



THIS MONTH AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



AUGUST 2023 *(next newsletter will come out August 23)*

A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

It is time for the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This event, which takes place every two years, will be in Louisville, KY July 29 - August 1. I am excited that there are 12 of us going from First Christian. That includes people from 6 to 60+, ministers and lay people.

There are many reasons I love General Assembly.

I have been a part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) my whole life and got both my undergraduate and graduate degrees from Disciples institutions, so my roots run deep which means this is a “family reunion” of sorts. I love seeing people from across my life!

I believe that we are better off together. So I love getting together with people from churches throughout the United States and Canada and beyond. I love seeing the diversity of people who are present. I love that even across the wide theological spectrum of our congregations we can talk and debate and come to the table together.

I believe in who we are. Even though there are good reasons to ask questions about what Christians are (or sometimes are not) doing in the world...even though it is a time when there are many pushing back against the idea of organized religion...even though there is fear among those in mainline Protestant denominations about the future...I continue to believe in who we are as Disciples and I believe that there is an important place in this world for who we are and for the message of God’s expansive love that we proclaim.

I will miss you while I’m away (July 27 - August 2), but know you are in good hands with Laura, the Elders, and each other.

With care, *Jill*

COME JOIN US FOR EXPLORING FCC

Are you newer to First Christian? Have you been attending a while but still have questions about our congregation or denomination? Would you like to get to know some others who are attending First Christian?

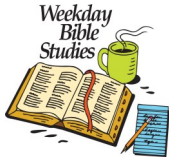
Join us for “Exploring FCC” on Sunday, **August 20**. We will gather after worship, enjoy conversation and lunch, and end about 2pm. Childcare is available. Please RSVP to Pastor Jill (icdisciple.pastor@gmail.com) by August 18.

LOOK FOR THE ONLINE DIRECTORY

Beginning August 1, our online directory through Realm will include everyone who, in the past, would have been included in a print directory. This means all members and participants who are active in the life of First Christian and have shared their contact information will be included. Thanks to those who set up Realm accounts and went ahead and adjusted their visibility on their own. If you haven’t, we will adjust your visibility for you. The directory will only be available to others from First Christian. If you have questions or would like to opt out of having your information in the church directory, please contact Laurie Dahms or Pastor Jill (icdisciple.pastor@gmail.com). Once it is fully updated we will send out the link to the directory and information about the app you can get for your phone or tablet. We can also print a copy for you.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

BIBLE STUDY



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

Upcoming scriptures:

July 26: Luke 2:41-52

August 2: Psalm 119 (selected verses)

August 9: Mark 8:27-30

August 16: Isaiah 43:1-2

August 23: TBD

August 30: TBD

LAST CONCERT ON THE LAWN IS COMING!

Join us Monday, **July 31** at 7pm and help us make music. We will have a hymn sing for our last night of music. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and your voice.



STRINGS AND SINGERS

You are invited to be part of Disciples Strings & Singers and help lead worship music. Join us **August 2, 16, & 30** at 6pm.

FCC CONNECT - August 10 @ 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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

- IT'S FOR EVERYONE!



Join us for the last session of **Intergenerational VBS** as we continue to explore the theme of creation care. We will meet **August 13** with lunch served at 11:15am and activities wrapping up at 1:00pm. Be sure to mark your calendars and [please sign up here](#). We hope you'll take advantage of this fun opportunity!



FCC AT FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

We are serving on Saturday, **August 26**. Our summer menu includes all beef hot dogs or baked potato, chili and cheese toppings, Italian pasta salad with vegetables, chips, cookies/bars/cupcakes, granola bar, fresh fruit, juice or milk and coffee. We expect to serve 100+ meals. To donate food items or work on free lunch day, [use SignUp Genius](#).

Non-perishable items may be placed in the Free Lunch Box in the narthex anytime. Perishable items may be placed in the FCC kitchen fridge during the week of service. Items may also be dropped off at the church on Friday, August 25 between 11:30 am – 1:00 pm.



JOIN US FOR ICE CREAM!

Every Monday in August (**7, 14, 21 and 28**) we will serve Ice Cream on the front lawn. Bring a chair to sit and visit a while or just drive thru to pick some up to go.

Drive, walk, or bike over and get a sweet treat.

If you would like be the host who passes out treats one week, you can [sign up here](#).



Ladies Night Out will gather at

Copper Boar (575 Cameron Way, North Liberty) at 5:30pm on **August 17**. RSVPs are welcome. RSPV to Jan Ricklefs by August 14..



FCC'S BOOK CLUB

The August book is *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick. Would you want to know how long you will live? Erlick creates a world in which everyone has to decide if they want to know after they receive a box containing that information. Join the discussion on **August 24** at 7pm.



ARE YOU READY TO PLAY SOME GAMES?

Join us for Game Night. We will gather in Fellowship Hall on Friday, **August 11** at 7pm. Some games and snacks will be provided, but you are also welcome to bring games you enjoy and snacks to share. This is an event for people of all ages...a good chance to learn a new game or get to know someone new.

IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME

As the school year begins we like to offer an encouraging blessing and small gift to students of all ages. Our Back to School Blessing will take place in worship on Sunday, **August 20**. We will also recognize FCC's scholarship recipients on this date.

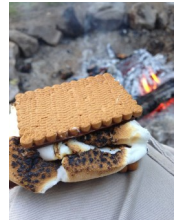


CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER IS COMING

You might remember the Bible stories we have told at Children's Moment using wooden figures. Those stories are part of a larger ministry called Children Worship & Wonder. Beginning in September we will offer Children Worship & Wonder during the Faith Formation hour after worship for grades K-5. We will do two orientation sessions—**August 20 and 27**—so that children can become familiar with this ministry.



STORIES & S'MORES is a celebration of all who donated to the summer camp fund. You are invited on **August 26** at 7pm to join our kids and adults who attended camp this summer for s'mores and stories of their time at camp.



Send a Note to Our Summer Campers

Camping season is almost over, but we have one more group of kids attending. A note to say "hello, I'm thinking of you" is always nice to receive. At church, there are blank cards on the table outside the office which you can fill out and then we will take care mailing the cards to camp. If you want to send a note from your home, you are also welcome to do so using this mailing address:

[Camper name & Camp attending]

c/o Christian Conference Center

5064 Lincoln St

Newton, IA 50208

You can also send a note via email to: campermail@newtonccc.org - please put the camper's name and camp attending in the subject line.

****Please send mail no later than Mondays so campers will receive your notes during their stay****



PRAYERS & PRAISE

CONTENT COVERED TO PROTECT PRIVACY

BLESSINGS!!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the cards, emails, phone calls & flowers I received from the FCC congregation during my recent surgery & recovery. I am happy to report that I am now cancer free and doing well. With thanks & joy, I believe that God has blessed me again and again! Thank you all for your support!

Blessings, Colee Hospers

THANK YOU!

We may no longer list names individually, but we want each of you to know how grateful we are for the things that you do. Whether you sign up to serve in one of various roles on Sunday mornings, help with VBS, coordinate or participate in one a group or a ministry in the community, just offer a helping hand when you see something is needed...whatever you do, it does not go unnoticed. We are who we are because of each of you!

Also, thank you to our Elders and everyone who participated in our Meet Your Elder event. Great conversations were had and lots of ideas and feedback shared.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL COLLECTION

As the start of the school year nears, we know some kids struggle to get the supplies they need. This year we are partnering with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson Co. to collect donations that will be shared with kids at a Back-to-School party they are hosting on August 16.

Donations will be collected at First Christian Church July 30, August 6 & 13. Look for the labeled bin in the narthex.

Most needed items are: 2-pocket folders, College Ruled notebooks, mechanical or pre-sharpened pencils, gender neutral backpacks, pencil boxes or pouches.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR REGIONAL WOMEN'S RETREAT



The Christian Church in the Upper Midwest's Women's Retreat is coming up **Sept. 22-24, 2023**. This is an exciting, fun, and renewing event that happens at beautiful Lake Koronis in Paynesville, MN. Our own Malinda Thomas is part of the executive committee that directs this event. Malinda will be attending this year and would love to share this experience with others from FCC! Options for carpooling together are definitely available.

This year's theme is "This is Who I Am" and the keynote is a wonderful speaker coming all the way from North Carolina (hometown of Marshalltown, IA), Melissa Guthrie. Melissa is the Executive Director + Minister for AllianceQ, the Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance. The chaplain this year is Deb Murphy, who will be leading vespers and worship. Kathy Hintz will be leading an optional book study group again this year on the book *Becoming Eve: My Journey from Ultra-Orthodox Rabbi to Transgender Woman* by Abby Stein (which can be purchased on amazon.com). Details are on the regional website (under "events") and links for registration (in person & virtual) will be active soon!

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, person preparing and cleaning up Communion 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.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE



We are currently finalizing bids with contractors and working to figure out the schedule of projects based on supply chain speeds, contractor availability, and coordination of contractors. This behind the scenes work is happening and we will look forward to having timeline information to share soon.

AUGUST 2023

FREE ICE CREAM TREATS EVERY MONDAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Disciples Strings & Singers 6 PM	3 Fellowship Hall in Use 6:30 pm	4	5
		Pastors Jill & Kara at General Assembly			Laura out for surgery	
6 Worship 10 AM Troop 270 5:30 PM Troop 2000 7 PM	 7 Exec Comm 6 PM ICE CREAM 7 PM	8	9 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 noon Trustees 5:30 PM	10 Cap Camp outreach 10 AM FCC Connect @ Zoom 6:30PM Scouts 7 PM	11 Game Night 7 PM	12
Laura Out for surgery						
13 Worship 10 AM Intergenerational VBS 11:15 AM Troop 270 5:30 PM Troop 2000 7 PM	14 Finance Team 6 PM ICE CREAM 7 PM 	15 Board Meeting 6 PM	16 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 noon Disciples Strings & Singers 6 PM	17 Ladies Night Out 5:30 PM	18	19
20 Worship 10 AM w/ Back-to-School Blessing CW&W Orient 11:15 Exploring FCC 11:15 Troop 270 5:30 PM Troop 2000 7 PM	21 DEADLINE: September Newsletter ICE CREAM 7 PM 	22 Staff Meeting 10:00AM	23 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 noon Jill's PST 3:00 PM	24 Women Clergy 10 AM Book Club 7 PM	25 Free Lunch food drop off 11:30AM	26 FCC @ Free Lunch Stories & S'mores 7 PM
27 Worship 10 AM CW&W Orient 11:15 Troop 270 5:30 PM Troop 2000 7 PM	28 Fellowship Hall in Use 6:30PM ICE CREAM 7 PM 	29	30 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 noon Disciples Strings & Singers 6 PM	31	Save the Date: Welcome! Sunday Sept. 10	

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It's a place for you to dream about what the church can be!

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

900 Lincolnshire Place
Coralville, IA 52241
319-337-4181

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



SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Concerts on the Lawn, Summer Lunches for Kids, VBS, Popcorn at Children's Moment, Church Camp

