



THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 15, 2023

A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Friends,

It is that time of year when we smile to realize that the days are getting a little longer, when we bask in the warmer winter days like some we have had recently, but when we sometimes also remember (disappointedly so) that spring is still a ways off.

We pay attention to the world around us and we cling to the signs of hope that say we are getting kinder, more just, more humane. And yet the stories of hurt and suffering, injustice and struggle are still overwhelming.

Perhaps these words, from Joyce Rupp's book *May I Have This Dance?*, will speak to you as they did to me. This poem is titled, "Dry Bones."

tiredness grounds me
into a quiet stupor
of the spirit.

yet, in the deepest part of me,
I believe in you,
perhaps more strongly than ever.

I yearn to be inspired,
to be lifted up, set free
beyond the place of deadness.

I am learning you
as a God of silence,
of darkness, deep and strong.

the struggle goes on,
however,
and you and I, God,
we exist together
with seemingly
little communion.

I do not wrestle anymore,
only wait, only wait,
for you to bring my dry bones
into dancing once again.

With care, *Jill*

PS. I will be out of town from Wednesday afternoon until Saturday afternoon. Kara (319-530-3255) will be on call for pastoral care needs.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

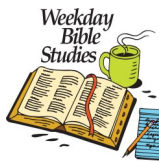
Our annual congregational meeting takes place on the last Sunday of February, so it is coming soon. Join us on **February 26** at 11:15am for this meeting. As we did last year, you can participate in the sanctuary or via Zoom.

At our congregational meeting we will receive the list of nominations for officers, board members, elders, and trustees. We are grateful to the Nominating Committee for their good work.

We will also hear a report from the Capital Campaign Team as they share the anticipated projects and financial goal for our 2023 capital campaign. We are grateful not only for their work, but for all of you who participated in the conversations in the fall that helped us create the list of projects for this campaign.

All members of the church are invited to vote at congregational meetings and everyone is invited to stay and participate regardless of membership.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



BIBLE STUDY

Join us using Zoom. We meet at **12noon each Wednesday.**

Upcoming scriptures:

February 15: Matthew 4:1-11

February 22: John 3:1-17



JOIN STRINGS AND SINGERS

All musicians are invited to be part of Disciples Strings and Singers. Want to join? You are welcome! The next rehearsal will be tonight, **February 15**, at 6pm.

LADIES' LUNCH OUT

Again in February it's Ladies' Lunch Out. Mark your calendar for Thursday, **February 16** at 11:45am. Lunch will be at Reunion Brewery (516 2nd St., Coralville).

FAITH FORMATION

(AKA: SUNDAY SCHOOL)

Each Sunday there are classes for children (age 4) through adults and a nursery for younger children. Classes go from 11:15am - 12noon.

February 19: AED/Hands Only CPR Training—youth and adults are invited to join Johnson Co. trainers as we learn about using an AED and CPR. Children will have their regular Faith Formation class today.

February 26 - Congregational meeting (youth and adults); Faith Formation/nursery for young children.

HANNAH



Hannah Circle will meet on Monday, **February 20** at 1pm on Zoom. All are welcome!

LENT BEGINS SOON

Join us on **Ash Wednesday (February 22)** for

- Worship in the sanctuary or online at 6:30pm.
- If you can't come to worship in person, you are invited to drive thru at the church for ashes from 12noon-1pm or 5-6pm.

This is a meaningful time of worship that helps set the tone for Lent. We hope you'll join us!

And...If you haven't yet signed up for a **Lenten Spiritual Life Group**, you are invited to do so by [using this link](#) or calling the office. The first one begins February 23.



FCC BOOK CLUB

The FCC Book Club's February book is *The Long Way Home: Detours and Discoveries* by Tom Montgomery

Fate. This book of essays takes us on a journey of places from Iowa to Nicaragua to the Pine Ridge Reservation, but also along "detours of self-discovery." The meeting to discuss this book will be on Zoom on Thursday, **February 23**.



FCC AT FREE LUNCH PROGRAM - FEBRUARY 25

We will be serving at Free Lunch on Saturday, February 25. Casseroles and cookies can be brought to church and put in the freezer. Non-perishable items can be placed in the bin near the front door. There is also a drop off time **February 24** from 11:30am-1pm. To sign up to provide help [please visit this online sign up](#).

Content covered to protect privacy.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who joined our staff in leading worship on February 12: Brian and Sabra Fleck (Greeters); Nancy Ream and Beth Pelton (Ushers); Tim Fees, Roland Peterman, and Disciple Strings & Singers (Musicians); Jayse Steeples (Acolyte); Brian Fleck (Scripture Reader); Jay Thomas, Maya Seaton, David Klein (Communion servers); David Klein (Elder); Cameron Michel and Jim Michel (A/V); Michel family (Fellowship Time Host); Brian Fleck (Valet Parking).

WE NEED YOU!

Sundays rely on volunteers to go smoothly! If you are willing to serve as a Greeter, Usher, Scripture Reader, Fellowship Time Host or Acolyte (K-6th grade), please [choose your dates and sign up here](#) (use the drop down menu in the upper right to toggle between various roles). You can also contact Nancy McKinstry with questions to sign up for these roles. **There are many available opportunities in this new year!**



or

If you are interested in doing Children's Moments, speak with Pastor Kara (icdisciple.kids@gmail.com).

If you would like to be trained to run sound or PowerPoint, speak with Laurie Dahms.

Remember, you can join us in person at church or worship with us on [YouTube](#) each Sunday at 10am.

WORSHIP - FEBRUARY 19, 2023

Hymns - Transform Us; I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table; Go Outside

Scripture - Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon - What If We Listen?

FIRST CHRISTIAN'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL

If you haven't already subscribed to it, visit it today. YouTube has simplified the web address so you can find it at: <https://youtube.com/@icdisciples>

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY AND WORLD



SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE IS COMING

The Shelter House Book Sale will take place **March 25-26** with donation drop off beginning Feb. 19. For more information about how you can participate visit [their website](#).

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

We encourage you to participate in a local event if you are able.

The University of Iowa is holding various activities: [black-history-month](#).

Film Scene is showing "Black Is...Black Ain't" on Monday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. [info.aspx](#)



As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), **Week of Compassion** works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world.

Week of Compassion is, in so many ways, the presence of each of us throughout the world.

Our hope is rooted and nourished by God's steadfast, abundant, enduring, ever-in-supply and in season compassion. Remembering the compassion of God can ease the pain of what seems like a never-ending news cycle of devastation.

When rains come and waters rise, generosity follows close behind.

When fires rage and destruction looms, support and help are stirred up too.

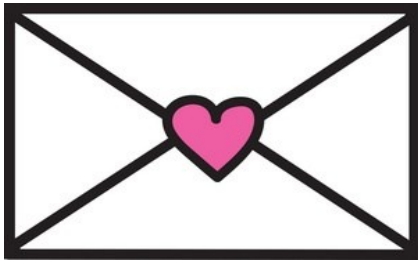
When war and disease and drought are too close for too long, compassion comes closer, and God's mercies are made known through the gifts of God's people.

Through domestic disaster response in familiar communities; preparedness training for congregations and individuals; refugee response in the aftermath of national conflicts; and ecumenical partnerships that engage international disaster response and support basic human needs for shelter, food, education, and livelihoods Week of Compassion proclaims this truth: God's mercies RISE UP ANEW each day.

Because of your generosity, Week of Compassion meets people and communities in the midst of grief and lament, in the deepest moments of 'How could this happen?', as the very real presence of God's unfailing compassion.

In addition to other work they had already been doing, Week of Compassion is working with its global partners to respond to the needs of the people of Syria and Turkey as they live in the aftermath of recent earthquakes.

We will be receiving an offering for Week of Compassion the next two Sundays - **February 19 and 26** - your gifts make a difference and help support people in the midst of difficult times in their lives. Your gifts are a witness to your and God's compassion. Whether you give by check or online giving, please be sure to identify your gifts for Week of Compassion.



FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon Disciples Strings & Singers 6 PM Spring MPT 6:30 PM	2 Exec Committee 9 AM	3	4
5 Worship 10 AM Faith Formation 11:15 AM Handbells 12 noon Troop 270 5:30 PM Troop 2000 7 PM	6	7 Board mtg 5:30 PM Clergy CRC Chat @ Zoom 7PM	8 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon	9 Clergy CRC Chat 10 AM Clergy Cluster 12 Noon FCC Connect @ Zoom 6:30 PM Arrow Chapter 7 PM	10 Jill @ Committee on Ministry Kara & kids @ Junior Retreat	11
12 Worship 10 AM Faith Formation 11:15 AM Handbells 12 noon Troop 270 5:30 PM Laura's PST 6 PM Troop 2000 7 PM	13 Finance Team 6 PM	14	15 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon Disciples Strings & Singers 6 PM	16 Ladies Lunch Out @ Reunion Brew- ery 11:45 AM Pastor Jill out of town	17	18
19 Worship 10 AM AED/CPR training 11 AM JYF 12 noon Handbells 12 noon Troop 270 5:30 PM Troop 2000 7 PM	20 Hannah Circle @ Zoom 1 PM Elders 7 PM	21 Staff Meeting 10AM Kara's PST 6:30 PM	22 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon Drive-thru Ashes 12noon—1 PM and 5-6 PM Ash Wed. Worship 6:30 PM	23 Women Clergy @ Zoom 10 AM Spiritual Life Group @ Dahms' 11 AM FCC Book Club 7 PM	24	25 FCC Serve at Free Lunch Program
26 Worship 10 AM Congregational Meeting 11:15 AM Kids' Faith For- mation 11:15 AM SLG Zoom 2:30PM Troop 270 5:30 PM Troop 2000 7 PM	27 Capital Campaign Team 6 PM	28 Spiritual Life Group @ Anderson/ Dohrmann home 7 PM				



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

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Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 9am to noon

Staff:

Rev. Jill Cameron Michel, Sr. Pastor

Home Phone: 319-665-2276

Rev. Kara Seaton, Minister of Children, Youth & Families

Rev. Laura Kittrell, Minister of Music and Worship

Carol Mertens, Interim Office Assistant

Michael Hull, Custodian

Lori Smith, Bookkeeper

Damian Dorta, Technology & Communications

Kalea Seaton, Nursery Caregiver

Caitie Klein-Lester, Nursery Caregiver



Above: FCC's participants in the regional Junior Retreat.

Below: Faith Formation cookie decorating.

