

OCTOBER 2024

# THIS MONTH @ FCC



## A Note from the Pastor

Friends, this summer, specifically during the time Pastor Jill has been on sabbatical, has been an adventure in learning for the staff, volunteers and congregation.

In early June I began to notice a quickly progressing lack of control over my hands. It soon affected my ability to write, to hold a glass, to play the piano and to do fine-motion activities. As a musician and an artist, I was worried. I was diagnosed with essential tremor.

Then in mid-August I had a surprise visit to the hospital. What I thought might be a severe stomach flu turned out to be pancreatitis, combined with an infection. Surprisingly, my tremors were gone upon my release.

I tell you all this because I want to highlight what staff and volunteers did during this time. Everyone I asked to help said yes. I actually didn't need to do much asking. You all (staff and congregation) stepped in and did what needed to be done, even when I didn't ask. Pastor Kara, along with the staff in the office, filled in for my regular duties without being asked, as well.

Fast forward a few weeks: Last week Carol had surgery and will be out for a couple of weeks and Kara and her family were sidelined with Covid, so we had to revisit how to do things. And now, this week, I have tested positive for Covid. As I was trying to figure out who would do my regular job, I came to realize that staff and volunteers were already on top of it - ready and willing to take on whatever needed to be done.

This has been a summer of ups and downs. An adventure in how we all are a part of the whole. I am grateful for all of you who do what needs to be done - either by saying "yes" or simply stepping up.

This is a congregation of doers. You all look around and recognize needs in our church community, in our wider community and in our world. I am constantly amazed and awed by the unselfish and unconditional care you give.

So this is my message this week - I am grateful for all of you. You make being a part of the clergy staff a joyful and humbling experience. Thank you. You bring the community of Christ ever closer in our working toward the kin-dom.

Love to all!

*Laura*

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*connect with us*





# Announcements

## Pet Blessing

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 3PM



Pet blessings have a long tradition within Christianity. They recognize God's care for all creation and the importance of pets as companions. You are invited to join us on the front lawn, Sunday, September 29 at 3:00PM, for a short service and pet blessing with treats and a photo op to follow. Pets big and small are welcome (along with their humans, of course)! All are welcome and invited!



Above: Enjoying Welcome Sunday festivities on Sept 8.

## Special Offering

SEPTEMBER 29 AND OCTOBER 6



For more than 40 years, Disciples have had a visible ministry to address racism in society. Gifts to Reconciliation Ministry, through its Offering or throughout the year, support programs and initiatives aimed at dismantling racism. You can give to this ministry through October 6, by mailing a check to the office, leaving your donation in the offering box on Sundays, or giving online (select Special Offering - Regional, and Reconciliation Offering).

## FCC's Fall Devotional



In this season, we are invited to "Imagine Together" what the world could be like when we choose to live from values that are good for us and for the world. FCC has put together a devotional of readings and reflections, stories and poems that are intended to invite you to remember, to imagine, and to wonder. Print copies are available at the church or you can access the booklet online at [icdisciples.org/devotional](http://icdisciples.org/devotional)

## Stewardship Emphasis



BEGINS OCTOBER 27

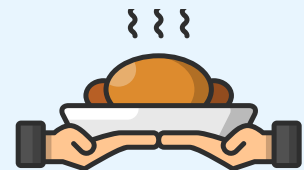
The theme "Imagine Together" makes us think about aligning our values. What would the world look like if we were at our most faithful? How can we embrace creation care & other aspects of more holistic and far-reaching wholeness?

October 27-November 17 will be a time that all are invited to think intentionally about stewardship, and we will be asked to "Imagine Together." Both worship and faith formation will incorporate the theme and will specifically look at the topics of A World Made Whole, Healing, A Rested Church/Community and Vitality.

We hope you all will embrace this time as an opportunity to learn and an opportunity to consider the ways we give of ourselves and our resources.

## It's a Church Potluck!

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3



As Pastor Jill joins us back after her sabbatical, we will celebrate in sharing in a meal after worship. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a potluck on that day. More details to come!



# Learning Together



## Faith Formation - Sundays, 11:15AM - 12:00PM

### BIBLICAL PARABLES & CULTIVATING CREATION CARE

Through October 20, adults and youth 6th grade and up, will be invited to be part of this study that looks at parables from the Bible that connect to our lives as stewards of God's creation. In October, our topics will include The Persistent Widow, The Fig Tree, and Faithful Service. Meet in Fellowship Hall after worship.

### TOWARDS A THEOLOGY OF MONEY

Late October begins our congregational stewardship emphasis, and this year that includes faith formation topics around the theology of money. Join us for Giving as Discipleship (Oct. 27), Giving as Discipleship (11/10), and Ethics of Money (11/17).

### CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to be part of our Children Worship & Wonder ministry! Bible stories are shared in such a way that allows them to enter into the stories and form responses out of their own life experiences. Children learn about God while experiencing God. In October we will hear stories from the Hebrew Scriptures of Abram & Sarai, Exodus, The Ten Best Ways to Live and The Promised Land.

*\*Nursery care is always available during worship and faith formation time for younger children.*

### A SPECIAL NOTE

November 3 there will be no faith formation - instead we hope everyone will plan to stay for the all-church potluck!

## Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS  
AT 12 NOON  
ON ZOOM

### Upcoming Scriptures

October 2:  
Romans 12:1-2

October 9:  
Mark 10:13-16

October 16:  
Isaiah 35

October 23:  
2 Kings 5

October 30:  
Matthew 11:28-30



Contact the  
office for  
Zoom info



## Worship

SUNDAYS AT 10:00AM

All are invited and welcome to worship each Sunday at 10:00AM. Worship is available onsite in the sanctuary and online at

youtube/@icdisciples



## Nursery

Childcare is available each Sunday morning during Worship and Faith Formation. Staff are available beginning at 9:30AM. Infants through kindergarten age children (and older children as needed) are invited to join our caregivers in the lower level east classroom for nurture and play.

## Who's Preaching?

For our final month of sabbatical time, you will hear messages from the pulpit by Marian Hart, Pastor Laura, Pastor Kara and Kent Clark.

## Special Sundays

- WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 6 we celebrate communion in the global context of faith, recognizing we recognize that we are part of the whole body of believers

- CHILDREN'S SABBATH

October 20 we celebrate the gift that children bring to our lives and remember the unique challenges they face.

- ALL SAINTS

November 3 we will remember those in our faith community who have passed on.

# Sunday Mornings



## Called to Serve

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sunday worship brings together many hands and many voices. People (like you!) are needed to fill several roles each week as we continue our ministry of welcome. There is a role for everyone, and everyone can serve! Call the church office or visit the link below for a description of the roles and to sign up where you feel called to serve.

[ICDISCIPLES.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://ICDISCIPLES.ORG/VOLUNTEER)



Above: Children's Minister, Traci Massman, shares The Story of the Light with our children in worship



## FCC Connect

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 6:30PM

CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR ZOOM INFO

Enjoy visiting with others? Want to make some new friends? FCC Connect is an online opportunity to do just that. Sign on and join the conversation.

## Ladies Night Out

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 5:30PM

Ladies of the church are invited to share an evening of food and conversation. In October, join us at Bistro at the Marriott (901 Melrose, Iowa City). Please RSVP to [Nancy Ream](#) if you plan to attend.

## Hannah Circle

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 6:30PM

CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR ZOOM INFO

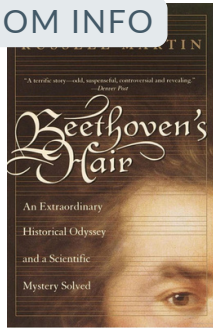
Hannah Circle will meet October 21st at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall for SPEED DATING (for Friends)! Join other women of FCC for several rounds of speed-friending, to get to know other women and build relationships across the church community! Refreshments will be served. Zoom will also be available. Contact [Pat Boelens](#) with questions.

## Book Club

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 7:00PM

CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR ZOOM INFO

In October we are reading [Beethoven's Hair](#) by Russell Martin. This non-fiction book is both a historical odyssey and a scientific mystery about one lock of hair and its amazing travels from 19th century Vienna to 21st century America. Join the conversation onsite at the church or online via Zoom



# Keeping Connected

## Disciples Strings & Singers

REHEARSALS ON WEDNESDAYS, 6:00-7:00PM

You're invited to join in the rehearsals with Disciples Strings & Singers, FCC's music group that prepares music for Sunday mornings. If you have questions about participating in music at FCC, contact [Pastor Laura](#).



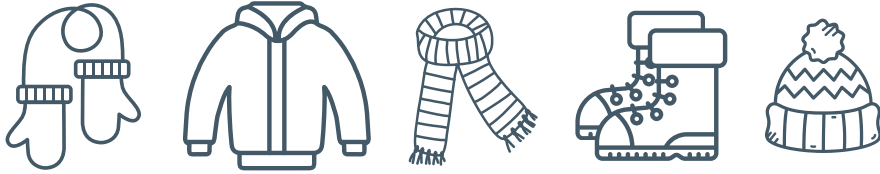
Above: So much intergenerational fun at Welcome Sunday!

## Youth Groups

- **JYF (grades 2-5)** will meet with Steve Strah and Traci Massman on October 13 & 27 from 12:00-1:00pm in Fellowship Hall. We will eat lunch together, explore some spiritual disciplines and play games.
- **Chi Rho (grades 6-8)** are meeting with Pastors Kara & Laura this fall to explore baptism.
- **CYF (high school)** meets weekly on Sundays from 4:30-6pm with Steve Clark & Chris Radcliffe (855 Pheasant Ln, North Liberty). All high schoolers are welcome to come enjoy food, friendship and activities.



# In the Community



## WINTER CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION

The annual Winter Clothing Distribution is almost here and we are collecting items at FCC! Donations of **new and gently used warm winter wear** are needed. Specifically we are collecting coats, snow pants, boots & winter shoes, hats, mittens/gloves, sweaters, hoodies.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the event October 13 - 19. Jobs include set up and sorting, assisting families, and clean up. [Click here to sign up!](#)



**FCC COLLECTION DATES:  
SEPT 29 THROUGH OCT 13**  
Individuals are also needed on October 13 at FCC before worship to help sort and bag the donations received.

### DID YOU KNOW?

*The Winter Clothing Distribution was started at First Christian in the early 1980s. It later became an ecumenical event and occurs annually in October, providing warm winter wear for free to those in our community.*

## FCC @ FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

**OCTOBER 26, 2024**

FCC serves at Iowa City Free Lunch on Saturday, October 26. Our includes Chili Cheese Tater Tot Casserole, mixed vegetables, fruit salad, green salad, bread & butter, cupcakes/cookies/bars, granola bars, juice or milk, and coffee. We expect to serve 145 meals. For the meal, you are invited to provide food items or to volunteer to serve, see the sign up link for both of these.



IOWA CITY

### Free Lunch Program

*"An open door, a full plate,  
no questions asked"*

Serving shifts are divided into a longer shift (10:30am - 1:30pm) and a shorter shift (11:45am - 1:30pm). Non-perishable food items can be placed in the church's FLP tub in the narthex; perishable items should be purchased after **October 12** and refrigerated/frozen as appropriate. Items may be delivered to church on Friday, October 25 between 11:30am - 1:00pm.

ALL GROCERY ITEMS MUST BE AT THE CHURCH BY 1 PM ON OCTOBER 25.





# More In the Community



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
2701 ROCHESTER AVE., IOWA CITY, IOWA

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5  
10 AM TO NOON**

To learn more about Guns to Gardens and how you can help, [click here](#).



**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17  
7PM - 9PM**

To learn more about Inside Out Trivia Night and for tickets, [click here](#).



SAVE THE DATE:  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24**  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

# From the Region



## ALL CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING - OCTOBER 19

Join Disciples from around the region for a day of fun, fellowship, and learning.



Spend the day in Newton, Iowa at the Christian Conference Center! Programming from 10AM - 3PM will include worship, prayer, music, keynote speaker, Rev. Melissa St. Clair, the new Minister for Faith and Giving, workshops, lunch and more! You won't want to miss out on this opportunity to connect with other congregations across our region and spend a day apart on holy ground. For more information or to register, click the link above. Interested in carpooling? Talk to Pastor Kara or Pastor Laura.



# From the Denomination



- [A Pastoral Letter for Peace and Justice](#), September 3, 2024
- [A Statement in Support of Immigrant Communities](#), September 20, 2024



# October



Wishing a  
**Happy  
Birthday  
and a  
Happy  
Anniversary**  
to all those  
celebrating  
this month!

**Who? IS MY ELDER**

Last Name	Elder
A-CI	Lora Morgan Dunham
Co-F	Maggie Keyser
G-Kin	Martha Melton
Kit-Mic	David Klein
Mo-Sch	Marcus Seaton
Sea-Z	Nancy McKinstry



Click the realm logo to access our online directory



900 Lincolnshire Place  
Coralville, IA 52241  
319-337-4181  
[icdisciples.org](http://icdisciples.org)

*There's Room  
at the Table  
for Everyone*

Office Hours:  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00AM to 12:00PM  
clergy staff available  
by appointment

## First Christian Church Staff

Rev. Kara Seaton  
Associate Pastor  
319-530-3255

Rev. Laura Kittrell  
Minister of Music &  
Worship  
319-325-7673

Traci Massman  
Acting Children's Minister

Carol Mertens  
Office Manager

Michael Hull  
Custodian

Lori Smith  
Bookkeeper

Teegan Michel  
Ella Romero  
Nursery Caregivers

Cameron Michel  
Technology Assistant

Rev. Jill Cameron Michel  
Senior Pastor  
On Sabbatical  
August 1 - October 31

*connect with us*

