

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

Blessing of the Animals on Oct. 2 at 4:00 pm on FCC's Lawn ***Bring Pet Food Donations for the Monroe County Humane Association***

On Sunday, October 2 we will celebrate something that St. Francis of Assisi started almost 800 years ago! We will celebrate and honor our animal friends!

FCC's Blessing of the Animals Service will be on **Sunday October 2 at 4:00 pm on our beautiful lawn**. Please bring your pet and join us for this special service as we celebrate these wonderful creatures who show unconditional love and bring joy to our lives. We will also be collecting donations of pet food for the Monroe County Humane Association. So bring your donations with you to the service.

The Blessing of the Animals service has become a beloved tradition that FCC shares with our community each year near the Feast Day of St. Francis. All are welcome to join! So, tell your friends and neighbors! We only ask that dogs be kept on a leash, and other animals kept in a manner that will ensure their safety and the safety of others (kennel, habitat, cage... as needed). If your pet is shy, doesn't travel well or is not comfortable around others, you might consider bringing a picture of your pet to the service. **Join us on October 4th at 4:00 pm on our front lawn** for this special service! We are so fortunate to have this green space in the middle of downtown. What a great opportunity to share the inclusive love of Christ with our Bloomington community!

It's Time to Sign-Up for the FCC Fall Retreat! ***Join Us for an Intergenerational Retreat at Camp Bedford October 22-23***

This year's theme is *Seasons of the Spirit*. Pastors Kyrmen and Sarah Lynne will help us explore the meaning and significance of the Church's liturgical calendar.

Saturday evening will feature a group game, evening vespers, and delicious s'mores. Sunday morning we will gather for worship and conversation and share in a craft after lunch that will allow EVERYONE to contribute to this year's Advent chancel covering!

The retreat is designed to be intergenerational, so bring your entire family, or bring a friend to meet your church family! Pick up a brochure at FCC and register NOW!

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The Minister's Missive

Providing Care During Times of Need



Dear Church,

One of my greatest privileges as your pastor is to support you in times of need. I consider it an honor to sit at your bedside when you are in the hospital, to pray with you in-person or on the phone before a surgery, or to hear your remembrances of a loved one who has passed away. I enjoy getting to know those of you who are no longer able to make it to church in person and count it an honor to pray or share communion with you in assisted living facilities or nursing homes.

There are others in our church who want to provide care in difficult times too. We have a prayer team that offer prayers over shared concerns. We have a fellowship team that provides food in the event of a funeral. We also have deacons and elders who will soon be making home visits to those who are not able to be at church in person and who have consented to receive such visits.

In order for all this compassionate caring to happen, I need your help. Here is what I need you to do:

First, if you are facing a challenging time such as a hospitalization, a serious illness, or a death in your family, please get in touch with the church office or with me directly so that we can learn how we can support you. We will not know that you are in the hospital if you don't tell us. We will not know that a relative died if you don't get in touch. So, tell us if you would like to be added to the prayer list, if you need me to give you a call or pay you a visit, or if you would like us to alert the whole congregation to your need. I share my personal phone number and email far and wide; I do that so that you can get in touch with me when you need pastoral support.

Second, if you are not able to be at church in person because of illness, age, mobility concerns, etc., we want to know who you are and whether you would like to receive a monthly visit from an elder or deacon who can bring you communion. The pandemic has changed things for many. For some in our church who have special immunity concerns, being in a group is not possible. For some, the time that has elapsed since the pandemic began has brought new health challenges, advancing age, and other circumstances that may have compromised the ability to come to church. Please contact the church office or get in touch with me directly if we can add you to our list of folks who would appreciate a regular visit with communion.

Thank you for helping me and those who are waiting to share their care know how we can support you!

Shalom,

Pastor Kyrmen

317-408-9782

pastorkyrmen@gmail.com



JOIN THE HAPPY HANDBELL RINGERS

Rehearsals begin Thursday September 29 – 5:30-6:15

Are you looking for a musical outlet but think you aren't "pro" enough?

Are you looking to participate make some music in community? Can you count to 4 or sometimes 6?
Can you remember which hand is your left or right?

Did you ever play an instrument – but it's been an aeon ago and you can't remember how to get it out of the case or what the lines and spaces on the music are? Or have you never played anything at all except a game of cards or basketball? Or are you a virtuoso, but interested having another musical outlet?

Can you keep smiling no matter if you are lost?

Are you seeking to have a great time with a group of jolly ringers who share in community once a week to learn and work hard - laugh – make music and have a great time doing it?



My name is Shayla Van Hal, and I am the new handbell director at First Christian. I've met several of you already, but if I haven't yet, I look forward meeting the regulars at rehearsal and greeting new members! Now that I'm a bit more settled into my role as organist, I'm preparing to start up the handbell season. There's lots of non-judgmental support for those who've never held a handbell before or are having a hard time reading music. All that's needed is an optimistic outlook and a willingness to commit to rehearsals.

Our first rehearsal will be next Thursday, **September 29th**, at **5:30 to 6:15** in the Great Hall upstairs. I am planning to have a sheet at rehearsals that will allow you to mark rehearsal and potential Sunday performance dates that you need to be gone so I can plan accordingly. If you want to take part but can't be there on the 29th let me know.

If you're interested, I'm happy to answer any questions you may have. You can find me Sundays at the organ in the choir loft or email me at svanhal@iu.edu. I hope to see you on the 29th.

All best,
Shayla Van Hal
Assistant Music Director, Organist and Handbell Director



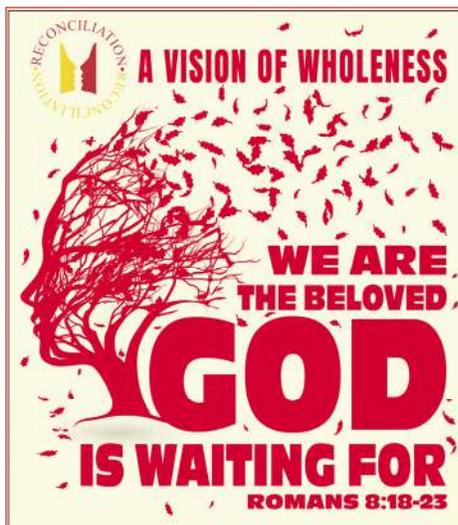
Some Changes in How We Get the Word Out

Beginning in October, *The Christian Visitor* will be published on a once a month basis rather than the twice per month schedule to which we have been accustomed. This will allow us to divert some staff time into keeping our website up-to-date and communicating about the life of our church on social media. This will help us reach more people through more varied avenues.

Additionally, to help you stay in the loop about our church's activities, beginning in October you will receive a weekly email. This brief electronic news blast will help you to be aware of all that is happening in the life of our church. Some printed copies of this communication will be available on Sunday mornings in case you want to stick one to your refrigerator or tack it up on your bulletin board.

Reconciliation Sunday

Special Offering Received September 25 and Oct. 2



The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering will be received this year on September 25 and October 2 (in solidarity with World Communion Sunday). Funds generated by this special emphasis are used throughout the year to provide grants to ministries and congregations actively developing and implementing programs that promote our Church's Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racist identity. These programs and efforts seek to reveal, re-educate, and remove systemic and structural barriers in our communities that serve to deny the image of God and human thriving based on race.

Your gifts to Reconciliation Ministry strengthens our Church's witness to God's unending love for all of humanity. With your generosity, leaders, communities, and our congregations are being equipped to witness to God's love and justice in all times and in every season. The time is always

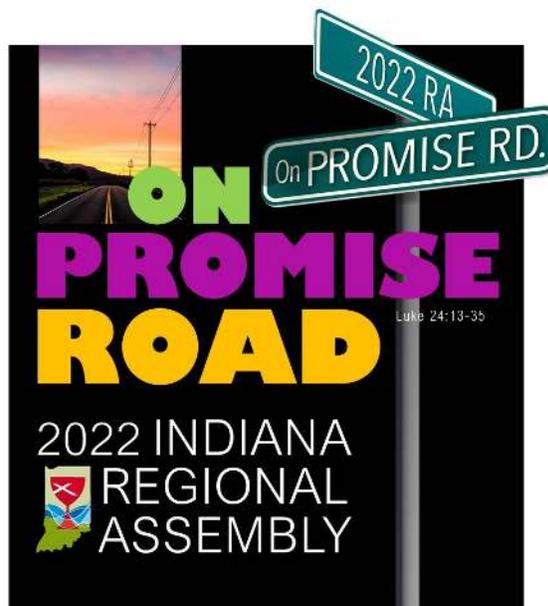
ripe to stand up for justice to ensure that all of God's children are treated equitably. Thank you for joining us on this journey through your generosity.

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! **Register NOW at indianadisciples.org!**





FCC Welcomes Refugee Family to Community!

Thank you to all who have donated, organized, and helped to welcome our Exodus Refugee family. Our family has arrived and is settling into their new home. Special thanks to Chaz Sinn who connected us with a great rental property when the original plan fell through.



Our team was busy over the weekend moving furniture and unpacking donations. Linda Abe, David Garshaw, Betsy Watson and Eve Schultes-Ridge welcomed the family at the airport last week. Sarah Lynne and Cindy Kvale brought the family to their new home on Monday. We are overwhelmed by all of the donations! We have been able to furnish the apartment, and will let you know about other needs as they arise. Please understand, we are not able to share many details about the family. This is to respect their privacy and security.



Menstrual Care Products Drive for MCUM during October!

Voices of Faith, a network of Disciples Women, has committed this year to address women's health and wellness in our community.

In October, we are conducting a drive to collect menstrual care products for Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) clients. Please drop off donations to FCC during the month of October. A box will be available at both the Washington Street entrance to the sanctuary and in the Narthex.

If you have questions, please see Judith Olmsted or Sandy Bate for details.

Homeless Memorial Vigil

On Thursday, Sept. 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.

Faith Formation Update

Worship and Wonder and *FCC Kids!* have started. Check out our kids work on the bulletin board in the hall outside of the Fireside Study! Jo Weddle and Jude Rea-Hedrick are the leaders for our FCC Kids! Sunday school class is held after worship. Join the fun!

Additional Adult Classes

The **Emmaus Interpreters class** will resume this Sunday, Sept 25 in the Campbellite room at 9:00am. Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Rome are just some of the names that evoke awe and wonder. As our Bible has reached us through a long and convoluted path through history, these cities and many others have played a crucial role in the development of our modern canon. This book study will use a blend of archeology, biblical history, literature, geography, and even redaction criticism to allow our class to better understand the Bible and nonbiblical narratives of familiar Bible characters. The book, *The Cities that Built the Bible* by Dr Robert Cargill, will be used. Andy will teach the class and has ordered the books. They will be available for purchase, \$20.

This fall **Faith Friends and Film** is watching and discussing a 13-week film series from The Work of The People titled "On Our Way: Conversations about Christian Practices for Living a Whole Life." Debbie White is leading classes about this series. The 12 sessions will focus on exploring 12 Christian practices: study, discerning God's call, Living as Community, Friendship and Intimacy, Singing our lives to God, Making a good living, honoring the body, knowing and loving our neighbors, peacemaking and nonviolence, doing justice, and living in the presence of God. This class is set up to welcome Zoom and in-person participants. Please contact Debbie White for the study guide if you would like to join. Sundays in Campbellite Room and Zoom 11:15-12:16

Church Chat with Pastor Kyrmen

Have you been visiting FCC for a while and are now finding yourself interested in learning more about our congregation? Are you curious about the history, beliefs, and practices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)? Are you considering whether membership in our church might be right for you? Come and chat with Pastor Kyrmen in her office after worship on Sunday, October 9 from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm to explore these questions and more! This will be an informal opportunity for conversation and getting to know one another better.

Join us for Youth Sunday and World Communion Sunday

October 2 at 10:00 am

Worship on Sunday, October 2 will be a very special service as we celebrate World Communion Sunday with our Youth leading worship! World Communion Sunday is an opportunity to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. On this day we remember that we are part of the whole body of believers. How special to have our Youth lead us in this special time as a church. Please, plan to join us on October 2 for Sunday worship at our regular time, 10:00am.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



10/01	Dan	Goins	60 Bailliere Dr.	Martinsville	IN	46151
10/03	Ann	Moore	2526 E. Summer Creek Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/03	Andrew	Donham	5900 N. Maple Grove Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47404
10/08	Tim	Jessen	3632 W. Indian Creek Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47403
10/09	Story	Bolton	8841 S. Morning Glory Ct.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/10	Olivia	Walsh	3006 S. Olcott Blvd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/11	Regina	Niyonsaba Gasana	4199 N. Innisbrooke Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47408
10/11	Lindsay	Stafford	1809 NW 11th St.	Oklahoma City	OK	73106
10/12	Cheri	Engber	2731 S. Silver Creek Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/14	Sparrow	Houchins	3821 S. Westmont Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47403
10/14	Maya	Jackson	3693 S. Sowder Square	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/15	Ethan	Fletcher	6200 W. Maple Grove Rd.	Ellettsville	IN	47429
10/16	David	Austin	3040 N. Ramble Road West	Bloomington	IN	47408
10/16	Nancy	Brinegar	2726 S. McCartney Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/21	Jane	Zebendon	2309 S. Sussex Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/24	Susan	Jenkin	3476 S. Knight Ridge Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/25	Scott	Cripe	3930 W. Tapp Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47403
10/25	Rachel	Rosolina	2004 Grovesnor Pl.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/26	Cindy	Kvale	1212 Skylark Ct.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/29	Jo	Weddle	5390 W. Shadybrook Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47403
10/29	Mia	Walsh	3006 S. Olcott Blvd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/29	Jude	Rea-Hedrick	1212 W. Acacia Ct.	Bloomington	IN	47404
10/30	Stephanie	Richards	1651 W. Dove Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403

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

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

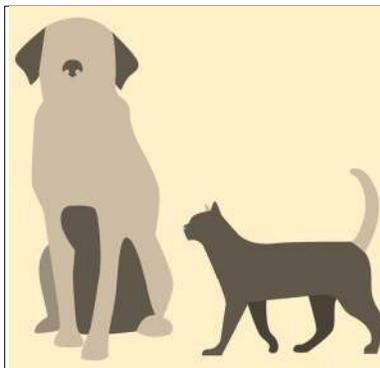
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The Christian Visitor

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Blessing of the Animals
October 2 at 4:00 pm

Bring your Pet and join us
on the FCC Lawn!
Details inside!

Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship

September 25

Take Hold of What is Truly Life

Psalm 146

1 Timothy 6:6-19

October 2

Youth Sunday and

World Communion Sunday

Psalm 137

2 Timothy 1:1-14

October 9

Sarah Lynne Gershon preaching

Psalm 66:1-12

2 Timothy 2:8-15