



THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 1, 2023

Prayer for Lent, in Winter

A prayer from poet Maren Tirabassi, used by permission

God of love and Lent,
God whose love is told in the Lentliness
of so many stories –
your stories and our stories,

You gather from crusty exhaust-blackened
snow banks of relationships,
emotional blizzards we spin into foolishly
and blizzards anticipated with broadcast hype
that keep us hugging ourselves indoors.

You gather us from the black ice of reality,
and the garden catalogs of hope
(our dirty little secret)
where we are just beginning to read --
in the bulb there is a flower.

And you teach us to follow you
just like driving behind a snowplow –
on the slow, sure, gritty way of grace.

For you are the lost mitten-God,
the water-into-cocoa God,
and the God who judges this winter way --

“When you shoveled for the oldest of these,
or sledded a hill with the youngest of these,
when you sent an email to the lonely,
or jumpstarted the stranger,

then you shoveled and sledded
and sent and started ... unto me.”

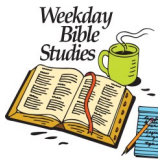
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING REPORT

Thank you to all who participated in Sunday's congregational meeting. We elected new leaders, gave thanks to those who are completing terms in leadership roles, and heard a report from Kent Clark, our Capital Campaign Team chair (more information about the upcoming capital campaign is on page 4 of this newsletter).

We welcome the following leaders and look forward to their leadership:

Moderator – Sally Strah, Assistant Moderator – Jon Feaver; Board Secretary – Pat Boelens; Treasurer – Terry Dahms; Financial Secretary – Malinda Thomas; Ass't Financial Secretary – Pam Ries; At-Large Board Member – Steve Dunham; Elders – Martha Melton, Marcus Seaton, Nancy McKinstry; Trustee – Jim Lang

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



BIBLE STUDY

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

Upcoming scriptures:

March 1: John 4:5-42

March 8: John 9:1-41



STRINGS AND SINGERS

All musicians are invited to be part of Disciples Strings and Singers. Want to join? You are welcome! Upcoming rehearsal dates are **March 1, 15, and 29** at 6pm.

FCC CONNECT - March 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.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

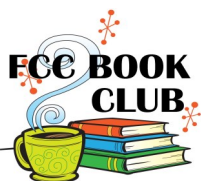


Ladies' Night Out in March will be at 5:30pm on Thursday, **March 16** at Reunion Brewery (516 2nd St., Coralville).

HANNAH CIRCLE

Hannah Circle will meet on Monday, **March 20** at 1pm.

HANNAH



FCC'S BOOK CLUB

Join the First Christian Book Club on **March 23** for a discussion of

Marianne Cronin's book *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot*. This story of relationships across generations will remind you that there is life left to live even when one's days are short.

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.

March 5 - April 2:

Plenty Good Room: A Lenten Bible Study based on African American Spirituals (youth and adults)

Stories of Jesus (Pre-K through 5th grades)

Nursery for our younger kiddos



All 3rd - 5th graders are invited to JYF on **March 26** at noon.

IT'S TIME TO GET REGISTERED FOR CHURCH CAMP!



Every year our region offers a summer full of camps. Children and youth (grades 2 - 12) can go to camp with their peers. There is also Family Camp and Grand Camps (for grandparents and children). There is even a camp for Senior Adults (age 55+).

Pastor Kara will be directing Grand Camp 1 and Pastor Jill will be directing CYF 2. We have other adults who attend these and other camps as counselors, as well.

To learn more information and to register [visit the Christian Conference Center's website](#). And, remember, the church pays 1/2 of the registration fee for FCC campers, so be sure to use the code "church50"!

Church camp is a great experience! If you have questions, just ask!

Contents covered to protect privacy.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who joined our staff in leading worship on February 26: Beth Pelton and Pam Ries (Greeters); Ed and Suzanne Krogh (Ushers); Strings & Singers (Musicians); Lumen Brandsmeier (Acolyte); Sally Strah (Scripture Reader); Malea White, Steve Strah, Sally Strah (Communion servers); Malea White (Elder); David Klein and Pam Ries (A/V); Pat & Francis Boelens (Fellowship Time Host); Steve Strah (Valet Parking).

Thank you to all who completed terms of service in leadership positions at First Christian Church.

TWO SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

There are two scholarships available through First Christian annually and the scholarship application is ready for you! Applications for both scholarship are due April 3.

First Christian scholarship: [First Christian Church Scholarship | First Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\) \(icdisciples.org\)](#)

Sunier scholarship (English language literature or poetry) [Sunier Scholarship | First Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\) \(icdisciples.org\)](#)

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 or to sign up for these roles.



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 - MARCH 5, 2023 (2ND SUNDAY IN LENT)

Hymns - Begin Again; You Are Here; Ours the Journey

Scripture - John 3:1-17

Sermon - How Do We Begin Again?

A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2023

In the fall of 2022, we passed the 20-year anniversary of First Christian's move to the current building—and while our facilities are well-maintained, it is time to take a thoughtful look at matching our facilities to our congregation's ministry needs.

The Capital Campaign team, in conjunction with the Facilities team and other inputs, identified a large list of potential projects. We then underwent a series of conversations with the congregation about priorities and interest level. Many of you will remember participating in one of the five prioritizing meetings last fall - there were about 45 of you who participated. The potential projects all connected to one or more of the following values: Welcome & Accessibility, Mission & Witness, Creation Care, and Updates & Maintenance.

Through that process of discernment, we identified the following as the top priorities for the campaign:

- **Replace Sanctuary Seating:** This is at the top of the priority list. Our current pews were moved to our location 20 years ago, and many were in need of repair then. The situation is critical and is a real safety concern. In a broader sense, modern configurable seating will expand the utility of our space for different types of programming.
- **Reconfigure Upstairs Restrooms:** In keeping with our commitment to being an open and affirming congregation, reconfiguring our restrooms to be single-use; gender neutral; and configured to more easily support families with young children or people who need assistance.
- **Modernize Sanctuary Sound & Video:** Like the pews, some of the elements of our sound system are a carryover from the previous location, over 20 years ago. Proper sound and video will make our worship services more accessible to all. This will include upgrading our sanctuary lighting.
- **Building Access:** A modern, key card access system will increase the accessibility to the building for those who need it, and reduce the proliferation of keys. This will protect our staff and physical plan. We also plan to add push button access to the lower level to help those using mobility devices.
- **AV Capability in Fellowship Hall:** Install equipment to make Fellowship Hall ready for classes using A/V equipment, Zoom meetings, Live Streaming from the sanctuary, as well as installation of sound system.
- **Outreach Project:** It is important that this campaign reflect our commitment to the community outside our walls, and so we commit that 10% of the funds raised will support projects in the local community.

The current cost estimate for these projects is \$250,000. This is a significant amount of money, and will require us to think about a long-term investment in the ministry of First Christian Church. However, the generosity of our congregation in regular offerings indicates that our members and friends are committed to the work of First Christian.

Should we raise money beyond our goal or if there are savings upon the completion of these projects, our next priorities would be to add a Solar Electric Car Charging Station and to do kitchen updates.

We have titled this effort the "A Place for Everyone Campaign," as completing these projects will help us to live out our values of openness and acceptance for the next generation of our congregation and community. We look forward to spending time together preparing for our future during the campaign period, which will be April 16-May 7.



March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon Disciples Strings & Singers 6 PM Spiritual Life Group @ Jill Michel home 6:30PM	2 Spiritual Life Group @ Dahms' 11 AM	3	4
5 Worship 10 AM Faith Formation 11:15 AM Handbells 12 noon SLG Zoom 2:30PM Troop 270 5:30 PM Troop 2000 7 PM	6 Capital Campaign Team 6:30 PM	7 Spiritual Life Group @ Anderson/ Dohrmann home 7 PM	8 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon Jill's PST (Zoom) 5:30PM Spiritual Life Group @ Jill Michel home 6:30PM	9 Spiritual Life Group @ Dahms' 11 AM Clergy Cluster 12 Noon FCC Connect @ Zoom 6:30PM Arrow Chapter 7PM	10	11
12 Worship 10 AM Faith Formation 11:15 AM Handbells 12 noon SLG Zoom 2:30PM Troop 270 5:30 PM Troop 2000 7 PM	13 Finance Team 6 PM	14 Spiritual Life Group @ Anderson/ Dohrmann home 7 PM	15 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon Disciples Strings & Singers 6 PM	16 Spiritual Life Group @ Dahms' 11 AM Ladies Night Out @Reunion Brewery 5:30 PM Kara's PST 6:30 PM		18
Pastor Jill on vacation (March 13-18)						
19 Worship 10 AM Faith Formation 11:15 AM Handbells 12 noon SLG Zoom 2:30PM Troop 270 5:30 PM	20 Hannah Circle @ Zoom 1 PM Capital Campaign Team 6:30 PM	21 Staff Meeting 10AM Spiritual Life Group @ Anderson/ Dohrmann home 7 PM	22 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon Spiritual Life Group @ Jill Michel home 6:30PM	23 Spiritual Life Group @ Dahms' 11 AM Women Clergy @ Zoom 10 AM FCC Book Club 7 PM	24 Scout Troop 2000 Overnight Lock-in 7PM	25 Scout Troop 2000 Overnight Lock-in 1PM Dismissal
26 Worship 10 AM Faith Form 11:15 AM JYF 12 noon SLG Zoom 2:30PM Troop 270 5:30 PM Troop 2000 7 PM	27	28 Spiritual Life Group @ Anderson/ Dohrmann home 7 PM	29 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon Spiritual Life Group @ Jill Michel home 6:30PM	30 Spiritual Life Group @ Dahms' 11 AM	31	



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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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



**World
Day of
Prayer**

Join in prayer with others from around the world on
March 3 which is designated as World Day of Prayer.