

JANUARY 2026

THIS MONTH @ FCC

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

There are times when we are intentional about reflecting on our lives, asking questions about who we have been and who we want to be. For some of us the turn of the calendar creates that opportunity. For some of us reflecting on the lives of friends and loved ones as we say goodbye, which we have been doing a lot of lately, creates this opportunity. For some of us, reflection partnered with intention is simply natural.

Intention is important. And living with intention, speaking with intention, relating with intention matters.

There is no magic to a new year, and meanwhile it is another opportunity for us to stop and review where we have come from and then to set intentions about where we are going and who will we be.

As we prepare to turn the calendar to a new year, I want to invite your intention in how you relate at First Christian. I hope you will:

- Attend (onsite or online) worship. Carve out time each week to sit in gratitude, to remember you are part of something bigger, to worship God, to set intentions for living from your faith.
- Meet people. First Christian Church is filled with really wonderful people. Take time to introduce yourself to someone new.
- Find ways to connect and participate. Most Sundays I say those exact words. There are so many opportunities for learning, connection, action in the world, growing in faith - they are for you.
- Pay attention to the communications that come from First Christian. At least once a week there is a communication from the church. Trust me, it's worth your time and what's in those communications can help you be more connected and engaged.

Looking forward to 2026 with you!

With Care, *Jill*

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connect with us





Announcements

Communication Reminders

At First Christian, different communications contain different information.

Monthly Newsletters: An overview of what's planned for the coming month. This contains everything from new announcements to details about regular weekly & monthly ministries to ways you can connect in the community.

Monday Prayers & Announcements: More than just a recap of Sunday's announcements, it focuses on the coming week, but also contains the prayer list, new announcements or plans that weren't underway at the time of the newsletter, thank you notes, updates on collections, and pictures from the past week. Recent board and financial reports are typically found here.

Facebook Group: If you are on Facebook, you should be in this group. It's not just for announcements but also for conversation. All members are invited to post and comment. Inquire with Pastors [Jill](#) or [Kara](#) about how to get connected.

Policies in Progress

This summer, when we were hosting immigrant groups during our Mondays on the Lawn series, we developed a policy outlining how we would respond to an ICE presence at such events. This policy was largely shaped for these kinds of special events. While this policy will likely look different in the near future, as it is currently being reviewed by a team looking at all of our safety and security policies, we wanted to share it with you again in preparation for [Escucha Mi Voz's presentation on January 18](#).

As the team reviews our safety and security policies, they have requested one practice begin in January. **Beginning January 4, we will lock the lower east exterior door** a few minutes after worship begins. If you arrive early and are able, please park in the lower lot to leave upper lot parking spaces available for those who arrive later and who need to be closer. Also, valet parking will run until 10:10am on Sundays.

Thank You from the staff



Thank you, First Christian, for the generous gifts we received from you at Christmas and thank you for the many ways you make our jobs better throughout the year. We are grateful to work at FCC!

Your FCC Staff

Vern Duba's Retirement Party

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Brown Deer Golf Club

Snacks & happy hour finger food, cash bar. David Zollo will provide music. Bring your dancing shoes.

NO GIFTS!! NO CARDS!!



At First Christian

Let's Kick Off 2026 with a Potluck!

With the hustle and bustle of the holidays over, it's a perfect time to reconnect with your FCC friends!

On January 11, let's come together with our favorite foods! Bring a favorite dish to share as we celebrate 2026! Please bring your own place setting to help reduce trash.

Plan to attend? RSVP and indicate which delicious dish you'll be bringing, or sign up to help with preparation, serving, or cleanup. The sign-up can be found [online](#) and at the church.

January Faith Formation

Youth and adults are invited to stay following Sunday worship for these special informational opportunities:

- **January 18:** A representative from Escucha Mi Voz will join us to present information about their organization and discuss bystander rights for those who may find themselves near a situation where ICE is detaining someone. This is crucial information in today's world.
- **January 25:** Whitney Zahnd, professor in Health Management and Policy, will present information about cancer in Iowa and Johnson County, as our state faces the second-highest rate of cancer in the country. This will also include information about how we can reduce our risk as individuals and how we can advocate for policies that can reduce our collective risk.

FCC's Ministry Teams



Connections Crew

Hospitality & Fellowship
Chair: [Chris R.](#)



Faith in Action

Missions & Outreach
Chair: [Suzanne K.](#)



Explore and Grow

Christian Ed for All Ages
Chair: [Jay T.](#)



Worship Team

Meaningful Worship
Chair: [Dave K.](#)

Our Ministry Together

JANUARY 8, 6:00PM

FCC's four Ministry Teams help dream, plan, and carry out the work of our church. Teams meet monthly, with the next gathering on Thursday, January 8 at 6pm with options to gather onsite at the church or via Zoom. Future meetings are planned for February 5, March 5 and April 9. Come see where your gifts might fit or contact a team chair to learn more.

First Christian Board met December 16

If you are interested in reading meeting minutes, board reports, and the financial summary, contact the church office for a copy of the board packet.


Music Ministry

You are invited to share in music ministry at FCC! Disciples Strings & Singers, those who lead worship music, rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:00PM. There are also opportunities to offer special music, join the handbell choir, and more. For more information, please contact [Pastor Laura](#).



Worship

SUNDAYS AT 10:00AM

All are invited and welcome to worship week. Worship is available onsite in the sanctuary and online at youtube/@icdisciples 

Upcoming Sermons

- Jan. 4 (Epiphany observed)
Matthew 2:1-12, *Guided By a Star*
- Jan. 11 (Baptism of Our Lord Sunday)
Matthew 3:13-17, *Going to the Water*
- Jan. 18 (2nd Sunday after Epiphany)
John 1:35-42, *Come and See*
- Jan. 25 (3rd Sunday after Epiphany)
Matthew 4:12-23, *Let's Go Fishing*

Faith Formation: Sundays, 11:15am

- Jan. 4: Help undecorate the sanctuary.
- Jan. 11: All-church potluck.
- Jan. 18: Escucha Mi Voz presents on bystander rights (see [p. 3](#)).
- Jan. 25: Whitney Zhand presents on public health in Johnson County (see [p. 3](#)).
- Jan. 18 & 25: Elementary-aged children are invited to participate in Children Worship & Wonder.

Christian Century Conversations

JANUARY 11, 9:00AM
Join us before worship on the 2nd Sunday of each month for conversation around thought-provoking Christian Century articles. Meet in the upstairs conference room. Grab an issue, read what interests you, come share your thoughts. Questions? Contact [Patricia A.](#) and [Beth S.](#)

Nursery

Childcare is offered starting at 9:30am and goes through faith formation. Care is available for infants up to kindergarteners, and for older children as needed. The nursery is located in the lower-level east classroom.

Sunday Mornings



Sunday worship brings together many hands and hearts. There's a role for everyone! To learn how you can serve, call the church office or visit the link below.

ICDISCIPLES.ORG/VOLUNTEER



Sunday Worship



Sally reads scripture



The Longest Night Service



Pastor Kara shares a book during Children's Moment

Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON

ZOOM INFO THROUGH CHURCH OFFICE

Upcoming Scriptures

January 7: John 1:35-42

January 14: Matthew 4:12-23

January 21: Matthew 5:1-12

January 28: Matthew 5:13-20

Faith Together

Youth Groups



CYF (grades 9-12) meets on Sundays, 4:00 - 5:30pm at the church (unless specified otherwise).

CYF will meet twice this month — on January 11 and 18. All high school youth are invited to join us. The weekend of January 23-25, we will be at the winter retreat in Newton. If your youth hasn't signed up for that yet, please do so now. [Here's the link!](#)



Chi Rho (grades 6-8) meets on Sundays, 4:00 - 5:30pm at the church (unless specified otherwise).

Chi Rho will meet on January 11 and 18. The weekend of January 23-25, we will be at the winter retreat in Newton. If your youth hasn't signed up for that yet, please do so now [here!](#)



JYF (grades 2-5) meets twice a month on Sundays, 12 - 1:15pm at the church.

JYF (for elementary students in grades 2-5) will meet on January 18 for our first meeting in the new year! The winter retreat in Newton for this age group is Feb. 20-22. [Please register now!](#)



CYF kids decorate cookies



Chi Rho kids decorate cookies



JYF kids go caroling



Coffee with Friends - New Location

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 9:00AM

You are invited for coffee and conversation at HyVee (812 S. 1st Ave, Iowa City). This gathering happens on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and is sponsored by Hannah Circle. All are invited!

Ladies Lunch Out

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 11:30AM

All women of the church are invited to attend to Ladies Lunch Out! In January, February and March, we will meet for lunch, and in April we will return to evenings. This month we will meet at Mirabito's, 40 Sugar Creek Lane, North Liberty. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [Nancy R.](#)

FCC Connect

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 6:30PM

Contact church office for ZOOM info

Enjoy visiting with others? FCC Connect is an online opportunity to do just that. Sign on and join the conversation!

Hannah Circle

Contact church office for ZOOM info

Monday, January 19th will be the first meeting of the New Year for Hannah's Circle. This meeting will be the Program Planning & Business Meeting. Plan on attending or have questions? Contact [Mary C.](#)

Book Club

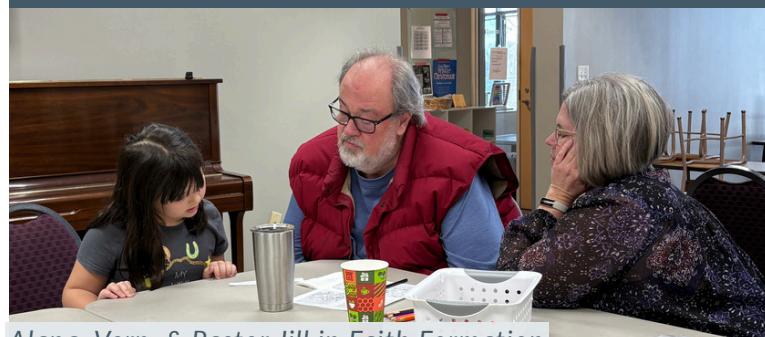
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 7PM

Contact church office for ZOOM info

The Book Club's first book of 2026 will be *Under the Tulip Tree* by Michelle Shocklee. Set in the Great Depression this book on slavery, race, and faith will give you a new perspective. Questions? Contact [Nancy M.](#)



Keeping Connected



Alana, Vern, & Pastor Jill in Faith Formation



Pat, Jon and Tesla in Faith Formation



Peter and Claire share special music

In the Community

Collection for Catholic Worker House

Escucha Mi Voz, who will be with us following worship on January 18, works hand in hand with the Catholic Worker House to protect our immigrant communities with food, housing, clothing, and legal assistance. Their immediate needs are **ground coffee, sugar, tokens to Laundromania, and laundry detergent pods**. Please bring your contributions to church through January 18.

Celebrating a Successful Alternative Gift Market

Thanks to you, we sent over **\$10,000** to local organizations.

- CommUnity Crisis Services/Food Bank - \$920
- Coralville Community Food Pantry - \$895
- DVIP/RVAP - \$1,045
- Free Lunch Program - \$635
- Houses into Homes - \$680
- IC Free Medical & Dental - \$1,025
- Immigrant Welcome Network - \$805
- Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity - \$670
- Johnson Co. Affordable Housing - \$810
- North Liberty Community Pantry - \$790
- Open Heartland - \$795
- Shelter House - \$870
- Table to Table - \$955

Additionally, we were able to send an end of the year gift of **\$1,878 to CommUnity for the Common Fund**, a CRC effort to help community members with utilities and housing expenses.



CYF/Chi Rho Caroling



Children's Christmas Program



JYF Caroling

BOOK & PUZZLE EXCHANGE

Looking for something do during the cold, winter months? Select a book or puzzle from the display table in the Narthex - or donate some for others to take. Exchange runs January 4th - Feb 22nd.

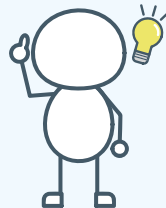


January

**CLICK HERE
FOR FCC'S
JANUARY
CALENDAR**



WHO IS MY ELDER?



Last Name	Your Elder
A-CI	<u>Jon Feaver</u>
Co-F	<u>Maggie Keyser</u>
G-Kin	<u>Al Zimmerman</u>
Kit-Mic	<u>David Klein</u>
Mo-Sch	<u>Marcus Seaton</u>
Sea-Z	<u>Jane Dohrmann</u>

FCC elders through February 2026.

First Christian Church Staff

Rev. Jill Cameron Michel
Senior Pastor

Rev. Kara Seaton
Associate Pastor

Rev. Laura Kittrell
*Minister of
Music & Worship*

Laurel Preston
Office Administrator

Michael Hull
Custodian

Lori Smith
Bookkeeper

Cameron Michel
Technology Assistant

McKenna Geake
Teegan Michel
Ella Romero
Sophia Romero
Nursery Caregivers

connect with us



**First
Christian
Church**
Disciples of Christ



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Coralville, IA 52241
319-337-4181

icdisciples.org

*There's Room
at the Table
for Everyone*

Office Hours:
Monday & Wednesday:
9:00AM - 1:00PM
Tuesday & Thursday:
1:00 - 5:00PM

clergy staff available by appointment