

The CHRISTIAN



 FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ) *Visitor*

FCC's Youth Group to Lead Worship on World Communion Sunday

Join us in person or online for this Special Service at 10:00 am on October 3

World Communion Sunday is a time to come together as a global community of faith to share in the bread and the cup across several denominations of the Christian faith here and around the world. This year, World Communion Sunday will be celebrated on October 3rd, the same Sunday that our Youth Group will lead us in worship. What a wonderful opportunity for the future leaders of our community and church to lead as we reflect on our global community, remembering that we are all part of the whole body of believers.

Plan to join us in person or online at 10:00 am on Sunday, October 3, for a very special service as we experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. Youth Sunday at FCC is always a very special day. FCC's Youth is always up to the task, and this will certainly be a very special Sunday as they lead worship on World Communion Sunday.

If you are in grades 6-12 or the parent of someone who is that age, contact Ashlyn Reynolds or the church office for more information on how to participate in Youth Sunday. There is a role for everyone who is interested to participate, whether you would prefer a speaking role or working behind the scenes. There is something for everyone.

Blessing of the Animals

October 3 at 4:00 pm on FCC's Lawn

FCC's Blessing of the Animals Service will be on **Sunday October 3 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.

The Blessing of the Animals has become a beloved tradition that FCC shares with our community through the FCC Lawn Ministry. So invite your friends and neighbors! All are welcome! 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. COVID safety guidelines (masks and social distancing) will be followed.



Volume 63, number 16 September 22, 2021

Will Writes

Guidance for the Work that We Will Share Together

In my interim ministry training I was introduced to “Five Focus Points” that help guide the work we share in this time. They are:

Heritage: *Reviewing how the congregation has been shaped and formed.*

Leadership: *Reviewing the congregation’s needs and its ways of organizing and developing new and effective leadership.*

Mission: *Defining and redefining sense of purpose and direction.*

Connections: *Discovering the relationships a faith community builds outside of itself.*

Future: *Developing congregational and pastoral profiles.*

One of my colleagues wrote that these are the “aroma” of ministry; not a set of steps to be followed but rather a fragrance wafting in and around everything we do.

As I work alongside the search committee, church leaders and all of you I keep these in mind. And I invite you to consider them as well.

How does our heritage shape what we do today? Our sense of being a “downtown” church and the sense of sacred space we have in our building has always shaped our ministry and programs. What will it mean going forward?

How do we nurture new leaders and support their work?

What is our mission and vision as a congregation going forward? Where is God leading us?

What connections in our community and with the wider church will serve that mission and vision?

What will be the plan for ministry that we share as we look to the future?

This work is not something a minister or consultant can do for the church! This is work that we need to share together! In the coming weeks and months I invite you to respond as the search team offers opportunities through surveys and small group gatherings. They need to hear many voices and ideas about who we are and where we are heading. And I welcome opportunities to learn from and with you in small groups, phone calls, front porch conversations, and however else we might connect. This time of transition is disconcerting, but also exciting, as we both honor what has been and look ahead to what will be.

Grace and Peace,



Will



**MUSIC NOTES - MUSIC AND CHURCH:
WHY WE NEED AND LOVE IT.
from Jan Harrington, Director of Music**

Sometimes a light surprises a child of God who sings
– William Cowper, 1779

I discover so much in my position as Director of Music at First Christian Church. One of my weekly tasks in the last two years has been to format the texts of the hymns - usually chosen by the pastors - for the bulletin and live stream worship visuals. Suddenly, typing each text, even the most familiar hymns reveal clearer meaning overlooked in the years of singing them. Last week, tucked between two familiar hymns – *Jesu, Jesu* and *Lord I Want to be a Christian* – was one I don't think we had ever sung: *When You Do This, Remember Me..* At least, I certainly do not remember ever having sung it. We were thrilled by the noble tune when we first rehearsed it on Sunday morning and then again when we led the congregation with it in the service. The text and music are by David Edwards who paraphrased words by Alexander Campbell. The hymn tune is named LORETTO and was harmonized by Jane Marshall. We can only hope that repetition of this hymn will help it find its way into our “familiar space” as a congregation. You can hear it again here in our live stream from last week's service at minute 42:50:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ibv4Sd6vO_U

I would urge each of us to allow the experience of music into our lives – the comforting familiar and the challenging unfamiliar. Our experience was just one of many testifying to the importance of music (of all kinds) in our spiritual life. The composer Jane Marshall, in an essay titled “The Passionate Church Musician,” directly addressed the place of music in the Christian life.:

“Much is said, and rightly so, about necessary faith in God — a given we all accept,” she wrote. “What can be added is that music itself, when it is the real thing and not a cheap imitation, is worth having faith in, too. It is no exaggeration to say that music, a large mystery within the larger mystery of the Deity itself, is always there to heal and inspire when everything else on earth falls short.”

We hope you will allow the light to surprise you while you sing!

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MUSIC MINISTRY AT FCC

All are welcome to join with us in our music offerings as we return to regular rehearsals.

Bell Choir Rehearsals Thursday evenings from 5:15-6:00

For information contact Jihye Choi (org.jihye@gmail.com)

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals Thursday Evenings from 6:15-7:30

For information contact Jan Harrington (harringt@indiana.edu)

All rehearsals are socially distanced in the Great Hall on the second floor of the Annex.

Participants are asked to be vaccinated and masked for the safety of all around them.



RECONCILIATION MINISTRY

Reconciliation Offering Received Week of Sept. 26 - Oct. 3

The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering will be received during worship at FCC on September 26, and can be received online and through regular mail until October 2. 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.

In Isaiah 56:1 God says “Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed.”

Your gifts to Reconciliation Ministry empowers our Church’s witness to God’s unfathomable love for all of humanity. With your generosity, leaders, communities, and our congregations are 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.

October Sermon Series and Stewardship Focus

Sharing Christ’s Inclusive Love: Serving, Welcoming, Learning, and Offering Spiritual Connections

Several years ago FCC completed significant work on how we could best worship, reach out, and connect with each other and the greater community. We adopted a “Why” statement that many at FCC are now familiar with:

“FCC exists to share Christ’s inclusive love through serving, welcoming, learning, and offering spiritual connection.”

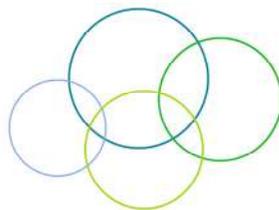
This fall, we will focus on this statement during worship and also in our annual stewardship emphasis. We hope you will join us as we take an in-depth look at what it means to serve, to welcome, and to offer spiritual connection.

October 3

World Communion Sunday
Youth Sunday

October 17

Scripture: Mark 4:26-34
Planting Good Seeds



October 10

Scripture: Mark 10:17-31
Just One More Thing!

October 24

Scripture: Mark 10:46-52
Sarah Lynne Gershon preaching

SHARING CHRIST’S INCLUSIVE LOVE

SERVING | WELCOMING | LEARNING | SPIRITUAL CONNECTION

Faith Formation Update

The “**Understanding Progressive Christianity**” study group has moved to Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., in the Chapel Gathering Space or via Zoom. You are invited to join in as they begin a study of Marcus Borg’s book “*Convictions*”. For more information contact David Garshaw or the church office.

There is still time to join the “**Say to this Mountain**” bible study on the Gospel of Mark, authored by an ecumenical team that is committed to the work of justice and peace, the renewal of the church, and to Christian discipleship. The study will help us understand how this gospel intersects with our own life stories and the broader story of the times in which we live. **Join us** in the Fireside Study or via Zoom on **Sundays at 11:15 a.m.**

All Church Retreat Recap!

By Sarah Lynne Gershon, Student Associate Pastor



We had a lovely time at Camp Bedford last weekend eating, playing, creating, and worshipping together. We began our time together with an epic sandwich making spread: designed to please young and old, club sandwich, peanut butter & jelly, or bologna lovers alike (and *just jelly* lovers too)!

Then, after some football tossing and kicking a soccer ball, Bess Lee led us in a modern icon-making art project.

We each chose someone who inspires or encourages us in our faith. Some of us painted halos around Fred Rogers, Dorothy Day, Toni Morrison, Pauli Murray, their favorite cat, and even our very own Kate Kroll! We are surrounded by beautiful images of God, in one another, in the saints who came before us, and in the rest of creation. Check out some of the icons we painted after church this Sunday. They are hung up in the hall heading towards the Washington Street exit. Many thanks to Bess Lee for sharing her gifts with us!

Finally we ended our time together with worship, reflection, and communion connecting to the theme: Circles of Support. We considered the ways in which we give, receive, and need support in our daily lives. This can be in times of grief or joy, through compassionate presence or practical skills. How are you supported in your life? How do you want to build supportive, loving connections? After communion we communed together again with tasty s’mores around the campfire before departing.



This was a fun and meaningful time together and I was grateful to get to know some of you more over lunch and watercolor paints. I sincerely hope that you all will join us at *next* year’s All Church Retreat. As the famous children’s song says: “*The more we get together the happier we’ll be!*”



Family Ministries Update

We are continuing to offer children's moments and children's faith formation during the after worship learning hour, but we need more help if we are going to launch *Children's Worship and Wonder* during Advent. If you are interested in learning how to be a storyteller for our *Worship and Wonder* program please contact Sarah Lynne.

We would also love to welcome new children's moments leaders. If you are interested in offering engaging 3-5 minute children's moments related to that week's passage, let us know!

FCC Outreach Update

MCUM Open House!

Come support our community partner Monroe County United Ministries at their open house and resource exchange on **October 2 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm**. This will be a fun, family-friendly event with food trucks, a bounce house, and more!

We hope this event inspires you to donate to MCUM's food bank. We are still collecting donations for MCUM at FCC. Bring some food to church on Sundays to replenish their food bank.

Sarah Lynne is also looking for volunteers to organize our next MCUM food drive. If you are interested in helping her organize this, please send her an email.

Support Afghan Refugees

Indiana University's Association of Central Eurasian Students is continuing to organize donations for Afghan refugees at Camp Atterbury. You can purchase new items for donation through their Amazon wishlist, just make sure to click their shipping address titled: Association of Central Eurasian Students (ACES)'s Gift Registry Address. Here is the link to the registry: <https://amzn.to/3hBF6Wq>

The gift registry will be updated by ACES to reflect current needs. You can also find this link on the front page of our website. We will also make sure new items dropped off to FCC get to the right place. The items needed are: baby supplies, especially diaper cream, diapers (an estimated 30,000!), wipes and powdered formula... and clothes! They are trying to make sure everyone has at least two sets of clothing. Modest clothing for women includes full length skirts, long pants and long sleeve crewneck shirts. Pashmina head scarves (at least 48" long) and hijabs would also be appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE!
**MONROE COUNTY
 UNITED MINISTRIES
 OPEN HOUSE AND
 RESOURCE EXCHANGE**
OCTOBER 2, 2021 FROM 1-4 PM
827 W. 14TH CT. BLOOMINGTON, IN 47404
 NEXT TO TRI-NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL AND MILLS POOL

- Dunk tank
- Prize walk
- Bounce house
- Face painting
- Tie-dying
- Tours
- and MORE!

8-97 will also be here doing a live broadcast!

JOIN US FOR FUN ACTIVITIES,
 FOOD AND COMMUNITY
 RESOURCES!
www.mcum.org/events



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	837 NW 33rd St.	Oklahoma City	OK	73118
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
10/17	Mike	Rampley	4064 Viewcrest Loop	Floyds Knobs	IN	47119
10/20	Matthew	Moore	2526 E. Summer Creek Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/21	Jane	Zebendon	2309 S. Sussex Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
10/22	Caleb	Norris	3194 N. Dahlia Lane	Bloomington	IN	47404
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	Larry	Deckard	1813 E. Arden Drive	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
10/30	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
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Permit #217



The Christian Visitor

Vol. 63, no. 16



SHARING CHRIST'S INCLUSIVE LOVE
SERVING | WELCOMING | LEARNING | SPIRITUAL CONNECTION

This fall we will focus on the theme of sharing Christ's Inclusive Love through Serving, Welcoming, Learning, and Offering Spiritual Connections.

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

September 26
Mark 9:38-50
No Roadblocks!

October 3
Mark 10:3-16
*World Communion Sunday
Youth Sunday*

October 10
Mark 10:17-31
Just One More Thing!