# flossmoor community church NARTHEX



# you belong here.

What does belonging feel like to you?

Some might say belonging feels like being known, making memories, and sharing burdens. To some it might feel like contributing to meaningful service or growing through challenging experiences with others. Others might say belonging feels like being accepted without judgement, invited to express one's true self and still feel welcome. Some might add that belonging feels like fresh perspectives, belly laughs and spontaneous tears.

When we taste these gifts together, we taste the truth that we all belong to God, and we are all part of God's family, wherever it's found. Some of you have experienced that at FCC for most of your lives. Others are new to this particular table. In our offering prayer each week, we pray that what we give helps build the biggest table imaginable where all might be fed and live together in peace.

Can you picture it? Whose faces do you see at that table? How do we extend that welcome? How do we let people know they belong? How do we keep learning what it takes to help people experience God's welcome, without making it sound like it's "our" table?

How? We show up at the table ourselves. We come to the "Welcome Back Breakfast" on September 18, to taste that belonging again. We come and put our hands to work tying blankets together in service the following week. We come and worship with children, youth and adults to taste our diversity together. Then, when we know ourselves loved and welcome, we pull up a chair for others. We watch how Jesus did it, flinging invitations far and wide, and prepare ourselves for the transformation only God's new community can bring.

All Belong Here.

Thanks be to God.

Pastor Julie

### FALL 2022

OUR NEW LOOK

FCC's Branding Story

**p2** 

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

Welcome Back Breakfast & The Tie That Binds

#### **STAFF UPDATES**

Welcoming New Staff and celebrating accomplishments

р 6-7

#### SAVE THE DATES

Fall upcoming events

p 13

FALL CALENDAR

p 14

## introducing our new logo

## When the timing is right

Our "cross and icthus stole" logo was designed by Chris Nelson, and has served our congregation beautifully for the past 22 years. As we continue to emerge from the



pandemic and imagine the ways we might connect with our community and tangibly radiate Christ's love in our diverse neighborhood, it seemed the appropriate time to give thought to a refreshed look which conveys our inclusive spirit and purpose.

Our Communications & Connections Director, Brooke King-LaBreck, spent much of the summer designing, giving thoughtful consideration to representing our values and setting our brand apart from the rest. Several rounds of modifications were made with the input of staff before Brooke presented her final design to the Governing Board in August. It was voted on and unanimously approved.

A complete re-branding takes a great deal of time, so you can expect to see changes made to stationary, signage, our website, and promotional items slowly rolled out over the next several months.



### The meaning behind the design of our new look

The logo's design elements are made up of our initials - but convey much more.







the first "C" is represented by the series of dots radiating outward. These dots symbolize the shepherd's flock, as well as the congregation and community. One might also imagine the choir of angels witnessed by the shepherds, or the stars of the vast creation.



the second "C" encompases the design in an open circle inviting our congregation to go out and serve, and inviting the community in to join us.



Greetings from Janet Bolton, our new Governing Board Chairperson

### FCC Past, Present and Future...

**My Past:** When my parents joined FCC in 1960, they couldn't have known they were planting our family's roots here for decades to come. Recently, just after accepting the position as the current Governing Board Chair, I found this 1967 Narthex announcing my Dad as FCC's New Governing Board Chair (pictured right)! Now, 55 years later, as I follow in my Dad's footsteps, I am both humbled and excited.

The Present: We have much to celebrate, as we continue to emerge from the pandemic! Praise God, we are back worshipping together in our Sanctuary. Our Boards and Committees are hard at work planning and dreaming of possibilities for the coming year. We've thanked & honored the staff who have left, after years of dedicated service. Now we're excited to welcome new staff, as they begin to share their gifts and talents with us.

**Our Future:** My hope for this new program year is for each of us be inspired to: come to worship when able; invite a friend; find new ways to serve, and continue to share our joy & compassion with others. God is calling each of us to serve, grow and do more than we ever imagined. May we be filled with the passion to make a difference.

"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things." ~ Mother Teresa



Julie, Betsy Hanzelin or Jamie Ford know.

#### YOUTH SUNDAY-JANUARY 29

#### WORSHIP SERVICES

ces, sitting services 9:30 and 11:00 a.

CHURCH ENTERS 40th YEAR

THIS IS YOUR NEW GOVERNING BOARD CHAIRMAN



### FCC HAPPENINGS

## SUN SEPT 18

### Before & After Worship in Fellowship Hall

8:30 - 10 am & 11 am - 12:30 pm

Save the date to celebrate the beginning of a new season together with breakfast and fellowship together - "Breakfast Bonanza Style"!

Breakfast will be prepared and served by volunteers, so everyone is encouraged to enjoy delicious made-to-order omelets, pancakes and sausage for a free-will donation.

Would you like to help cook or serve? Volunteer at fccfaithful.org/happenings! Sponsored by the Board of Congregational Connections



#### Friday, September 30, from 6:30-8:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

Our Community Partner, the Center for Food Equity in Medicine (CFFEIM), is gearing up for their Holiday Giving Season and has set a goal of making 200 blankets before the end of the year. The Boards of Faith in Action and Congregational

Connections are teaming up to help them reach their goal of providing cozy comfort to their clients this Christmas!

ALL AGES are invited to come at 6:30 pm, enjoy some fellowship and pizza, and learn how to prepare and create fleece tie blankets! Young, old, and everyone in between can help! CFFEIM is supplying all materials, you just need to bring your willing spirit (and sharp scissors if you have them)!

To help us plan for the event (and order enough pizza), please sign up at fccfaithful.org/ happenings. Any questions? Please contact Betsy Hanzelin at bhanzelin@fccfaithful.org or 708.798.2800, ext. 18.



HIDDEN GECN HALF MARATHON

### FCC Mile 10 Water Station Volunteers

Saturday, September 10 7:30-11 a.m.

We'll be cheering and passing out water as the official Mile 10 Water and Aid station again this year! We need volunteers to help cheer on runners and pass out water and gatorade as the runners pass FCC. The Flossmoor Park neighborhood's theme for the runners will once again be rainbows, so dig out your most colorful garb, and get ready to cheer and HYDRATE participants!

Visit fccfaithful.org/happenings to sign up, and contact Brooke King-LaBreck at bking@fccfaithful.org with any questions.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



### Sunday, September 11 in the Children's Ministry Hallway following worship

Come up to visit our updated and freshly painted Children's Ministry Rooms, and meet our new Interim Coordinator, Amie Laven!

### Our new program year begins Sunday, September 11!

We are so excited to get started! Each Sunday, children will begin with worship at 10 am with their families, and will be dismissed to attend Children's Worship around 10:20 am. From there, they will be escorted up to their special UPDATED rooms on the second floor of the Education Wing for their own Children's Worship, where they will encounter the stories of the Bible in creative and engaging ways that invite each child to WONDER! Children's Worship will end at 11:15 am (a new time) and parents/guardians are asked to come pick up their child from their rooms.



It seems like we just wrapped up the last school year and here we are, ready to start again! We were so happy to complete the last year successfully with so many challenges, protocols, and procedures during the pandemic. We're excited to begin this new program year with a bit less restriction, while keeping everyone's safety and health in mind!

Weekday opened it's doors for it's first day on Tuesday, September 6 to welcome 75 students and 9 teachers to 6 classrooms and 8 schedules. Like last year, we are keeping class sizes smaller than our pre-pandemic numbers.

Our Back to School Night is planned for Tuesday, September 27 where the classrooms, playground and hallway will showcase how "Play is Work at Weekday". Field trips return this year and will serve as an extension of the themes taught in the classroom for hands-on experiences. Picture Day will provide an opportunity to capture that smile on the playground for a keepsake! Enrichment opportunities will begin mid-October and run through the remainder of the school year.

Being part of FCC Weekday Preschool is a special tradition that many in our community have a connection with. From having attended Weekday themselves and now returning with their own child, to parents who attended FCC Youth Group, to grandchildren and children of current church members - we occupy a wing in the building that is beloved by many, and we are proud to continue the legacy of FCC Weekday Preschool.

> Dallas Collins WPS Director

# FCC STAFF NEWS

### We're thrilled to announce our newest Staff Members!



#### Rev. Dr. Dawnn Pirani Brumfield, Pastoral Care Associate

Rev. Dawnn has served in many capacities, including as an Associate Pastor, Clinical Psychotherapist, and Facilitator for Anti-bias and traumainformed care trainings. She is ordained by the International Council of Community Churches and identifies her specific spiritual gifts as administration, counseling, preaching and teaching. The Search Committee found her to be a warm, genuine, and compassionate presence who they believe will bless

those in need of pastoral care. She will bring astute, creative, detail-oriented leadership to our care ministries, and, like FCC, is passionate about community inside and outside the church walls.

The church expresses its thanks to the Search Committee: Kim O'Lone (chair), Kim Sifner, Phyliss Royster, Doug King, and staff members Pastor Julie Van Til and Betsy Hanzelin. They received over 15 applications and interviewed four quality candidates. After one candidate rose to the top, they created a meaningful time of connection for the top candidate, the committee, and leadership staff, and were thrilled to unanimously recommend Dawnn to the Personnel Committee.

Dawnn writes, "I am super excited about joining the leadership of Flossmoor Community Church as the pastoral care associate. My many years as a pastor have taught me that people don't have to be kind, gracious or intentional but my brief interactions with FCC's pastor and leadership has shown me a community that is all three! I am honored that God saw fit to connect us in community and I look forward to what God will produce through our ministry together!"



#### Michael Linde, Music Ministry Associate

We are thrilled to welcome to FCC Staff! On any given Sunday, you will find Michael up in the balcony at the sound board. He comes to us with a lifetime of sound production experience, both as a producer and as a product specialist. Michael was born and raised in the South Suburbs, and spent a good number of years playing keyboards and seeing the world with his band, The Blue Meanies.



#### Amie Laven, Interim Children's Ministry Coordinator

Amie Laven has graciously agreed to step in this year to assist in Children's Ministry! Amie has been a busy parent the last few years but was feeling God's call to step back into the work force. As our search for a new Children Ministry Director brought us no appropriate candidates, Amie's offer to assist with Children's Ministry planted a seed that has grown over the last few weeks. We are grateful that she is willing to jump in as our Interim Children's Ministry Coordinator. In this capacity, she will coordinate our volunteers, prepare lessons and supplies for Children's Worship, and organize and refresh our Children's Spaces. She has agreed to serve in this position throughout this program year.

Amie and her husband Dan have been members of FCC for five years and live in Flossmoor with their four daughters, Halena, Kendall, Braylin and Lourdes. Amie started on Monday, August 22 and is busy preparing for the fall kickoff of Children's Worship on Sunday, September 11!

### **Celebrating 30 Years of Betsy!**



Wow! What a gift Betsy Hanzelin is to our congregation and staff. 30 years ago, Betsy joined us as our Director of Youth Ministries. She served in that capacity for 23 years before using her gifts to serve the congregation as Director of Congregational Enrichment. In March 2022, she transition to her current role as Executive Director of Church Ministries. She helps us gather, worship and serve in so many ways. With organizational prowess in one hand and heartfelt encouragement in the other, she elevates her colleagues and their efforts. With dedication and love, she keeps us moving forward toward our mission as a community church.

Betsy shares, "Hard to believe it's been 30 years! Lots of joys, challenges, laughs, tears ... all the real stuff of life! I have been privileged to work with some amazing folks over the years and to serve a gracious congregation that gave me opportunities to grow and try new things! God is good!"

As we settle into the fall rhythm, we'll communicate how you can join us to celebrate her 30 years of employment (so far) at FCC! We love you, Betsy!

### Our deep gratitude to Rev. Travis Adams for his Interim Pastoral Care

Rev. Travis Adams, on top of being a stellar Youth Director, has served for the last eighteen months as our Interim Pastoral Care Associate. With the arrival of Pastor Dawnn on staff, Travis is finally able to step down from this position and focus all his energy on our Youth.

We are deeply grateful for the heart and soul that Travis poured into his Pastoral Care work. The Diaconate Board was well served by Travis' leadership as Staff Liaison, especially when the Board found themselves without a chair earlier this year. The congregation was



blessed by his deeply heartfelt prayer requests, his visits to the hospital to sit bedside those in pain, and his listening ears on Sunday morning. Our hearts have been touched by his work and he has left long-lasting and meaningful marks on all of us!

Thank you, Travis for your willingness to serve as a long-term interim and we pray that you feel the love and gratitude from the congregation, and the whisper from God that you have "served us well".

### Spread the word about FCC job openings!

We are currently searching for an Office Administrator and a Weekday Preschool Lunch Coordinator. Full job descriptions and instructions to apply can be found at fccfaithful.org/jobopenings



### Music Ministries Director, Rob Calhoon, Attends Worship Conference

With the assistance of FCC's Prefessional Development fund, our Music Ministries Director, Rob Calhoon, was able to attend the St Olaf Conference of Worship, Theology and the Arts held in July.

Rob shares, "I spent four transformative days on the beautiful campus of St Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota at the end of July learning about big topics like: Viewing the intersection of activism through a cultural lens; strengthening collaboration in the community through sacred visual arts programs; and allowing music to be a tool of restoration in communities torn apart by the concurrent pandemics of COVID and systemic racism. I also had the opportunity to play in a really strong handbell choir, and watched some masterful choir conducting.

There is really so much more to tell, and I came away refreshed and ready to share what I learned with the FCC community, and inspired to dig deeper into some of the other ideas I was introduced to!"

Our theme for the 2022-2023 program year is "Be Here. Be You. Belong."

Tackling questions such as "Who Am I?" and "What does it mean to be a Christian?" is no small feat. FCC Youth Ministry strives to provide a space for all teenagers to ask questions without fear, say what they need to say among peers with a similar thirst for answers, and support one another through the struggle of it all.

Hence the nature of this year's logo: a beautiful collage of colors creates a stained glass portrait, representing how the diversity of color and shades enable the picture to be seen while still recognizing the uniqueness and beauty of the individual sections. The colors combine to share our mantra and our prayer:

**BE HERE,** because faith is about living in community with one another, and we aren't whole when we are apart. We want to be actively present in each other's lives so we can be a community of peace, love, mercy, and justice as we figure out who we are in Christ together.

**BE YOU,** because we love who you are right here, right now. We want to celebrate what makes you unique while we all learn from the differences God has placed on one another. Everyone is a work in progress, but you are already beautifully and wonderfully made.

**BELONG,** because no matter your origin, no matter what you have nor have not done, and no matter where you are in your spiritual journey, you can find a place to call home here among us.

Thank you once again for all your amazing support! I truly think this is going to be a great year! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, my email, phone, and door are always open!

May God bless our journey as we learn who we are together.

May Christ's example serve as our example as we learn how to live our lives abundantly. May The Spirit inspire us all as we start this new season of youth ministry.

> In Christ, Rev. Travis Adams

### NEW YOUTH MINISTRY SCHEDULE BEGINNING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

As we begin another new program year for our teenagers here at FCC, we are jazzing things up...again!

**UUEST** 

(High School)

### TRIBES (Junior High)



### Sunday Mornings following worship @ 11:30 am

Last year, we held regular youth groups on Sunday Nights. That schedule proved challenging for many and we are making the switch to holding youth groups Sunday mornings following worship. Groups will begin at 11:30 am, allowing us some casual hangout time following worship, and will end at 12:30 pm, which ensures a full hour to pray, learn, and play together! Tribes will meet in Room 10, and Quest will meet in Room 23.

# THE UPPER ROOM

### (High School Juniors & Seniors and Adult Lay Leaders) FIRST WEDNESDAYS OF THE MONTH FROM 7 - 8:30 PM

This year, our Jr/Sr gatherings will be renamed "Upper Room"! We picked Upper Room because ...

- The upper room was where Jesus met with his disciples to discuss some of the most challenging Christian lessons just before some major, life-changing events.
- We meet on the upper floor of the church, so it's a solid geography pun (which serves as the heart of our ministry).
- It is the time and space reserved for our upperclassmen (yet another pun)!

Upper Room will meet on the first Wednesday of the month from 7 – 8:30 pm. Together, we will discuss the events of that month, determine everyone's roles in leading groups, schedule when to connect with adult leaders to prepare lessons for Tribes and Quest, do some deeper dives into our own spiritual growth, and coordinate the best time to have special, unique events for our Juniors and Seniors. All Juniors and Seniors are welcome to the Upper Room, whether they wish to embrace leadership opportunities or only want to hang with their peers and/or engage in Biblical studies. Upper Room will meet in Room 23.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, September 11** Youth Group Begins!

Sunday, September 18 WELCOME BACK BREAKFAST before and after worship

Friday, September 30 THE TIE THAT BINDS

-Multigenerational Service Project & Pizza Party (6:30-8:30 pm in Fellowship Hall)

Friday, October 28 -Sunday, October 30 – IDENTITY RETREAT Quest (9-12th) @ Tower Hill

Sunday, November 13 PANCAKE DAY - Tribes (6-8th)

**Sunday, November20** PANCAKE DAY - Quest (9-12th)

> Sunday, November 27 DECK THE HALLS following Worship

> Sunday, December 18 Christmas Party & Start of Winter Break

## IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



World Communion Sunday began in 1936 in the Presbyterian Church and has grown into an international celebration of unity. Church communities around the globe will celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 2, 2022. Flossmoor Community Church acknowledges this day in worship, as well and conducts a special collection to support non-profit agencies.

Each year, the Board of Faith in Action asks the question, "What is breaking God's heart?", and seeks agencies that are serving our vulnerable neighbors locally and internationally. This year, the following organization have been selected.

### The Night Ministry

A Chicago-based organization, The Night Ministry compassionately provides housing, health care, outreach, spiritual care, and social services to adults and youth who struggle with homelessness, poverty, and loneliness. They accept individuals as they are and offer support as they seek to improve their lives. The Night Ministry is driven by the desire to provide human connection, housing, and healthcare to those most in need. To read more, visit thenightministry.org/how-we-help.

### World Central Kitchen

A global organization, World Central Kitchen is first to the frontlines, providing meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises. They build resilient food systems with locally-led solutions. José Andrés and his mission of World Central Kitchen began in 2010 after the Haiti earthquake. Their work continued after Hurricane Maria destroyed Puerto Rico. They continued on during the Covid-19 pandemic. On to Beirut, Australia, Louisiana, Texas, Ukraine...wherever disaster strikes and leaves people homeless and hungry. His work to feed those in crisis AND to assist those affected by global warming (wck.org/climate) continues. To read more about José's message, visit wck.org/story.

Your gifts to our World Communion Offering can be made online, through our giving portal at www.fccfaithful.org/giving, by selecting "Special Offering" under Donation Type, or mailing in or dropping a check into our Offering Boxes outside of the Sanctuary.

### Adopt-a-Plot

Paying landscapers to weed our extensive grounds is a hefty expense no one wants to see taken out of our budget. Likewise, no one wants to see the weeds themselves! Often it is our own church staff and Properties committee who try to keep the weeds at bay - but as you may have noticed, it is hard to keep up. Thank you to the dear souls who have stepped up and stopped by to pull weeds, split and transplant mature plants, spread mulch, picked up garbage, and help take ownership of our grounds!

The time has come to assemble a reliable base of volunteers. Many thanks to Rob Calhoon and the Music Ministries department which has stepped up to maintain the Travers side of the building. Another family has unofficially adopted the front entrance area. Would you or a team consider adopting a plot of the church grounds to help us with maintenance of our beds? If you can help, please reach out to Jamie Ford (jford@fccfaithful.org) or Karen Cheung (russellke@gmail.com) for more information! If we break it up into smaller, more manageable pieces, the properties will remain beautiful and welcoming!



## CELEBRATIONS

### A Big Thank You

This summer, we put musical diversity on display with our first "Spirituality of Song" series. We experienced singing meditation, devotional music, protest songs, classical pieces, the blues, drumming, swing, and the sounds of the universe. Musicians within the congregation offered not only their favorite pieces, but also personal stories that put music in conversation with the scripture and sermon for the day. Thank you to all who played, to you who stepped out of your comfort zone to appreciate the offerings, and especially to our musicians who shared personally:

Rachel & Brendon DeBoer, Jeff Hamrick, David Ranlett, Fred Hanzelin, Mike Rogers, Matt Epperson, and Phil Royster

### FCC PRIDE PARTY SUCCESS!

The Board of Congregational Connections expresses its deep gratitude to the FCC congregation and the Community's support of the the 2022 FCC Pride Party!

What a beautiful evening we had in June celebrating our LGBTQ neighbors and allies. Community businesses and individuals stepped forward with generous sponsorship which offset expenses.

We raised \$2,500 for the Lighthouse LGBTQ+ Scholarship Fund! Thank you!





### Dig a little deeper into God's Word!

#### STARTING SEPTEMBER 14 @10 am in the Genesis Room

Curious about scripture?

Enjoy getting out of the house and gathering with others?

Like to prepare for Sunday worship?

Have an open schedule on Wednesday mornings?

If any or all of these apply to you, please come to our Bible Study that dives into the Narrative Lectionary reading that will be the worship focus of the following Sunday. Last year we explored Old Testament stories in the Fall, and studied the amazing Gospel of John after Christmas. This year we will share lively discussion of the stories of the Hebrew Scriptures such as the Flood, Call of Abraham, the Covenant, David & Bathsheba; followed by stories from Matthew's Gospel.

No preparation is needed, just an open mind and a willingness to learn from one another as we discover our place in God's great story. This group is facilitated by Betsy Hanzelin, who would be happy to answer your questions or provide more information if you are interested. (bhanzelin@fccfaithful.org)

## FCC HAPPENINGS

### SAT. OCT. 22 2-5pm

It's back! Save the date for outdoor live music, vendors, contests and fun for all ages!



GOURD

FCC Fall Community Party

### @ the Community House

BYOB and snacks and come out to a fun Adults Only BINGO night with splitthe-pot cash prize! \$5 entry includes your first card. Additional cards are \$2 (cash only). Our last Bingo event, pre-pandemic, was hugely successful and raised a great deal of money for FCC causes.

### Play for fun! Play for your church! When we have this much fun together, everyone wins!

Must be 21+ Sponsored by the Board of Congregational Connections

### **Nursery Care**

As we prepare for a new program year, we look forward to welcoming little ones into our nursery. We are looking for a group of church members who are interested in volunteering once a month in the nursery during worship.

We will need one adult over the age of 18 and one youth (14+) each Sunday.

If your child is 12 years and older and has taken the Babysitting class through the park district and is CPR certified, they are also welcome to volunteer. Please contact Jamie Ford (jford@fccfaithful.org) if you or your youth are interested.

### Save the Date for Fall Clean-Up!

All hands on deck! The tentative date for fall clean-up is Saturday, November 5. Please mark your calendars and join us in putting our garden beds to sleep for the upcoming winter. More details to follow in the weeks leading up to the date.

### FCC FALL EVENTS CALENDAR

	<b>Ongoing Events on Sundays</b> Worship at 10 am - Sanctuary & Streaming Children's Worship - 10:15 - 11:15 am Youth Groups - 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
Sat 9/10	Hidden Gem Water Station - VOLUNTEERS!
Sun 9/11	Children & Youth groups start, Children's Ministry Open House
Sun 9/18	Welcome Back Breakfast & New Season in Worship
Fri 9/30	"The Tie That Binds" - Pizza Party & Blanket making for CFFEIM (all ages)
Sun 10/2	World Communion Sunday
Mon 10/10	Offices Closed - Indigenous Peoples Day
Sat 10/22	Good Gourd - Community House (2-5 pm)
Fri 10/29	Youth Confirmation Retreat thru Sun
Fri 11/4	BYOB Bingo - Community House (7-9 pm)
Sun 11/6	All Saints Sunday (Daylight Savings)
Fri 11/11	Offices Closed - Veteran's Day
Thur/Fri 11/24, 25	Offices Closed - Thanksgiving
Sun 11/27	1st Sunday of Advent
	Deck the Halls Gathering
Sun 12/4	2nd Sunday of Advent
Thur 12/8	Christmas Movie Trivia Night
Sun 12/11	3rd Sunday of Advent
	Made With Love Cookie Project
12/15-17	CFFEIM Christmas Food Project
Sun 12/18	4th Sunday of Advent, Last CM/YM until January
	Angel Tree Project Drop Off
Sat 12/24	Christmas Eve
Sun 12/25	Christmas Day
Week of 12/26	Offices closed



Non-Profit US Postage Paid Flossmoor, Illinois Permit No. 4

