

NOVEMBER 2024

# THIS MONTH @ FCC

## A Note from the Pastor

Friends,

It is time for me to return from sabbatical and I am SO looking forward to seeing you, hugging you, and catching up with you.

Meanwhile, I am so grateful for this gift of time you have shared with me. The last three months have been full of rest, travel, connection, self-care, reading, and many other life giving activities. And I have done all of this without worrying about you all because you have been well cared for!

While the conversations about my sabbatical time and yours will continue, I want to share a few things I have been reminded of over the last three months:

- We are all interconnected. Nothing I (or you) do is just about me (or you). Everything we do impacts someone else.
- Relationships matter. Learning to depend on people is important. Having people with whom we can be real and honest is essential. Learning how to have both easy and difficult conversations is important to relationship building.
- It is up to all of us to make the world better. We do this by how we relate to friend and neighbor and enemy. We do this by being active in our communities through learning and listening and voting and volunteering. We do this by helping those who have less by sharing what we have.

As I prepare to return, I am aware of several important things that are coming up and that I hope all of us will be part of. These include our All Saints observance on November 3, our intentional commitment of time, money, and energy to our shared ministry in 2025, and our Alternative Gift Market on November 24. You can read more about these in the newsletter, but remember these are more than events. All of these are times when we not only join together for worship but they are ways that we claim the values that we have said matter to us. They are ways we can commit again to our community. They are ways we can make a difference and remember those who have made a difference to us.

I can't wait to see you, this Sunday and in the weeks to come.

With care, *Jill*

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*connect with us*

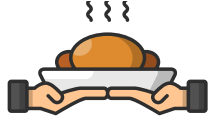




# Announcements

## It's a Church Potluck!

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3



In celebration of the conclusion of our sabbatical season, we will share a meal together after worship on November 3. Hannah Circle is providing dessert, so plan to bring a main dish, side dish or salad to share. We hope you'll join us!

We still have slots to fill for people to receive food, serve, and then clean up. If you can help, please [sign up here](#).



Above: FCC serves at the Free Lunch Program on October 26.

## Special Offering

NOVEMBER 17 & 24



The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Supporting our students is more important than ever, so we ask for your generous financial support during this year's **Thanksgiving Offering**.

You can give to this ministry through November 24 by mailing a check to the office, leaving your donation in the offering box on Sundays, or [giving online](#) (select Special Offering - Regional, and Thanksgiving Offering).

\*Several people in our midst are graduates of these Disciples Affiliated Institutions. Additionally, Cameron Michel & Kalea Seaton were selected for the HELM leadership fellows program, through which they attended a retreat in Arizona this fall. [Read a leader's reflection on that trip here](#).



HELM 2024 Retreat (Kalea front row, Cameron back row)

## Stewardship Emphasis



We are now in the season of our annual stewardship emphasis, a time we are asked to think about our stewardship. This year as we explore the theme, *Imagine Together*, we are invited to imagine what could be through wholeness, healing, rest and vitality.

Both worship and faith formation will incorporate our *Imagine Together* theme, and you've begun receiving weekly stewardship letters via email - all for you to engage in this time of intentional discernment.

We hope you will embrace this time as an opportunity to learn and an opportunity to consider the ways we give of ourselves and our resources as we strive to align our actions with our values.

## Commitment Sunday

NOVEMBER 17

Commitment Sunday is the culmination of our stewardship emphasis. On that day, our faith community is asked to bring forward our pledges of financial giving as well as our ministry interest forms. After worship we will celebrate our generosity together with ice cream in Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendar and plan to attend!



# Learning Together



## Faith Formation - Sundays, 11:15AM - 12:00PM

### TOWARDS A THEOLOGY OF MONEY

We've begun our congregational stewardship emphasis, and this year that includes faith formation topics around the theology of money. Adults (and youth grades 6+) are invited to join us for conversation around giving. November 10, join the conversation around Giving as Discipleship, as we consider giving as a spiritual practice, and November 17, (also Commitment Sunday), we'll share in ice cream and have table conversations around the ethics of money.

### CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to be part of our Children Worship & Wonder ministry! Bible stories are shared in such a way that allows them to enter into the stories and form responses out of their own life experiences. Children learn about God while experiencing God. In November we will hear stories from the Hebrew Scriptures of The Ark and A Tent for God / The Temple, A House for God, Exile & Return and we end the month with a favorite, How the Church Tells Time.

*Nursery care is available during faith formation for younger children.*



### A SPECIAL NOTES

November 3 there will be no faith formation as we will enjoy an all-church potluck. Following worship on November 24, adults and youth are invited to browse the Alternative Gift Market and connect with local organizations.

## Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS  
AT 12 NOON  
ON ZOOM

### Upcoming Scriptures

November 6:  
John 3:1-10, 7:45-52, 19:38-39

November 13:  
Amos 5:21-24

November 20:  
Luke 1:26-38

November 27:  
*No Bible Study*

December 4:  
Luke 3:7-16



Contact the  
Office for  
Zoom Info



## Worship

SUNDAYS AT 10:00AM

All are invited and welcome to worship each Sunday at 10:00AM. Worship is available onsite in the sanctuary and online at

youtube/@icdisciples



## Sermon Series

October 27-November 17, we are invited to *Imagine Together*, as we explore Biblical texts and the messages they share with us about stewardship and generosity.

## Special Sundays

- ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 3 we remember those in our faith community who have passed on in the last year. There will also be an opportunity for all who wish, to light candles in remembrance of others.

- COMMITMENT SUNDAY

November 17, all are asked to bring forward their commitments for 2025 through pledge cards and ministry interest forms.

- THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

November 24, we will celebrate our blessings by hosting our annual Alternative Gift Market.

## Nursery

Childcare is available on Sunday mornings during Worship & Faith Formation. Infants through kindergarten age children (and older children as needed) are invited to join our caregivers in the lower level east classroom for nurture and play.

# Sunday Mornings



## Called to Serve

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sunday worship brings together many hands and many voices. People (like you!) are needed to fill several roles each week as we continue our ministry of welcome. There is a role for everyone, and everyone can serve! Call the church office or visit the link below for a description of the roles and to sign up where you feel called to serve.

[ICDISCIPLES.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://ICDISCIPLES.ORG/VOLUNTEER)



Above: Guest preacher, Marian Hart, shares the message on World Communion Sunday.



## FCC Connect

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 6:30PM

Please contact the office for Zoom info.

Enjoy visiting with others? Want to make some new friends? FCC Connect is an online opportunity to do just that. Sign on and join the conversation.

## Ladies Night Out

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 5:30PM

Ladies of the church are invited to share an evening of food and conversation. In November, join us at Tavern Blue (805 2nd St, Coralville). Please RSVP to Nancy Ream if you plan to attend.

## Hannah Circle

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 6:30PM

Please contact the office for Zoom info.

Hannah Circle will meet November 18 at 6:30 PM to prepare holiday cards for our homebound members. Fellowship and refreshments included. Zoom will also be available. Contact Pat Boelens with questions.

## Book Club

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 7:00PM

Please contact the office for Zoom info.

November is our "choosing meeting" and since the 4th Thursday in November is Thanksgiving, we're having our next meeting on December 5! If you have a book to suggest for the club in 2025, please send an email with the title, author, length, type of book (fiction, non-fiction, etc) and a brief summary to Nancy McKinstry. Then plan to attend on Dec. 5, as we vote on the books we will read in the new year.



# Keeping Connected

## Disciples Strings & Singers

REHEARSALS ON WEDNESDAYS, 6:00-7:00PM

If you'd like to participate in music at FCC, please contact Pastor Laura.



Above: High school youth deliver painted rocks to a local park.

## Youth Groups

- **JYF (grades 2-5)** will meet with Steve Strah & Pastor Kara this month! Meetings are planned for November 10 from 12:00-1:15pm in Fellowship Hall, and November 24 our meeting will take us off-site. We will eat lunch together, explore our faith and play games.
- **Chi Rho (grades 6-8)** are meeting with Pastors Kara & Laura this fall to explore baptism.
- **CYF (high school)** meets weekly on Sundays from 4:30-6pm with Steve Clark & Chris Radcliff (855 Pheasant Ln, North Liberty). All high schoolers are welcome to come enjoy food, friendship and activities.



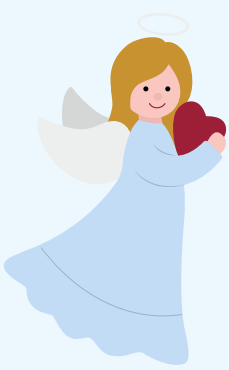
# In the Community

## GIFT ANGELS NEEDED

supporting **Open Heartland**  
welcoming • including • strengthening



Above: FCC @ Habitat Build Oct. 25



Open Heartland is a nonprofit community center that provides immigrant families with basic necessities, connections to local resources, enrichment programs and community. Through this organization, FCC is sponsoring two families for the holiday season. We have been provided with a gift list, and invite you to be a gift angel, by helping to provide Christmas gifts for the families. If you would like to participate, please visit the sign up link (to the right) and indicate the new gift you're willing to purchase. All gifts should be new and unwrapped. Questions? Please contact [Maggie Keyser](#).



Gift list & sign up here

**GIFTS MUST BE AT THE CHURCH BY NOVEMBER 24**

## ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

**NOVEMBER 24, 2024**

As the holiday season approaches, it's the perfect time to reflect on our spending & connect with local organizations that are making a difference.

Instead of giving another sweater to someone who already has plenty, why not honor them with a meaningful gift to the Free Medical Clinic or Habitat for Humanity?

Or, if you're looking to shift your holiday habits away from consumerism and focus on making a positive impact, consider supporting our local food



Together, we can help combat food insecurity and spread goodwill in our community!

On Sunday, November 24, representatives from several local helping agencies will join us. You are invited to stay after worship to talk with them and learn more about their work. Forms will be available so you can offer your financial support to the agencies that you find most meaningful.

Join us in creating a more compassionate holiday season!



# Updates

## WINTER CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION UPDATE

In 3.5 days, 1,800 coats were distributed, with our church contributing over 100. We ran out of adult coats, scarves, and mittens, and had only a few children's coats left. We also gave away other winter clothing, including snow pants, boots, hats, and warm attire. Items that remained were donated to Open Heartland. This year's event was sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Communities and involving 21 faith communities. This year, the Iowa City Police Department also joined in by collecting coats and volunteering. Thank you to everyone who donated and volunteered!



Above: Traci Massman, along with children, offer a blessing for the coats on Oct. 13.



## Nursery Staff

FCC has recently welcomed 3 new nursery staff. Please welcome McKenna, Ella and Teegan! Introduce yourself and say hello to these wonderful people caring for our little ones!

## FCC IN THE REGION

Right: On Oct. 19, FCC representatives attended the All Congregational Gathering in Newton.





# November



Wishing a  
**Happy  
Birthday  
and a  
Happy  
Anniversary**  
to all those  
celebrating  
this month!

**Who? IS MY ELDER**

Last Name	Elder
A-CI	Lora Morgan Dunham
Co-F	Maggie Keyser
G-Kin	Martha Melton
Kit-Mic	David Klein
Mo-Sch	Marcus Seaton
Sea-Z	Nancy McKinstry



Click the realm logo to access our online directory



900 Lincolnshire Place  
Coralville, IA 52241  
319-337-4181  
[icdisciples.org](http://icdisciples.org)

*There's Room  
at the Table  
for Everyone*

Office Hours:  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00AM to 12:00PM  
clergy staff available  
by appointment

## First Christian Church Staff

Rev. Jill Cameron Michel  
Senior Pastor  
Home: 319-665-2276

Rev. Kara Seaton  
Associate Pastor  
319-530-3255

Rev. Laura Kittrell  
Minister of Music &  
Worship  
319-325-7673

Carol Mertens  
Office Manager

Michael Hull  
Custodian

Lori Smith  
Bookkeeper

Teegan Michel  
Ella Romero  
McKenna Geake  
Nursery Caregivers

Cameron Michel  
Technology Assistant

*connect with us*

