

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

It's Time to Sign-Up for the FCC Fall Retreat!

Join Us for an Intergenerational Retreat at Camp Bedford October 22-23

Have you ever wondered why we decorate FCC with all the blue and purple during Advent and Lent? Or why the “church New Year” comes at the end of November? Do you know why we have specific times of fasting and feasting? We will be exploring all of these questions at **this year's All-Church retreat at Camp Bedford on Oct 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. We will gather Sunday morning 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! There will be plenty of time to enjoy nature, connect with one another, and experience rest and renewal!

We would LOVE for you to stay for the whole weekend and/or join us for Sunday worship, but you are also welcome to come for Sunday lunch and spend the afternoon. You'll find a brochure with details and a registration form inside this newsletter. Please, turn in your registration to the church office by October 14. See you at Camp Bedford!

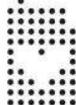
Blessing of the Animals on Oct. 2 at 4:00 pm on FCC's Lawn

We Will Be Accepting Pet Food Donations for the Animal Shelter at the Blessing

Bring your pet (leashes please) or a picture of your pet and join us on the front lawn at FCC on Sunday, October 2 for a *Blessing of the Animals*.

We will also be accepting donations of pet food (new unopened bags or cans) for the Bloomington Animal Shelter. So, please pick up a bag of food for Fido or Fifi's friends and help the animal shelter care for these beloved animals. We'll gather at 4:00 pm on the lawn for a brief service in celebration of all animals. All are welcome! So, bring a friend!

MCUM Drive Results!



Thank you to all who donated to our MCUM drive during the month of August. We are happy to report we donated a total of:

**705 Pounds
of Food and Supplies!**

Volume 64, number 15 September 7, 2022

The Minister's Missive

Building Friendships and Community Through Fellowship



Dear Church,

On Sunday, our student associate minister, Sarah Lynne Gershon, shared a timely message about the cost of friendship and our intrinsic need to live in community. If you missed the service, I encourage you to have a look at the recording on YouTube.

All people need friends with whom we can share deeply; it is through relationship that we come to understand ourselves, and through the love we share with others, we begin to understand something about the love of God. As we follow Christ, the path of discipleship is not meant to be a solo journey. Even Jesus needed friends for companionship, support, and fun (remember all those dinner parties!). When Jesus sent the disciples out to preach, teach, and heal, he sent them in pairs. Each one had a buddy with whom to share the challenges and the joys of the new life into which they were stepping. Living in relationship is bound up with life in Christ's Body, the Church, but deep relationships don't just happen; they require time and commitment. Sometimes we have to choose engagement with our church community over other opportunities if we want the ties that bind to be strong and healthy.

We humans seem to naturally gather around the sharing of food and drink. Our church fellowship gatherings, such as the wonderful birthday party we enjoyed for Lois West on Sunday, offer us much-needed occasions to get to know one another better, but these events do not happen spontaneously. Someone has to put an event on the calendar, purchase or prepare food, set-up the gathering space, serve, and clean up.

As we wake up from the strange season of pandemic life, the church needs a reinvigoration of its fellowship opportunities. To that end, we are actively assembling a Fellowship Team which will take leadership in planning and executing our times of fellowship on Sunday mornings as well as for special events. Do you enjoy organizing events? Making phone calls? Creating menus? Cooking or baking? Setting a lovely table? Washing dishes? Are you good at grocery shopping? Then the Fellowship Team may be a great place for you to serve. I invite you to consider whether you may be able to offer your time and talents in order to nurture the making and deepening of relationships in our church. If you are interested in serving or would like to know more about this ministry, please get in touch with the church office.

May we all consider the more-than-worth-it cost of friendship, and may we be willing to invest in a life of mutual care. It's the life for which we were made!

Almost-autumn shalom,

Pastor Kyrmen

WHY JAZZ VESPERS?

VESPERS + JAZZ RETURNS SEPTEMBER 16 at 6:30 pm

Join us the third Friday of each month at 6:30 pm for our Jazz Vespers service of music and poetry. Maybe this is a good time, as we begin this season of services, to remember exactly what a Jazz Vespers Service is and where the tradition came from.

Vespers is an ancient form of communal evening prayer that has been observed for at least 15 centuries. The tradition of evening prayer has its roots in ancient Jewish services. It was adapted by the early church as one of the seven daily *Canonical Hours* – in this case Vespers is the one observed at dusk. In some of the Protestant traditions the service of Vespers is called Evensong or Evening Prayer. The vesper service gives thanks for the day just past and makes an evening sacrifice of praise to God.

The musical items found in the hours include *Antiphons* (texts usually sung before and after psalms), and the reciting or singing of *Psalms*, *Responsories* (texts usually sung after lessons, or scriptural readings), and *Hymns*. The *Psalmody* is followed by a reading from *Sacred Scripture* (the Bible). This reading may be followed by a period of *silence or a brief reflection*. *Prayers of intercession* follow and conclude with the *Lord's Prayer* (in some traditions also called the "Our Father" or the "Pater Noster") that Jesus taught to his disciples when they asked how to pray (cf. Mt 6:9-13, Lk 11:2-4). The Lord's Prayer is recited or sung in virtually every service of the Christian church in all denominations. A *final prayer of praise* and intercession to God leads to a *Dismissal* or *Benediction* which closes the service.

Jazz is a uniquely American musical expression, rooted in the soil of slavery and oppression, that gave voice and strength to a marginalized people. Arising in the African American communities around New Orleans in the late 19th century, this music has its roots in slave songs, blues and ragtime, drumming, and spiritual singing. Since the 1920's Jazz Age, it has been recognized as a major form of musical expression in traditional and popular music throughout the world and encompasses a myriad of different forms and styles, but all characterized with syncopation and improvisation.

Jazz Vespers with its blending of these two very different forms of expression emerged as a new form in the 1950's when St. Peter's Lutheran Church in New York City created a mid-week Jazz Ministry to offer an opportunity for jazz musicians, who were unable to come to services on weekends, a place to express their spirituality. From this experience grew this hybrid service which offers a balm that has the power to heal and inspire even as it does not back away from naming its impatience with the injustices of our day. By nature jazz is an open art form, always growing and exploring new edges to music making. By nature the church, too, is always listening anew to the voice of God and holding all people in a safe and creative environment in order to explore what it means to be people of God.

Our Jazz Vespers Service offers an informal, contemplative, candlelit time to reflect, meditate, or simply "be" as you listen to the music, take in the beauty and peace of the sanctuary, and experience the authentic warmth of a faith community that gently welcomes ALL. We urge you and members of the wider community to make these services a special part of your spiritual journey at First Christian.

Jazz Sunday on September 18

On Sunday, Sept. 18, our Jazz Vespers ensemble will share their inspired music in our 10:00 a.m. worship service. Join us in lifting our praises to God on this special Jazz Sunday!



Exodus Refugee Co-Sponsor Team Update

The co-sponsor team is excited for the arrival of “our” refugee family, due to fly into Indianapolis next week! Behind the scenes, we are gathering furnishings and groceries for the family’s new home, with plans to procure clothing once they are here. Due to strict privacy concerns imposed by Exodus, we are unable to divulge details about the family’s origins or where they will be living. (Even we don’t know where they are from!)

Can you imagine moving thousands of miles from your home and going to a place that perhaps has not even heard of your language? That’s what our refugee family is facing and one of the things that our committee needed to consider. A big thank you to Dr. Jan Harrington stepped up once again to “conduct” by asking our guest organist from Nigeria if he might know of someone in Bloomington who spoke Kinyarwanda. He did know someone and that person has agreed to be the interpreter.

Thank you for the generosity of everyone who has responded to our appeals, first toward the financial commitment required for us to sponsor a family and then to the call for donations to prepare the family’s home. If you wish to contribute, a list of items still needed is posted below. If you would rather contribute monetarily; cash, gift cards and/or checks (write the check to FCC with “Exodus Refugee” in the memo line) are welcome and can be brought into or sent to the church. The team will use donations to take care of any remaining needs plus any concerns that may arise later.

Items still needed for the apartment include: kitchen table; couch; clothes hangers; laundry baskets or hampers; light bulbs; kitchen and bathroom trash cans; bath mat; shower curtain liner and hanging rings; personal care items (shampoo, soap, body wash, razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes, first aid items, etc.); baking dishes, serving dishes, and food storage containers; can opener; measuring cups; cutting board; larger size kitchen knives; dishwasher and dish soap; kitchen wash cloths and scrubbers; vacuum cleaner; bucket; umbrellas; face masks and hand sanitizer; pens and pencils, paper, and notebooks.

We ask that you bring donations to the church when staff are present (Mon-Thurs., 10:00 am – 4:00 pm is best), or on Sunday mornings. Please ask a staff member to assist you so the items or monetary donations can be put in a secure location. Let us know if you are unable to drop off your donations. We can arrange to have them picked up for you. If have any questions about furnishings, please contact Eve Schultes-Ridge; for all other inquiries contact Sarah Lynne Gershon.

Voices of Faith Supporting Voter Registration!

Voices of Faith is supporting voter registration for the midterm election. We are meeting at FCC this Friday (Sept. 9) at 10:00 am to finalize plans to support the midterm election. All are welcome! Jean Thompson and Sandy Bate will have their computers in Coffee Fellowship after church Sunday (Sept. 11) to assist you in checking your registration and perhaps requesting absentee ballots. October 11th is the deadline for updating your registration and October 27th is deadline for requesting absentee ballots according to the new rules. November 8, 2022 is election day and you may vote at the polls if you are registered.

Voices of Faith will also have a booth on FCC’s lawn Sept. 17 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Come by and say hello as we register voters walking along Kirkwood! To check your registration or make changes online, go to: VOTE411.org and <https://indianavoters.in.gov> to vote by absentee ballot or by mail.

Your vote is your voice, and your voice is important!

Family Ministries Update

Children's Worship and Wonder starts back up during worship this Sunday, Sept. 11. Linda Abe and Brett Gershon will be our main storytellers. Brett will be bring a little more music, and we've added the Lord's Prayer to our prayer time.

Our elementary age Sunday School will begin this Sunday as well, following worship. We are still using the *Holy Moly* curriculum. Jo Weddle will lead class and Jude Rea-Hedrick will be joining her! If you haven't met Jude, he is Pastor Kyrmen's amazingly creative and thoughtful son! We also have a bulletin board in the hall by the Fireside Study where we will display children's projects.

FCC Fall Programming Starts Sept. 11 Check Our FCC's Small Groups and Classes

FCC is preparing to return to more in-person opportunities this Fall while still offering online formats via Zoom for those not able or ready to meet in person. Check out the Fall classes brochure in the late August newsletter that can be found on the newsletter page of our website at <https://www.fccbloomington.org/about-us/newsletter/>

Nursery Volunteers Needed

The FCC nursery is available for parents with their babies and/or toddlers during worship with the service streaming on a TV. However, we do not currently have staff for the nursery. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Sarah Lynne Gershon.



In Our Prayers...

As a church family, we are privileged to be able to support one another in times of difficulty and grief. At this time, we continue to offer our prayers and sympathy for Gale Hill and family as they grieve for Gary Hill, who passed away on Wednesday, August 31.

Visitation for Gary will be Tuesday, September 13, from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm at The Funeral Chapel of Powell and Deckard, 3000 E. Third St. A funeral service will be held immediately after the visitation with burial to follow at Valhalla Memory Gardens.

Memorial Gathering for Margaret Hathaway on September 18

All members and friends of the FCC community are invited to attend an informal gathering in memory of Margaret Hathaway on Sunday, September 18, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at Meadowood Senior Living Community (2455 Tamarack Trail, Bloomington). Margaret and her husband Phil were actively involved in the life of FCC for many years. Margaret generously volunteered her time, serving the church as Financial Secretary for over two decades. Let us offer prayers of thanksgiving for Margaret's faithful service as we celebrate her life.

Indiana Regional Assembly

Nov. 5 from 9:00am - 4:00pm at Geist Christian Church in Fishers

The theme for this year's Assembly is "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. You may register to attend in person for \$45, or on-line for \$25. Please join your FCC family for this important assembly!

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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www.fccbloomington.org
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The Christian Visitor

Vol. 64, no. 15

Third Friday
Jazz
VESPERS

change

Friday, September 16, 6:30 pm
The Keller-Tuberg Trio
with
Marina Alba López, vocalist

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

September 11

Best. News. Ever.

Psalm 51:1-10

Luke 15:1-10

September 18

Jazz Sunday

A New Creation

Psalm 16:1-2, 5-9, 11

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

September 25

Take Hold of What is Truly Life

Psalm 146

1 Timothy 6:6-19

THINGS TO KNOW

This will be a truly intergenerational event, so bring your entire family, or bring a friend to meet your church family!

We would LOVE for you to stay for the whole weekend and/or join us for Sunday worship, but you are also welcome to come for Sunday lunch and spend the afternoon.

Housing: Bunkhouse style cabins with A/C units are designated for men, women, or families. RV's and tents are also welcome (no hook-ups).

If you register for the full retreat, we will assume you are staying in a cabin, unless you indicate otherwise.

FACILITIES OWNED BY:

Bedford Christian Camp
Bedford, IN 47421
(812)279-4212

THE CAMPGROUND INCLUDES:

Air-conditioned activity lodge overlooking the White River
10 bunkhouse-style cabins
Shower house with restrooms
Craft Building
Tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts & large recreation field
Campfire and vespers areas

WHAT TO BRING:

Bible and pen or pencil
Casual clothing & shoes
Toiletries, towel & wash cloth
Sleeping bag and/or bedding
Pillow
Flashlight
Rain gear

Optional

Lawn chair or blanket
Yoga mat
Roasting sticks
Board games
Sports equipment
Knitting or craft activity

DIRECTIONS:

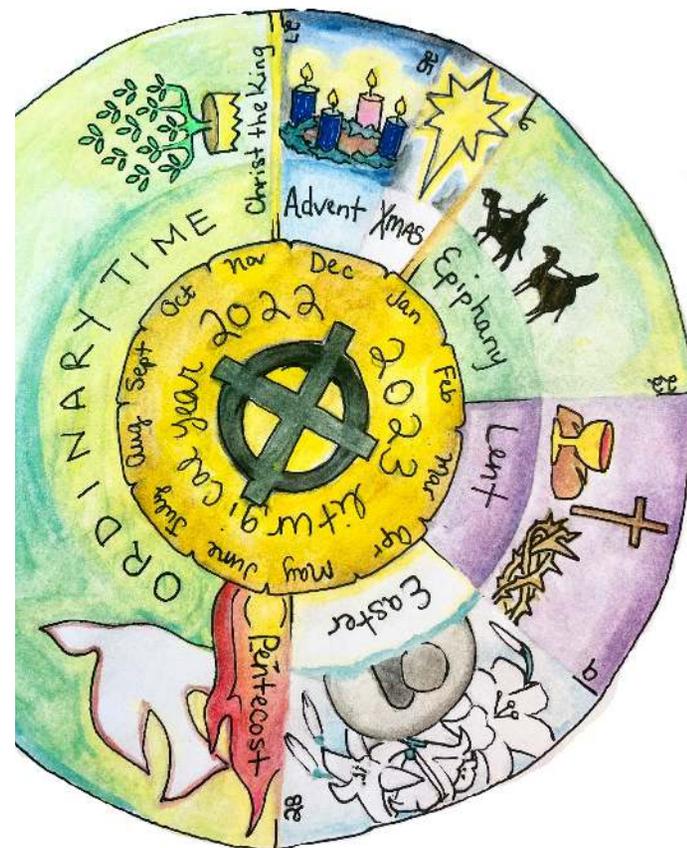
BEDFORD CHRISTIAN CAMP
33 CHURCH CAMP ROAD

FROM THE NORTH: On Hwy 37 continue past Bedford to where U.S. 50 merges, then make a U-turn and come back north on Business 50 to the first road on the right, Sandpit Road (*Do not take the 37N exit*).

Follow Sandpit Road past a landfill and down a hill. Watch for a crossroad with a B&B on your right and a sign directing you to turn right to the church camp. After turning, follow the curvy road back to camp.

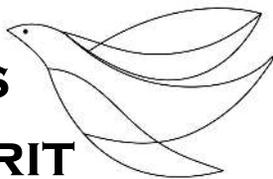
FROM THE SOUTH: Continue just past the 37N exit on Business 50 to Sandpit Road. Then follow the instructions above.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) ALL-CHURCH RETREAT 2022



BEDFORD CHRISTIAN CAMP
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22—
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

SEASONS OF THE SPIRIT



Why do we decorate FCC with all the blue and purple during Advent and Lent? Why is the “church New Year” at the end of November? Why are there specific times of fasting and feasting? Is there any good reason to pay attention to all of that? We will be exploring all of these questions at this year's All-Church retreat at Camp Bedford on Oct 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. Join us as we consider these questions through prayer, play, and conversation.

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

As usual, the activities will be intergenerational, and there will be plenty of time to enjoy nature, connect with one another, and experience rest and renewal!

Contact: SarahLynne@FCCBloomington.org
(812) 332-4459

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY OCT. 22ND

5:00 P.M. Check-in Begins
5:30 P.M. Dinner & clean up
6:15 P.M. Gathering and Game
7:15 P.M. Lantern Walk and Vespers
8:00 P.M. Campfire: *S'mores and Songs*
LATE NIGHT Lodge Time: board games, cards, etc

SUNDAY OCT. 23RD

8:30 A.M. Morning Watch or Meditation
9:00 A.M. Breakfast (for overnight campers)
10:00 A.M. Worship

How the Church Tells Time & Devotional Activity

11:30 A.M. Break
12:30 P.M. Lunch, clean-up & break
2-4 P.M. Devotional Craft:

Advent Chancel Covering

4:00 P.M. Final camp clean-up
5:00 P.M. Sharing, blessing & sending

REGISTRATION

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT OCT. 22-23

Contact Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Family/group members attending, *including age of children/youth*: _____

Dietary Restriction (allergies, GF, Veg, or Vegan)

I'll bring a side: fruit, salad, or desert for Sunday lunch

What are your favorite campfire songs?

FEES FOR FULL RETREAT (SAT-SUN)

\$30/person (lodging, meals, activities)

Age 3 and under free; max. \$75/family

Total \$ _____

FEES FOR SUNDAY ONLY

\$10/person (lunch, activities)

Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to First Christian Church.
Write “all-church retreat” in memo line.

Registrations and fees due in church office no later than October 14, 2022