



THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



FOR THE WEEKS OF APRIL 12 AND 19, 2023

A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Easter was a beautiful day. I received an email on Monday morning where the sender listed her highlights from Easter Sunday - she listed eight different things and ended with and "SO MUCH MORE!" I hope that there was something (or things) in our Easter celebration that was a highlight for you, too. And just so you know, you - the people of First Christian - are the highlight for me.

There are a few things I want to make sure you are aware of:

- We will have our denominational General Assembly this summer in Louisville, KY (thanks to COVID, the first one since 2019!). The dates are July 29 - August 1. Our congregation gets three voting delegates in addition to our pastors. We have two volunteers and are looking for a third. If you are available to travel to Louisville and interested in learning more about this opportunity, please let me know. The church will pay for your registration, but you would be responsible for most of your expenses.
- You will notice that our COVID Community Level signs are coming down. Iowa has quit reporting one of the data points the CDC uses to determine community levels. With this change, Iowa's measurement (versus other states) is no longer accurate. So, we are removing the signs but will keep masks and hand sanitizer available and encourage you to use them as needed.
- It takes a little bit from each of us to keep things going around here. And it has become more difficult to get people to respond to email reminders to sign up for different ministries. I continue to believe that you all care about these things, but I also know life is busy and email inboxes are overflowing. So, I will ask two things. First, if you are willing to help with Sunday morning tasks (greeter, usher, acolyte, reader, fellowship host), please [visit this sign up](#). Second, please [click on this link](#) to indicate if you have interest in participating in other ways (Pridefest, around the building, valet parking, and more) - if you indicate interest, we will contact you for scheduling. I would love if everyone would take a look at these two and find a way to engage.

With care, *Jill*



A Place for Everyone

A Capital Campaign for First Christian Church

This week we kick off our capital campaign. Over the next few weeks we will talk more about the projects we plan to do and the values that support them. We will share info in the newsletter as well as in special mailings. You will be invited to prayerfully consider how you will support this campaign. You will also be invited to participate in conversations and a celebration.

We will have **Community Dessert Conversations**. Come enjoy a sweet treat with some friends from First Christian on Wed, **April 19** at 7pm or Sun, **April 23** at 3pm. You are invited to bring both your excitement and your questions about the capital campaign and the projects we are doing. [RSVP here](#).

Commitment Sunday, when we bring our pledges, will be on **April 30**. We hope you'll be in worship.

Celebration Sunday, when we announce our total pledged toward this campaign, will be on **May 7**. That day you are invited to stay after worship for a congregational meal. This is a catered event, so [please RSVP here](#). **Please RSVP by Sunday, April 30.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



BIBLE STUDY

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

Upcoming scriptures:

April 12: I Chronicles 29:1-9

April 19: Acts 2:42-47

April 26: John 14:15-21



STRINGS AND SINGERS

All musicians are invited to be part of Disciples Strings & Singers. Join us

April 12 and April 26 at 6pm.

FCC CONNECT - April 13 @ 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

Each Sunday there are classes from 11:15am - 12noon for all ages and a nursery for the littles.

April 16 - May 21: Intergenerational Faith Formation returns. Join people of all ages for conversations and activities around the tables in Fellowship Hall.



All 3rd - 5th graders are invited to **JYF** on **April 16** at noon. Please RSVP to Kara. Questions? Just ask!



Ladies Night Out will gather at Kava House in Swisher at 5:30pm on **April 20**. Please RSVP to Jan Ricklefs by April 15 if you plan to attend.

SPRING YOUTH RETREAT

6th-12th graders head to the Christian Conference Center **April 21-23**. Talk to Kara for more information.



FREE LUNCH - APRIL 22

It's almost time for Free Lunch. We will be serving on Saturday, **April 22**.

If you are making a casserole, please place it in the freezer at church anytime or bring it to church Friday, April 21 between 11:30am and 1pm.

If you are supplying any other food items, please bring them to church anytime and place in the bin by the front door or drop them off on Friday, April 21 between 11:30am and 1pm.

If you are volunteering, please be at the Free Lunch Program by 10:30am on April 22.

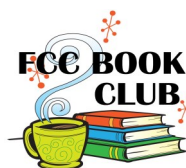
If you want to help but haven't yet signed up, [visit this link](#).

LET'S GET CAMP READY!

The Christian Conference Center is gearing up for people from around our region - including many from our own congregation - to attend camp this summer.

And you can help get the camp ready!

This year's spring work weekend is **April 21-23**. Work ranges from carpentry to painting to organizing to cleaning. There will be both indoor and outdoor work opportunities. Work will happen all day Friday and Saturday with closing worship on Sunday. Go for a day or for the whole weekend. [Click here for more information and to sign up](#).



FCC'S BOOK CLUB

It's almost time for the **April 27** Book Club meeting. This month's book is *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng.

CONTENT COVERED TO PROTECT PRIVACY

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



THANK YOU SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS!!



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS

Over the next four Sundays we will explore the theme, "A Place for Everyone."

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



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!

FIRST CHRISTIAN'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL

If you haven't already subscribed to First Christian's YouTube channel, you can find us at: [@icdisciples](https://youtube.com/icdisciples)

DID YOU KNOW?

Donor-advised funds have become a useful tool for planning your giving. A donor-advised fund (DAF) lets you make deductible gifts to an account in your name, and then recommend that grants be made to charitable organizations like the church at a later time. This can help maximize the deductibility of your giving. For example, under new rules you might make a gift equal to two or three years' of your normal charitable giving to your DAF at one time. You can then advise the DAF to send checks to the church or other organizations you support, stretching over the years. By bunching up multiple years' giving into a single year, you maximize your tax deduction in the year you make the gift. In subsequent years, you take the standard deduction....but your charitable support remains steady over the whole time.

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



NAMI of Linn and Johnson counties are set to hold the annual NAMI Walk on Saturday, **May 6, 2023** at Terry Trueblood recreational area for Johnson county. For more information, [visit NAMI's website](#).

CELEBRATING TIFF'S MINISTRY IN THE UPPER MIDWEST

If you have been to the Christian Conference Center in Newton, you likely know Tiff Williams. She has served as our Associate Regional Minister and Camp Director for the last seven years. She has accepted a call to serve as Pastor of a congregation in Arlington, TX and will be moving in May. If you would like to celebrate Tiff, you can attend Tiff's Closing Campfire at the CCC in Newton on **May 13** at 10am, send a card to her at 5064 Lincoln St., Newton, IA 50208, or share a memory here.



April



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<p>2</p> <p>Worship 10 AM Faith Formation 11:15 AM Visioning Retreat 12 noon SLG Zoom 2:30 PM</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Capital Campaign 6:30 PM Fellowship Hall in Use 6:30</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Personnel Comm 9:30 AM Spiritual Life Group Anderson/ Dohrmann 7PM</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon Spiritual Life Group Jill Michel home 6:30 PM</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Spiritual Life Group Terry & Laurie Dahms' home 11AM Holy Week Worship 7PM</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Fellowship Hall In Use 9AM-noon</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Sunrise Worship 6:15AM Worship 8AM Easter Activities 9AM Worship 10 AM</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Finance Team 6 PM</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Kara's PST 6:30 PM</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon Disciples Strings & Singers 6 PM</p>	<p>13</p> <p>FCC Connect @ Zoom 6:30PM Arrow Chapter 7 PM</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Worship 10 AM Faith Formation 11:15 AM Handbells 12 noon JYF 12 noon Elders 3 PM Baptism Class 5 PM Scouts 5:30/7 PM</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Hannah Circle 1 PM Capital Campaign 6:30 PM</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Staff Meeting 10AM</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Summer MPT 10 AM Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon Jill's PST 5:30PM Capital Campaign Dessert Mtg 7 PM</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Ladies Night Out KAVA House Swisher 5:30 PM</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>FCC @ Free Lunch 10 AM</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Worship 10 AM Faith Formation 11:15 AM Handbells 12 noon Exec Comm 1 PM Dessert Mtg 3 PM Baptism Class 5 PM Scouts 5:30/7 PM</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Fellowship Hall in use 6:30 PM</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon Disciples Strings & Singers 6 PM</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Women Clergy @ Zoom 10AM Clergy Cluster 11:45AM FCC Book Club 7 PM</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Worship 10 AM Faith Formation 11:15 AM Handbells 12 noon Baptism Class 5 PM Scouts 5:30/7 PM</p>						



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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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

*today
I will choose
JOY*