August 4

Choose Joy
Psalm 1