



THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 22, 2023

A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Friends,

Life is full of transitions.

I have been thinking a lot about this reality as we have made a few college visits with Cameron lately. While he is “just” a junior in high school, I know the time will go quickly between now and college starting. And we are working on being intentional about this transition, so we are now in the mode of visiting colleges and preparing to be paying attention to dates for applications and financial aid, acceptances and housing.

Life is full of transitions.

I’ve been thinking a lot about this reality since the calendar turned to 2023 which means this is the year I turn 50. While I’m not sure that is a “transition” in the same way (after all, I don’t expect to feel or experience anything drastically different the day after my birthday in late May), it is one of those milestones that we take note of. And I, for one, am approaching 50 with joyful anticipation...I figure I have earned it! Meanwhile, I have lots of long time friends also turning 50 this year and, in fact, will be making a quick trip to Nashville, TN next week to celebrate with one of them because these moments in our lives deserve a party.

Life is full of transitions.

I often think a lot about this reality as I walk with you all through many of them. Some of them are about new stages of life, about births, about transitions from childhood to adulthood, into careers and new residences, about finding meaning in retirement. Some of them are about numbers that we have claimed have significance...10, 13, 16, 18, 21, 50, 65, 100. Some of them are about endings, about retirements, divorces, deaths. Life is full of transitions. Some we choose. Some just happen.

I wonder what meaning you are finding in the transitions that are part of your life. I wonder how you embrace them. I wonder what transitions bring you joy and which ones you push back against. I wonder what transitions you are going through and how I and our church community can support you. I’d love to hear.

With care, *Jill*

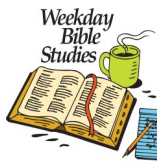
DID YOU KNOW?

You can make a gift of stock shares directly to the church? If you have stocks that have appreciated in value, you can transfer the shares directly to the church’s brokerage account. When you do so, you get a double tax advantage, which means your support of First Christian Church’s ministry can go further.

The church’s upcoming capital campaign makes this a good time to check out efficient giving strategies. As with any giving and tax matters, you should consult your own trusted tax advisor—but if you’d like some tips on how to start that conversation, we can help. Contact me if you’d like to discuss options.

Kent Clark, Capital Campaign Chair

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



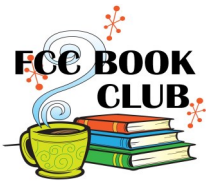
BIBLE STUDY

Join us using [Zoom](#). We meet at **12noon each Wednesday.**

Upcoming scriptures:

March 22: Matthew 21:1-11

March 29: John 20:1-18



FCC'S BOOK CLUB

Join the First Christian Book Club on **March 23 @ 7PM** via [Zoom](#) 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.



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



STRINGS AND SINGERS

All musicians are invited to be part of Disciples Strings and Singers. Want to

join? You are welcome! The next rehearsal is **March 29** at 6pm.

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

LET'S GET READY FOR EASTER

Easter is April 9. It's a big Sunday in the church. What better time to spruce the place up?

Instead of having a spring cleaning day, we are inviting people to choose a cleaning task to complete. You can do this on your own time the week of April 2. We will have the supplies you need available and ready. Come on your own or with a friend.

A list of projects will be available Sunday at church or call the church office for more information.

TIME TO REGISTER FOR CHURCH CAMP!



Children and youth (grades 2 - 12) can go to church camp with their peers. There is also Family Camp and Grand Camp (for grandparents and children). There is even a camp for Senior Adults (age 55+).

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

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

SUMMER MINISTRY PLANNING TEAM

Do you have creative ideas for summer ministry? Do you love to think outside the box and try new things? It is time to start planning for summer at FCC. If you would like to be part of our Ministry Planning Team (MPT) that works on planning for May through August, we would love to have you!

We are still looking for participants! Call or email Pastor Jill (icdisciple.pastor@gmail.com) to join.

PRAYERS & PRAISE

- We pray for Payton Steeples who has entered a residential mental health program.
- We pray for Mark Pries who is recovering after having knee replacement.
- We pray for James Estabrook's stepfather, Galeon, who is experiencing a recurrence of cancer.
- We pray comfort for the family and friends of Angie, a co-worker of Lora Morgan Dunham who passed away.
- We pray for all who are living in the aftermath of a cyclone (southeast Africa) and an earthquake (Ecuador & Peru).
- We continue to pray for those who are in a nursing home, homebound, have emotional and physical needs.

Please always let your pastors know about surgeries, hospitalizations, or other pastoral care needs.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who joined our staff in leading worship on March 19: Mary Ann Schwartz and Maggie Keyser (Greeters); Nancy Ream and Sharon Sass (Ushers); Tim Fees and Strings & Singers (Musicians); Melody White-Haar (Acolyte); Kent Clark (Scripture Reader); Emily Steeples (Children's Moment); David Klein, Gene Hansen, Marian Hart (Communion servers); David Klein (Elder); Jim Michel and Pam Ries (A/V); Carol Mertens and Paul Bly (Fellowship Time Host); Steve Strah (Valet Parking).

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 \(Disciples of Christ\) \(icdisciples.org\)](https://www.icdisciples.org)

Sunier scholarship (English language literature or poetry) [Sunier Scholarship | First Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\) \(icdisciples.org\)](https://www.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 the church office 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 (laurie.dahms@gmail.com).

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

WORSHIP - MARCH 26, 2023 (5TH SUNDAY IN LENT)

Hymns - Can These Bones Live?; Eat This Bread and Never Hunger; Now the Green Blade Rises

Scripture - John 11:1-45

Sermon - Can These Bones Live?



MANY FACETS OF HOUSES INTO HOMES

Many of us have become familiar with the work of Houses into Homes which helps provide furniture and other necessities to people coming out of homelessness, domestic violence, and other difficult situations.

If this is a mission you believe in, there are many ways you can help:

- Donate items. You can find lists of what they do and do not accept [here](#).
- [Volunteer for furniture delivery](#) (this usually takes place on Sundays).
- [Volunteer to work at the warehouse](#). There are jobs like receiving donations, cleaning furniture, refurbishing/repurposing furniture (think turning desks into night stands), and participating in a dresser build.
- [Donate money](#) to support their mission.



SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE IS COMING

The Shelter House Book Sale will take place **March 25-26**. There are many ways you can prepare to participate:

Donate: Gather books, CDs, DVDs, vinyl records, and puzzles you are ready to part with. They can be dropped off (Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays 10am - 2pm;

Sundays 2 - 4pm) through March 22 at 860 Quarry Rd, Coralville.

Volunteer: [Sign up to work a shift](#) either setting up before or working during the event.

Shop: Mark your calendar to shop at the sale March 25 or 26 from 10:30am - 4pm.

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>

Last fall many of us took the Dementia Friends training and we committed as a congregation to be a Dementia Friendly organization.

I wonder what we are doing to make that a reality.

What one action have you taken around the church to help us be Dementia Friendly?

What one idea do you have for something we could add, change, or do to make those living with dementia feel more welcome?

Have stories or ideas? Share with Pastor Jill.





March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BIRTHDAYS Ollie Bogs 3/5 Scott Van Oss 3/7 Vic Edwards 3/7 Victoria Threlkeld 3/10 Thea Coobs 3/13	Rayanna Haslett-Tomova 3/14 Diane DeWitt 3/21 Jaida' Rose Kronstein-Steeple 3/22 Jay Thomas 3/22 Jan Ricklefs 3/23	Jan Ricklefs 3/23 Jane John 3/26 Mark Smith 3/31	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 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  Change your clocks before bed!
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	17 	18
Pastor Jill out of the office (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 Women Clergy @ Zoom 10 AM Spiritual Life Group @ Dahms' 11 AM FCC Book Club @ Zoom 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 Fellowship Hall in use 6:30 PM Pastor Jill out of the office (March 27-28)	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	ANNIVERSARIES Kent & Rebecca Clark 3/31



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Staff:

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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

