

narthex



AUTUMN
2020

On Sunday, October 4, we'll celebrate New Season Sunday, the start of our 2020-2021 ministry programs for children, youth and adults. Come encourage each other as we share our tiny but beautiful contribution to the work of the global church, a diverse communion of people loved by God and sharing that love with the world. This year, our gathering will be different, but our spirit of generosity will continue through collecting a special World Communion Offering. The Board of Faith in Action has selected two organizations that we have partnered with in the past, who act as Jesus' hands and feet in our hurting world.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

www.fmssc.org

FMSC's mission is simple, "Feeding God's starving children hungry in body and spirit". This is accomplished through donations that fund the meal ingredients. Volunteers hand-pack the nutrient-rich meals, which are donated to FMSC food partners around the world. Last February, a team from FCC spent a memorable morning at the FMSC warehouse in Aurora, where we were part of a team that made 50,760 meal packs that would go to feed 139 children for one year!

CHICAGOLAND PRISON OUTREACH

www.cpoministries.org

Chicagoland Prison Ministry is a faith-based organization that ministers to men and women in the Cook County Jail, Cook County Sheriff's Boot Camp, various state prisons and at our Career Center in Roseland. They offer Christian worship services, discipleship classes, individual counseling, vocational training, job preparation, Bible studies and more—all in order to show inmates and their families the love of Christ in a clear, tangible way.

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We ask you to prayerfully consider your contribution to the World Communion Offering. You may contribute online at the Giving tab on www.fccfaithful.org, indicating World Communion in the description, or send a check to the church office.



FCC is here for you.

While watching *Away*, a Netflix series about astronauts leaving their families for three years to become the first humans to land on Mars, my family had a strange feeling. Bits and pieces of the episode interrupted the overall storyline. For instance, a teenager coached his friend about how to use the clutch and break of a motorbike when, in the episode we watched the night before, that same friend had already crashed a motorbike. Suddenly, my daughter put two and two together, exclaiming, "We watched them out of order!" Enlightened, we rattled off all the things that now made sense, like why this character fell ill, or why these characters broke out into a fight.

This experience sheds a little light onto why I'm excited to follow the Narrative Lectionary for much of the coming year. Developed by professors at Luther Seminary and growing widely in use, the Narrative Lectionary intentionally chooses passages that follow the overarching storyline of the whole Bible. We can expect each of the four-year cycles of the Narrative Lectionary to complement the Church Year. They begin at the beginning, travel through the stories of the Hebrew Bible, deliver us into the hands of a different gospel by Christmas, and explore the early church after Easter.

Reading this way invites us to both learn about particular stories and knit them into the larger unfolding drama of scripture. We'll witness the Hebrew people wrestle with their relationship to and understanding of God in the midst of their changing social and geopolitical landscape. We'll listen to texts in dialogue and even disagreement with each other, as authors and audiences change over time. Finally, we'll follow the thread of God's self-revelation as a redeeming, loving, faithful God from generation to generation.

As I face our own complex landscape, I find comfort when I tug on the threads of hope, disappointment, suffering and redemption in these ancient stories. May they illumine threads in your own life, helping you believe that this story is your story. As the invitation to the scripture reading will say each week,

"Listen now to these words, a story within the God's grand story in which each of us belongs."

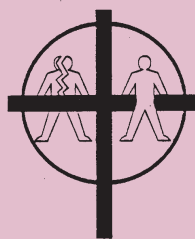
If you are a member in need of Pastoral Care or discrete aid, please contact Pastor Julie directly at jvantil@fccfaithful.org.

The global pandemic has made nearly every aspect of doing church more difficult. It may be a while before everything returns to what we call normal. This has been a time of adjusting and figuring out ways of becoming innovative. Not surprisingly, one of the distressing aspects during this season has been how we reach the most vulnerable in our congregation in meaningful ways.

An adjustment that has been made we call the "Web of Care". Pastor Julie and I are teaming up with the Diaconate Board and the Stephen Ministry to make sure we are reaching out to those members we feel need additional contact. The web of care will call, send cards and seek out our seniors and others deemed necessary, to be a comprehensive pastoral care presence during this pandemic.

If you know of any member that you believe would benefit from a regular call or a card, please give the church a call with that information.

Rev. Randall Tate,
Assistant to the Pastor for Pastoral Care



STEPHEN MINISTRY

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.

This is our faith in action.

FREE! *Drive-Up*

FOOD

THURSDAYS AT 12 PM

Flossmoor Community Church hosts a weekly FREE Food Drive-Up Thursdays at 12 p.m. until supplies run out. The event is held in the Community House parking lot and is contact-free. No questions asked, no ID required. Simply drive up, pop your trunk, and be supplied with fresh produce, dairy, meat and grain items. You are welcome to pick up for a friend or neighbor.

Volunteer

This weekly event is sponsored in part by the Board of Faith in Action and it depends on our FCC and community volunteers. The need has been great, and the lines are long. Each week we have served over 200 cars. Grab a mask and come enjoy fellowship as we bring food security to our neighbors.

A signup link is provided online at fccfaithful.org/resources.



This year's pledge campaign...

As we have been blessed with gifts from God, let us share our blessings with our church community so we can help each other. We are all in this together and we'll get through this together. Please consider helping the church to help those whose needs are greater than yours.

When we give joyfully, God's light shines through us and provides security for our church building, our church family, and the community in which we live. Let us be that light. Let us be that light when dark despair closes in. Some of us have been fortunate enough these past months to remain unaffected by unemployment woes. Some of us have not been so lucky. So please consider sharing all that God has provided in a time that can be very bleak for others. We have been together. We are together. We will get through this together.

In Christ's and your service,

The Stewardship Committee

Kris McManus, Ben Van Voorhees, Fredric Mitchell, Kathleen Orr



ADULT EDUCATION PREVIEW WEEK

Join us via Zoom at 11:30 am on Sunday, October 4 or 7pm on Wednesday, October 7 for an audio-visual preview of the Adult Education courses and classes offered for the rest of the calendar year of 2020. We never become too old to grow, learn, and connect while being formed and informed for following the Way of Jesus. Your presence and participation, whether regular or occasional, is most welcome!

Fall 2020 Courses

Adult education courses usually run for several consecutive weeks on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings and are designed to build community through shared reading and discussion of a longer text or book. Drop-in attendees are welcome to come any week, as the discussion will be enriching whether or not you've read the assigned selection! If you are not a member or visitor, please register for any classes by sending an email to Betsy Hanzelin, Director of Congregational Enrichment at bhanzelin@fccfaithful.org.

STRESS MASTERY: Develop Resilience and Bring Joy Back

October 9-31

The days are getting shorter, going outside won't be as easy, and we may be fearful of another lock down. COVID-19 has turned our lives upside down - with work, school, and the ability to connect. As a result, stress and anxiety is the OTHER pandemic. But stress does not have to get the best of us. You can learn about and practice evidence-based stress mastery techniques.

Audrey Weidman, a congregation member and Certified Stress Mastery Educator with the American Institute of Stress, will lead this 4-week online course with information about stress and techniques for you to master stress. Access each week's content online on your own schedule. Weekly accountability calls with Q&A is included. You will also take an accredited stress assessment pinpointing areas you need to focus on along with a plan of action. The fee for the assessment tool is \$25. Register through this class at fccfaithful.org/adult-education.

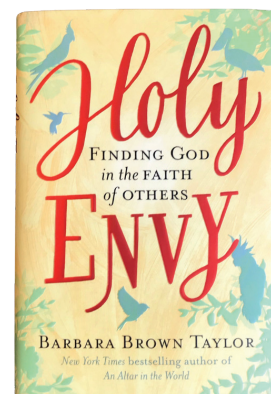


DISCOVERY BOOK CLUB: *Women Talking*

Sunday, October 11
@ 11:30 am via Zoom

Led by Trina Hayes

Women Talking, by Miriam Toews, is based on the true story of 130 Mennonite women and children in Bolivia who were drugged and raped for four years and had been told that ghosts had attacked them. Toews turns their story into a propulsive novel showing how eight women in the colony might have reacted. As they were all illiterate, their story is narrated by a shunned man who keeps "minutes" of their conversations. This is an original and fierce manifesto that reveals itself in an irresistible story that is tempting to read in one sitting.



(CONTINUING) BOOK STUDY: *Holy Envy*

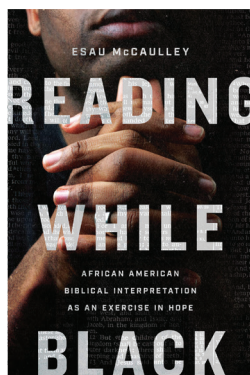
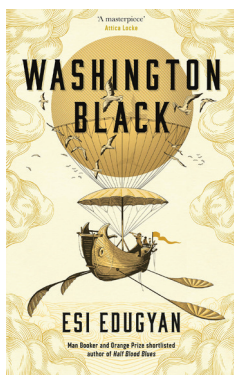
Sundays @11:30 am via Zoom
October 18, 25, November 1, 15, 22,
December 6

Led by Trina Hayes

We will be continuing our chapter by chapter book study (started in Fall 2019) of *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*. This book by Barbara Brown Taylor tackles the questions and concerns that arise when we encounter anything different or "other." We are exploring the spiritual riches God shares with us through the faith of others while we remain true to our own faith and beliefs.

Most courses this fall recommend participant purchase of a resource or text, usually at a cost of about \$15-\$30. Check your local public library system for availability, if you prefer to borrow books, or check with Betsy Hanzelin if the costs of any texts are prohibitive to you. All books are available for purchase through Bookie's book store, 2015 Ridge Road in Homewood, 708-377-0789, and we recommend your support of this local business and independent book store. Bookie's is generously providing our course participants a 15% discount for all of the books on our course calendar this fall.





BOOK STUDY:

Stand your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God

Wednesdays @ 7pm via Zoom
October 14 - November 18

Led by Jessica Groen

Our Wednesday evening course for October and November will be study and discussion of this 2015 book by the Rev. Canon Kelly Brown Douglas. The book explores the social and historical frameworks that have developed a stand-your-ground culture in United States. As a theologian and a Black mother responding to the killing of Trayvon Martin, Douglas argues that ideas of American exceptionalism and Manifest Destiny have been harmful to Black Americans, especially because stand-your-ground culture receives a stamp of approval by mainstream religious groups. Douglas highlights how the Black faith tradition provides purpose and hope for seeking God during a time of crisis.

DISCOVERY BOOK CLUB:

Washington Black

Sunday, November 8
@ 11:30 am via Zoom

Led by Trina Hayes

Washington Black by Esi Edugyan is an acclaimed novel that begins in 1831 in Barbados where Washington Black, an enslaved 12-year-old, assists his enslaver's brother in scientific research, then travels with him to Virginia, Arctic Canada, and Morocco. It's a rip-roaring adventure with thought-provoking themes.

BIBLE STUDY:

Reading the Bible with Rev. Dr. Esau McCaulley

Wednesdays @ 7pm via Zoom
December 2 - January 27

Led by Jessica Groen

In this course we will take a closer look at various passages of the Bible along with the interpretive scholarship of Rev. Dr. Esau McCaulley. The two sources we'll use are a publicly offered webinar course offered through Nashotah House Theological Seminary called "The Bible and Theology in Color" and McCaulley's recently published book titled *Reading While Black*. Our session time will be used to read and discuss Bible chapters together, discuss specific passages of his book, and view relevant selections from his course videos. Optional homework between weekly class sessions may include reflective writing, viewing of longer webinar segments, or full book chapter readings.

DISCOVERY BOOK CLUB:

Other Words for Home

Sunday December 13
@ 11:30 am via Zoom

Led by Trina Hayes

This novel by Jasmine Warga is an exquisite view of the immigrant experience as seen through Jude, an eleven-year-old Syrian girl who accompanies her pregnant mother to live in Cincinnati. Told in verse, Jude makes being "other" come alive through her heart and her hope-filled story. James Hart Middle School has selected *Other Words for Home* as its all-school read. You may donate funds to purchase a copy of the book for a James Hart student at Bookie's or on their website.

CONNECT EVENTS

Watch for occasional invitations throughout the year to participate in a presentation which is hosted or organized by a different organization, but fits well with our scope and priorities for adult education. . .

MEDIA FRAMING AND THE POLITICS OF RACISM

Tuesday, November 3
12:30-1:45 pm via Zoom

A free event hosted by
Purdue University Northwest

How do media frame police violence and protests? How do media promote politician reforms and silence black voices for systemic change? How do media represent race relations? Presentation by Lee Artz, Ph.D., Professor of Communication, followed by a Q & A session. This is one event in a four-part fall lecture series on Race, Racism, and Anti-Racism, which is coordinated and moderated by the PNW College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences. The link to attend will be posted on our website.



YM

YOUTH MINISTRIES

With the New Season, we're excited to be kicking off with some fun online events! These opportunities will not only give everyone a chance to catch up, but also allow students to become allocated with our new and improved Discord channel, which Youth Ministries will use as our primary source of communication this year.

After considering the results from the congregational survey, feedback from parents, and researching "what's working" with other congregations, FCC Youth Ministries will offer a schedule that provides a multitude of opportunities to engage one other and Scripture both in-person and online. We hope these opportunities will allow all to find their own time and way to join us!

Youth Group

Sundays
@ 11am on Discord

Each week we'll cover the next story in the Narrative Lectionary.

A short video pertaining to our study will be posted in Discord prior to Sunday, allowing youth to watch the material before the lesson whenever convenient.

We'll spend about 30 minutes discussing the questions posed in the video as well as provide a weekly challenge for students to share on Discord throughout the week.

Leadership Meetings

Wednesdays
@ 7pm on Discord

Each Wednesday, our student Staffers and Lay Advisors will meet up to discuss updates about group discussions for Sunday as well as receive specialized training to promote further discipleship, just like we usually do. The only difference is we shall be meeting via Discord rather than the church building. Our teams have been meeting and are excited to lead the Youth this year, and determined to create meaningful experiences as always, even though it may look different.

Social Gatherings

Fridays @ 4pm-6pm

To foster relationship building and have fun, we will have three social events per month spread out in such a way to ensure smaller groups for physical distancing:

1st Fridays of the month:

Tribes (6-8th grade)
meet in the church lawn

2nd Fridays of the month:

Combined groups online Discord event

3rd Friday of the month:

Quest (9-10th grade) in the church lawn

We know nothing is going as it should, but we also know that God can conquer all; our anxieties, our fears, and our boredom. None of this is fair. None of this is ideal. But I am glad to be enduring all of this together with the FCC family. Please reach out if I can be of help or lend an ear.

-Travis Adams, Director of Youth Ministries





CONFIRMATION



September 19, our Confirmads and their families were finally able to gather for their Confirmation, which had been postponed since May. As the sun set and the church bells pealed, our young people chose to confirm their faith in a most difficult year. God bless the 2020 Youth Confirmation Class!





Children's Ministries

After an interesting season of Zoom Sunday school, online book readings, and socially distanced lunches on the lawn we are finally ready to start our new curriculum year and we couldn't be more excited!

For New Season Sunday we are encouraging all of the families to join Zoom Worship at 10am, which will include a special time to welcome the kids back. Later that day, on the lawn, we will be having fun, socially distanced, kick off games and fun for the kids. They will be meeting with only the kids from their class and age group. Parents please check your emails for specific times for your child or contact me at lmxie@fccfaithful.org.

The Sunday School classes will be meeting, in person, once per month with each group meeting on their assigned Sunday. The rest of the month, the story and lesson will be recorded and posted online for kids to do at their convenience. All families are encouraged to join Worship for communion Sunday in lieu of Sunday School, the first Sunday of every month.

These are interesting times and we have an interesting plan that seems to balance families needs for staying connected without feeling the pressure of more online learning. Let's all say a prayer this plan works well for everyone! If anyone wants to read the story for the kids or meet the kids on the front lawn on Sunday mornings at 11am, please reach out!

Leslie Maxie,
Director of Children's Ministries



FCC Weekday Preschool



Oh how I miss the excitement of a new school year! When I think of past September's at WPS- the anticipation, nerves, and joy that fills our end of FCC makes me realize this year hasn't been what anyone planned. We miss the families lining up to take their first day of school pictures in front of our sign. We wish we could see those little faces, the high fives & hugs and the tears from caregivers leaving their preschooler for the very first time. We're lucky to experience all of those moments and our teachers miss our kids and families tremendously.

A chance for little friends to play...

With the start of a new program year at FCC, we would like to share in the opportunity to gather safely in small groups on our playground. Beginning Tuesday, October 6, our outdoor space will be open to preschoolers (2-5/K, sorry no older siblings- the equipment is made for littles) with an adult and *"at your own risk"*.

Past and present Weekday families will be sent a playground schedule and a sign up link with the checklist to reserve your spot. We will start with 4-5 families for 45 minutes for each time slot. We're excited to offer a slice of our special playground to the community and hope this provides a bit of screen time relief for our littlest learners outside, weather permitting, throughout the Fall!

Dallas Collins,
Director of FCC Weekday Preschool

FCC HAPPENINGS



Dave Dau Retiring After 16 Years as FCC's Maintenance Manager

He's been hinting at it for years, and we regret the day has finally arrived. Thank you and Best Wishes to David Dau, our maintenance manager of 16 years. Dave and his wife, Toni sold their Homewood house and are moving to NW Indiana.

From building repairs to hanging Christmas wreaths in the Sanctuary balanced on a ladder between pews, shoveling snow and responding in the middle of the night to flooded basements, Dave has looked after our campus and congregation with tender care and dedication. Now, he sets

his sights on enjoying grandchildren, the Cubs, and a life a bit easier on the knees. FCC is indebted to Dave's years of hard work. We invite you to send him a card at FCC to thank him and wish him well!



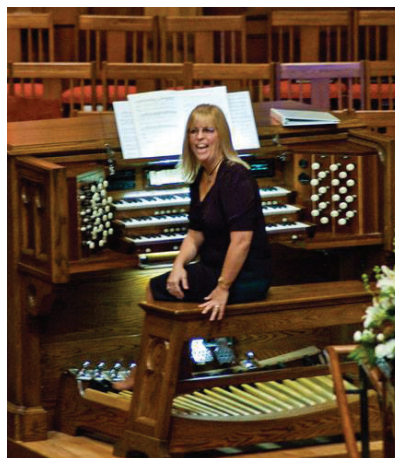
Celebrating 15 Years with Vonda Hardesty on Staff as our Organist & Pianist

We have been blessed to have 15 of Vonda Hardesty's 42 years of extraordinary music at FCC. Recently, we celebrated her time with us during Zoom worship.

Former Director of Music Ministries, Lori Tozer (2002-2017), shared, *"It makes such a difference that Vonda cares about the people and the worship experience that she helps provide the way she does. Her ability to sight read, choose repertoire appropriate for the liturgical season, and play absolutely anything that is thrown at her and do her very best - our worship experience and choral experience would be very different without her!"*

Our Music Ministries Coordinator, Katie Van Heel, shared, *"Vonda is so amazing and inspirational at the piano and organ. It has been such a joy to hear her music, whether it is Bach or Bowie - she is always rocking our world!"*

Thank you, Vonda, for your musicianship, your caring heart, and being so uniquely you!



FALL CLEAN UP & GARDENING

Friday, October 2,
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Wednesday, October 7,
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday, October 10,
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

We are planning a few dates for Fall Clean-up and gardening. We invite anyone interested to join us. Please, no young children. Masks will be required. Please bring gloves and any gardening tools you have to help weed, cut back, dig up and transplant mature plants throughout the campus. If you know you plan on stopping by to help, please let Jamie Ford know jford@fccfaithful.org. Drop-ins also welcome! Any help you can lend is greatly appreciated and helps reduce costs during this time.



FCC HAPPENINGS



The board of Worship & the Arts is working to support our energetic and creative staff in their weekly production of Zoom worship. We are coordinating liturgists, sharing ideas for favorite hymns to be included, and ideas for special-themed Sundays, such as World Communion Sunday and All Saint's Day.

All of our artist-members of FCC are welcome and encouraged to submit music, poetry, photographs, and/or artwork to be included in Zoom worship. Members can contact Pastor Julie to find out the weekly lectionary theme.

As this form of worship has proved so valuable during the time we cannot gather in the Sanctuary, the board will consider whether some form of Zoom worship might be worth continuing in the future, as a way of reaching members who are shut-in or can not attend church in person for a variety of reasons.

Donica Van Voorhees, Chair

Talent & Creativity Enhance Worship Experiences

It's true, we are sad we can't gather and make music in the same room, but that hasn't stopped our creativity! Quarantine has inspired the Music Ministries team to share and make music in new ways. Mike Rugen is doing a wonderful job leading Chancel Choir Zoom every Thursday at 7:30 pm (pictured above). The singers are making individual recordings of their vocal parts on several songs and sending them to Mike, who is editing them together to create finished choral pieces. We've already played a few of their pieces in worship and look forward to sharing more soon!

Recently we celebrated Vonda Hardesty's 15th year on FCC Staff as our Organist and Pianist. We are so grateful for her amazing talent and truly appreciate every video she has made for us over the last few months to enhance our Zoom worship experience. It's lovely to hear her music and see our Sanctuary as well.

Brooke King-LaBreck and I are having a ton of fun searching through past worship recordings, hunting for the perfect songs to pair with our Sundays. The best part is when we hear Don Jones saying "Amen" at the end of a Praise song!

Thank you to those of you who have sent us special hymn requests. Vonda has already recorded a few of your submissions and we are keeping an eye out for more as we go through our old worship CDs. If you have a special hymn you miss hearing and would like to have included in worship, please reach out to me at kvanheel@fccfaithful.org. We would like to thank Matt Epperson, Cindy Gdalmann, Fred Hanzelin, Jim Joyce, David Rice, Mike Rogers, and the Men's Quartet for sharing their music recordings with us. We would love to hear from more of our musicians! Don't be shy - let's talk about your ideas and how we might make it happen! I'd love to hear from you.

Katie Van Heel,
Coordinator of Music Ministries

DID YOU KNOW?

At fccfaithful.org/zoomworship a link is posted to join live zoom worship and an archive of our past worship recordings are shared - providing easy access for you as well as for you to share with friends to check us out and join us for worship!

AND HIGHLIGHTS

Building a More Unified and Inclusive H-F Community

Coming soon... a Community Conversations series which aims to bring together a diverse group of Homewood and Flossmoor residents to build on existing diversity and become a more unified and inclusive community. The discussion group will increase cultural competency, advance racial equity, broaden diverse friendship networks, and foster community action.

The first three-part discussion will be co-facilitated by FCC members and Flossmoor residents Stephanie Poole-Byrd and Matt Epperson, and will focus on the NPR series "Seeing White." The podcast series focuses on racial inequities by asking: Where did the notion of "whiteness" come from? What does it mean? What is whiteness for and how does it operate?

The discussion will occur via ZOOM at the following dates/times:

Thursday, Oct 29, 7:00 - 8:30pm

Thursday, Nov 5, 7:00 - 8:30pm

Thursday, Nov 12, 7:00 - 8:30pm

Stay tuned to our website, e-blast, and social media for online registration.

The Community Conversations series was developed by Flossmoor and Homewood residents, with support from Flossmoor Community Church and the Village of Flossmoor Community Relations Commission.



Attending an In-Person Meeting or Event at FCC?

COVID-19 PROCEDURES & CONSENT FORM

All in-person meetings, whether outside or indoors, will require participants to acknowledge our Notice of Covid 19 Procedures and complete a consent form. Board and Committee members will receive these via email from our Administrative Assistant, Megan Maginity or the board/committee chair.

If you are coming on-site for a ministry event (Youth, Children's, etc.) you will have the option of completing this online in advance or on-site with the event leader. These documents can also be found on our website atfccfaithful.org/happenings for easy access.

In addition to completing our consent form, all guests will be temperature-checked and must be wearing a face covering. As always, if you have come into contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with Covid-19 or are displaying any symptoms, we ask that you stay home.



Keep collecting those pop tabs!

Thank you to our FCC & FCC Weekday Preschool families who continue to collect aluminum pull tops to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. We have added a collection bin outside of the Weekday Preschool doors so you can drop your collections off at any time!



Flossmoor Community Church
Where Christ is Central and Diversity is Cherished

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Paint & Pour in September hosted by the Board of Congregational Connections