

SEPTEMBER 2024

THIS MONTH @ FCC

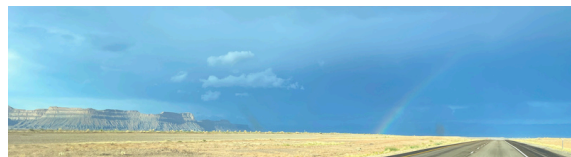
A Note from the Pastor

Last week, my family set out on a cross-country roadtrip, as we moved my oldest child to college. We traveled 3600 miles, from Iowa, through Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, to California (and back). While I've seen much of the Southwest, I had never traversed the land between western Colorado and California, and was delighted to experience the beauty and diversity of some the landscape for the first time. Whether it was being amazed at how far you could see, or coming around a corner to a majestic view of a valley, or the windy roads through the mountains, I took in all the beauty, both serene and rugged. On the way home it rained most of one day, and we even saw a massive double rainbow, end to end, span across our view.

Growing up, I saw much of the United States on summer road-trips with my grandparents. While I never appreciated it when I was young, I now count myself fortunate to not only have seen so much of the country in a way that connects it together. Now, my family has similarly taken many a roadtrip, so I continue to have these experiences but I also get to share them with my husband and kids.

The world is beautiful. The people are incredible. Creation is amazing. Don't ever stop experiencing it. There is wonder and awe to be taken in around every corner. So in this season of sabbath, I invite you to slow down, take in the wonder of God's creation...and find someone to share it with too.

With care,
 Pastor Kara



Join us September 8 as we gather to worship, eat, and play together, in celebration of the welcome that is part of FCC's DNA. Do you have a friend, co-worker, neighbor or family member that you've been wanting to invite to FCC...this is a great Sunday to bring them!

RSVP Here 

This Issue

Announcements
[PAGE 02](#)

Faith Formation Begins
 Bible Study
[PAGE 03](#)

Sunday Worship
[PAGE 04](#)

Opportunities to Connect
[PAGE 05](#)

In the Community
[PAGE 06](#)

More in the Community
[PAGE 07](#)

Birthdays/Anniversaries
 September Calendar Link
[PAGE 08](#)


connect with us





Announcements

Welcome Sunday

RSVP Here 

SEPTEMBER 8, FOLLOWING WORSHIP

It's almost Welcome Sunday! We will worship together at 10am, then lunch will be served as we eat and talk, and finally, we'll share in games for all ages. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to help us plan for food. Also, if you are available to help out, be sure to indicate this on the sign up as well.

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)! This event is free and open to the public...all are welcome and invited!

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).

Table Talk Groups

COMING SOON

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

We hope you'll sign up for one of FCC's Table Talk small groups this fall. There are various hosts and locations to choose from, but each will offer an opportunity for fellowship and connection. Each group will meet 4 times, share in food and drink, and have conversation on the topic of "Imagining Together," a theme you'll hear more about this fall.

Hosts for these groups are being finalized. Check your email in the coming week for the link to the sign up.

Fall Devotional - Imagine Together

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

First Christian has put together a devotional booklet for you this fall! 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. This devotional is intended to be a companion on that journey. In it are readings and reflections, stories and poems that are intended to invite you to remember, to imagine, and to wonder. These will be available for pick up at the church on September 8 and will also be available electronically.



Mondays on the Lawn, Spoken Word & Open Mic, 7/29

Please note the monthly newsletter deadline has changed. See the calendar for the updated due date.



Learning Together

Faith Formation Begins September 15

SUNDAYS, 11:15AM - 12:00PM - FOLLOWING WORSHIP

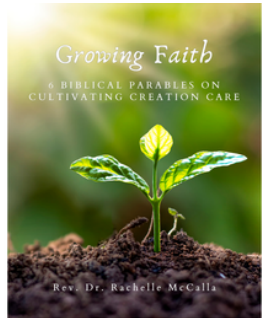
BIBLICAL PARABLES & CULTIVATING CREATION CARE

SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 20

Adults and youth 6th grade and up are invited join Melea White for this study that will look at parables from the Bible that connect to our lives as stewards of God’s creation.

Whether you hear these stories anew or for the first time, we’ll all be considering their meaning for us as creation stewards. We’ll think together about the environmental challenges of our time, asking ourselves how we are being guided by the wisdom of the parables to more meaningful, wise ways of living in harmony with others and with the planet. You’ll be challenged to put the lessons of these parables into action in your own life, as together we become a “community of gardeners” seeking to grow a better world.

By the way, our congregation is serving as a “test plot” for this brand new study, one of a handful of churches who will be exploring this resource together before it’s broadly released.



CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to be part of our Children Worship & Wonder ministry, an exciting way of approaching faith formation with children. Through Bible stories, children learn about God while experiencing God. The stories are shared in such a way that allows them to enter into the stories and form responses out of their own life experiences. Storytelling begin on September 15, and the first stories children will hear are The Good Shepherd, Creation, and Noah.

Nursery care is available during faith formation time for younger children.

Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS
AT 12 NOON
ON ZOOM

Upcoming Scriptures

August 28:
Mark 7:24-37

September 4:
Mark 8:27-38

September 11:
Mark 9:30-37

September 18:
Mark 9:38-50

September 25:
TBD



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](https://youtube.com/@icdisciples)



Sunday Mornings



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?

During the month of September, you will hear from Marian Hart, retired Disciples minister and part of our congregation. The remaining Sundays in September, Pastor Kara will be preaching.

Children Worship & Wonder

Join us for worship on Welcome Sunday, September 8, when we will share the Children Worship & Wonder story, Talking to God - Listening to God during the Children's Moment. This message is the perfect introduction to this ministry for our younger friends!



Called to Serve

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sunday morning 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! Visit the links below for a description of the roles and to sign up where you feel called to serve.

[Greeter](#)

[Usher](#)

[Valet Parking Attendant](#)

[Acolyte: children K - 6th grade](#)

[Fellowship Time:
treats to share or make coffee](#)

[Communion Prep & Clean Up](#)

[Communion Servers](#)

[Scripture Reader](#)



FCC Connect

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 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.

Hannah Circle

Hannah Circle will be meeting in September but considering a time that more members can participate. Please check your email for the meeting time or reach out to [Pat Boelens](#) if you have questions.

Ladies Night Out

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 5:30PM

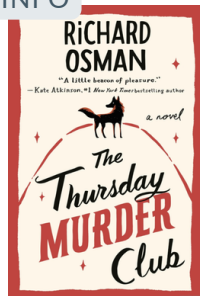
Ladies of the church are invited to share an evening of food and conversation. In September, join us at Red's Ale House (405 N. Dubuque St., North Liberty). Please RSVP to [Nancy Ream](#) if you plan to attend.

Book Club

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 7:00PM

CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR ZOOM INFO

In September, the FCC Book Club is reading [The Thursday Murder Club](#) by Richard Osman. A mystery that's cheeky and full of surprises and a loving tribute to getting older and the relationships



we all form. After reading this, many of us might want to live in Coopers Chase retirement community solving cold cases with our fellow septuagenarians.

Join the conversation onsite at the church or online via Zoom.

Keeping Connected



Youth Groups Start Back Up



- **JYF (grades 2-5)** will meet with [Steve Strah](#) and [Traci Massman](#) on September 15 and 29 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)** will meet with [Pastor Kara](#) this fall to explore baptism. Meeting dates to come.
- **CYF (high school)** will meet with [Steve Clark](#) & [Chris Radcliffe](#) on Sept 15, from 4:30-6pm, at Steve and Tara's Clark's house. All high schoolers are welcome to come enjoy food, friendship and activities.

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, please contact [Pastor Laura](#).



In the Community

PET SUPPLIES COLLECTION

SEPTEMBER 1-29, 2024



Pets provide valuable companionship to people across all socioeconomic statuses. Recognizing that it's often difficult to find assistance with caring for one's pets, in September, FCC is collecting pet supplies for the Coralville Community Food Pantry. You can help out by bringing their most requested items to the church *through September 29*.



Above: FCC serves at Free Lunch on 8/24.

MOST NEEDED ITEMS	DOG FOOD (DRY & WET)	CAT FOOD (DRY & WET)
CAT LITTER (MUCH NEEDED)	DOG & CAT TREATS	BIRD SEED

WINTER CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION

FCC COLLECTION DATES:
SEPT 29 - OCT 13

On September 29, we will begin collecting **WARM WINTER WEAR** for the Winter Clothing Distribution, an annual event (which our congregation helped to found!). Items collected provide new and gently used warm winter clothing to community members. This event is hosted by the Consultation of Religious Communities of Iowa City, and they have also partnered with the Iowa City Police Department this year.



In preparation for this event, donations of gently used or new coats, snow pants, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, boots, winter shoes, heavy sweaters & sweatshirts are requested. We hope you will begin collecting items at home until **Sept 29**, when we will start collecting them at church.

Collecting the items is just part of this effort...the other is volunteering at the event, scheduled for the week of Oct 13. More Information will be coming on how you can get involved onsite.



Move In the Community

BBQ BASH

SEPT 27

JOHNSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
 4261 OAK CREST HILL RD SE
 IOWA CITY, IOWA
 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Guns to Gardens

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5
10 A.M. TO NOON

Join Shelter House for another year of BBQ Bash. Delicious, smoked meats have been a staple of BBQ Bash each year. This fall, we are hosting this annual fundraiser at the Johnson County Fairgrounds on Friday, September 27 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. There will be live music, games for all ages, and delicious, mouth-watering barbeque.

Support our mission to move individuals beyond homelessness by purchasing your tickets today. Tickets are on sale now at www.shelterhouseiowa.org/bbq-bash for \$50 for adults and \$17.50 for children. Visit our website for more information and to learn more about volunteering or sponsoring this event.

To learn more about this event, including how you can help, please visit this link.

First Presbyterian Church will be hosting the first Guns to Gardens event in the state of Iowa on Saturday, October 5, from 10 a.m. to noon, in its parking lot. Guns to Gardens is a faith-based initiative taking direct action to address the national epidemic of gun violence. This is an anonymous safe surrender event where community members bring unwanted guns to be destroyed by a chop saw and receive pastoral support if desired. The gun owner receives a gift card as a thank you and the gun parts are ultimately melted down to be transformed into garden tools or pieces of art. It is inspired by Isaiah 2:4 "They shall beat their swords in plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks."





September

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 FCC's online directory



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

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

Rev. Laura Kittrell
Minister of Music &
Worship

Traci Massman
Acting Children's Minister

Carol Mertens
Office Manager

Michael Hull
Custodian

Lori Smith
Bookkeeper

Caitie Klein-Lester,
Teegan Michel
Nursery Caregivers

Cameron Michel
Technology Assistant

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

connect with us

