

Flossmoor community church

NARTHEX



Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago, I visited the church where I worked in San Francisco. The reunion burst my heart open! At the end of each sweet conversation, I especially loved being asked about you, the people of FCC with whom I belong now. After navigating the tempest of the last few years, it is such a gift to report to others how right it feels to be here with you in this season. When I talk about you, I share how much our values align and how we hope to grow together. I talk about the exciting and daunting task of stewarding all the good signs of life among us. I know the Spirit is in this, thanks be to God, and the Spirit will lead!

As I reflected with old friends, this phrase came to mind: we belong here. Sure, it helps that we've refinished a few more rooms in the house and learned just enough about gardening our corner lot to keep it agreeable. Beyond that, the family is settling into community, sharing gifts and good work with neighbors, teachers, local business folks, church members, and friends. On top of it all, we belong in this beautiful, welcoming church full of curious minds, big hearts and ready hands.

This summer, we'll resurrect that phrase from last fall – You Belong Here. It's not just a slogan, it's a spiritual reality that we need to regularly embrace, experience and practice. Together, we'll receive God's exuberant welcome and enjoy it with others.

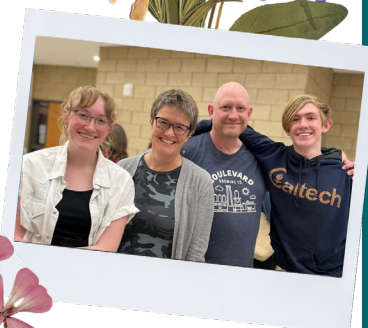
With the backdrop of a beautiful book, "This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories That Make Us" by Cole Arthur Riley, we'll explore more of our stories together. About belonging, Riley says,

"We don't just welcome you or accept you; we need you. We are insufficient without you. One part's absence renders the whole impoverished in some way, even if the whole didn't previously apprehend it. In mutuality, belonging is both a gift received and a gift given. There is comfort in being welcomed, but there is dignity in knowing that your arrival just shifted a group toward deeper wholeness."

Here's to summer, and to moving toward deeper wholeness together!

In the love God freely gives,

Pastor Julie



SUMMER 2023

PASTORAL AND
SPIRITUAL CARE

p2-3

FCC KIDS

Weekday Preschool and
Children's Ministry news

p4-5

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Featuring our graduating
seniors

p6-8

FCC HAPPENINGS

Staff News, upcoming events
and community partners

p9-11

CARING MINISTRIES



It's been more than 250 days since we began this Pastoral Care journey together and I don't feel no ways tired yet! It has been my extreme honor and pleasure to walk with the Flossmoor Community Church family throughout these past 9 months, and I look forward to continuing this work. I am excited about what God is doing in the Caring Ministries of FCC!

For some of you it has been a season of great joy. You've celebrated new relationships, new opportunities, and even new babies. This is a blessing indeed! For some others, it has been a season of tremendous loss. As a community we've experienced the deaths of some long-standing members, and the impact has been felt in the deepest ways. We continue to care for these families in prayer and hold hope that they will feel the presence of God in the sincerest way.

One of the most endearing treasures of Flossmoor Community Church is the ways we show up for each other and the remarkable display of love we share. My heart swells with joy at the relationships I have built and nurtured since my arrival. And I am overwhelmed with the amount of care and concern this congregation displays on a regular basis. I am confident that as we continue to lean into loving each other well, we will see an abundance of numerical growth and an overwhelming amount of spiritual growth, too.



Grief & Loss Workshops Coming to FCC this Summer

Grief can be complicated. When loss happens, the impact can be felt in every area of our lives. Everything we do, say or think is seen through the lens of that loss, and it can be hard to navigate. This summer Flossmoor Community Church will host two grief & loss workshops that will give space to lament, remember, share, and learn how to live again. If you're interested in joining our workshop, please email Pastor Dawnn at dbrumfield@fccfaithful.org

As I reflect on the ways I get to serve at FCC, I want to say a special thank you to the Prayer Chain. This group of prayer warriors pray diligently for the petitions of our hearts. They have held our stories, our laments, and our celebrations; we are grateful! As a firm believer that prayer changes people, systems, and circumstances, I am blessed to lead a group of folks who believe the same. Our prayer chain believes in praying for all our concerns. There is no request that is too big or too small for God to hear and respond! If you have a prayer request that you would like to submit to the prayer chain, please send all requests to prayer@fccfaithful.org.

Finally, the summer months will be spent praying for, discerning about, listening to and visiting folks in the congregation. If you desire to receive a pastoral visit, please send me a message directly to dbrumfield@fccfaithful.org And, looking ahead, the Caring Ministries of FCC will augment their services in the fall. We are planning a grief workshop, a family dynamics bible study, as well as a resource fair to discuss community partners for caregivers and aging parents.

Until then, have a glorious summer, participate in church and community activities, and be on the lookout for ways to become more involved in the Caring Ministries of Flossmoor Community Church!

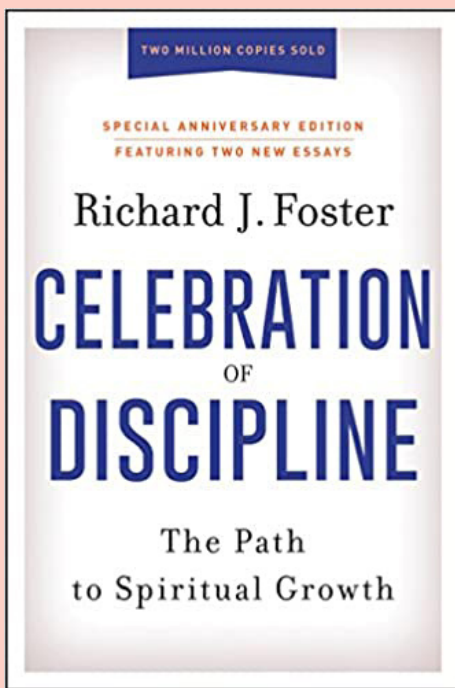
Amazed by God's Grace,
Pastor Dawnn,
Pastoral Care Associate

STEPHEN MINISTRY CARES



Stephen Ministry is a lay ministry which provides one-on-one, confidential Christian care to members of our congregation or community who are going through a difficult experience or season in life. Whenever a 'hurting' person could benefit from a confidential, non-judgmental, faith-filled listening companion, Stephen Ministry is available. Our trained caregivers' emphasis is on listening rather than on problem-solving or "curing".

If you would like to speak to a Stephen Minister, please email Doug King at RevKing77@att.net.



Summer Weekday Study

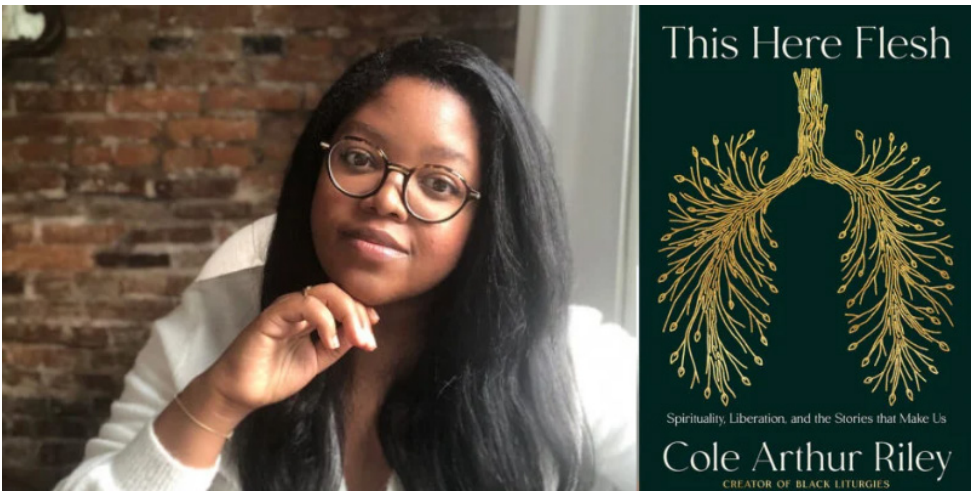
Wednesdays, June 7 – August 30
at 10 am in Genesis (no class 7/5)

Facilitators: FCC Staff
(Julie, Dawnn, Travis, & Betsy)

Summer is a perfect time to CELEBRATE and try something new! We are excited to provide this opportunity to gather for 12 weeks to explore the central spiritual practices of the Christian Faith. By studying ancient practices in a renewed way, we will be encouraged to take on new life-giving habits that will deepen our understanding of God and lead us to a richer, more joyful, and peaceful life. "Celebration of Discipline" explores the "classic disciplines", which include: meditation, prayer, fasting, study, simplicity, solitude, submission, service, confession, worship, guidance, and celebration.

Participants are encouraged to purchase the book and read one chapter each week before the study. (The text is easy to read and the chapters are approximately 15 pages each.)

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Betsy Hanzelin at bhanzelin@fccfaithful.org or 708.798.2800, ext. 18.



This Here Flesh

Have you followed "Black Liturgies" on Instagram? The prayers, quotes and scriptures Cole Arthur Riley curates to sustain Black people in particular have become inspiration for all those wrestling to integrate dignity, lament, rage, justice, joy and rest. Riley's New York Times Bestseller, *This Here Flesh*, will feature in our summer sermon series, and we'll make space in July & August to gather in smaller spaces to share the stories it sparks from our own lives. Watch for invites to these casual conversations that will grow our connection to God, to each other, and to our own souls!

Lawnchair Vespers

• THURSDAYS, JUNE 8 & 22 @7 PM •

*Bring a lawn chair for shared meditation
and fellowship on the Front Lawn of FCC*

WANTED: YOUR LAWN

What better way to foster belonging than a bonfire or happy hour hosted in your backyard? We've taken care of June...can you consider hosting an evening in your lawn in July? Let us help you facilitate a summer gathering! Contact Brooke King-LaBreck, Communication & Connection Director, at bking@fccfaithful.org.



Josie's Acrylic Expressions ART SHOW

**Sunday, June 11, 10am - 5 pm
at the FCC Community House**

50% of proceeds
will be donated to FCC

FCC member Josie Rodriguez will be sharing her gifts with the congregation and community on Sunday, June 11! Following worship, Fellowship Time will take place at the Community House where you can enjoy Josie's artwork!

Josie Rodriguez, Artist

Josie started creating art at the age of 16, working primarily in oils, charcoals, and pastels. Before college, she studied art in Mexico and during her 20's had numerous showings in the Chicagoland area. Her work was featured in several media outlets, including the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun Times. Once Josie retired as an educational administrator, she returned to painting after a 30-year hiatus where she started experimenting with acrylic pours and embellishments. She loves how this style allows her to organically create each piece, making each one unique. Josie's favorite aspect of her work is that it can be interpreted in many different ways based on each viewer's experiences and imaginations.



FCC Weekday Preschool

This school year has flown by! Since Spring Break, we have hosted a playground clean-up, attended an all-school field trip to Irons Oaks, and had many discussions and observations about insects as we watched our caterpillars turn into butterflies. We've observed the behaviors of ants in our two ant farms and planted grass and flowers to watch them grow. Our final field trip of the year is to the Beverly Arts Center to see the production of "Pinocchio".

The final weeks of Weekday are bittersweet, as we have watched these children blossom, learned new skills and mastered the art of PLAY- which has prepared them for the next steps of school! Classroom picnics will wrap the 2022-2023 school year at the end of May and celebrate the start of summer! Our teachers have dedicated themselves to these children, sharing their passion and commitment to early childhood education, and have made my job a delight- I'm so appreciative to everyone who made this year possible!

I have been giving MANY tours to new families looking for local part-time preschools, happy that we still have a great reputation around our communities. Word of mouth is still the most frequent referrals we get! We still have some space for the 2023-2024 school year. If you know someone looking, please have them reach out to schedule a tour this summer!

Dallas Collins,
FCC Weekday Preschool Director

Barb Johnson to Retire after 14 Years

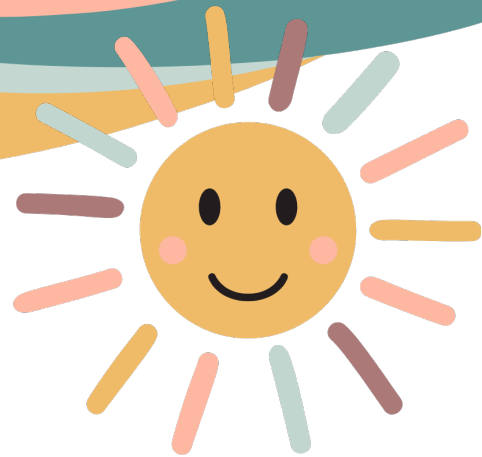


Weekday Preschool will miss Barb Johnson tremendously! After 14 fabulous years at Weekday, (and many years with Good Shepherd prior), Barb has decided to retire and spend more time with her family. Barb has been an integral part of the success of the two-year-old program at WPS. Her wealth of knowledge, passion in early childhood education, and commitment to FCC has made it an absolute pleasure to have her in the hallways! Barb is always willing to lend a helping hand to her co-workers, make a home visit to her students when necessary, and lend a sympathetic ear to parents when needed.

Barb is a treasure, and her presence will be missed in the classroom and hallways on a weekly basis.

Thank you so much, Barb, for your guidance, advice, and laughter you've shared with us! Enjoy your "down" time, but please come back to visit often!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Sunday Mornings in the Summer

We recognize that summer is often a more relaxed season for our families! On non-communion Sundays* we will be offering special Children's Time during worship for our children ages 3 years to third grade. Children will begin in worship, and then will be dismissed for a brief lesson and outdoor play time (weather permitting). Children will be returned to the Gathering Space at the end of worship.

**June 4, July 2, and August 6 will be Communion Sundays, and we encourage families to attend worship together, as no children's time will be provided.*

FCC Kids Summertime Fun

Family Movie Night

Friday, June 16, from 7-9 pm

This will be a fun night at the Laven's house. It will be a kid friendly movie along with popcorn and treats. Bring your sleeping bag, wear your PJs and bring a stuffy you can cuddle up with and have fun with other kids. Parents will need to accompany their child, and it will be a fun family night with friends.

Pops in the Park

Wednesday, July 19, from 1-2 p.m

Come to Leavitt Park for a midday meet-up with parents and kids to enjoy some play time in the park. Amie will provide popsicles and bring a kickball and some games to enjoy the beautiful day outside.

Friendly Family Kickball on Mustang Field

Sunday, August 27 at 11:15 am

The Cheung Family is organizing this fun end-of-summer event! Meet at 11:15 am at Flossmoor Park on Mustang Field. We welcome players or a cheering section. BYO Picnic Lunch and the Cheung Family will provide dessert and drinks. RSVP to Karen Cheung at russellke@gmail.com or 814.386.5166.

Help plan other events!

If you or your family would like to organize or invite folks to other summer events for families, we would be happy to spread the word among our church families. Please contact Amie Laven as she would love to support your efforts!



**GREATER
CHICAGO
- FOOD -
DEPOSITORY.**

Family Service Project at Greater Chicago Food Depository

Saturday, July 8

At our Parent Dinner in March, parents shared their desire for opportunities to participate in projects that would help their family put their faith in action in service. Often, age restrictions make it difficult to find projects which would allow our younger children to serve. We're pleased to have discovered that The Greater Chicago Food Depository provides special "Kids Days" projects on the second Saturday of the month, where children ages 5 - 11 and their families can participate in meaningful service.

We have reserved spots for our FCC families on Saturday, July 8. The group will go to the Food Depository (4100 W. Ann Lurie Place, Chicago, IL 60632) and will work from 1 - 3 pm on age-appropriate tasks.

Please sign up at the link provided at fccfaithful.org/childrensministry.

CONGRATULATIONS,



Avery Calhoon

will be attending St. Olaf College studying music education, hoping to become either a music teacher or a conductor for theatre pit orchestras.

- Speech team
- Theatre department
- Orchestra
- Viking Choir
- Red & White Choir Contest Student Conductor
- National Honor Society
- Math Honor Society Officer
- Music Honor Society President
- AP Scholar & Illinois State Scholar

Avery shares, "In my short time at FCC, I've been welcomed with open arms. I will miss the community and the support allowing me to grow".



Jane Ermsler

will be attending the University of Iowa with a major in public health

- Varsity Soccer Captain
- Viking Broadcasting State & Class Award Winner
- won multiple state and class awards in Viking Broadcasting
- Vice president of Distributive Education Clubs of America, and participated in State
- Varsity Tennis Sectionals
- Class Top 50

Jane shares, "FCC for me has been a community. For as long as I can remember, I have come to this same youth group on Sunday mornings and it has really become a comfortable and loving space."



Luke Van Voorhees

will attend the University of San Diego, where he will play football and earn his degree.

- Basketball
- Marching Band
- Wrestling
- Track & Field
- Varsity Football
- Most Improved Player - Junior Year, Football
- Illinois High School Association Sportsmanship Award - Senior Year, Football
- Football Team Captain (4 games, Senior Year)
- 2 years of High Performance Fitness Training

Luke shares, "I was baptized and confirmed at FCC and I deeply value this community of faith, especially the youth group and its leaders. I will miss my friends most of all."



CLASS OF 2023!



Charlie Niemiec

will be studying economics at the University of North Carolina in the hopes of equipping himself to make a positive impact on the world around us, making it a more efficient and equitable place.

- National Honor Society
- HF Swim Team
- HF Water Polo

Charlie writes, "FCC has been a place for me to find solace, reflection, and guidance in the fast moving, hard to understand world that we all live in. The church, its staff, and the congregation have provided me immense support all my life, having helped me become the person I am today."



Grace Ryan

will attend Indiana University to study Finance at the Kelley School of Business

- Received academic awards for maintaining a 4.0 throughout high school
- Mu Alpha Theta
- National Honor Society
- Distributive Education Clubs of America

Grace says, "FCC allowed me to pave my own relationship with God and feel accepted by everyone there. It brought me closer to my community and peers."



Halena Laven

will be attending University of Illinois with a major in communications and a minor in acting/theater.

- 3rd in Speech Regional Competition
- 5th in Golf Regional Competition

Halena says, "FCC has always been a place I go to find peace in my day. I have always felt like it was a truly safe place that I am proud to have been a part of."



Bennett Reich

will attend Morehouse College in Atlanta, and plans to study business.

- Varsity Baseball
- National Honor Society

Bennett shares, "FCC has been a place to be involved in the community and meet all sorts of people. I will miss going on retreats with friends."

Wes Rubín (pictured left)

Wes signed a scholarship to play basketball and study at the University of Northern Iowa. He will be headed there on June 3 to start summer workouts, and take a summer class. The team will be traveling and playing in Brazil this summer. Wes is interested in studying business and hopes to continue playing basketball after college.

He shares, "My favorite memories of FCC are the retreats. I will miss those the most."

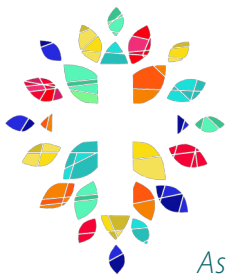
- Wes and Miles, along with their teammates at Simeon Career Academy, won the 2023 Chicago Public League Basketball Championship. Their team won 2nd place in the State Championship. Miles was named to both the Chicago Sun-Times All-Area basketball team and first team All-State.

Miles Rubín (pictured right)

Miles signed a scholarship to play basketball and study at Loyola University Chicago. He is staying close to home, but also reporting for summer basketball workouts and summer classes on June 3. Miles is interested in engineering, and also plans on playing basketball after college.

He writes, "What I'll miss about FCC is going on the retreats with everyone."





YOUTH SUMMER EVENTS

As families and students engage in summer school, camps, seasonal work, internships, and vacations, FCC Youth Sunday Morning Gatherings take a break to allow our leadership to catch their breath. But that doesn't mean we aren't doing anything at all! Check out this list of social events and service opportunities!

TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 7-8:30 PM JUNIOR HIGH MEET UP AT HOMEWOOD DQ

Come join us for our first Junior High hangout of the summer! As we welcome the newest 6th grade class to the group, we will eat some good ice cream and play some fun games to learn more about one another! Bring your ice cream money and plenty of energy for this sugar-filled social event!

FRIDAY, JUNE 16 HIGH SCHOOL MISSION NIGHT AT NIGHT MINISTRY

The Night Ministry is a Chicago-based organization whose mission is to provide human connection, housing support, and health care to members of our community who are unhoused or experiencing poverty. For this Quest (Senior High) event, we will be joining The Night Ministry as they visit folks on the street, learn more about their stories and engage in the first steps to meeting the needs of vulnerable young people. More details coming soon!

FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 8-11 PM AT FCC APOCALYPTIC UNICORN CAPTURE THE FLAG



A great twist on a classic game! Can you capture the hidden prize while avoiding flash-light wielding adults and glow-in-the dark unicorn defenders?!?! Come join us for a night of pizza and chaos in this full-fledged youth group (incoming 6th-12th grade) event!

SATURDAY, JULY 22 JUNIOR HIGH BACKYARD BONANZA!

Tribes class (incoming 6th – 8th grade)! Come cool off with some refreshments and competitive yard games over at Rev. Travis' place! A great night of fun and fellowship! Check out future eblasts or contact Travis for more information!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 6:30 - 8 PM AT FCC THE GREAT FLING FIASCO!



You bring it, we fling it! Bring anything (within reason) and we shall see what happens when it flies across the church yard via the power of super sized slingshots and raw muscle! All youth group students (incoming 6th-12th grade) are encouraged to participate in this great night of hilarious fellowship and absolute destruction!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18 - SUNDAY, AUGUST 20 YOUTH LEADERSHIP RETREAT

A weekend getaway for our Upper Room group (incoming 11th-12th grade and adult leaders). We will spend our time getting to know one another, receive training on leadership opportunities, and learning more about the themes and goals of the upcoming youth program year. Check out future eblasts or contact Travis for more details!



ALL-YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT SATURDAY, JULY 15 CENTER FOR FOOD EQUITY IN MEDICINE POP-UP

CCFEIM is holding a morning nutrition pop-up at Cancer Support Center in Homewood, and youth have been asked to assist with distributing food, cooking demonstrations, and other tasks. More details to come but save the date!

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING
JUNE 25

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

EVENIN'
WEEDIN'



A Chill Time of Service with Friends

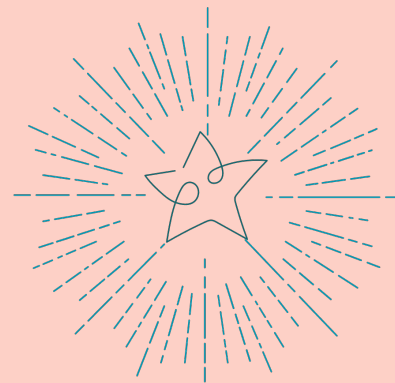
THIRD THURSDAYS OF THE MONTH
through August 17, from 5 - 7 p.m.

Bring a cooler and join in for simultaneous FCC fellowship and service to the church. We'll pitch in to take care of the grounds between sips and conversation! Our next gathering will be Thursday, June 15. Whether you're handy in the garden or just willing to lend a hand where you can, come on out and enjoy being outside with each other.

SUMMER MUSIC

So, you wish you had never given up practicing your violin, guitar, trumpet, drums, zither, trombone, cello, flute, saxophone, spoons, autoharp, melodyne, clarinet, mandolin, French horn, English horn or alphorn because your Mom told you that you were really good and brought joy to whoever heard you play.

Wish granted! We have a whole big church where you can dust of your instrument and share your musical talents. You don't want to play by yourself, you say? Not to worry, we'll find someone to play with! Track down Rob after service or drop him a note (rcalhoon@fccfaithful.org) and keep the dream alive! And if singing or ringing handbells is your thing, we've got plenty of opportunities for that, too!



Mid-Year Star Word Check-In!

In January of this year, we were each invited to choose a "Star Word" from the basket on the Communion Table. "Star Words" is a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the New Year, and invites individuals to draw a card to serve as a guiding word throughout the year.

Do you remember what your star word is? Do you know where your star word card is?

We challenged you to reflect on your Star Word, as you considered how God is moving through, around, or in connection with you in 2023. We would love to hear your stories or reflections on your Star Word, or how you have felt God moving in your life this year!

(If you lost your word, or would like a new or another word for the 2nd half of 2023, please reach out to Betsy Hanzelin at bhanzelin@fccfaithful.org)

COMMUNITY PARTNER



TOGETHER WE ARE ONE

STARRY NIGHTS CONCERT & PRIDE EVENT FRIDAY, JUNE 9 AT THE IRWIN PARK BANDSHELL

5 pm - DJ and Community Resources

The evening kicks off at 5 p.m. as DJ VIC spins your favorite hits. Also, at 5 p.m. resource tables will be available handing out information and support services to concert goers.

6 pm - Parade

At 6 p.m., all are welcome to join in a PRIDE PARADE around the immediate area!

7 pm - The PriSSillas

The PriSSillas will rock the stage with an eclectic set list, off-the-charts chemistry, and high-energy one-of-a-kind show performing popular hits from various genres and decades.

Admission to the Starry Nights concerts is FREE! Participants are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs. Food, beverages, and alcohol will be available from vendors; outside alcohol is prohibited. Commemorative PRIDE t-shirts will also be available for sale, with proceeds benefitting the Lighthouse LGBTQ scholarship fund.

FCC is honored to participate as a Community Resource in this event presented by the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District, Village of Flossmoor, and Village of Homewood. If you are interested in helping represent FCC at Pride 2023, please contact Brooke King-LaBreck, Communication & Connection Director, at bking@fccfaithful.org.



Dancing Away Domestic Violence

Saturday, June 10, from 3-6 pm
Martin Square in Homewood

All proceeds benefit Anew and their mission to end domestic violence in our community!

- Line Dancing, Cardio Drumming and Jazzercise
- Exclusive discounts, free swag, door raffle prizes available to all attendees
- Snacks and water provided

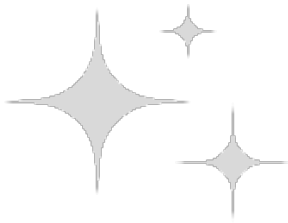
ADULTS \$20
KIDS 12 & UNDER \$10
5 & UNDER FREE

Purchase tickets at
bit.ly/DADV23



EVENTS TO SUPPORT

Center for Food Equity in Medicine



JAZZIN' IN THE PARK A FUNDRAISING EVENT

Thursday, June 15, 4 pm - dusk at the FCC Community House

FEATURED PERFORMANCES BY

Jae Via

Tony Cazeau Experiment



Order your tickets or donate

Scan the code or go to
foodequityinmedicine.org

\$50/adult

\$20 children, 12 and under

HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR
JUNE
TEENTH
FESTIVAL
by **YOU MATTER 2**

FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 11^{AM} - 6:30^{PM}

HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR HIGH SCHOOL

PARADE

MONDAY, JUNE 19, 9^{AM} - 12^{PM}

**FROM WESTERN AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TO PARKER JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

**FOR FREE TICKETS & MORE INFO, VISIT
WWW.HFJUNETEENTHFESTIVAL.COM**



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

A large, circular graphic composed of many small teal dots arranged in concentric circles, creating a textured, sunburst-like effect. The text 'you belong here.' is centered over this graphic.

you belong here.