

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

Get Ready for These Exciting Events at FCC! *Mark Your Calendar for Events Beginning This Sunday!*

There is a lot to get excited about here at First Christian Church! Our calendar is getting full and we wanted to make sure you have your calendar marked accordingly.

Hopefully, you have been able to attend some or all of our summer forums following Sunday worship. Be sure to attend this Sunday, August 11 at 11:15 a.m. in the Chapel Gathering Space, as Joe Lee shares details of his recent trip to Poland with Holocaust survivor Eva Kor. Joe is creating a graphic novel of Kor's life that will include details from the trip with her back to the Auschwitz II-Birkenau concentration camp where she survived for nine months during World War II. Don't miss this special opportunity to hear about this amazing journey with Eva Kor.

Join us on Sunday, August 18 for the XPLOR "Open House and Fill the Pantry" celebration following worship. Come see the newly renovated space and help us to fill it with needed items for our new XPLOR Residents, who will arrive later in August. There will be a special Commissioning Service for our XPLOR Residents during worship on Sunday, September 8 with a Celebration in Great Hall following worship.

Be sure to register for FCC's All-Church Retreat on August 24-25 at Camp Bedford. Retreats provide a time for renewal, learning, fellowship and fun! Come for some or all of the retreat. Connie Myers and Lynn Sinn can answer your questions.

FCC's annual All-Church Picnic will take place on Sunday, September 1 at the Lion's Den Shelter at Upper Cascades Park. Bring a dish to share and something to grill (if you choose). The fun begins at 4:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

What an exciting time at FCC! We hope to see you for these great events in the life of our church!

Upcoming Events at FCC...

Sunday, August 11 at 11:15 a.m.

Summer Forum with Joe Lee

Sunday, August 18 at 11:15 a.m.

XPLOR Apartment "Open House and Fill the Pantry" event.

August 24-25

FCC All-Church Retreat at Camp Bedford

Sunday, September 1 at 4:00 p.m.

FCC All-Church Picnic at Lion's Den Shelter in Upper Cascades Park

Sunday, September 8 at 10:00 a.m.

XPLOR Commissioning Service and Celebration

Sunday, September 15

Fall Small Groups and Classes begin!

Volume 61, number 13 August 7, 2019

General Assembly Wrap-Up and Further Thoughts on Our Disciples Identity

Our Adult Forums on July 28 and August 4 focused on some of the highlights of the recent General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Across the board, our FCC delegates expressed deep gratitude for the mission and focus of the Assembly. No doubt we will receive more from them over the coming months. In the meantime, I encourage you to go to this website, where you can access reports and resolutions from our business sessions, videos of our worship services, highlights of daily happenings, and much more: <https://disciples.org/general-assembly/2019-general-assembly-resources-available/>

In addition, Bruce Ervin (who thoroughly enjoyed his time with us last Sunday) preached on the Assembly's theme (Abide in Me) and addressed the Adult Forum, when he outlined a critically important event in our history: the approval (50 years ago) of the *The Design and Merger of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*, celebrated at the Assembly's July 23 worship service.

Below is Bruce's brief summary and a key additional thought related to the Design and Merger. I believe that it is important that we who call ourselves Disciples are aware of this part of our collective history and identity:

The first biennial General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was 50 years ago this month! There we culminated a restructure process that had been evolving for the 50 years prior to that date. African-American Disciples had been organized as the National Christian Missionary Convention since 1917. That same year (1917) the predominantly white International Convention of Christian Churches came into being. These two entities were formally **merged** in 1969. The previous year (1968), Disciples had voted to approve a provisional **Design** that officially moved us from a loose confederation of congregations, state organizations, mission societies, colleges and other agencies called the Christian Churches [note plural] (Disciples of Christ) into a covenanted body called the Christian Church [note singular] (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

The key word here is covenant. Since the adoption of the Design in 1968, we Disciples have understood ourselves to be bound together with God and one another in a covenant of love. Within the context of our shared ministry as Disciples, this covenant brings together our congregations, state/regional organizations, mission agencies, colleges, boards and administrative units into one church. This Disciples Church is, of course, part of the one universal Church. The terms of the Disciples covenant are as follows:

1. We are organized in three manifestation: congregations, regions and the general church.
2. Each congregation, region, and general unit is self-governing, while at the same time being accountable to every other congregation, region and general unit within the church.

(Continued on page 3)

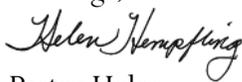
("General Assembly Wrap-Up" Continued from page 2)

3. In our ministry of mutual accountability, we receive guidance from one another, offer resources to one another, engage in ministry together, and both individually and collectively listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

4. We gather every other year in General Assembly for worship, fellowship, education and to do the business of the church. The General Assembly is a delegate body, with representation from every congregation and region. Its decisions are not binding on the other units of the church, but are meant to be taken very seriously.

I am happy to refer you to resources of further study. The more I know about our history, the more I appreciate who we are as Disciples, and the more we understand what it is that makes us uniquely positioned to witness to the inclusive love of Christ in these challenging days.

Blessings,



Pastor Helen

Summer Forums at FCC

Joe Lee on Eva Kor: This Sunday, August 11 at 11:15 am.

As you may have read in Sunday's Herald-Times, our own Joe Lee had the privilege of recently traveling to Auschwitz with Eva Kor, who survived the horrors of Holocaust and then dedicated much of her life to telling her amazing (and amazingly uplifting!) story. Eva passed away while the group was in Auschwitz, and Joe will retell her story, as well as share his life-changing experience of being with her on her last days of life on earth.

Joe's presentation be this Sunday, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. in the Chapel-Gathering Space. Please plan to attend this special session, let others know about it, and invite someone to attend this session with you.

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



“ALL GOD’S CREATURES GOT A PLACE IN THE CHOIR”



**CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGIN FOR FALL,
Sanctuary Choir, Thursday, August 22 – 6:15-7:30
Handbell Choir, Thursday, September 12 – 5:30-6:15**

All God's creatures got a place in the choir
Some sing low and some sing higher,
Some sing out loud on a telephone wire,
Some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they've got now.

Listen to the top where the little bird sings
On the melodies and the high notes ringing,
And the hoot owl cries over everything
And the blackbird disagrees

Singing in the night time, singing in the day,
When little duck quacks, and he's on his way
And the otter hasn't got much to say
And the porcupine talks to himself

The dogs and the cats they take up the middle
While the honeybee hums and the cricket
fiddles,
The donkey brays and the pony neighs
And the old gray badger sighs.

Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom
Where the bullfrog croaks and the
hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big t'do
And the old cow just goes moo

All God's creatures got a place in the choir.

Whether you are like a skillful little bird, a little duck that sort of quacks, or like a cow that maybe can only sing “moo,” you are welcome to become part of First Christian’s music ministry as we begin their fall season after the summer’s rest break. Aside from the obvious principal rewards of leading in Sunday worship in service to the community of believer, singing in a choir offers opportunities for personal spiritual growth, improved health and stress relief (see the research – choir singers live longer!), musical growth, and the opportunity of become creative in community with others. Twenty or so of our faithful choir members and 4 helpful section leaders will affirm this!

Membership in the **Sanctuary Choir** is available to anyone who likes to sing, from those in high school to those of the age of our grandparents (including our director). The first rehearsal is Thursday, August 22 at 6:15 p.m. If you are new to the choir, simply come to rehearsal about 30 minutes early to meet and confer with our Director of Music Jan Harrington about the best place for you in the choir.

If you feel a little more like that shy otter or the introverted porcupine, but would still like to experience the joy of making music, you might be interested in joining the **Handbell Choir**. No previous experience is necessary (but you probably should be able to count to 4 or sometimes 6 and be willing to attend rehearsals regularly!). Come meet handbell director Jihye Choi at the first rehearsal is September 12 at 5:30.

All God’s creatures seeking more information may contact:
Jan Harrington at harringt@indiana.edu or Jihye Choi at organist.jihye@gmail.com.

Introducing the Ellie Pruneau Trio with Vocalist April Varner leading First Friday Vespers beginning in September

We are excited to introduce our new Director of First Friday Jazz Vespers pianist Ellie Pruneau whose trio will partner with vocalist April Varner beginning with September's First Friday Vespers on September 6th.

Our Director of First Friday Jazz, **Ellie Pruneau** is a pianist and educator based in St. Louis and Bloomington. Ellie recently completed her Bachelor's Degree in Jazz Studies from the IU Jacobs School of Music where she studied under the tutelage of Dr. Luke Gillespie. She has shared the stage with jazz greats such as Matt Wilson, Tierney Sutton, and Stefon Harris. Notable groups she has played with include the John Raymond Jazz Ensemble and the Liberation Music Collective. As an educator, Ellie has taught students of all ages both jazz and classical piano in private and workshop settings. She also works frequently as an accompanist of voice and ballet programs at Indiana University. This past summer Ellie was on the faculty at the prestigious Interlochen Arts Camp in Interlochen, Michigan, and, in the fall, she will join the faculty of the Jazz Studies Department at Butler University.



Ellie Pruneau

A native of Toledo, Ohio, **April Varner** is currently a "fifth-year super senior" in Vocal Jazz Studies at the IU Jacobs School of Music. Classically trained in voice and piano, April's love of jazz blossomed during the end of her freshman year at the IU Jacobs School of Music. April studies Jazz Voice at IU with Sachal Vasandani and Darmon Meader. Past instructors include Grammy Award nominated Tierney Sutton. Influenced by musical artists Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Eva Cassidy, and Esperanza Spalding, April loves performing an array of musical genres ranging from jazz standards, The Great American Songbook, Broadway classics, folk, to sacred music. At IU she has been a four-year vocal and dance member of IU's The Singing Hoosiers ensemble, where she also enjoys her role as Director of their vocal jazz group, ResoluSHion. Recently, she became the lead singer in the professional band The Fanatics, based out of Spencer, IN, which she describes as a rock, blues, funk, soul, R&B and originals band. On her website, April reveals that one of her first sentences as a child was "I am music", and she continues in mantra that "one of her goals as she pursues her career during her last few years of college in Bloomington is to instill joy in every person who hears her along the way."



April Varner

You can see (and soon hear) why we are excited to include these talented young women to our music staff at First Christian.



Meet FCC's XPLOR Residents

We are excited to welcome these four young adults who have made the decision to join the XPLOR program as they search for meaningful ways to contribute to our world. These young adults will arrive here at FCC later this month. We are making final preparations for their arrival. If you would like to help make the apartment “move-in ready”, a gift registry can be found at [Target.com](https://www.target.com). We are also accepting monetary donations, and have been given a challenge by a donor who will match gifts up to \$500. If you are able, consider donating toward the living space of our XPLOR Residents.



Kristen Valentine

Kristen graduated in May with a BA degree, major in Criminology and minor in History from University of Lynchburg, an historic Disciples-related school. During her college career, she has worked in several campus offices; volunteered with the Boys and Girls Club, helping students with their homework; and has been part of the Black Student Union. Her home church is Christ Temple Apostolic in Danville, VA which is a medium size congregation with a diverse group of people where she sings in the praise and worship team and is the praise dance leader as well. Kristen has a passion for advocating for children, especially those who have been abused. She would like to work for the FBI in special cases. As soon as she attended an information session about XPLOR on her campus, she knew she wanted to be part of this program, believing that she will complete it “a better and smarter person who is sure about my next step in life”. Kristen loves to sing, dance, cook, take photos and do make up.

Adrian Griffin

Adrian is from Fayetteville, Arkansas, a college-town with a lot of soul. Growing up in the First Christian Church of Fayetteville, Adrian was a part of a large, but also very tight-knit youth group, and was an avid member of the choir and praise band. He has participated in mission trips to New Orleans, Oklahoma City and Nashville. He often sings in two choirs as his father is director at FCC and his mother is director at the UU Fellowship in Fayetteville. Adrian is a very caring person, and has an abiding love of art, music (singing and drumming), comedy, dancing, animals, fiction writing and playing/running tabletop games. He currently works as a cook; has also worked as a baker and as a child counselor but his ultimate goal is to be a writer and musician. First hearing about XPLOR in a presentation at his church, he became very interested because “he is driven to do good for others first and himself second”. He is both scared and excited as he thinks about living in a new place and having so many new experiences.





Miche Andre

Miche Andre is an enthusiastic artist from Naples, Florida, ready to engage in intentional community. He has been a long-time member of the Naples New Haitian Church of the Nazarene, serving as a Sunday School teacher to elementary school children for multiple years and a member of the Habitat for Humanity team in Naples as a Family Services Support Assistant. In June, he graduated from Hope College in Holland, MI with a BA in Spanish. In his junior year he spent a semester abroad in Madrid Spain. He is passionate about issues relating to the environment, the LGBTQ+ community, and immigration. Miche finds joy in expressing his artistic ability through drawing, in being around people, and in adding to his ever-growing list of languages to study; he is already fluent in English, Haitian Creole, Spanish and French and is learning Welsh. He learned about XPLOR from a Hope College friend who is currently in XPLOR. His goal in XPLOR is to “find growth in my experience with God outside of the faith community I have known since I was 5 years old. I want to see how I can be an independent adult while being a vessel of change in a community for Jesus”.

Fabiana Almodovar

Fabiana Almodovar comes from the middle of the Heartland in Grand Island, Nebraska. Over the years she has spent many weeks at Kamp Kaleo, a joint Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ campground in Burwell, NE, and she claims both denominations for providing her with wonderful faith mentors. This past summer she worked full time at Kamp Kaleo as a resource team member and facilitator and hopes to continue her work with youth ministry as well as behavioral health awareness. She loves being an advocate for those who don't have a voice and writing prose and poetry to get her own voice heard. “I think others would say that I root for the underdog and misunderstood people even if I have not been in their exact same shoes”. Fabiana has spent years in choirs, and both dramatic and musical theater. She sees XPLOR as the next step on her journey of finding out who she is really destined to be.



Come to the XPLOR Open House following worship on August 18th as we prepare for the arrival of our Residents! Then, meet our XPLOR Residents at the All-Church Retreat at Camp Bedford the weekend of August 24-25 when they will join us for lunch at the retreat on Sunday! A Special Commissioning Service with Special Guest Preacher and Guests will be on Sunday, September 8th! Help us to welcome these young adults to the FCC Church Family!

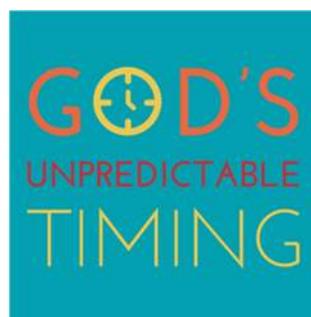
Get Ready for FCC's All-Church Retreat! August 24-25 at Camp Bedford

Have you registered for FCC's All-Church Retreat at Bedford Christian Camp. We are accepting registrations for this great retreat that you won't want to miss! 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.

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. Brochures with details and a registration form can be found in the seat back of the pews in FCC's sanctuary. See you at Camp Bedford!

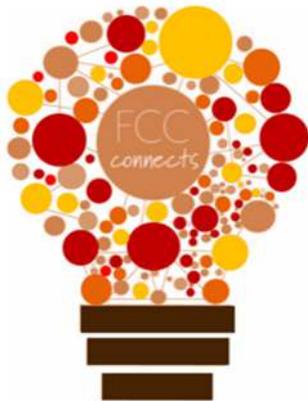


Attention Children's Worship and Wonder Leaders!

FCC's Fall programming will begin on September 15. That will include great programming for our children, including Children's Worship and Wonder. Please plan to attend a very important workshop and training on Friday, August 16 from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm and on Saturday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Contact Connie Myers with any questions. Thank you!

Update on Lightning Strike at FCC

You may have heard about lightning striking FCC on July 21. The 3 phase power supply outside the church was hit by lightning as storms rolled through Bloomington. The electric panel in our building was destroyed. That was the biggest loss of this event. We also sustained what appears to be minor equipment problems with our sound system and our heating and cooling system. We GREATLY APPRECIATE all of the hard work of our Property Committee, especially Peggy Stafford and Fay McIntyre who spent countless hours with contractors in the weeks following this event. **Thank you!**



FCC's Fall Small Groups & Classes begin Sept. 15!

Summer is just about in the rear view mirror, as they say. Kids went back to school in the MCCSC this week and the temperatures are slowly beginning to trend in the cooler direction (slowly). That means it's just about time for Fall small groups and classes at FCC to get going! And we think everyone will be able to find something of interest. We will be including a complete list of classes and groups in our next newsletter, but here's a teaser of some new opportunities as well as some of our long-loved groups.

On Sundays mornings (beginning September 15) you can start the day with our Sunday Meditation Group that meets at 8:30 a.m. in Room 1 on the lower level. Each session includes discussion of readings from teachers such as Thich Nhat Hahn or Richard Rohr. No previous experience in meditation is necessary to join. A different meditation group is offered on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Among other Sunday morning classes include the popular Emmaus-Interpreters Bible study class that meets before worship at 9:15 a.m. and the Campbellite Class (a study and discussion group) that meets following worship at 11:15 a.m. A New class for young adults is "The Wired Word". This class will discuss the week's news coverage of current events and ask a few big questions sparked by the topic. Scripture will be highlighted as the discussion moves deeper.

David Garshaw will be leading a new book study class that will discuss Don Cuppitt's *Creative Faith: Religion as a Way of Worldmaking*. In his book, Cuppitt argues that Christians need to replace a heaven-obsessed theology with a new theology of loving and acting as Jesus did with the aim of expending the elf by living generously in God's Kingdom.

During the week Pastor Helen will offer a new Bible Study that is both intellectually engaging and spiritually fulfilling. This pilot series will introduce a template for Bible study that can be used anytime. The group will follow the narrative lectionary and will meet on Tuesday evenings.

Our college program, Bloomington Bible Study, will resume meeting on Sunday evenings. Our youth program (middle and high school) will kick-off by planning a trip to Holiday World, an FCC tradition! Our younger children will enjoy the Pathfinders and Young Explorers programs.

We haven't even begun talking about our interest groups that meet monthly! The Fall at FCC will be loaded with great opportunities for everyone! So, get ready to connect with FCC!

Pridefest Join Your Friends at FCC for Bloomington Pridefest on August 31!

FCC's Lawn Ministry will again be sponsoring Bloomington Pridefest this year on August 31st. We hope you will join us as we welcome people to our beautiful lawn. We will have games on the lawn and also an area for folks to sit and get out of the sun for a bit. We will also have a booth set up with information about our church and our ministries. Jean Thompson is organizing all of the fun, and will need volunteers to make the day a success.

Jean will need coolers and ice. She will need help setting up, help managing games and the booth, and help cleaning up and putting everything away. Please contact Jean if you are able to help out. If you can't volunteer, but still have a little time to come and join in the fun... please come! The more the merrier for this great community event. Join us for an hour or the entire day as we share the inclusive love of Christ with our community! **Join us!**

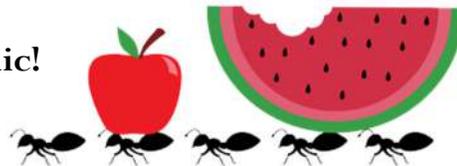


FCC ANNUAL PITCH-IN PICNIC COMING UP ON SEPTEMBER 1

Our annual picnic was changed this year from Memorial Day to Labor Day and is now scheduled for Sunday, September 1, 2019, at the "usual" location of the Lion's Den at Upper Cascades Park. You can bring your food contributions at 4:00 and we will start eating at 6:00 p.m. We hope to have a good turnout this year.

What to bring: A covered dish to share - whatever you wish - to put on the pitch-in table. If you want to bring your own meat to cook, the grills will be ready. Also bring your own table service. There is no program - just fun and fellowship. Ashlyn and the youth are planning games for the children. This is always such an enjoyable evening so we hope, you, your family and friends, will join us. The more the merrier. No sign-up, just show-up.

See you at the picnic!



Can you help us solve a mystery?

We are searching for several glass pitchers that we have used many times for events and receptions. We've looked in the usual places we would expect to find them. If you know where we might find them, or what happened to them... please call the church office.

We'd like to use them for our upcoming celebration following the XPLORE Commissioning Service. Give the church office a call if you can help us solve this mystery.

Thanks!



MCUM Challenge 2019

Most recent trip: 151 lbs

Year-to-date: 876 lbs

August Items Wanted:

<u>Food Pantry</u>	<u>Cleaning Closet</u>
Canned green beans, corn	Laundry soap
Pasta sauce	Dish soap
Canned fruit	All-purpose cleaners
Mac and Cheese	Shampoo
Canned tomatoes	Garbage bags

Thank you for caring!

Have a great school year!

Please pray for students and families as MCCSC heads back to school this week and many others are preparing to head to their respective universities and colleges. Have a great school year!

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Sunday, August 11

- 10:00 am Worship
- 11:15 am Summer Forum Series with Joe Lee
- 11:15 am Children's Reading Program

Tuesday, August 13

- 5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Wednesday, August 14

- 11:45 pm Voices of Faith (Disciples Women)

Thursday, August 15

- 4:00 pm Book Bunch

Sunday, August 18

- 10:00 am Worship
- 11:15 am Children's Reading Program
- 11:15 am XPLORE Open House & Fill the Pantry
- 12:15 pm FCC Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 20

- 5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Wednesday, August 21

- 7:00 pm R.L. Heimer Book Group

Thursday, August 22

- 6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

August 24-25

- All-Church Retreat

Sunday, August 25

- 10:00 am Worship
- 11:15 am Summer Forum Series
- 11:15 am Children's Reading Program

Tuesday, August 27

- 5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Thursday, August 29

- 6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

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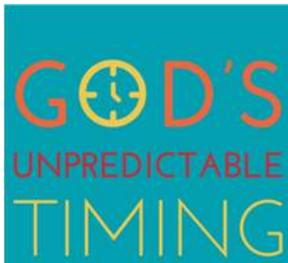
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The Christian Visitor

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**Have you registered for
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Retreat yet?**

Join us at Camp Bedford the weekend of August 24-25 for this intergenerational retreat. There will be something for everyone! Brochures with registration forms can be found at church. Connie Myers or Lynn Sinn can answer questions about the weekend. You can come for all or part of the retreat. See you there!

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

August 11
Joy in the midst of sorrow
Psalm 126

August 18
Deep Joy
2 Corinthians 4:7-18

August 24
Chuck Jones preaching!