

# The CHRISTIAN

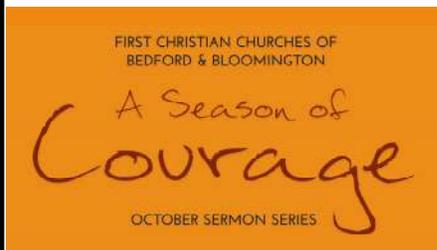


FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
*(Disciples of Christ)*

## Visitor

### New October Sermon Series Begins

*“A Season of Courage” Runs October 4 - 25*



The heroes of the Bible were not all saints - far from it - but they all shared one virtue: **courage**. These courageous heroes include women and men, wives and mothers, young and old. During this Season of Courage we will hear some of their stories and reflect on the strength that God gave them to do what they were sometimes afraid to do. The strong women and men in these stories sought to live in

God's ways and to be faithful to God. Their stories remind us that with God's help, we too can step out in faith and in courage.

Join us on Sundays for online worship in October as we begin this new sermon series, “A Season of Courage.” This Sunday (October 4) we will gather “virtually” at 10:00 am for Reconciliation Sunday and World Communion Sunday. Rev. Bruce Ervin will deliver the first message of this series titled “Truth Telling and Reconciling”. Join us as we explore the stories of these courageous Biblical heroes!

**October 4:** *Truth Telling and Reconciling*

Scripture: 1 Samuel 2:18-3:20

**October 11:** *Courage Under Oppression*

Scripture: from Exodus 1:8-2:10

**October 18:** *I Used All My Courage*

Sarah Lynne Gershon preaching

Scripture: from 2 Samuel 17:17-24

**October 25:** *The Fiery Furnace*

Scripture: Daniel 3:8-30



**Special Offering is Sunday, October 4**  
See page 3 for more information on  
**Reconciliation Ministries of the  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

*Volume 62, number 19 September 30, 2020*

## Pastor's Pen

### *Be the Church*

Pastor Bruce and I have received thoughtful notes from many of you since we announced our plans to retire. Thank you! We hope be ready to move to Boise, Idaho by mid-July. In the meantime, however, we plan to be fully present with you. In other words, we're not nearly ready to say our "official" good-byes! There's much yet for us to accomplish, together with you!

Terry Daugherty, our moderator, has already been in close contact with our Regional Minister, Rick Spleth, whose invaluable wisdom, experience, and steady presence will bless and guide you. Terry has also familiarized himself with the clause in our by-laws that addresses the process for calling a new pastor. The process, when done well, takes time - it cannot be rushed! It includes broad and prayerful input from the entire congregation, a period of time with an experienced interim pastor, and a comprehensive search for the "right fit" in a settled pastor. Watch your newsletter for updates.

In the meantime, your call is to continue to "be" the church! This means each of you is called to help strengthen and "build up the body of Christ" by using the gifts God has given you (Ephesians 4). I ask you to do the following:

- Pray for FCC and its leaders each and every day!
- Be intentional about strengthening your connection with FCC: its members, its mission and its ministries. The more intentional you are about your participation in the life of the church, the stronger you (as an individual) will be, and the stronger the church (as a community) will become!
- Focus on remaining faithful in your financial giving as you think and pray about ways you can support FCC's financial health and well-being. Continue to work toward giving away a tithe (10% of your income) in support of the FCC's ongoing ministries and anticipated capital needs.
- Each and every day, name something about FCC for which you are grateful (i.e. an experience, a memory, a ministry, a group, a person, a particular space or object.) When you practice gratitude, you will be surprised by the depth of joy that is within you!
- Remain open and flexible and accepting of the diversity of thought among those who claim FCC as their church home.
- Remain active in your individual and communal pursuits to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8). Because I am convinced that this passage served as one of Jesus' primary guiding scriptures, I encourage you - as a follower of Jesus - to put it near the top of your own "go-to" scripture passages. I also remind you that it serves as a guiding scripture for FCC!
- Remember this little mantra below, inspired by a hymn titled *We Are the Church*, written by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh. It's still a very rough draft, so you can anticipate changes and additions.

*The Church is not a pastor,  
The Church is not a place,  
The Church is a people, together:  
Proclaiming Christ, Practicing peace, Praying for all of creation.*

*Helen Hemphing*



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

In 1996, the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) approved the formation of a church-wide process to discern the nature of racism in North America and to develop ways of helping congregations address racism. Out of this process, an Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation initiative was put before the church in 1998. At their July, 1998 meetings, the Administrative Committee and the General Board approved this initiative. The Initiative called the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to practice faithfulness with regard to the elimination of racism, which exists in all manifestations of the church, to discern the presence and nature of racism as sin, to develop strategies to eradicate it, and to work toward racial reconciliation.

The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering is used to fund our Church's mission imperative to become a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church utilizing experiential education, inclusive worship, and intentional dialogue. Our efforts to promote healing, relationship, and restoration in the whole family of God are enlivened by funds from this offering. Through it we are able to provide programs for leadership development, curriculum for dialogue and learning, and partnerships within the Church and our communities.

**We will accept gifts for this Special Offering this Sunday, October 4.** Thank you for your generosity in giving to the Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

### **Regional Assembly is October 2-3**

2020 Regional Assembly is online this year – with some of the great features you love about Assembly – dynamic speakers, group discussions, a women's event, and a vibrant worship service with a virtual choir (including many of FCC's Sanctuary choir members). You won't want to miss this first ever virtual assembly – and an opportunity to invite someone who has never attended. You can register by going online to <http://indianadisciples.org/regional-assembly-2020/> Scroll down the page until you see **“REGISTER HERE”** in red. Click and fill out the online form. You can also register by calling the regional office at (317) 926-6051. This event is FREE, but you must register.

#### **October 2 at 6:30 pm: Women's Evening**

#### ***“And Who Is My Sister?”***

Because we are having a virtual dinner, we thought it would be fun to post virtual recipes of what you might have brought to a potluck dinner. Please post your recipes to our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Indiana-Disciples-Women-470878366309822>

#### **October 3: Regional Assembly**

- 9:00 am - Welcome, Music, and Business
- 10:00 am - Keynote Speaker Rev. Lisania Martinez,  
and Small Groups Conversations
- 11:00 am - Worship with Rev. Terri Hord Owens  
and Virtual Choir





### In Our Prayers

Please hold Connie, Kip, and Kate Myers in your prayers. Connie's father, Fred Hanebutt, died tragically in an automobile accident on Monday. Cards and notes may be sent to the family at 4813 N. Ashcroft Ln. 47404.

Please hold Mary Droste in your prayers as she mourns the death of her son John "Johnny" Droste, who passed away Thursday night following a long illness. Services will be held this Thursday (October 1) at Day & Deremiah-Frye Funeral at 4:00 pm, with visitation from 2:00-4:00 pm. Cards and notes of sympathy and encouragement may be sent to Mary at 800 N. Bell Trace Circle, #103 47408.



Thank you for the good wishes, prayers and cards following outpatient surgery and recovery. I so look forward to seeing you again beyond our computer screens and phones.

Sincerely,  
Linda Abe



### Voices of Faith offers Voter Registration Information

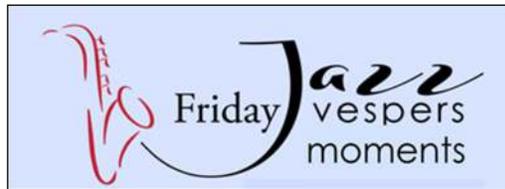
FCC's Voices of Faith (Disciples Women) is helping folks register to vote and receive information on how to vote. They hosted a **Voter Registration Information Table on September 22** on FCC's front lawn and are please to report they helped several students and others with voter registration information and even registered several people at the event. An exciting side note: The Facebook post for this event reached 1,600 people! Wow!

The Voices of Faith voter registration table event was a collaborative effort with the Bloomington League of Women Voters and was designed to be a non-partisan resource for voting information.

### Thank you FCC women for getting folks out to vote!

If you would like information on getting registered and where to vote, go to: <https://register2vote.org/> or contact a member of FCC's Voices of Faith!





## *October Series: Reaching*

The word reaching has many implications for us. It seems like we all are reaching *for* something these days – or maybe reaching *toward* something to be achieved with time – for answers, for the mute button to stop the noise, out to a friend, for clarity, for peace in the middle of chaos, towards spiritual growth, for help us out of our predicament. Our Friday Jazz Vespers Moments for October will explore this topic of Reaching.

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 Swiftwalker (a poet and health researcher member of the Lenape nation of indigenous Native Americans), Melissa Coffman, Peter Friedrichs, Mark L. Belletini, and Luke Stevens-Royer. Additionally, this month bassist Stefan Lenthe will be joined by jazz guitarist and IU junior Tim Hansen to incorporate some instrumental jazz musings on Linda's poetry readings.

Here are the topics our 10 to 12-minute Jazz Vespers Moments will explore every Friday in October. 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.

**October 2:** *Reaching for Thankfulness*

**October 9:** *Reaching toward Vulnerability*

**October 16:** *Reaching toward Contentment*

**October 23:** *Reaching for Wholeness*

**October 31:** *Reaching for Guidance*

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 pm 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](http://www.fccbloomington.org)) and then clicking on "Jazz Vespers." We hope that you will return again and again to these short meditations and find them helpful and meaningful to you in your spiritual journey.

Blessings to all from the Jazz Vesper Moments team!

## Say Hello to Your Virtual Pew Neighbor!

Our online attendance registration system is starting to bear fruit! The list below contains the names of everyone who registered (or who told us that you were present) last Sunday. We're glad to see some familiar names as well as some new names! As you read through the list, I invite you to give thanks as you imagine yourself seated in the sanctuary surrounded by some of your pew neighbors. We are, indeed, worshiping together even though we are physically apart!

If you don't see your name on the list, no worries! Simply submit a card next week or call/email the church office and let us know of your presence in worship! Our goal is to "grow" our attendance each and every week!

Finally, if you are wondering about the well-being of some in our church community, please do not hesitate to reach out to them simply to say hello and to let them know that you are thinking of them.

Here's a list of those who registered their attendance (via online or by contacting us through email or phone) last Sunday, September 27:

Linda Abe, John & Carole Ambler, Jihye Choi and Nara Lee, Mackenzie Colston, Sarah Cranor, Terry & Connie Daugherty, Cheri Engber, Susan Engert, Bruce Ervin, Sue Fettchenhauer, Bob Florini, Bonnie Fye, the Gershon Family, Mary Beth Godsey, Dan & Sharon Goins, Connie Gross, Lisa Hamilton, Jan Harrington, Crystal Hammon, Bob & Nita Floe Hempfling, Helen Hempfling, Gale & Gary Hill, Frieda Hoffman, Amy Hoover, Tom & Sherry Hustad, Tim & Elma Jessen, Bill Knapp, the Knepper family, Kate Kroll, Carol Lane, Martha Lund, Renson Madarang, Fay McIntyre, Gerry Miller, Marilyn Moore, Kip & Connie Myers, Judith Olmsted, Bob & Loretta Orr, Toni Pittman, Mike Rogers, Charlie & Lynn Sinn, Kathy Street, Tim & Martha Sullivan, Mary Swarthout, Ashante Thomas, Jean Thompson, Bob Thrasher, Amy Wardlow, Betsy Watson, Jo Weddle, and Jane Zebendon.

Even though I can't see you in person, seeing your name and knowing of your presence in worship lifts my spirits! I thank God for you!

Blessings,

Pastor Helen

PS. You can find our online attendance cards on the homepage of our website at [www.fccbloomington.org](http://www.fccbloomington.org). If you aren't Internet savvy but you have found our online services, you can also register your attendance by emailing our office at [fcc@fccbloomington.org](mailto:fcc@fccbloomington.org) or calling us at 812-332-4459. Thank you!

## Family Ministries Update

*Sarah Lynne Gershon*

*Director of Faith Formation and Family Ministries*

I am so grateful for the people who came out to the Pets and Picnics in the Park. It was fun to get to meet all of the pets and special thanks to Mackenzie Colston for bringing Baby Snake! Meeting a ball python was a highlight for all the kids. Looking ahead to October and November, there are a few other opportunities for us to connect in real time:

**Saturday Oct 11 at 7:00 pm**-- ZOOM pajama party! Get into your PJs, make up some popcorn, and let's watch the Prince of Egypt together via ZOOM. Keep an eye out for the link in your email.

**Sunday Nov 1**-- Intergenerational All Saint's Day lantern vigil-- Did you know Halloween comes from "All Hallow's Eve" and the hallowed day was All Saint's Day? Come celebrate all the courageous and faithful people that have come before us on the church lawn at 5:45 pm. There will be an opportunity to make lanterns or pick them up at the event. Kids are encouraged to wear their costumes!

I look forward to seeing more of you all this month!



The sign features the word "OUTDOOR" in red block letters on a yellow banner, with "Movie Night" written in a cursive font on a yellow banner below it. A red arrow with yellow dots points to the right.

### Youth Movie Night

*Join us for an Outdoor Movie Night on October 17*

FCC's Youth Group will be meeting on Saturday, October 17 at 7:30 pm for an outdoor, socially distanced movie night! Charlie and Lynn Sinn are hosting this fun event that will have a Halloween feel (we'll have a few quirky Halloween movies to choose from). We will provide pizza and s'mores for the occasion. You'll want to wear warm clothing and bring a blanket since this is outside! Parents, feel free to hang out for a little while after dropping off your kid... and say hi to other FCC parents and youth. If you have questions, please contact Ashlyn Reynolds. See you there!

## Subscriptions to "Upper Room" devotional books

Some of you may have enjoyed the Upper Room devotional books that we've had available at FCC for many years. Most of these books have been going unread and untouched since we began worshipping online back in March. So, we have decided to suspend the church subscription for these books.

If you are interested in obtaining these devotional books, you can subscribe and have them sent directly to you at home. Simply go to [www.upperroom.org](http://www.upperroom.org) and click on "Shop" at the top of the page and then click on "Buy Subscriptions." The annual subscription for the hardcopy book is \$13.99 and only \$1.99 for the online, digital version. You can also call Upper Room to order at 800-972-0433.

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*The Christian Visitor*

*Vol. 62, no. 19*

**October Sermon Series Begins  
This Sunday!**

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCHES OF  
BEDFORD & BLOOMINGTON

*A Season of  
Courage*

OCTOBER SERMON SERIES

**Scripture Readings  
For Sunday Worship**

**October 4**  
Truth Telling and Reconciling  
from 1 Samuel 2:18-3:20

**October 11**  
Courage Under Oppression  
from Exodus 1:8-2:10

**October 18**  
I Used All My Courage  
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