

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

Join FCC at PrideFest on August 27

Volunteer to Welcome Festival Goers and Share Christ's Inclusive Love

Join your FCC family at PrideFest on Saturday, August 27. Let's remind festival goers that they are loved *by a God who will never let them go* and let's invite them to experience the inclusive love of Christ here at FCC.

We have sponsored a booth for the festival again this year, and we will set up a canopy to have a little shelter from the sun. At our booth, we will hand out bottled water to people and have a water station for pets at the festival. We will also invite families with kids to create a card to share with someone they love. Our popular "selfie station" will also be available for folks wanting to take their picture within a decorated frame for posting to social media... or just for fun!

If you would like to volunteer for a shift at our booth, ***there will be a sign-up available at church this Sunday (Aug. 14) or you can contact Ashlyn Reynolds or Sarah Lynne Gershon.***

This has become a beloved tradition at FCC. If you haven't joined us in the past, be sure to come this year! It's a great opportunity to share information about FCC and to have a great time as a church family at this wonderful community event.

FCC Prepares to Welcome Refugee Family in September

Soon, we will be welcoming a Kinyarwanda speaking family to Bloomington! In preparation for their arrival, the FCC team for Exodus Refugee is organizing lists of needs which will include essential home furnishings and clothing. We will also be planning a Welcome Meal for this family here at FCC that will include some culturally appropriate menu items to share and enjoy.

More detailed information will become available very soon. So, keep an eye on your email next week for details on what is needed and how you can connect with this exciting new FCC ministry and the family that we will be hosting. Thank you for your support of this important ministry as we prepare to welcome this refugee family.

Food & Supply Drive For MCUM

through the month of
August

See the Needs List
[Inside This Newsletter](#)

The Minister's Missive

Loving the Church's Children



Dear Church Family,

“We need more young families with children.” I know you’ve heard this statement before, or perhaps you’ve said these words yourself. “More young families with children” is on every church’s wish list. The reality is that church participation is declining across all age demographics, but most sharply among younger people.

According to Pew Research Center, only 36% of Americans age 30 to 49 attend church a few times per year or more often, while that number shrinks to 25% for those between the ages of 18 and 29. We could (and we should) have a long discussion about some of the reasons this may be so, but even without discussion we can conclude that there are no easy answers that will cause a sudden increase in participation by young families with children.

Rather than despair, let me make a suggestion for an immediate, positive course of action: **let’s commit to doing an amazing job of loving the young families with children who ARE here.**

Let’s commit to every grown-up in the church knowing the name of every child and youth who regularly participates in worship. Let’s commit to being adults who initiate conversations with children and with their parents with a sincere interest in getting to know them. Let’s commit to stretching ourselves to volunteer in spaces that may be new and unfamiliar to us. Let’s commit to making our church a warm and friendly place where children WANT to be because of the care they experience here.

Our children’s programs can only happen if there are enough volunteers to staff them, and right now we are coming up short. Could you volunteer to hold babies or play with toddlers in the nursery? Could you tell a Bible story at Children’s *Worship and Wonder* (our children’s church program)? Could you greet children when they enter the *Worship and Wonder* space on Sunday mornings? Would you like to share a children’s message in worship? All of these are opportunities to do more than pine for “young families with children”; these are opportunities to actually **nurture** them!

If you would like to learn more about volunteering to spend time with the youngest among us, please contact Sarah Lynne or the church office. If you need more convincing about the rewards of spending times with little ones, come and see me – I’ve got plenty of stories that will make you want to experience ministry with children firsthand!

Shalom,

Pastor Kyrmen



FALL MUSIC SEASON RAMPS UP

RAISE YOUR VOICE WITH THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

REHEARSALS START UP AGAIN ON THURSDAY AUGUST 18 at 6:15 pm

Just because your primary school music teacher or a relative or your sibling said you *please* shouldn't sing because you have no gift for it (and so you only try in the shower or the car where no one is judgmental of some off-key notes). Or just because you haven't a clue how to follow the music or have forgotten how since you haven't sung in a choir since you were a kid. None of these things mean it isn't time to try when there are folks around who are forgiving and will help you and are excited to welcome you into a fantastic worship experience. *Now is a great time to join the choir and discover the joy of singing in community and in service.* We are starting up again and so everything will be new to everyone. The members of the choir all feel that they have a special privilege to worship on Sundays since they have lived with the music and texts that inspire our worship for several weeks and have a special connection to all of the words and music that are sent out from our hearts to the congregation and in praise.

New members are *so* welcome and needed! If you're interested please reach out to Jan Harrington for more information (harringt@indiana.edu or (812) 340-0253) or just show up a little early on Thursday with a willing heart.

This fall will bring a new organist and handbell director, two new choral scholar section leaders, a new Jazz Vespers team – and hopefully a lot of new participants in the choir.

“Sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord all the earth” - Psalm 96

THIRD FRIDAY JAZZ VESPERS WILL RETURN IN SEPTEMBER

The Third Friday Jazz Vespers Series will return on September 16 at 6:30. Come early to hear jazz standards before the service begins and remain for music, prayer, poetry and quiet meditation. We have a vibrant new trio organized and led by extraordinary bassist Brendan Keller-Tuberg and the exciting vocalist Marina Alba López. The topics for the fall are:

September 16 – Change

October 21 – Unity

November 18 – Listening

December 16 – Anticipation

These services are a great way to sit back and contemplate the end of the week and look forward and center for the upcoming days. Perhaps consider a meal downtown or a time with friends before or after the service as a wonderful way to end your week.

**Scripture Readings for Worship
in August**

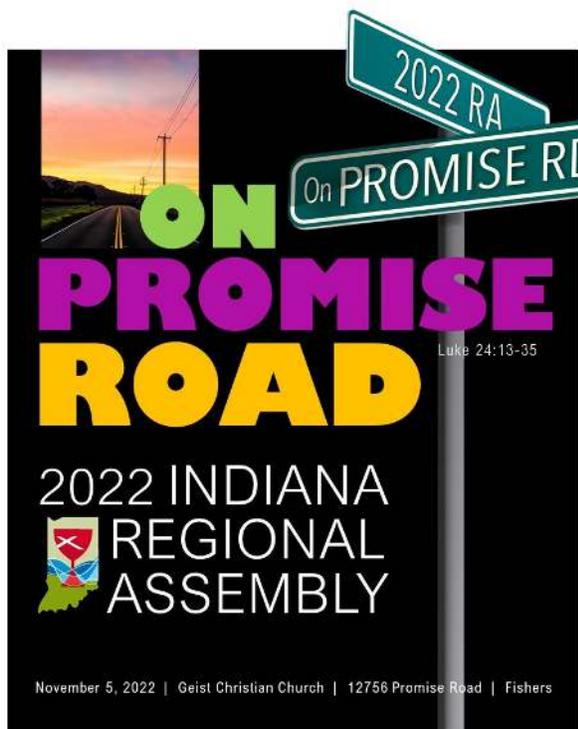
(following the Revised Common Lectionary)

August 14
I Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30
Shalom for Everyone

August 21
Isaiah 58:9a-14
Luke 13:10-17
Perspectives on a Healing
(A Reader's Theater presentation)

August 28
Psalm 112
Luke 14:1, 7-14
A Rude Dinner Guest

Join us for worship on Sundays at 10:00 am
We are worshipping in person and online



Indiana Regional Assembly
November 5
Geist Christian Church in Fishers
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

The theme for this year's Regional Assembly will be "On Promise Road." Disciples author and minister **Sandhya Rani Jha** will be our keynote speaker and **Janae Pitts-Murdock**, senior pastor at Light of the World Christian Church (Indianapolis) will be our worship preacher. Both speakers will help us unpack the Emmaus text: Luke 24:13-35.

The Regional Assembly will be a "hybrid" event, meaning that you may register to attend in person for \$45, or you can register to attend online for \$25. Please join your FCC family for this important assembly!



Property Corner:

This month we are introducing what we hope will become a regular feature in *The Christian Visitor*. The Property Corner will bring you information on projects that are taking place around this building, on the inside and the outside. We hope this will give everyone insight on how much is done every month to keep this old building going, and give you the opportunity to join or lead a project to help keep our beautiful church, beautiful. When you

are caring for a building as old as ours, there is no shortage of work to be done.

This month, we would like to thank those who came out to help with the recent kitchen clean-up. Bob Thrasher, Amy Lynn and Jean Thompson along with Property Committee leaders Peggy Stafford and Cindy Welch spent time on two days giving our kitchen a good scrubbing. Their help is greatly appreciated and is a huge step toward getting the kitchen ready for the new dishwasher which is on order but delayed due to supply chain issues. We would also like to thank Mike Donham and Peggy Stafford for their hard work removing some graffiti from limestone near our sanctuary steps. Graffiti is an unfortunate reality of being a downtown church, and it's not easy to clean off of limestone! Thanks Mike and Peggy for your hard work! If you would like to help out with the Property Committee, please contact Cindy Welch and Peggy Stafford for details. Thank you!!

Faith Formation Update:

Sharing Christ's Inclusive love through Learning and Spiritual Connection

As kids head back to school, our Small Groups and Classes are getting ready to start again after Labor Day! Please consider joining a group if you haven't already. Also returning after Labor Day is Worship and Wonder for our children. If you are interested in leading a new group, contact Sarah Lynne and let her know. The next newsletter will include a brochure with details about each of our small groups and learning opportunities. Stay tuned!

Planning Team for All-Church Retreat Forming Now!

FCC's Fall All-Church Retreat is an opportunity to meet new friends, grow your faith, get outside and soak up nature, and have some fun with your FCC Family. This intergenerational retreat is a treasured event that many look forward to each year. This is your time to get away and connect with your church community. How would you like to spend your time? What do you love to do? There will be three meals that need to be prepared, times of prayer and singing, and fun activities.

We are forming a team NOW to organize this year's retreat. The retreat will be on Oct. 22 at Camp Bedford. Do you love this retreat? Please contact Sarah Lynne to join this planning team.

Lemonade on the Lawn



Lemonade on the lawn continues in August as 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!

We are looking for 3-4 people to sign up to provide snacks for August 21 and August 28. Contact Sarah Lynne if you can help! Thank you!

August Themes

Living Into Our Why!

August 14

Preparing for PrideFest

August 21

Pastor Kyrmen leading activities

August 28

Refreshments and Starters

Thoughts about Fellowship Hour This Fall

Consider Joining this Hospitality Group

Lemonade on the Lawn has been especially special this summer as we began gathering in person again. Our in-person worship attendance numbers are slowly going up... inching closer and closer to our pre-COVID numbers. We are not there yet, but we are gathering in person more and that is continuing during our fellowship time on Sundays.

Have you enjoyed the summer of fellowship with Lemonade on the Lawn? Have you appreciated sharing a donut with some of our guests before worship or chatting with folks after worship? Before the pandemic shut our fellowship hour down, we relied on a rotation of classes and small groups to provide the food for fellowship on Sundays. Now, we would like to open that opportunity up to everyone to pitch in and help out. Consider joining a group to help shop, prepare and organize fellowship before and after worship on Sundays. Although we all know Kate Kroll has super powers, it really shouldn't be a one person job. Please let us know if you can contribute to a "fellowship" fund or bring some food to share, and help set up on Sunday mornings.

The table is always ready! Let's share love for one another in our sharing of food. What do you think? Contact Sarah Lynne Gershon if you would like to join this group. Thank you!



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	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/10	Lisa	Autry	4001 N. Rosewood Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47404
08/10	Marlene	Emery	7045 S. Fairfax Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/13	Sarah	Knepper	3918 S. Woods Edge	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/14	Cindy	Welch	930 W. Second Street	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/22	Amy	Lynn (Hoover)	4301 S. Clear View	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
08/25	Patrick	Walsh	3006 S. Olcott Blvd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/26	Rivers	Hawkins	604 N. Smith Rd., Apt	Bloomington	IN	47401
08/27	Barb	Cripe	3930 W. Tapp Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47403
08/29	Patti	Parkes	4215 W. Geranium Lane	Bloomington	IN	47404
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!

August Back to School Food, Hygiene & Cleaning Pantry Drive
For Monroe County United Ministries

Our partners at MCUM have shared that the need in our community has increased drastically. The demand has doubled at their food and supply pantry. They were serving 200 families and now have 400 families coming for food, hygiene products and cleaning supplies. The shelves are nearly bare, and they need our help to replenish the pantry! So, we will be collecting items for donation during the month of August. Take this list with you each week as you shop for yourself and your family and add a few items to your card for our MCUM families in need. Thank you for your love and care!

Bring your donations to FCC the month of August. Below is a list of needed items for MCUM's Food and Supply Pantry. Thank you!

Cereal	Rice (1 lb. pkg.)	General cleaner
Canned fruit	Pasta	Laundry Detergent
Canned meat	Pudding	Toilet Paper
Boxed sides	Crackers	Paper Towels
Cornbread mix	Flour	Razors
Canned vegetables	Sugar	Shampoo/Conditioner
Baking Mix	Oil	Dish soap
Mac and cheese	Nut butters	Kleenex
Tomato sauce	Beans	Toothpaste
Canned pasta		

First Christian Church
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Return Service Requested

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The Christian Visitor

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PRIDEFEST
VOLUNTEERS
AUG. 27 | 1:30-8PM
Please email Ashlyn Reynolds
ashreyn23@gmail.com

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

August 14

Shalom for Everyone!
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

August 21

Perspectives on a Healing
Isaiah 58:9a-14
Luke 13:10-17

August 28

A Rude Dinner Guest
Psalm 112
Luke 14:1, 7-14