

The CHRISTIAN

 FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH *(Disciples of Christ)* **Visitor**

Supporting MCUM's Food and Supply Pantry Come to FCC's Contact-Free, Drive-Through Food Drive

There are so many things that we are all missing about in-person worship and fellowship. Among those things is the opportunity to bring donations for Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) Food and Supply Pantry. This pantry supports thousands of families in Monroe County with food, cleaning supplies, and hygiene items. It's just one of the crucial ministries of MCUM that FCC has supported since the organization's beginning.

So, how do we continue to offer support for this important resource? Well, one way is to participate in FCC's **"No-Contact, Drive-Through Food and Supply" drive on September 12th from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm**. All you need to do is gather up donations of non-perishable food and cleaning items (see a list of MCUM's needs below), load those items in the trunk or back seat of your car and drop them off at FCC by driving slowly through our alley from Kirkwood Ave., stopping at the drop off point in our parking lot. Volunteers will gather the items from your car so that we can all stay socially distanced and safe. We will deliver those items to Monroe County United Ministries following the drive.

Questions? Want to help with the drive? Contact the church office of Fay McIntyre. Thank you, in advance, for supporting this important event. We will see you at the drive!

Food Pantry Needs:

Canned meat
Peanut butter
Dried pasta
Pasta sauce
Cereal
Ready to eat soups/chili
Canned vegetables

Supply Closet Needs:

Shampoo
Conditioner
Razors
Dishsoap
Laundry Detergent
Diapers, sizes 5&6
All purpose cleaner

In This Issue...

Page 2 Pastor's Pen
Page 4 Voter Registration Table Event
Page 6 Family Ministries Update
Page 7-9 Fall Small Groups and Classes

Pastor's Pen

As you may be aware, Bruce and I took a couple of weeks of vacation and returned home on Sunday, August 31. We drove nearly 5,000 miles! The highlight was being able to spend time with family in Idaho. My parents are now living in Boise with my sister Martha and her husband, who are providing excellent care and support for them. Our time in Boise included attending the very small outdoor wedding of my nephew, where I was happy to fill the role of the officiating minister at the last minute. (Their bi-vocational officiant had been sent to Iowa for disaster relief and couldn't get back to perform the wedding.) We also had the opportunity to visit with my son Sam, who drove up from Denver to represent the cousins.

Another highlight was the three days we spent at Arches National Park in Utah. One of my goals is to visit as many National Parks as possible, so we were able to check another one off of the list! Due to the heat, we trekked in the early morning hours and the late afternoon/early evening hours, and stayed indoors during the hottest part of the day. We also did a little stargazing and enjoyed some dramatic sunrises and sunsets. God's world is, indeed, spectacularly beautiful!

The final highlight, believe it or not, was the actual drive. We enjoyed the scenery and didn't find any of it boring. When possible, we stayed off of the Interstates and were able to take advantage of some excellent but less well traveled "ribbons of highways" that allowed us to avoid heavy truck traffic. We were struck by the sheer beauty of this land and also saddened by the devastation of crops and silos in Iowa (due to the derecho). We also had a little adventure in the middle-of-nowhere when we got so caught up in listening to NPR's "This American Life" that we neglected to keep our eyes on the gas gauge. The good news is that grain co-ops in Nebraska's isolated rural areas—even when they are closed for the day—have gas pumps that take credit cards! Whew!



While we were away, we worshiped with you and gave thanks for your fine leadership and for the ways that you care for each other and this world. And even though we did not stay on top of current events, we were both saddened and angered as we learned of the shooting of Jacob Blake and the ensuing events. Now that we are home, we plan to continue to accept our General Minister and President's call to "be the church we say we are" in the face of racial injustice. And we invite you to join us in accepting the call!

Blessings,

Helen Hemphing
Pastor Helen

Being the Church We Say We Are
Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Resources

“Make justice happen.” This is the church’s calling, says Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Here is the link to her four minute video, recorded on August 28 in the days following the shooting of Jacob Blake.

<https://www.facebook.com/terrihordowens/videos/2532191227072163>

Rev. Owens quotes Micah 6:8 (as translated by Dr. Lisa Davidson, Professor of Hebrew Bible at Phillips Theological Seminary) as she offers impassioned words of encouragement and challenge to the church:

What does the Holy One require of us?
To make justice happen;
To love passionately as the Holy loves;
And to be the Divine’s image in the world.

Rev. Owens goes on to say “It’s a matter of how deeply, how courageously, how completely you want to love all whom God has created. No excuses. No caveats. You either “make justice happen” or you don’t. You either live into the limitless love of God to which God calls us to bear witness or you don’t. Because there are certain roads that love simply cannot and will not take.”

Rev. Owens offers regular video messages through her facebook page. Not only are they pastoral and inspiring, but they are also bold and courageous as they call us to be the church that we say we are. For more of her messages, plus an invitation to join her “live” each week for a time of prayer, please find her on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/terrihordowens/>

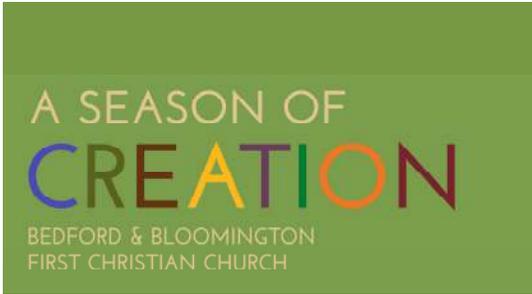
From Our Board Moderator

I am happy to inform you that on August 16, the Board unanimously approved the motion to sponsor Sarah Lynne Gershon for coming under the care of the Indiana Region as she moves toward ordination.

Sarah Lynne, who is a student at Christian Theological Seminary, is a member of First Christian Church Bloomington and serves as our Director of Faith Formation and Family Ministries. As one who is relatively new to the Disciples, she was very intentional and prayerful as she discerned her call to ordained ministry, her “fit” as a Disciple, and her decision to seek ordination as a minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

She has many gifts and qualities for ministry and is an invaluable staff member. She is a blessing to us and will be a blessing to the wider church. With enthusiasm, we look forward to serving as her sponsoring congregation as she moves toward ordination.

Sincerely,
Terry Daugherty, Moderator



The stories of creation, temptation and the flood are some of the most familiar in the Bible. We will revisit these stories throughout our new 4-week Sermon Series “*A Season of Creation*” beginning September 6. Below is the scripture and themes for each Sunday in September. Join us for online worship at 10:00 am on Sundays at www.fccbloomington.org.

<p>Sept 6, 2020 Scripture: From Genesis 1: 1-2:4a Theme: It’s good!</p>	<p>Sept 20, 2020 Scripture: From Genesis 3:1-19 Theme: And Then We Blew It!</p>
<p>Sept 13, 2020 Scripture: From Genesis 2:4b- 15 Theme: We were all Farmers once</p>	<p>Sept 27, 2020 Scripture: From Genesis 6,7,8,9 Theme: When the World Started Over: Flood and Covenant</p>

Voices of Faith to Sponsor Voter Registration Table on September 22

Table will Provide Information on Voter Registration and Assistance

“Am I registered to vote? Can I still register? Where’s my polling place? Can I vote by absentee ballot?” To help citizens with answers to questions like these, the FCC Voices of Faith group will staff a voter information table on Tuesday, September 22, from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm on the front lawn of First Christian Church.

The initiative is part of National Voter Registration Day, a designated time to highlight voter registration across the country. Since the day was first celebrated in 2012, more than 3 million voters have registered to vote on this day. Information about the day can be found here:

<https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/>

Members of Voices of Faith (our Disciples Womens group), working with the Bloomington League of Women Voters, are offering this non-partisan resource for voting information. All COVID-19 regulations for masking and social distancing will be followed during the day.

Voices of Faith members have also been active in distributing yard signs throughout the Bloomington community to encourage people to register and vote in the November general election.



September Series: Trust

Our Friday Jazz Vespers Moments for September will explore the importance of Trust at a time when our ability to trust seems it is stretched to the limit – trust in our news, trust in the government and leaders, trust in the goodness of others, trust in the systems that seem to spiral our lives out of control, and, perhaps for some, even trust that God is there to hear us.

As usual, scripture and treatments of hymns by Elena Escudero will support the themes, along with readings that Linda Abe has chosen from writers as diverse as Rachel Carson, Angela Herrera, Megan Visser, and Stuart Kestenbaum. Additionally, this month we will incorporate some instrumental jazz musings on Linda's poetry readings put together by bassist Stefan Lenthe, who spearheaded the music for our First Friday Vespers for nearly two years. Stefan has returned home to Bloomington from New Orleans while waiting out the pandemic. This month he is joined by visiting New Orleans saxophonist Sam Taylor who happened to be passing through the week we decided to make these recordings.

Here are the topics our 10 to 12-minute Jazz Vespers Moments will explore every Friday in September. We hope they will help lead to a quiet time of contemplation and renewal for you in this turbulent time and that you will find them healing and perhaps even return to them several times during the week.

September 4: Trust in Patience
 September 11: Trust in Grace
 September 18: Trust in Forgiveness
 September 25: Trust in Compassion

As usual, the links to the Jazz Vespers moments and a bulletin with the poetry and texts of the music are posted on the FCC website each Friday at 6:30 and remain up until 10:00 am worship on Sunday. In case you miss any of the postings, or want to revisit the videos anytime later, it is good to remember that, like most of our services, the video is archived on the FCC website and can easily be accessed. You can now find those archives by clicking on the "Jazz Vespers Moment" button on FCC's home page (found just below our worship video) which will take you to all of the archived Jazz Vespers Moments. You can also find the archived Jazz Vespers Moments by clicking on "The Arts" tab at the top of our homepage (www.fccbloomington.org) and then clicking on "Jazz Vespers."

Blessings to all from the Jazz Vespers Moments team!

Family Ministries Update!

Sarah Lynne Gershon, Director of Faith Formation and Family Ministries

Many of you (PreK - 5th Grade families) have already received a letter from me via snail-mail (if not, please let me know) but I want to share with you again the plan for this fall.

I will continue to provide resources and opportunities for families to engage in faith formation with their children *in a way that also connects their family with their church community*. I believe this is so important, because church is one of the only ways that kids can develop strong relationships with people outside of their age-group who are not also in their family. Many of you don't know my whole story yet, but I credit the church of my youth for helping me weather all the crises and challenges that I faced in childhood and adolescence. I had so many adult connections that offered me prayer, encouragement, and good conversation! No matter what happened, I always knew I was loved and respected, not just by my family, but by other adults in my church and by God.

I am so excited about this fall's program, because it will help strengthen family bonds, bonds between the families and other people in the church and our faith tradition (past and present!), *and* bonds between all of us (individually and as a community) and God. This is the kind of grounding I desire for my own children, and I feel so blessed to be a part of a church that will help nourish these connections.

Here are the four ways families will be able to connect with God, each other, and their church:

Secret Encouragers: I have paired our families up with Elders and Prayer Team members who will be praying for and connecting with their children through cards and small gifts. Families do not know who their Secret Encourager is, but all will be revealed in December!

At-Home Devotional Kits: Our sermon series this fall is using scriptures featured in the *Growing in God's Love* story bible. We are using the *Growing in God's Love* curriculum to put together a simple family devotional based on the same scripture preached on Sunday. I love the idea that all of our adults and children are engaging the same scriptures and themes at the level appropriate to them. Each month we have a bag available for families to pick up containing wondering questions to prompt family conversation and filled with items to use for devotional activities.

Weekly Devotional Videos: I will post brief (less than 10 minutes) videos each week featuring familiar faces reading the story from the GGL story bible or a read-loud, leading the kids in a song, prayer or poem, and posing some of the wondering questions. This provides another medium for engagement with our weekly scripture and allows kids to see some of the other adults that they know and love. Tune in on our website or through our Facebook page!

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Monthly LIVE events: Each month we will try to connect at least *one* time in *real* time. This will take place in person (if it is possible to do so in a relatively safe, physically distant way) or via ZOOM. Past LIVE events have included watching the Veggie Tales Easter Story via Zoom, Zoom check-ins and silly song sharing, and an in-person intergenerational Back to School Blessing. Future events may include an intergenerational Blessing of the Animals and All Saints Day gathering.

I know things continue to feel stressful and way too busy (they are for me too!), but whenever and however you can connect, know that you have a community and God that cares about you.

Adult Faith Formation Small Groups and Classes

Adulthood can span seven or even eight decades, and our faith is changing throughout all of those years. At First Christian Church we endeavor to provide opportunities for all adults to grow in their faith, wherever they are along the journey. Small groups meeting during the Sunday learning hour or throughout the week provide opportunities for lifelong learners to go deeper into scripture or theological topics, while monthly interest-based groups offer pathways into creative experiences with art, literature and spiritual practice. *Due to COVID-19 we now offer many of our groups online through ZOOM.* Please, contact Sarah Lynne Gershon at sarahlynn@fccbloomington.org for more information or to receive the zoom link to join one of our small groups and classes.

Weekly Opportunities on Sundays

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 at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays via Zoom.**

Leader: Tom Walsh

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.**

Leaders: Lisa Autry, Amy Hoover, and Sharon Robinson

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 8)

Campbellite Class (study, discussion)

As thinking persons who love God and each other, we think together about how we should live as part of God's family. This term our focus will be on "Living the Christian Life in a Time of Pandemic." This class likes lively discussion as part of our lifelong learning. We invite you to join us **Sundays at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom.**

Leaders: Jane Watkins, Joe Lee, and Nancy Heimer
contact Andi Fletcher for Zoom link

Bloomington Bible Study (study, discussion)

This group consists of young adults who are college-aged, but you do not need to be in college to attend. Everyone 18-30 is welcome! Pre-Pandemic FCC's college ministry focused on studying with the Bible (this means that students were encouraged to bring homework to do while we discussed our weekly theme and how it relates to our faith journeys), but now everything has changed and we are figuring out the how's and what's of this group. Stayed tuned for the details coming soon and let us know if you want to get connected to whatever transpires. **Time, Day and Forum TBD**

Leader: Haley Norris

Groups Meeting Weekly

Deeper Bible Study

This group engages FCC's sermon series scriptures using the Deeper Bible Study method. The Deeper method keeps us on our toes, searching each text for relevance, guidance, and inspiration...and allowing us to be honest when we don't find what we expect. We welcome folks new to this Bible study method, as well as those who've tried it before, and are always interested in feedback from participants. *Our New Bible Study Session: Season of Creation* will focus on the stories of creation, temptation and the flood are some of the most familiar in the Bible. And since they are so familiar, we sometimes hear them as tired old stories, letting them slip through our minds without using all the tools in our Biblical toolboxes. What is actually in the Biblical text, and what has come to us from music, poetry, film and other media? Does it matter when the stories were written down in the form we know today? How do life experiences and current events change how we receive these stories? Join us and explore these questions and more using the Deeper Bible Study method! **Meets 3 Wednesdays starting Sept. 9th at 7:30-8:30 p.m.**

Leaders: Debbie White, Elma Jessen and Connie Myers

Making Sense of the Cross

A 6 week book/DVD/discussion study via Zoom of different understandings of the Cross. Lutheran biblical scholar David Lose will be the teacher on DVD, with Bruce Ervin providing leadership. The class will be held on Wednesday evenings, beginning September 9. Books can be ordered through Amazon or by calling Mitzi in the Bedford-FCC office: 812-275-4497.

(Continued on page 9)

(continued from page 8)

Groups Meeting Monthly

Book Bunch (for women)

This fun group of readers gathers every five weeks to discuss books from a variety of genres. We typically meet **on a Thursday at 4:00 pm via Zoom. A booklist with meeting dates and locations is available in the church office and online.**

Leader: Betsy Watson

Voices of Faith

A network of Disciples Women, Voices of Faith strives to dialogue, educate, and advocate as we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. The group is now reading *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo and is supporting voter registration initiatives. Via its mailing list, VoF shares calls to action that support legislation, cooperation with civic groups, and responses to community issues and concerns. We meet **monthly on third Saturdays, 9:30-11:00 am via Zoom.**

Leaders: Sandy Bate, Susan Fettchenhauer, Judith Olmsted

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)

This group of moms gathers on the **first Wednesday of each month** to embrace the journey of motherhood. Whether you are a soon-to-be mom, an adoptive mom, young mom, seasoned mom, foster mom, stepmom or any other type of mom, you are welcome to join us! Learn more on our Facebook page: @fccbloomingtonmops.

Led by Andrea Dalton

Youth News *by Ashlyn Reynolds*

Our first youth event this year will be a **Crafter-noon on Sunday, September 20th from 4:00-6:00 pm.** This will take place at the church on the front lawn. We will be getting creative and enjoying each other's company (from 6+ feet away and wearing masks). Various art-making materials will be provided!

Thank You!

Mary Alice Martin would like to thank everyone for prayers and well wishes while she was in the hospital. The doctors say her surgery was a success and she has started cardiac rehab. She really enjoyed all the encouraging notes from everyone!



In Our Prayers...

Please hold the family of Maurice Biggs (98) in your prayers as they both grieve his death and celebrate his life. Maurice, a longtime member, passed away on Sunday, August 16. A private graveside service for family was held on August 19. Condolences to Maurice's family can be sent in care of David and Sandy Biggs at 3607 E. Jordan's Way, Bloomington, 47401.

Please include Doris Brineman in your prayers as she recovers at Meadowood following a fall that left her with a fractured pelvis. Cards and notes of encouragement can be sent to Dorie at 2455 n. Tamrack Trail, Apt. 2, Bloomington, 47408.

Also, pray for Linda Abe as she recovers at home from out patient surgery on August 24. Cards and notes can be sent to Linda at 600 S. Hawthorne Dr., Bloomington, 47401.

And keep in prayer John and Carole Ambler as John receives treatment for myeloma. Cards and notes can be sent to John at 3674 Tamarron Drive, Bloomington, 47408.

If you have a prayer request to share with Pastor Helen and/or our prayer team, please send that request by email at fcc@fccbloomington.org or by completing our online "Prayer Request" form on the homepage of our website: www.fccbloomington.org. You can find the form to the right of our worship video on the homepage. Information from this form goes directly to our church email address where it is received by Jennifer and Eve and placed onto the prayer list for our elders and prayer team. If you would like to join the prayer team, contact Jennifer or Eve at the FCC office.

A New Way to Register Your Online Sunday Worship Attendance

We hope that you've been able to "join us" for our online worship services. We are doing a lot of things very differently now, and we will continue to change and adapt as our world changes. Still, we miss seeing you, and want to know when you are worshipping with us. So, we have created an online form so that you can register your Sunday Worship attendance with us. You will find it on our homepage just to the right of our worship video. The information from this form goes directly to our Administrator, Jennifer, so that we can keep our attendance records up to date. The information does not go to an outside source, and won't be shared. It's important that we do our best to keep accurate attendance records, and that's not easy when everything is online. So, your help with this will be greatly appreciated! Call our office if you have questions about the form. **Thank you!**



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



09/01	Kristi	Hill	8956 W. Rice Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47403
09/01	Lois	West	124 Worman Dr.	Spencer	IN	47460
09/02	Mike	Donham	5900 N. Maple Grove Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47404
09/05	Shelly	Wagner	2260 Olde Mill Drive	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	1377 W. Allen St., Apt. E4	Bloomington	IN	47403
09/16	Marcia	Boyle	3816 Pepperchase Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/17	Brett	Gershon	909 N. Blair Ave.	Bloomington	IN	47404
09/17	Sharon	Robinson	7801 N. Sipes Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47408
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
09/24	Josette	Gasana	4199 Innisbrooke Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47408
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 #4	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/26	Gene	Davis	1064 S. Fieldcrest Court	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/28	Jo	Travis	4682 E. Heritage Woods Rd.	Bloomington	IN	47401
09/30	Christy	Duffy-Paiement	260 S. Lori Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401

If you have a birthday that is not listed, please let us know so we can update our records.

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

812-332-4459
fcc@fccbloomington.org
www.fccbloomington.org
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Bloomington, IN 47408
Permit #217



The Christian Visitor

Vol. 62, no. 17

**New Sermon Series Begins
September 6**

A SEASON OF
CREATION
BEDFORD & BLOOMINGTON
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

September 6
Genesis 1:1-2;4a

September 13
Genesis 2:4b-15

September 20
Genesis 3:1-19