

APRIL 2024

THIS MONTH @ FCC

A Note from the Pastor

Thanks to those who have inquired about what I am going to do on sabbatical this fall. I am fortunate to have had two sabbaticals before. The first of those was funded by a Clergy Renewal Grant (thank you, Lilly Foundation) and involved both domestic and international travel as well as a writing project. The second was one year after Joplin's tornado and involved very little travel, instead focusing on working toward 8 hours of sleep at night and spending time with my (then) young children. They were very different experiences, each one just right for the time.

As I look forward to a sabbatical later this year, I anticipate this one being somewhere between the two. Four years after COVID began, some of my plans, including a silent retreat and working with a spiritual director, are about recentering and renewing. I am going to do some travel including attending at retreat focused on clergy health and wellness in Washington D.C., moving my older child to college, and visiting family and friends. I am also hoping to have a chance to do some learning about digital ministry, diving into questions about connection and community-building in a digital world. It is exciting to be thinking about and planning for this important time.

With care, *Jill*

PS: Hope to see you at Holy Week Worship tomorrow at 7:00PM!

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connect with us



Join us for a morning
 of celebration

Easter Sunday

at First Christian Church in Coralville

MARCH 31, 2024

6:50AM | Sunrise Worship | onsite

9:00AM | Breakfast & Activities | onsite

10:00AM | Easter Worship | onsite & online





Learning Together

Faith Formation for Adults & Youth

APRIL 7, 14, 21, & 28

April 7 A group of about 15 youth and adults from First Christian will be volunteering for Houses Into Homes' delivery day on this date. Those of us who are at church are invited to stay after worship to learn more about the mission and work of Houses Into Homes and to put together "Welcome Home" baskets of cleaning supplies for families they serve.

April 14 Join the Creation Care Team for a creation-related activity as we celebrate spring and look forward to Earth Day this month.

April 21 Join Vern Duba to discuss ways to help bees, birds, and butterflies thrive in Iowa. We will learn about Iowa's growing zone, plants best suited for bees, birds, and butterflies, and crafting environment-friendly seedling pots from recycled materials. Our goal is to plant over 100 pots! We will plant pollinator-friendly seeds for you and your friend to take home once they grow.

April 28 In preparation for World Labyrinth Day (May 4) we will learn about labyrinths and share the spiritual practice of walking the labyrinth. There will be a finger labyrinth available for those who prefer that option.

Faith Formation for Children

SUNDAYS IN APRIL

During this Easter season, children in Kindergarten through 5th grade will hear and wonder about stories of Jesus and parables through our Children Worship & Wonder Ministry.



Scholarships at FCC - Applications due April 1

First Christian Church has two scholarship opportunities available and applications are being accepted through April 1. Students pursuing secondary education or vocational training after high school and who are connected with the church or have relatives connected to the church are encouraged to apply. Read more about the scholarships through the links below.

- [First Christian Church Scholarship](#)
- [Sunier Scholarship](#)



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)



Faith Formation - All Ages

SUNDAYS AT 11:15AM

This month youth and adults will participate in activities to connect with us creation, with God, and with our human family.

Children age 5 through 5th grade, are welcomed into our Children Worship & Wonder room to hear Bible stories, wonder, and respond with art and play.

Nursery

SUNDAYS 9:40AM - 12:00PM

Childcare is available each Sunday morning during Worship and Faith Formation. Infants through Kindergarten age children (and older children when needed) are invited to join our caregivers in the lower level east classroom for nurture and free play.

Mandala

On Palm Sunday we cut apart and distributed pieces of the mandala we have been creating together during lent. If you would like a piece to keep as a reminder of our journey through Lent, they are available at church or can be mailed to you.



Sunday Mornings



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](#)



Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON

Contact the office for Zoom link

Upcoming Scriptures

April 3: John 21:4-17

April 10: Exodus 32:1-6 & Psalm 23

April 17: Acts 3:1-10

April 24: Acts 8:26-40

May 1: TBD

Faith Together

Youth Group - High School

SUNDAYS, APRIL 14, 21, 28, 4:30-6PM

April 14 both CYF and Chi Rho youth will gather at Pastor Jill's as we begin work on planning Youth Sunday worship.

April 21 the CYF group will participate in a Progressive Dinner hosted by three church families. RSVP to Pastor Jill.

April 26 CYF and Chi Rho will have a lock-in at the church.

April 28 CYF will gather at Pastor Jill's house for activities and food.



Youth Group - Middle School

APRIL 14, 4:30-6PM & APRIL 28, 12-1PM

Chi Rho Youth (grades 6-8) meet Sunday, April 14 at 4:30pm at Pastor Jill's house to prepare for Youth Sunday and they will meet Sunday, April 28 from 12-1PM at the church for lunch and activities. Chi Rho youth are also invited to a lock-in at church on Friday, April 26.

Youth Group - Grades 3, 4, & 5

APRIL 14 & 28, 12-1PM

JYF Youth (grades 3-5) will meet on Sundays, April 14 & 28 from 12-1PM at the church for lunch and activities.



Strings & Singers

WORSHIP MUSIC

You are invited to be part of Disciples Strings & Singers, the music group that leads worship music at FCC. All instruments and abilities are welcome! Join us for rehearsals on: April 10 & 24 at 6PM in the sanctuary. Questions? Talk to Pastor Laura, icdisciple.music@gmail.com





FCC Connect

THURSDAY, APRIL 11 AT 6:30PM

Contact the office for Zoom link

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

MONDAY, APRIL 15 AT 1:00PM

Contact the office for Zoom link

On March 18, Hannah Circle will meet at 1PM at the church and on Zoom. All ladies of the church are invited to attend.

Ladies Night Out

THURSDAY, APRIL 18 AT 5:30PM

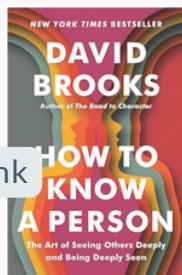
Ladies of the church are invited to share an evening out with good food and good conversation. In April, join us at ReUnion Brewery (516 2nd St., Coralville).

Book Club

THURSDAY, APRIL 25
AT 7:00PM

Contact the office for Zoom link

The FCC Book Club is reading *How To Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen* by David Brooks. This non-fiction book helps readers become more understanding of each other. Join the conversation onsite at the church or online via Zoom.



FCC's Online Directory

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS DIRECTORY](#)

Keeping Connected

Meet Your Elder Event

SUNDAY, MAY 5 AT 11:15AM

Mark your calendars now for our annual "Meet Your Elder" event. All people at First Christian are assigned an elder as part of their pastoral care team. Even if you already know your elder well, plan to stay. This event is a wonderful opportunity to visit with your elder and with others in the congregation.

[Wondering who your elder is? Visit the last page of the newsletter to find out!](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

Hannah Circle is the women's group at First Christian Church, but they do much more than attend monthly meetings!

- Hannah Circle initiated First Christian's commitment to serving at the Free Lunch Program.
- Hannah Circle oversees the two scholarships that are given by First Christian.
- Hannah Circle often uses their funds for projects for the well-being of our church.

Thank you Hannah Circle members for your dedication and commitment to First Christian!



In the Community

Mission Projects @ FCC



HOUSES INTO HOMES *Together we make it home*

In April we are partnering with Houses into Homes, a local organization that provides gently-used beds, furniture, and household items for families and individuals in Johnson County who are exiting homelessness, domestic violence, and other crisis situations.

MOST NEEDED

- NEW BED PILLOWS
- SHOWER CURTAIN LINERS
- CAN OPENERS
- TOASTERS

We will be collecting some of Houses into Homes most needed items (listed above). Items may be brought to the Church throughout the month of April.

FCC @ FLP

APRIL 27

IOWA CITY
Free Lunch Program

Our next Iowa City Free Lunch service will be Saturday, April 27. Our menu will include Chicken and Rice Casserole, sides, desserts, and drinks, and we anticipate serving 120 meals! Our other 2024 dates are: June 22, August 24, October 26 and December 28.

ALL GROCERY ITEMS MUST BE AT THE CHURCH BY 1 PM, APRIL 26.

For the April meal, there will be a casserole signup sheet available at the church on Sunday, April 7 (along with casserole pans & recipe). For additional needed food items or to volunteer to serve, see the sign up link below. Non-perishable food items can be placed in the church's FLP tub in the narthex; casseroles and desserts may be placed in FCC's kitchen freezer anytime. Items may also be delivered to church on Friday, April 26 between 11:30am - 1:00pm.

[**FLP SIGN UP HERE**](#)



More Ways to Engage

 **Refugee Simulation**
 Tuesday, April 2
 6:30-8:30 PM 
 Register now for this FREE event!

REFUGEE SIMULATION OPPORTUNITY

The Catherine McAuley Center is partnering with St. Mark's and Coe College to host a Refugee Simulation that takes participants through carefully researched and immersive learning scenarios to understand some of the experiences refugees face when forced to flee their homes.

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER HERE](#)

This simulation will take place at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 8300 C Avenue, in Marion, Iowa. This event is free, however, St. Mark's is accepting donations of non-perishable food items for the food pantry. Registration is required, so if you're interested, be sure to sign up now!

VISIONING TOGETHER, APRIL 13

[VISIONING TOGETHER: MORE INFO & TO REGISTER](#)

What does it mean to be Disciples Together in 2024? Rev. Josh Patty, our regional minister, is hosting a series of listening & visioning sessions across the region. One of this sessions will be held right here at First Christian in Coralville! Join us on April 13 at 10am. All sessions are in person and on Zoom. For more information and to register, visit the link above. More sessions and locations are listed here as well.



WORK WEEKEND, APRIL 19-21

Volunteers are needed for the 2024 work retreat! We are preparing for the best camp season yet and need all hands on deck. Projects for the weekend include cleaning up the mini golf course, preparing Chi Rho Country, picking up sticks, painting rooms, getting chairs out, getting boats to the lake, and much more!

Work will begin at 9am each morning and continue throughout the day. Come as you are able, lunch is provided. If you'd like to participate, please reach out to let us know the dates you plan to come, how many people are coming, and if you need lodging during the weekend. Email interimdirector@newtonccc.org or call (641) 792-1226.

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN

We hope you'll join us for Summer Camp 2024! Whether you're a returning camper or a first timer, we can't wait to welcome you to Holy Ground to play, worship and learn with us. We offer camps for ages 0-99. There's a place for YOU at the Christian Conference Center in Newton, Iowa.



NEWTON, IOWA

Additionally, your congregation of First Christian Church, Coralville, pays for 50% of registration fees for camps you attend at our regional conference center. Be sure to talk to Pastor Kara with any questions or to let her know you've signed up! Camp registrations are due by May 1.

[LEARN ABOUT THE CAMPS OFFERED](#)

[CAMP DATES & REGISTRATION](#)



April



WISHING A
HAPPY BIRTHDAY &
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
TO ALL THOSE
CELEBRATING THIS
MONTH



First Christian Church Staff

Rev. Jill Cameron Michel
Senior Pastor
Home: 319-665-2276

Rev. Kara Seaton
Associate Pastor

Rev. Laura Kittrell
Minister of Music &
Worship

Carol Mertens
Office Manager

Michael Hull
Custodian

Lori Smith
Bookkeeper

Kalea Seaton
Nursery Caregiver

Caitie Klein-Lester
Nursery Caregiver

Cameron Michel
Technology Assistant

connect with us



Who? IS MY ELDER

Wondering who your elder is? Find out here using the letters of your last name.

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



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*