

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

It's Time to Register for FCC's All-Church Retreat September 18-19

Join Us for this Intergenerational Gathering at Camp Bedford

This year's FCC All-Church Retreat will give us time to focus on *Circles of Support* as we identify and connect to resources and relationships that empower us to live a life of resiliency, healing and joy. The retreat will take place at Camp Bedford on September 18-19.

This will be a truly intergenerational gathering. So, bring the whole family, and/or bring a friend: young, old, single or married. All are welcome! In addition to the sessions, there will be plenty of time to enjoy nature, connect with one another, and experience rest and renewal!

You will find a brochure and registration insert inside this newsletter. Please, take time to read through the schedule and familiarize yourself with the theme. Come for both days or Sunday only. Registration forms need to be returned to FCC no later than September 12. Please contact Sarah Lynne Gershon with any questions you may have about the retreat. We hope to see you at Camp Bedford for a meaningful and FUN weekend.

FCC Connects Fair on September 5 following Worship

Sharing Christ's Inclusive Love through Serving, Welcoming, Learning and Offering Spiritual Connection

Stay after church on Sunday, September 5 to connect with representatives from our small groups. Learn about all the opportunities we have to share Christ's love with one another - in learning, spiritual practice, and service!

We have four new groups starting this fall: two different opportunities to study the Gospel of Mark, a group working through *My Grandmother's Hands* by Resmaa Menakem, and a class on progressive Christianity led by David Garshaw.

We strongly encourage anyone who is not already in a small group to take the next step in sharing Christ's love at FCC. Come to learn about all our groups and choose the one that is right for you! Our small groups will officially resume on Sunday, Sept 12.

**FCC Board Meeting
Sunday, August 15
12:30 pm - via Zoom**

If you would like to attend an FCC Board meeting, please contact Pastor Will or Terry Daugherty (current FCC Moderator). All are invited!

Volume 63, number 13 August 11, 2021

Will Writes

This Sunday, I will share some thoughts on Ephesians 4:11-16 where Paul speaks of the many kinds of gifts that serve the life of the church. The movie that will help shape the sermon is “Tangled,” an updated version of Rapunzel. As I shared earlier, I was inspired to share reflections on these children’s movies and TV shows after spending a year doing “grandparent daycare” with our 4-year-old granddaughter. As Marcia and I shared our lives each day with Grace, we entered her world of imagination, play and joy. It was exhilarating and exhausting!

One of the key moments in “Tangled” is when Rapunzel charms a pack of cutthroat villains and invites them to join in her dream. Rather than being saved by a charming prince, Rapunzel builds a team of wildly different people (and a horse!) to reach her goal.

As I enter my third month with you, I am excited to be a part of your team here at FCC. No, I am not thinking of any of you as cutthroat villains (at least not yet!), but as evidenced by the variety of articles in this newsletter, we are moving forward with our dreams in many ways. I celebrate the work of our Faith Formation Commission as they work with Sarah Lynne and Ashlyn to plan and implement our fall Family Retreat and guide our adult small groups and children/youth experiences. A complete list of opportunities will be shared in the coming weeks. I celebrate the work of our Board and the teams that oversee our property and financial life. I have been impressed by the diligent work of our Capital Building Task Force, led by Chris Martoglio, as they plan the improvement for our historic building. The Jazz Vespers team, led by Jan Harrington and Linda Abe, is preparing for another season of music and worship. You are invited to gather each third Friday beginning in September. And the Search Committee is back at work asking questions, inviting input and gathering the information needed for the journey ahead as we seek new leadership in the coming year.

Behind all this, your church staff continues to work with a sense of joy and purpose as worship is planned, mailings are stamped, and to-dos checked off.

Just as modern Rapunzel doesn’t count on Prince Charming to save her, we cannot look to any one leader or group to carry out the work of the church. We are in this together. With our eyes fixed on Jesus, we “carry out our own salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12).

See you in church (or on the screen),



Pastor Will

Capital Building Task Force Update

Guided by the FCC Story, in 2019, the Capital Building Task Force began developing plans for several improvements for our building. Along the way, we learned that the “fun stuff” would have to wait a bit while we dealt with some structural issues in our beautiful but aging building. In December 2020, after several months of conversation with our architect and several engineering firms, we presented the needed projects to the church board. They approved moving forward. Our engineer, John Seest of Arsee Engineers, spent much of the spring analyzing the needed repair projects. Last Thursday (August 5), we met to hear his report and consider the next steps.

The projects include:

1. Replacing a termite-damaged support beam under the back of the sanctuary. This work has already begun with temporary shoring to lift the floor with multiple, small lifts over the next several months.
2. Performing exterior work on the east wall of the sanctuary; resealing the limestone facing, replacing flashing and upper gutters, and replacing outer window covers. We have scheduled this work to begin next spring.
3. Strengthening the southeast stairwell arch above the balcony.
4. Strengthening the stairs going to the third-floor offices.

If we complete this work in 2022, we will continue around the building resealing the limestone walls and repairing flashing, guttering, and trim over the following two-to-three-year period.

The bidding process has not started, so we do not have costs established yet, but we estimate a cost of up to \$250,000 for the 2021-2022 work. Yes, this is expensive but vital work!

Capital funds already on hand will support the work currently in progress. In addition, the board and some individuals have made commitments and gifts to fund this work. As we better understand the costs and schedule, we will keep the congregation informed and invite dialogue about the best way forward.

Chris Martoglio, Capital Building Task Force Chair
Terry Daugherty, Board Moderator
Will Jewsbury, Interim Minister



Important Changes to Online Giving at FCC

FCC is moving to a new online platform for online giving. This new product will interface with our database, allowing our financial secretaries to more easily record giving and produce end of year statements and reports. This will mean changes for people using the current platform.

If you prefer to make your tithe for FCC online, you will need to go to the new website and create a new account with a new password. You can find that link on our website, www.fccbloomington.org. Click on the red “GIVE” button at the top of the page. Then click on the “Give Online” blue box. That will take you to the new platform where you will click on “Sign Up” and follow the instructions. Please contact the church office with any questions you have about the new online giving site.

Jazz Vesper Moments “Re-runs” for August

As we approach the end of summer we are beginning to draw our “Rerun” season of Jazz Vesper Moments to a close. If you’ve been following us, you know that during our 12 weeks of summer Jazz Vesper Moment “reruns”, we’ve chosen one of our favorite moments from each month’s broadcast. Here are the ones to expect through the end of August. Each one will be posted as usual each Friday at 6:30 pm. We hope you will continue to find them a meaningful entrance to quiet meditation as you end your week.

August 13, 2021 (First Broadcast March 19, 2021)

Theme: Embracing
Embracing Stillness

August 20, 2021 (First Broadcast April 9, 2021)

Theme: Longing
Longing for Attachment

August 27, 2021 (First Broadcast May 28, 2021)

Theme: Adapting
Adapting to New Beginnings

Gearing up for a return to in-person THIRD Friday Jazz Vespers



Garrett Spoelhof,
Jazz Vespers Music Director

We are looking forward to returning in September to in-person and livestreamed Jazz Vespers to be held now on the **third** Fridays, 6:30-7:15 .

The Vespers services will be led by our Jazz Vespers Minister Linda Abe, Director of Music Jan Harrington, and our new Jazz Vespers Music Director Garrett Spoelhof. Garrett is a senior audio engineering student at Indiana University. He has studied jazz piano with Luke Gillespie, and will graduate with a minor in jazz studies. A native of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Garrett was active in developing an alternative folk worship experience for his home Lutheran congregation. FCC members heard Garrett at the piano in several of our Jazz Vespers Moments, especially in the December series. Garrett hopes to work as an audio engineer/producer upon graduation, as well as pursuing freelance arranging and mixing/mastering. On top of a career in the audio industry, Garrett looks forward to continuing to perform as a keyboardist with bands and in the studio. We welcome him to our music staff and look forward to beginning the services soon.

We invite members of the congregation who might be interested in logistical and moral support for the Jazz Vespers evenings (such as helping with set- up, greeting, or participating in the service, etc.) to contact Linda Abe (abels@iu.edu) or Jan Harrington (harringt@indiana.edu).



In Our Prayers...

Please hold the family of Jenn Richards in prayer as they grieve the loss of Jenn’s father, Paul Trimmer, who passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, July 18. Paul lived in Shawnee, Kansas. Family was able to gather to remember and celebrate his life later that week. Cards and notes of support can be sent to Jenn at 1651 W. Dove Dr., Bloomington, 47403.

We also pray for Amy and Lily Hoover, as they mourn the loss of Amy’s father (and Lily’s grandfather), William (Bill) Weber who died Friday, July 30, at Bloomington Hospital of COVID-19. Amy asks also for prayers for her mom (Vera Weber) and their family. Bill was a retired Presbyterian minister and Pastoral Counselor. He had a zest for life and deep love for his family. Cards can be sent to Amy and her mother, Vera Weber, at 4301 S. Clear View Court, Bloomington, 47403. Cards may be sent to Lily at 1250 W. Adams Hill Circle, Unit 702, Bloomington, 47403.



Summer Forum Continues Sunday via Zoom at 11:15 am

Aug 15 -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.



Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85196904787?pwd=VVZWT3RIWXdmNU5yclo2U2k4NTJxdz09>



**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 us as we reflect on the power of story as told by Disney and others.

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

Faith Formation Update
By Sarah Lynne Gershon
Family and Faith Formation Ministry

Hello families! I am still working on getting everything organized for a safe and meaningful launch of Children's Ministry this fall. We plan to begin Worship and Wonder on Sunday, Sept 12, with Children's Learning hour after worship. In the next newsletter I will provide more details on the curriculum we will be using (and why!) as well as our COVID precautions. The precautions will include universal masks and distancing.

Right now though, we really need more leadership (particularly storytellers) for Worship and Wonder. If you are interested in this, please let me know. We can absolutely work with your schedule and make sure it is manageable.

I would also really like our middle schoolers and high schoolers to help with worship and wonder. I have the best memories of my youth group and much of it was spent serving and leading the younger students. This gave me a strong sense of ownership of our ministries, prompted me to think deeply about my faith, and helped me develop a strong sense of my servant-leadership gifts.

Seriously, I really loved it and frankly, the majority of the youth in our church loved it too. So please also get in touch with me if you think your middle schooler would be interested in being a greeter or your high schooler could be a storyteller. I can call and ask them personally after I hear from you. This could be a commitment of once every 4 to 6 weeks depending on how many leaders we have and your (or your youth's) availability.



Join us on FCC's Lawn as we celebrate and welcome PrideFest to downtown Bloomington! Members will be on hand to welcome festival goers at our table in front of FCC! Join us as a volunteer or a festival goer on August 28 from 2:00-8:00 pm! Hope to see you then!

FCC's Book Bunch - 2021 Focus on Anti-Racism and Pro-Reconciliation by Betsy Watson

FCC's Book Bunch began over 20 years ago as a small group of women who enjoyed reading and discussing books of all genres. *We have been meeting regularly, once every 5 weeks, ever since!* Each winter, we issue a meeting schedule with all of our book selections and meeting dates for the following year, through January of the upcoming year.

In June 2020, following George Floyd's death, and many other black Americans before him, our congregation committed to being an anti-racism/pro-reconciliation church. The Book Bunch switched gears last July and decided to read Bryan Stevenson's book, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* for our July 2020 selection. We also sponsored an "all-church movie night," via Zoom, showing the film based on this best-seller.

Fast forward to February 2021, when our new schedule (through January 2022) was put forth. This year we are reading fiction, historical fiction, and memoir that purposely submerge us into stories involving racism, violence, extreme poverty, immigration, and crime. Our books this year are written predominantly by Black, Latinx, and bi-racial authors. *This reading list was purposely crafted to challenge us: that we might step outside of our "reading comfort zone" to immerse ourselves in other worlds and learn from these stories and from their characters' struggles.*

Our February 2021—January 2022 schedule appears below. ALL are invited to attend and join in the discussion! If you've not read the book but are simply curious about it, you are welcome to join us—there's no test or obligation to comment! Though the stories are fraught with difficult topics, one also finds hope, forgiveness, love, and humor in the mix, along with excellent, suspenseful, and beautiful prose. This is yet another way in which we at FCC can stretch ourselves as we strive to be an anti-racism/pro-reconciliation church. For more information, or to get on the FCC Book Bunch listserv, please contact Betsy Watson at bmwatson@indiana.edu

Find these books through the bookseller of your choice or via the Monroe County Public Library:

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins

The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett

Betty by Tiffany McDaniel

Deacon King Kong by James McBride

The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros (meeting August 19 at 4 p.m.)

Blacktop Wasteland by S.A. Cosby (meeting September 23 at 4 p.m.)

The Girl with the Louding Voice by Abi Daré (meeting October 28 at 4 p.m.)

Tidings of Comfort & Joy by T.Davis Bunn (meeting December 9 at 5:30 p.m.—dinner!)

Aftershocks by Nadia Osusu (meeting January 20, 2022 at 4 p.m.)

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
205 E. Kirkwood Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47408

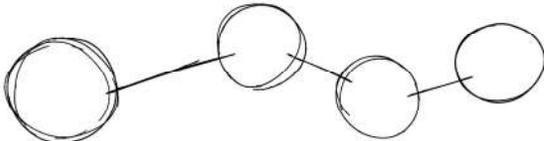
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The Christian Visitor

Vol. 63, no. 13



CIRCLES OF SUPPORT
ALL CHURCH RETREAT
SEPT. 18 & 19 | CAMP BEDFORD

**Join Us at the
FCC All-Church Retreat!**

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

August 15
Ephesians 4:11-16
All "Tangled" Up with One Another

August 22
1 Kings 3:3-14
Like Father, Like Daughter

August 29
Ephesians 6:10-20
Prayers, Puppies, and Power

Things to Know

This will be a truly intergenerational event, so bring your entire family, or bring a friend to meet your church family!

Stay for the whole weekend, join us for Sunday worship, or just come for lunch and spend the afternoon.

Housing: Bunkhouse style cabins with A/C units are designated for men, women, or families. RV's and tents are also welcome (no hook-ups).

If you register for the full retreat, we will assume you are staying in a cabin, unless you indicate otherwise.

Facilities Owned by:

Bedford Christian Camp
Bedford, IN 47421
(812)279-4212

The campground includes:

Air-conditioned activity lodge overlooking the White River
10 bunkhouse-style cabins
Shower house with restrooms
Craft Building
Tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts & large recreation field
Campfire and vespers areas

What to Bring:

Bible and pen or pencil
Casual clothing & shoes
Toiletries, towel & wash cloth
Sleeping bag and/or bedding
Pillow
Flashlight
Rain gear
Optional
Lawn chair or blanket
Yoga mat
Roasting sticks
Board games
Sports equipment
Knitting or craft activity

Directions:

Bedford Christian Camp 33 Church Camp Road

From the north: On Hwy 37 continue past Bedford to where U.S. 50 merges, then make a U-turn and come back north on Business 50 to the first road on the right, Sandpit Road (*Do not take the 37N exit*).

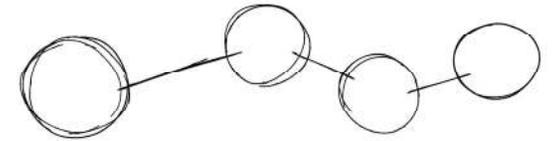
Follow Sandpit Road past a landfill and down a hill. Watch for a crossroad with a B&B on your right and a sign directing you to turn right to the church camp. After turning, follow the curvy road back to camp.

From the south: Continue just past the 37N exit on Business 50 to Sandpit Road, then follow the instructions above.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

All-Church Retreat

2021



CIRCLES OF SUPPORT

ALL CHURCH RETREAT

SEPT. 18 & 19 | CAMP BEDFORD

Bedford Christian Camp

**Saturday, September 18–
Sunday, September 19**



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
KIRKWOOD & WASHINGTON

What are your Circles of Support?

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul tells the church that they all have gifts and they all need each other. During the pandemic, and in a culture where a click on the internet can bring us just about everything we need,* we have to be intentional about nurturing our supportive relationships in the church.

Paul reminds us that our relationships in the church make up the Body of Christ, and this is how we experience & share Christ's inclusive love.

With that in mind, this retreat's theme will focus on Circles of Support, and we will spend time identifying and connecting to resources and relationships that empower us to live a life of resiliency, healing, and joy. The sessions will focus on identifying our own strengths and weaknesses, practices for staying secure and grounded in God's love, and considering how our relationships in the church (*and beyond*) can be built up for the sake of sharing Christ's love with one another and the world.

As usual, the sessions will be intergenerational, and there will be plenty of time to enjoy nature, connect with one another, and experience rest and renewal!

*except loving relationships!

Tentative Schedule

Saturday, Sept. 18th

5:00 pm Check-in Begins

6:00 pm Dinner & clean up

7:15 pm Session 1

8:15 pm Campfire and Singing*

9:15 pm Vespers

Late Night Lodge Time:

board games, cards, etc

Sunday, Sept. 19th

8:30 am Morning Watch or Meditation

9:00 am Breakfast (for overnight campers)

10:00 am Session 2: Worship

11:30 am Break

12:30 pm Lunch & clean up

1:30 pm Session 3

2:00-4:00 pm Renewal Activities**

4:00 pm Final camp clean up

5:00 pm Sharing, blessing & sending

5:30 pm Dinner in Bedford

* if you would like to help lead singing, please let us know when you register.

**if you can lead a craft, yoga, bible study, or other renewal activity, please let us know when you register.

Registration

All-Church Retreat Sept 18-19, 2021

Contact Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Family/group members attending, *including age of children/youth*: _____

Dietary Restriction (allergies, GF, veg., or vegan)

Interested in leading:

Renewal activity

(what is it?) _____

Songs

Help plan a lunch/dinner

Fees For Full Retreat (Sat-Sun)

\$15/person (lodging, meals, activities)

Age 3 and under free; max. \$45/family

Total \$ _____

Fees for Sunday only

\$5/person (lunch, activities)

Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to First Christian Church.

Write "all-church retreat" in memo line.

Registrations and fees due in church office no later than Sept. 12, 2021