

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

FCC Prepares for a Re-Boot with Fall Programming and Events *Join Us As We Return to Small Groups, Classes and Beloved Events at FCC*

After two and a half years of Zoom and Hybrid classes, groups and worship, FCC is preparing to return to more in-person opportunities while still offering online formats via Zoom for those not able or ready to meet in person. Inside this newsletter, you will find a brochure with details on the small groups and classes we will be offering this fall.

A new opportunity being offered is a study group called “Embracing a Life of Meaning.” Pastor Kyrmen Rea will lead this group that will ask what it means to live intentionally and to pursue a purposeful life as we begin to wake up from the strange rhythms of pandemic life.

We’ve test driven more in-person gatherings this summer with a few groups, our All-Church Picnic, and Lemonade on the Lawn. We know not everyone will be able to join in person, but we hope that those who can, will. We encourage wearing a mask when inside the building and unable to socially distance, and we can provide a mask for anyone needing one. We will make every effort to offer online options for those who cannot join in person. So, look through the brochure and let us know what you’d like to join or what questions you have by contacting Sarah Lynne Gershon or the church office.

Join us at Bloomington PrideFest THIS Saturday, August 27

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, *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.

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Inside This Newsletter!

The Minister's Missive

Caring for One Another Through Prayer



Dear Church,

One of my great privileges as your pastor is to pray for you. When I am aware that someone in our congregation is coping with illness, grieving a loss, or facing a challenge, I am able to care for that person by praying for God's presence to enfold them. The really awesome thing about this privilege is that it is not restricted to me; we can all pray for one another!

Every Sunday, a yellow card in the bulletin offers a place to record your attendance. On the flipside is an invitation to share your prayer concerns. You can indicate whether you want those concerns to be shared only with the pastor or whether you would like others in the church to be made aware as well. So, what happens to those cards after you drop them in the offering plate on Sunday morning?

The cards are sorted by our office assistant, Eve, who then creates a weekly prayer list from the requests received. She sends a list to me that includes concerns meant only for the pastor, so you can be assured that Eve and I are the only ones who see them. Then, she emails a list of requests that are to be shared more widely to all who have signed up to be a part of our prayer ministry. The recipients of that email can offer prayers throughout the week for those who have asked. There are currently 27 people signed up to participate in our prayer ministry.

I suspect we have a lot of differing opinions about how prayer works. Does praying for people actually change the outcome of situations? Do people get well because someone prayed for them? Will grieving people find comfort because someone prayed that they would? Whatever you believe about the answers to those questions, be assured of this: praying changing US. Praying makes us more caring and more in-tune with the needs around us. When we pray, we open ourselves to God's activity in the world and invite the Holy Spirit to move us into a more compassionate way of living.

Church, as a community of believers called to care for one another, praying for each other is foundational! Are you able and willing to spend time offering prayers for those in our congregation who have asked for this support? Then get in touch with the church office and ask to be added to the prayer ministry list. Do you have needs you would like to share with Christian siblings who will hold your need in the light of God? Then fill out a prayer card, get in touch with the office, or call or email me so we can support you in this way.

May we bless one another through our prayers!

Shalom,
Pastor Kyrmen



**WELCOME OUR NEW
ORGANIST/ ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTOR
SHAYLA VAN HAL**



Shayla Van Hal will begin as the organist and assistant music director at First Christian Bloomington on Sept 1, 2022. Shayla is in the third year of her doctoral studies in organ performance and literature at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University where she is a student of Christopher Young. She has most recently been the organist at John Knox Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis. Before coming to IU, she was organist, pianist, and bell choir director at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Overland Park, Kansas. She is a graduate of Luther College and has two masters degrees from the University of Kansas. She also comes with over ten years of experience in church music ministry. We are very excited to welcome her as a part of our congregation and its music ministry! Here is some more information that Shayla shares about herself:

Shayla Van Hal is a native of New Sharon, Iowa. Growing up in a small farming community around several musical relatives; she has had a lifelong passion for music, starting to improvise on her grandma's piano at the age of four. She took piano lessons all through grade school, high school, and a portion of college, starting organ lessons with her cousin, Kris De Wild, at the age of 16. Her first work as an organist began at her home church of Peoria Christian Reformed Church, exactly 65 years after her great-aunt Iris Vander Wal had started playing organ at the church. She attended Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, receiving a bachelor's degree in music, focusing on organ and church music. She and her husband, Adam, married after she finished undergrad and moved to Lawrence, Kansas, so they could both pursue graduate studies, Shayla in church music and music theory, Adam in computer science. They have recently moved to Bloomington so Shayla could pursue a doctorate in organ at IU and Adam could start his work in the computer networking field. When they aren't busy with work and studies, Shayla and Adam enjoy cooking, watching episodes of Doctor Who, and dreaming about the cats they'll eventually adopt!

**ALSO WELCOME TO OUR NEW
BASS CHORAL SCHOLAR ANTHONY JOSEP**

Baritone Anthony Josep from Miami, Florida, joins the choral scholars beginning this week. He is in his senior year at the IU Jacobs School of Music studying in the studio of Jane Dutton. At in the IU Opera Theater he has performed the roles in Handel's Xerxes and the Mozart's The Magic Flute. He has also been featured in the chorus for the IU Jacobs Opera productions of The Barber of Seville, La Traviata, and Le Nozze di Figaro. He has recently attended such summer programs as the AAMS Summer Music Institute in Tampere, Finland, and the Schmidt Vocal Institute, where he studied with Nathan Gunn, Sylvia McNair, and Brian Zeger. Described as having a sound "with velvet in it, and with a natural gift for expressiveness," he has been successful in vocal competitions such as the National YoungArts Foundation Competition, where he was named a finalist. Anthony recently won first place in the Classical Singer International Competition College Division. He was also given an Encouragement Award in the Schmidt Vocal Undergraduate Awards Voice Competition. In addition to his work as a singer, he is also an active pianist and composer, often collaborating with organizations and singers at the Jacobs School in an effort to push new works into the modern opera repertoire. He was recently appointed artistic director of New Voices Opera.

Anthony joins our continuing choral scholars: soprano Maria Izzo Walker, alto Sara Dailey Muños, and tenor Connor Stratton. We are continually grateful for their dedicated contribution to our music and worship each week.





Property Corner:

Welcome back to FCC's *Property Corner*... a place where you can find information on projects that are taking place around this building, on the inside and the outside.

One of the projects we are working on throughout the building is organizing. After more than two years of COVID shutting our building down from many activities, there is a bit of clutter here and there and everywhere! So, it's time to tidy up! On the main level, there are some jackets and other items of

clothing that have been left behind for quite a while. Check the "Lost and Found" by the end of August for anything that might belong to you. All other items will be donated next month.

Another area we will be re-organizing are the three rooms in the hallway north of the sanctuary (behind the baptistery/chancel area). If there are items that you use in any of these rooms, please claim and label them. If you would like to help organize this space, please contact Peggy Stafford or Cindy Welch. Thank you!

Faith Formation Update:

Sharing Christ's Inclusive love through Learning and Spiritual Connection

Worship and Wonder and all regular classes will start again the Sunday after Labor day (September 11). This includes our FCC Kids class for elementary aged students (through grade 5)! This will be an opportunity for kids to have some fun, dive a little deeper into bible stories, and engage their curiosity and creativity in discussions and crafts. Pastor Kyrmen's son Jude has volunteered to lead with Jo Weddle this fall. Thank you Jude!

I hope your children will be able to receive the blessing of this ministry this upcoming year! Please reach out to sarahlynn@fccbloomington.org for questions, more information, and to let her know if your child will be participating

All Church Retreat October 22-23 at Camp Bedford

Why do we decorate FCC with all the blue and purple during Advent and Lent? Why is the "church New Year" at the end of November? Why are there specific times of fasting and feasting? Is there any good reason to pay attention to all of that? We will be exploring all of these questions at this year's All-Church retreat at Camp Bedford on Oct 22-23.

This year's theme, *Seasons of the Spirit*, will give us the opportunity to explore the meaning and significance of the Church's liturgical calendar. Join us as we consider these questions through prayer, play, and conversation. Saturday evening will feature a group game, evening vespers, and delicious s'mores. We will gather Sunday morning for worship and conversation and share in a craft after lunch that will allow EVERYONE to contribute to this year's Advent chancel covering! Pastor Kyrmen will be joining us this year for the whole retreat, beginning at 5:00 pm on October 22 and wrapping up by 5:00 pm on October 23. You can join us for all of the retreat or part of it. More details including registration will be coming soon. So, save the date for the retreat Oct. 22-23.

Blessing of the Animals

Bring your pet (leashes please) or a picture of your pet if they are shy and join us on the front lawn at FCC on Sunday, October 2 for a Blessing of the Animals. We'll gather at 4:00 pm for a brief service in celebration of all animals. You can also support the important work of the Bloomington Animal Shelter by bringing donations of dog and cat food. All are welcome to this treasured FCC tradition! So, invite your friends, neighbors and family to join us too!

Sunday, October 2 at 4:00 pm
Front Lawn at First Christian Church
All are Welcome!



August Back to School Drive for Monroe County United Ministries Ends Soon

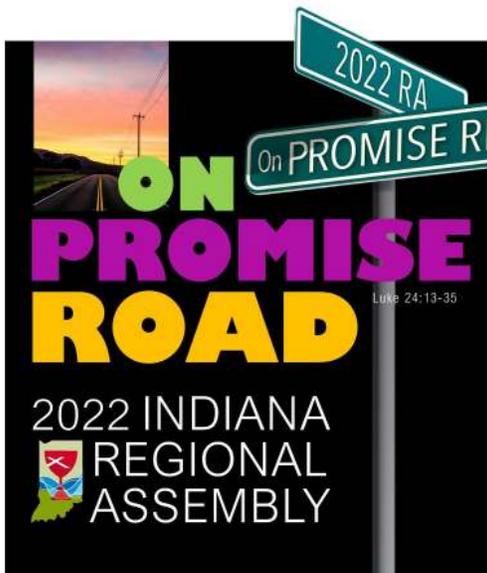
Our partners at MCUM have shared that the need in our community has increased drastically. The demand has doubled at their food and supply pantry and now the shelves are nearly bare, and they need our help to replenish the pantry! So, we are collecting items for donation during the month of August. As you shop for yourself and your family and add a few items to your cart for our MCUM families in need. Bring your donation to FCC on Sunday (Aug. 28) to be placed on the chancel. Donations will be delivered to MCUM the next week. Thank you for your love and care!

Indiana Regional Assembly

Nov. 5 at 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 on-line for \$25. Please join your FCC family for this important assembly!



Bloomington Community Events of Interest

Homeless Memorial Vigil

On Thursday, September 29, from 7:00-8:00 pm

Beacon will join in a national movement to protest the tragedy of homelessness and memorialize people who have experienced homelessness and passed away in the last year. First started nineteen years ago in Bloomington, the Homeless Memorial Vigil will continue the tradition in a way that is accessible to people without homes by holding it on the Monroe County Courthouse steps. The event will include guest speakers, song, and a candlelight vigil.

Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation

Pastor Sarah Lynne is a member of the Faith for Racial Equity (F4RE) sub-committee of Bloomington Multi-Faith Alliance (BMA). Last year they hosted a Bloomington-wide book read of *The Sum of Us* and the capstone event considered local issues related to racial disparity. Two working groups were formed to address two local issues: housing inequity related to a history of racially restricted deeds and resource disparity in education. If you want to do tangible work to address systemic racism in Bloomington, this is an excellent way to get involved. Please see the announcement below:

BMA: F4RE (Bloomington Multi-Faith Alliance: Faith for Racial Equity)

You are invited to join the BMA's Faith for Racial Equity committee for their regular meetings on Thursday, August 25th, 12pm-1pm (and the second and fourth Thursdays of each month). The meetings are through Zoom. The committee is currently focusing their work on:

1. assembling a map of Bloomington's whites-only properties and neighborhoods in order to visualize just how much housing in Bloomington was once whites-only by policy and
2. connecting with Monroe County schools and their Parent-Teacher Organizations to address resource disparities.

Please contact Rev. Jessica Petersen-Mutai (revpetersenmutai@firstuc.org) for the zoom link and to get involved with this important work or would like to be added to our email list.

Another timely opportunity from Bloomington Multi-Faith Alliance is a discussion on different faith perspectives on abortion. See announcement below:

BMA Roundtable Discussion on Abortion

Faith communities are places where we consider fundamental questions, such as, when does life begin? What is the purpose of life? What happens when we die?

In light of the Supreme Court's recent decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and return legislation on abortion to the states, it is more important than ever that people of faith come together to discuss our traditions and how they have shaped our thinking on this issue. Although the state of Indiana has passed a near-total ban on abortion that will take effect on September 15th, it is not clear yet how individuals and local governments will respond. Bloomington Multi-Faith Alliance will host a roundtable discussion on abortion--not to reach consensus, but to educate ourselves about how people of different faiths think about this sensitive issue. Please join us on Tuesday, September 20 at 7 p.m. at the Downtown Branch of the Monroe County Public Library, room 1B.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



09/01	Kristi	Hill	8956 W. Rice Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47403
09/01	Lois	West	800 N. Bell Trace Cir., Apt. 210	Bloomington	IN	47408
09/02	Mike	Donham	5900 N. Maple Grove Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47404
09/05	Shelly	Wagner	2260 Olde Mill Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/08	Debbie	White	1006 S. Hill Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/13	Sue	Fettchenhauer	2604 E. Windermere Woods Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/15	Barbara	Clark	2921 N. Dunn St.	Bloomington	IN	47408
09/15	Amy	Wardlow	614 W. Association St.	Ellettsville	IN	47429
09/16	Marcia	Boyle	3816 Pepperchase Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/17	Brett	Gershon	909 N. Blair Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47404
09/17	Bill	Street	2604A E. 2nd St.	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/17	Sharon	Robinson	7801 N. Sipes Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47408
09/18	Jefferson	Trippel	1497 E. Commander Ct.	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/21	Sarah Lynne	Gershon	909 N. Blair Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47404
09/22	John	Walsh	3006 S. Olcott Blvd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/22	Pacer	Norris	3194 N. Dahlia Lane	Bloomington	IN	47404
09/24	Joan	Austin	3040 N. Ramble Road West	Bloomington	IN	47408
09/24	Bob	Thrasher	2627 E. Windermere Woods Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/25	Kip	Myers	4813 N. Ashcroft Ln.	Bloomington	IN	47404
09/25	Kate	Myers	4813 N. Ashcroft Ln.	Bloomington	IN	47404
09/25	Donna	Ray	2001 E. Hillside Dr., Stier Park	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/28	Jo	Travis	4682 E. Heritage Woods Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401

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



Happy Birthday Lois!

**You're Invited to
Lois West's 100th Birthday Celebration!**

**Join us for cake and punch following worship at 11:00am
in The Chapel Gathering Space on September 4**

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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The Christian Visitor

Vol. 64, no. 14



**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

August 28

A Rude Dinner Guest

Psalm 112

Luke 14:1, 7-14

September 4

Sarah Lynne Gershon preaching

Luke 14:25-33

September 11

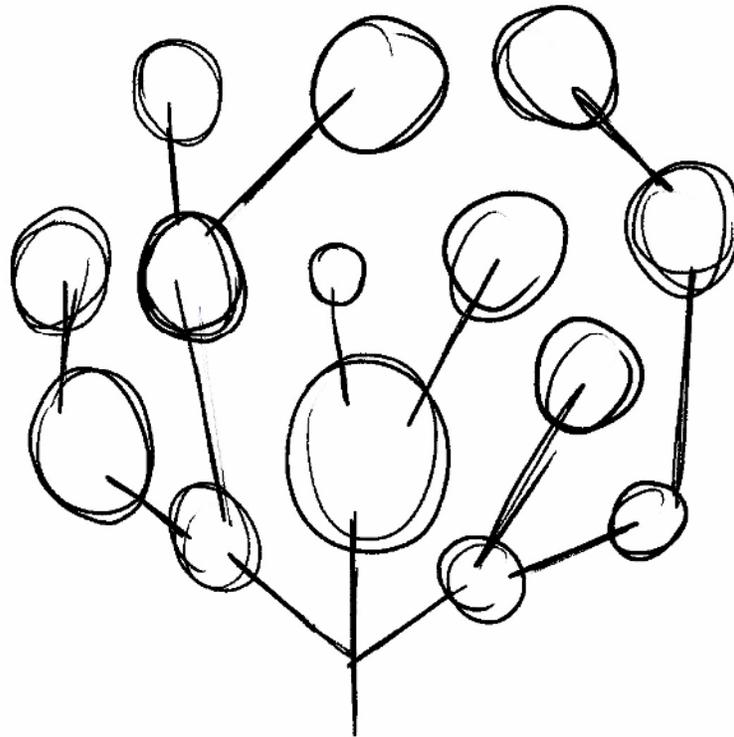
Best. News. Ever.

Psalm 51:1-10

Luke 15:1-10

FCC Connects

through small groups & classes



2022 Fall Semester

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) • 205 East Kirkwood Ave. • Bloomington, Indiana 47408
PHONE: 812 332-4459 E-MAIL: fcc@fccbloomington.org WEB: www.fccbloomington.org

Fall 2022 Small Groups & Classes Sunday Options

Before Worship

Sunday Meditation Group

(spiritual practice)

This group practices silent meditation to cultivate peace and joy. Each session includes discussion of readings from teachers such as Thich Nhat Hahn, Richard Rohr, and others. No previous experience in meditation practice is required.

Meets Sundays at 8:15 a.m.

Contact: Tom Walsh

After Worship

Campbellite Class

(study, discussion)

How can we live our faith in a time of world-wide change? Our group discusses current writings about religious and/or moral issues, and how they bear on our faith. We don't always agree with each other—or with the chosen article—but the search for how to live faithfully challenges us to think and pray.

We invite you to join us **Sundays at 11:15 in the Fireside Study**

Contact: Jane Watkins, Joe Lee

The Sharing Table (discussion group)

Join this lively, unstructured dialogue as participants review the morning sermon and discuss various meditational writings through the lens of a personal relationship with the sacred.

Conversation begins at **11:15 a.m. in the sanctuary on the main level.**

Contact: Thomas Thompson

After Worship (continued)

Faith, Friends & Films

(discussion, spiritual practice)

When this group gathers, film sets the tone for diving deep into our shared faith journey. The dialogue begins with brief and engaging videos featuring modern theologians. Some weeks the group learns about or engages in a spiritual discipline and practices it together. Join us in sharing the discoveries and challenges that arise as we more deeply connect with God, self, and others.

We meet Sundays at **11:15 a.m. via Zoom and in the Campbellite room**

Contact: Lisa Autry, Debbie White, Sharon Robinson

FCC Kids!

(bible study: PreK-grade 5)

This an engaging program for children to develop a foundational understanding of scripture through short videos, discussion, and activities. Kids will be introduced to Bible characters through Spark's *Holy Moly* curriculum.

Meets at 11:15 a.m. in Room 7/8 on the lower level.

Contact: Jo Weddle, Sarah Lynne Gershon

Youth Group

(project-based activities and discussion)

Youth (grades 6-12) meet weekly following worship for discussion about life and faith.

Discussion begins at **11:15 a.m. in the Youth Room (#13) on the lower level.**

Contact: Ashlyn Reynolds

Fall 2022 Small Groups & Classes

Sunday Evening

Bloomington Bible Study (study, discussion, young adult 18-30)
FCC's college ministry focuses on studying with the Bible. This means that students are encouraged to bring homework to do while we discussed our weekly theme and how it relates to our faith journeys. **Time, Day and Forum TBD**
Contact: Haley Norris

See a Class or Group that looks interesting?

Joining an FCC small group or class may give you an opportunity to take a new spiritual journey or you might decide to continue a path with an on-going class. Join us for one or more small groups/classes this fall!

Let us know if you are planning to join a new group, so we can plan for the number of participants. Just give the church office a call or email Sarah Lynne Gershon at sarahlynneg@fccbloomington.org to let us know which class or group you plan to try out. Thanks!

And if you have questions about any of these groups or classes, contact one of the group leaders listed in this brochure.



During the Week

Embracing a Life of Meaning

Study Groups led by Pastor Kyrmen



As we begin to wake up from the strange rhythms of pandemic life, now is a good time to engage or re-engage questions about what it means to live intentionally and to pursue a purposeful life.

Pastor Kyrmen will lead a study entitled "*Embracing a Life of Meaning: Kathleen Norris on Discovering What Matters.*" Using video content featuring teaching by poet Kathleen Norris, this study will invite small groups into discussions on the topics of belief, the Bible, community, place, and the importance of "us."

This 8-session study will be offered at two times in two different formats:

Zoom - Tuesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm. beginning on September 20 through November 8.

In-person – Wednesday mornings from 11:00 am to 12:15 pm. beginning September 21 through November 9.

Participants will need to purchase the study guide *Embracing a Life of Meaning: Kathleen Norris on Discovering What Matters* by Kathleen Norris and Tim Scorer. The book is available through several online vendors, including christianbook.com, which offers a deep discount on this title. The e-book version is **not** recommended as participants will need to write in their books. Please speak with Pastor Kyrmen if you need help obtaining a book.

Fall 2022 Small Groups & Classes

Monthly

Voices of Faith (Disciples Women)

Voices of Faith strives to dialogue, educate, and advocate as we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8). As a Disciples Women's group, we have partnered with and supported several community organizations and causes, including Beacon, Monroe County United Ministries, Opportunity House, League of Women Voters, and Middle Way House. This fall, we are resuming face-to-face meetings after a long pandemic break. Our monthly meetings will be **the second Friday of each month, at 10:00 - 11:30 am**, in the FCC Fireside Room. Contacts: Sue Fettchenhauer, Sandra Bate, or Judith Olmstead for more information.

Youth Group (grades 6-12)

Youth meet monthly for fellowship and/or service activities including Holiday World getaways, Christmas shopping for families in need, lock-ins, and game nights. **For information about upcoming activities, contact Ashlyn Reynolds**, director of youth ministries.

Roger L. Heimer Book Group (for men)

Big thoughts and open minds meet in FCC's book group for men. The current booklist is available in the church office. Meets the **third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Fireside Study**.

Book Bunch (for women)

This fun group of readers gathers every five weeks to discuss books from a variety of genres. **A booklist with meeting dates is available in the church office.**



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fcc@fccbloomington.org

Join a Class or Group

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Class/Group(s):

Question/Comment:



Please return on Sunday in the offering tray or by mailing to the FCC Office. Thank you!