

Church Leadership Connection
The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Mif #: 02081.AJ1

Ministry General Information

Ministry Number	02081
Ministry Name	Bloomington First Presbyterian Church
Mailing Address	221 East Sixth Street Bloomington, IN 47408
Phone	(812) 332-1514
Fax	(812) 332-4206
E-Mail	office@fpcbloomington.org
WWW Address	www.fpcbloomington.org
Ministry Size	251 - 400 members

Ethnic Composition	
	Asian 1%
	Hispanic Latino/Latina, Spanish 1%
	White 98%

Average Worship Attendance	130
Church School Attendance	35
Curriculum	Godly Play; Follow Me; Biblical Practices for Faithful Living; Thoughtful Christian; Faith Forum; Feasting on the Word (Adult)
Yoked	False
Presbytery	OHIO VALLEY PRESBYTERY
Synod	SYNOD OF LINCOLN TRAILS
Community Type	College

Ten-year trend statistics of this church/organization [Show Statistics](#)

Information about the position

Position:	Associate Pastor (Christian Education)
Experience Required:	First Ordained Call
Specific Title:	
Employment Status:	Full-time

Language Requirements:	
	English

Other Language:	
Statement of Faith Required:	True
Clergy Couples:	

Training/Certificate Requirements:	
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Other Training:	
Brief Church Mission Statement:	

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“Celebrating Christ and serving community at 6th and Lincoln and throughout the world.”

At First Presbyterian Church, Bloomington (FPC), we live this out by being a community of seekers and disciples of Christ, committed to full hospitality for all God’s children. We honor Christ through joyful worship, faithful teaching, and loving and accepting fellowship. We serve the community by opening our hearts through acts of hospitality and compassion, offering God’s reconciling peace, freedom, and justice as we seek God’s will and live by Christ’s example. As a community of believers, we will:

- Invite and welcome all God’s children
- Bear witness to the good news of the Gospel
- Build and nurture relationships through love, prayer, support and acceptance of one another
- Engage our hearts and minds in meaningful worship and lifelong spiritual learning
- Assist and advocate for those in need
- Be good stewards of God’s creation

What is the congregation’s or organization’s vision for ministry:

Celebrating Christ, we offer worship that is spiritually uplifting, with preaching given in a spirit of trust, vulnerability, and reliability. This witness to Christ challenges and encourages us to outward facing action.

As the oldest church in Bloomington, we celebrate 200 years of commitment to our community from the heart of downtown, between the courthouse square and IU’s Sample Gates. Our historic church features an expansive sunlit sanctuary, breathtaking stained glass windows and a stunning Fritts pipe organ. We share our sacred space with an active Korean congregation and 25+ community groups, including those who are seeking grace and recovery from addiction. Our building has been used to feed and shelter those facing housing insecurity, a chronic challenge in our city.

Our membership reflects an inclusive community of God’s children, and we embrace and honor our differences. In our active, multigenerational congregation, children and youth create lasting relationships with adults, and our many retirees are vital and foundational to our ministry. All are empowered to be full and active participants in the life of our church.

Our commitment to service is interfaith and interdenominational, exemplified by a 30-year relationship with our sister Catholic church in Posoltega, Nicaragua. We treasure the friendships we forge with them, and it reminds us of what we perpetually seek to be: a congregation of fellowship, community engagement, and boundary-crossing faith.

How do you feel called to reach out to address the emerging needs of your community or constituency:

We aim to foster continual spiritual growth, create a welcoming place of support and celebration, and nourish relationships among the unique individuals who call FPC home. Our congregation is a mix of those who have been here for decades, and those who come with connections to Indiana University or to retire in a vibrant community. Our young families love the church and desire thriving and dynamic youth programs that grow with their children and speak grace into their busy lives. Our membership seeks connection in a faith community where they can share their love, experience, and resources.

We show love to our neighbors by bagging and delivering groceries to seniors, supporting Monroe County United Ministries to combat food insecurity and provide childcare, and taking regular mission trips to West Virginia and Posoltega. Our annual Heifer Market brings farm animals to church to raise money to eradicate hunger, with over \$200,000 given to Heifer International to date. Our congregation recently provided funds and personal support for two Afghan and Syrian refugee families to establish a bright future in Bloomington.

Our congregation is energized by its decision to become a Matthew 25 church, called to dismantle racism that creates educational disparities and barriers among people in our community and state. We continually seek new opportunities for service, and this commitment provides strong theological context as we identify needs and strengthen partnerships in our community.

How will this position help you to reach your vision and mission goals:

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The Associate Pastor will join our new, engaging Senior Pastor and an innovative, forward-looking ministry team in a highly collaborative environment. Our Associate Pastor will provide direction for Christian Education programming, help lead worship each week, contribute to global and local mission work, foster and maintain connections with the Bloomington Multi-Faith Alliance, and provide and engage the congregation in pastoral care. They will love our congregation and be present during fear, grief and hardship, challenge us to experiment and encourage us to carry out our calls to ministry, and live an engaging relationship with Jesus that will compel us in our faith to attain our spiritual goals.

Partnering with lay leaders, our Associate Pastor will help us to channel the existing momentum for our Matthew 25 initiative in creative and imaginative ways so that we can become an agent for change in the community. We are a congregation that loves to learn, and we see our adoption of this initiative as both an educational awakening and a call to action. This person will support us as we incorporate the fight for racial justice into the fabric of our church. They will help us envision partnerships and collaborative solutions that go beyond shallow commitments without imposing our vision for change on others.

Provide a description of the characteristics needed by the person who is open to being called to this congregation and or organization:

Our Associate Pastor will love and pray for our church and its members, and work both independently and cooperatively as part of a ministry team. Their organizational talents, passion, and initiative will lead to sustained church programs. Our Associate Pastor will continue to make FPC a welcoming place to all, connecting with people of all ages, experiences, and theological viewpoints with love and acceptance.

Our Associate Pastor will have a passion for Christian education for all ages including adults, while reserving a special place in their heart for children, youth, and their parents. They will equip the congregation to work with the Christian Education program, share our deep commitment to mission, connect with clergy from other congregations, and participate in the work of the Presbytery and the wider Church.

Our Associate Pastor will lead with energy and imagination and participate fully and joyfully in the worship life of the church. A rich spiritual life grounded in faith and celebration should be the source of our Associate Pastor's call to ministry. Our Associate Pastor will take a regular Sabbath rest, be mindful and communicative of their needs, and nurture their own spiritual growth through continuing educational opportunities. Our location in a lively and culturally aware university town situated among woodlands and rolling hills provides numerous outlets for exploration and reflection

What specific tasks, assignments, and program areas will this person have responsibility?

The Associate Pastor and Senior Pastor will work closely to mutually define roles and responsibilities. The Associate Pastor will have primary responsibility for Christian education for all ages. They will oversee childcare providers, develop the spiritual growth of our children and youth, and work with parents to strengthen our ministry to the young and their families. The Associate Pastor will conduct confirmation classes, support teachers, invigorate education options for adults, and partner with the Christian Education Committee to enrich those ministries. The Associate Pastor will collaborate in leading worship, and spiritually prepare throughout the week for this crucial work. The Associate Pastor will preach once a month, administer sacraments, prepare for and lead children's time, conduct weddings and funerals, and be a worshipful presence in our church.

Our leaders serve with our congregation, not for our congregation. The Associate Pastor will share in pastoral care activities, serve as staff liaison to the Board of Deacons, partner with lay leaders to spiritually lead, plan and attend our mission trips, foster relationships with other congregations to enhance opportunities for education and service, and remain active in the work of the larger Church. This call provides an opportunity to develop one's own interests and gifts in ministry in a supportive and stimulating environment, while honoring the importance of engaging in a meaningful life outside the church.

Optional Links:

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FPC Website: <http://www.fpcbloomington.org/>

FPC Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/8230558836/>

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/fpcchristianed>

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7599659>

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/fpcbloomingtonworship>

Bloomington, IN Website: <http://bloomington.in.gov> and
<http://visitbloomington.com>

Leadership Competencies:

Compassionate

Preaching and Worship Leadership

Teacher

Communicator

Contextualization

Culturally Proficient

Organizational Agility

Collaboration

Interpersonal Engagement

Initiative

Compensation and Housing: Cost of Living Calculator

Minimum Effective Salary: \$54,000

Housing Type: Housing Allowance

References:

Name	Address	Phone Numbers	Relation	Email
Rev. Susan McGhee	1701 E 2nd Street, Suite 100 Bloomington, In 47408	866-344-7853	Executive Presbyter of The Presbytery of Ohio Va	susan@presbyteryov.org
Rev. Dr. Douglas Tracy	3789 S Oak Ridge Dr, Bloomington, IN 47401	812-272-3148	Retired minister, previous (2011-2014) Stated Cle	douglas.tracy46@gmail.com
Rev. Wendy VanderZee	903 S. Rainier Court, Bloomington, IN 47401	812-320-9091	Retired hospice chaplain, Congregant	revwbv@gmail.com

Has the Pastor Nominating Committee and Search committee affirmed its intention to follow the Form Of Government in this regard?

Yes

Version Track Info: This MIF was last updated on 05/24/2023

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Self-referral Contact Information

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