



# THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



**FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 8, 2023**

## **A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR**

Friends,

Christmas and Easter are the biggest, most well-known days of the Christian year. Pentecost is really the third “high holy day” of Christianity, although it gets far less attention. Perhaps it is because Christmas and Easter have become holidays on which families gather. Or the more cynical (or more honest—you decide!) among us may say it’s because Christmas and Easter are the most commercialized outside the church. Whatever the reason, these two days are big for Christians and non-Christians alike.

But what I love best about both Christmas and Easter is that the church calendar gives us a season of preparation for each of them. Advent leads up to Christmas and helps us focus on more than parties and decorations, travel and gift giving. Lent leads up to Easter and offers a similar sense of focus.

Historically Lent has been a time of preparation for those new to the faith as they prepare to make faith commitments. It has also been a time of recommitment for all Christians as we realign our living with our faith values. In a sense Lent gives us an opportunity, much like the beginning of the calendar year, to claim again who we are, who we want to be, and to commit to living in those ways.

So, it is very intentional that we offer small groups during Lent. We call these groups Spiritual Life Groups and recognize them as a time to deepen our connection to God and to each other. We do this work in community because our faith calls us to live in community and care for community. While faith is rooted in a personal relationship with God, it is not about us. Rather our faith calls us outward, into the world, into relationships. I am reminded of the quote I shared Sunday from Joel Bengbeng, United Methodist District Superintendent in the Philippines, “God...abhors liturgy detached from justice, prayer devoid of compassion, ritual not translated into mercy, and offerings not couples with sacrificial love for others (from *The Upper Room Disciplines 2023*, reading for January 24, 2023). We gather together for intentional conversation and exploration of our faith in order that it changes who we are and how we interact with the world.

I hope that you will sign up to participate in a Spiritual Life Group. There are several offered - at different times throughout the week and different places around the community (including on Zoom). I always find participation in these groups meaningful and trust you will, too. [Use this link to sign up](#) or call the church office.

And, remember, there are several other opportunities you are currently invited to sign up for.

- We are serving at the Free Lunch Program on February 25 and the link to sign up is below.
- We will have AED/CPR training after worship on February 19 and ask you to [sign up by Sunday](#) because we need to know how many will be participating so that we can have enough trainers on site. More information about this is on page 2.

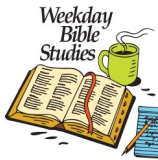
With care, *Jill*

## **FCC AT FREE LUNCH PROGRAM - FEBRUARY 25**



Our serving schedule at the Free Lunch Program will be the same as last year. We will serve on the fourth Saturday of the month in February, April, June, August, October, and December. So, our first date for 2023 is coming quickly. Thank you to everyone who took a casserole pan on Sunday. To sign up to provide other food or to volunteer [please visit this online sign up](#).

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS



## BIBLE STUDY

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

Upcoming scriptures:

**February 8:** Matthew 17:1-9

**February 15:** Matthew 4:1-11

## FCC CONNECT - February 9 @ 6:30pm

Join us for a time of visiting with friends from FCC. We gather on Zoom for this once a month time of conversation.

## 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.

**January 29 - February 12:** Living in Faith Together—an intergenerational learning experience.

**February 19:** AED/Hands Only CPR Training—youth and adults are invited to join Johnson Co. trainers as we learn about using an AED (FCC has had one since 2019) and hands only CPR. Children will have their regular Faith Formation class today.

If you plan to attend the AED/CPR training, please [register here](#) so that we ensure enough trainers are present.



## 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 **February 15** at 6pm.

This group of musicians leads music in worship weekly, bringing their mix of vocal and instrumental gifts to worship.

## 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).

If you intend to participate, please RSVP to Jan Ricklefs by February 13 so she can make a reservation for the group.



HANNAH

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

## LENT BEGINS WITH ASH WEDNESDAY

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!



## 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 Thursday, **February 23.**

Content covered to protect privacy.

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who joined our staff in leading worship on February 5: Maggie Keyser and Nancy McKinstry (Greeters); Kathy Harrison and Mary Curtis (Ushers); Malinda Thomas and Disciple Strings & Singers (Musicians); Lumen Brandsmeier (Acolyte); Don Anderson (Scripture Reader); Emily Steeples and Mary Anne Schwartz (Communion servers); Emily Steeples (Elder); David Klein and Maya Seaton (A/V); Maggie Keyser (Fellowship Time Host); Steve Strah (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](mailto: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 12, 2023

**Hymns** - Your Love, O God; I Come With Joy; Bless Now, O God, the Journey

**Scripture** - Deuteronomy 30:15-20    **Sermon** - Choose Life

## 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



Our Upper Midwest Anti-racism/Pro-reconciliation team is offering an online education session in February. Rabbi Marc Kline will consider the question, "Should Christians Hold Seders?" on Sunday, **February 19** at 7 pm. This presentation and conversation on Zoom is free, but registration is required. [Register here.](#)

### 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.](#)



### HOUSES INTO HOMES NEEDS YOU

Are you looking for a reason to get out of the house this winter? You can volunteer with Houses into Homes!

There are opportunities to help out delivering beds and furniture, receiving donation drop-offs, or working in the warehouse.

Heavy lifters (able to lift furniture and mattresses with a partner) are especially welcome on delivery days (February 5 & 19, March 5), but they need light lifters, too!

Drop-off help includes helping unload donations and doing warehouse tasks (February 11 & 25, March 11).

They are in the warehouse weekdays 10am-4pm, and have many options for work there.

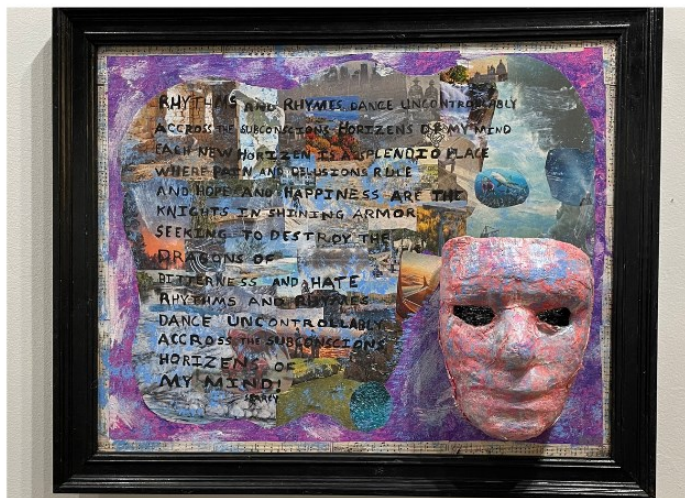
Visit their [website](#) to learn more!

## ART FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Inside Out is holding an art show titled **Art from the Inside Out** from January 24 through February 20 at Artifactory (120 N Dubuque St., Iowa City, IA 52240). This event is free and open to the public and will showcase the incredible artistry of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals with more than 45 pieces of art.

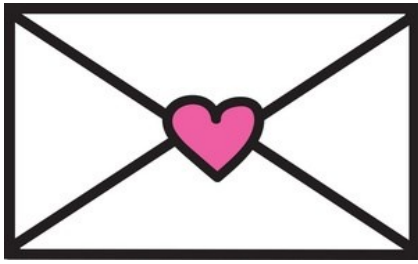
**Join us for a reception February 10 at 7pm,** where some of the artists will be present to share their work, share spoken word, and attendees will have the opportunity to gather and build support for artists impacted by incarceration.

You can put a person's body behind bars but it is impossible to cage the imagination. Throughout time, people have turned to the arts to express their thoughts and emotions while incarcerated: memories, hopes for the future, regrets, work that expresses love for family, political commentary, humor, doodles that have helped pass the hours. **Art From the Inside Out** is meant to celebrate the talent and hard work of these artists as well as promote public awareness of the humanity and resilience of incarcerated people.



**Artist: Harold Searcy**

The Artifactory gallery is officially open on Saturday afternoons from 1-4 pm for people to view the exhibit and special appointments can also be made for groups on weekdays or evenings.



# FEBRUARY

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



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