

MARCH 2025

THIS MONTH @ FCC

A Note from the Pastor

Friends,

How are you?

Let me ask that again.

How are you?

I know many people are struggling right now. I want you to know that I am here. And not just me. Your faith community is here.

What do you need?

While I can't promise that we can meet every need, I can promise we can listen and we do care. I also suspect that if you need something, someone else does, too.

Do you need a listening ear? Your pastors are available. You also have an elder who is assigned as your elder. These assignments are made alphabetically by last name. The list is on [page 8](#) of this newsletter - take note, some of you have new elders! Do you have a short-term need that requires a little more attention? The Circle of Support is an additional layer of pastoral care. Ask me about it.

Do you need people to connect with? Spiritual Life Groups are happening during Lent. [Sign up](#) for one of these short-term small groups now. Or join one of the many other ongoing groups around the church.

Do you need to be reminded of whose you are - that you are created and loved and valued by God? Worship with us throughout the season of Lent when we will explore the theme "Remembering Whose We Are."

Do you need something you don't already see happening at First Christian Church? Don't hesitate to initiate conversation about new possibilities.

With care, *Jill*

P.S. I will be out of the office March 13-21. In my absence, Pastor Kara, Pastor Laura and our elders are available for pastoral care.

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connect with us





Announcements

An Invitation to FCC's Ministry Planning Team

Do you have creative ideas for ministry and fellowship events? We'd love for you to be part of our Ministry Planning Team as we prepare for an exciting summer! Our team will be meeting soon to plan programs, activities, service opportunities, and fellowship events for the summer months. This season offers plenty of flexibility and opportunities to try new things, so your ideas and input are valuable! Come help shape a meaningful and engaging summer for our community. Contact [Pastor Jill](#) to learn more and get involved!

Daylight Saving Time Begins - March 9

Many of us don't think much about changing our clocks as so many of the clocks we use set themselves automatically. But, don't forget March 9 is the morning when we "spring forward." Move your clock one hour ahead the evening before so you aren't late for worship on the first Sunday in Lent!

Congratulations Pastor Laura!

Congratulations to Laura Kittrell who, with other church musicians with at least 15 years of service, will be honored by the River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists at a concert and awards ceremony on March 9, 3:00PM, at the Voxman Music Building on the University of Iowa Campus.

Exploring FCC Videos

Whether you're new to First Christian or have been part of our community for years, we invite you to check out our new video series, "Exploring First Christian Church."

In four short videos, Pastor Jill takes you on a journey through:

- The history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- What Disciples believe and value
- Ways to get involved at First Christian
- What it means to become a member

Watch the full series on our [YouTube Channel playlist](#) and explore what makes our church a special place to belong!

Scholarships at FCC

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
MONDAY, APRIL 7

The church has two (yes 2!) scholarship opportunities available and applications are now being accepted. Students pursuing secondary education or 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 and find the application instructions through the links below.

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

Summer Camp Info

This year's camp theme, "Another Way," invites us to reimagine who we are and how we live, embracing our truth and respect for others.

Children & youth from First Christian attend camp at the Christian Conference Center, with many of our adults serving as directors and counselors. Plus, we cover 50% of registration fees!

Check out the 2025 camp schedule and register here.

Questions? Please contact [Pastor Kara](#).



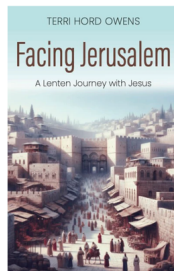
Spiritual Life Groups

Deepen your connection with God and community in a small group this March and April. Grow together through conversation around themes from our Lenten devotional booklet.

These small groups are meeting at various times and locations during Lent. Use [Sign Up Genius](#) or contact the church office to sign up for the group that works best for you. Questions? Talk to [Pastor Jill](#).

Lenten Devotional Booklet

Pick up Facing Jerusalem by Rev. Terri Hord Owens for daily reflections from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Now available in the church office!



Lent in Community

MARCH - APRIL 2025

Faith Formation

SUNDAYS, 11:15AM

This Lent, children and adults will journey together, discovering God's presence through our senses. Each week, we'll focus on a different sense, exploring what it reveals about God and creation. We'll also engage in a new prayer practice each week, deepening our connection with God in meaningful ways. Join us for this interactive and enriching Lenten experience!

Ash Wednesday Worship

MARCH 5, 6:00PM

Lent begins with the introspection offered on Ash Wednesday. We will worship together in a simple service that evening at 6PM.

Holy Week Worship

APRIL 17, 7:00PM

Join us for this service where we remember the last week of Jesus' life. FCC Elders are hosting a soup supper prior to worship, beginning at 6:00PM in Fellowship Hall.

Remembering Whose You Are



Everything we do is rooted in how we see ourselves and others. This Lent, we will reflect on who we are and whose we are, embracing our identity as children of God and what that truly means.

- You are Loved, I John 4:7-11
- You are Good, Genesis 1:26-29, 31
- You are Forgiven, Luke 15:11-32
- You are Gifted, I Corinthians 12:4-11
- You are Connected, I Corinthians 12:14-26
- You are Brave, Esther 4:1-17

Easter Sunday

APRIL 20

Just as the season of Lent ends, the Easter celebration begins! Find the schedule for Easter morning below:

- 6:15AM: Sunrise worship - onsite
- 9:00AM: Light breakfast & intergenerational activities
- 10:00AM: Easter worship - onsite & online



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)



Acts of Hospitality

- Simply parking in the lower east lot on Sunday mornings is a way to be welcoming! This leaves the front lot available for guests and those arriving later! Handicap parking is available in both lots and the elevator can be used from the lower level.
- Did you know that wearing your name tag is an act of kindness we all appreciate. (Can't find your name tag or need a new one? Let the [church office](#) know.)
- See someone sitting alone? Introduce yourself and ask if you can join them.
- When speaking to a child, sit or squat down so you can look them in the eye. This helps them to feel valued and helps you both to connect.

Valet Parking

Did you know that Valet Parking is offered each and every Sunday? Beginning at 9:30am, pull up in the half-circle driveway by the front door and you'll be taken care of.

Nursery

Childcare is available Sunday mornings during Worship and Faith Formation. Infants through kindergarteners, as well as older children if needed, are welcome to join our caregivers in the lower-level east classroom.

Sunday Mornings



Called to Serve

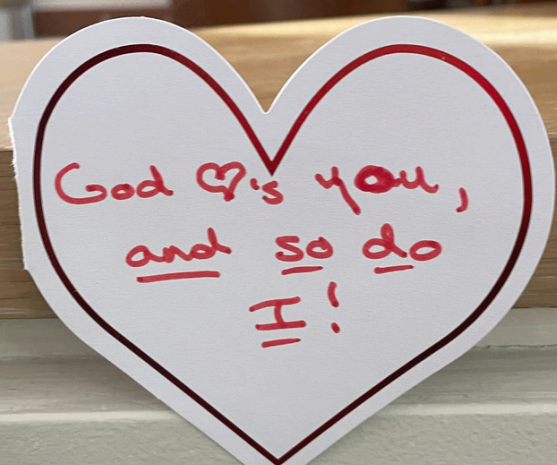
SUNDAY MORNINGS

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



Above: Rev. Eric Rucker of Simpson Youth Academy preaches, Rev. Josh Patty (Regional Minister) offers a call to worship.



Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM INFO

Upcoming Scriptures

March 5: Genesis 1:26-29, 31

March 12: Luke 15:11-32

March 19: I Corinthians 12:4-11

March 26: I Corinthians 12:14-26

Faith Together

Above: Our youth filled the sanctuary with affirmations and messages of love for the congregation. Right: JYF watch a movie at their lock-in, Chi Rho-CYF takes part in a role-play activity.

Youth Group - High School

MARCH 9 & 30

CYF (grades 9-12) meets on Sundays from 4:30-6pm with Steve Clark, Chris Radcliff and Pastor Jill. This month, CYF will meet on March 9 and 30th - the latter will be a joint meeting with Chi Rho youth (grades 6-8). Both locations are TBD. All high schoolers are welcome to come enjoy food, friendship and activities.



Youth Group - Middle School

MARCH 9 & 30

Chi Rho (grades 6-8) will meet on March 9 at Pastor Kara's home, and then will participate in a shared activity with CYF (high school) on March 30 - location TBD.



Youth Group - Grades 2, 3, 4, 5

MARCH 9 & 30

JYF (grades 2-5) will meet with Steve Strah & Pastor Kara from 12-1:15pm in Fellowship Hall for lunch, an activity and games.

If you have questions about programming for children & youth at FCC, please contact Pastor Kara.



FCC Connect

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 6:30PM

CONTACT 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 Lunch Out

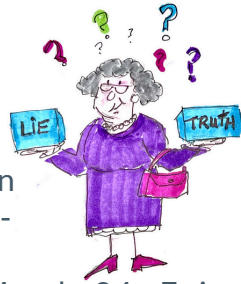
THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 11:30AM

Join the FCC ladies for lunch! This month we meet at Pat and Fran's, 808 5th St., Coralville. Contact [Nancy Ream](#) with any questions.

Two Truths and a Lie

MONDAY, MARCH 24, 6:30PM

All FCC women are invited to an evening of fun in this get-know-each-other event at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall on Monday, March 24. Enjoy an opportunity to strategically share and stump one another with fun facts and mistruths about your life. Light refreshments will be served. This event is hosted by Hannah Circle. If you have questions, please contact [Mary Curtis](#).

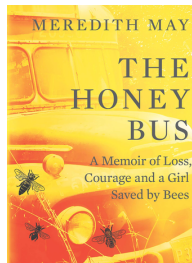


Book Club

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 7:00PM

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM INFO

In March we are reading *The Honey Bus* by Meredith May. After her parents' split, Meredith, age 5, found herself in the care of her eccentric beekeeper grandfather, who lived in a rusty military bus. Her first honeybee encounter was both terrifying and thrilling, revealing life and family lessons in the secret world of bees. Part memoir, part beekeeping journey. Gathering available at FCC and on Zoom. Questions? Contact [Nancy McKinstry](#).



Keeping Connected



Disciples Strings & Singers

WEDNESDAYS, 6:00PM

If you play an instrument, like to sing, or both, you are invited to share in music ministry at FCC! **Please note that on March 5, rehearsal will begin at 6:30PM.** For more information, please contact [Pastor Laura](#).

Top: Simpson Youth Academy scholar, Dakota Mohr, & pastors.
Bottom: FCC musicians lead worship music.



In the Community

IN MARCH, WE COLLECT...



Essentials

This month we are collecting much needed essentials for all three local community food pantries. You are invited to bring donations of the following products to FCC during March:

**TOILET PAPER,
MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS & BABY DIAPERS**

There will be a designated location to put your donations and we will watch them grow over the month. Help us to gift each of our local pantries with a generous haul!



FCC folk prepare & serve lunch at the Iowa City Free Lunch Program in February.



SUPPORTING FLP

While we aren't serving at the Iowa City Free Lunch Program (FLP) in March, there is always a need for donations and volunteers to serve on open days. The Iowa City FLP lists needed supplies on their [Amazon Wishlist](#). You can also find open days to volunteer on [FLP's Spring Sign Up](#).



IOWA CITY
Free Lunch Program

SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE

Shelter House's annual Book Sale is back for 2025! This two-day sale will be hosted at **860 Quarry Road, Coralville** on **March 8-9** from **10:30am-4:00pm** both days. There are 3 ways to support the book sale:

1. Donate gently used books, CDs, DVDs, vinyl records, or board games
2. Volunteer to organize donations, set up the space and more.
3. Shop the sale!

[CLICK HERE](#) for all the information on the book sale!



March

Warm wishes to those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in March.



Who is my elder?

Last Name	Elder
A-CI	<u>Lora Morgan Dunham</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 utilizes an online directory which current members can access through their realm account.



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. Jill Cameron Michel
Senior Pastor

Rev. Kara Seaton
Associate Pastor

Rev. Laura Kittrell
Minister of
Music & Worship

Carol Mertens
Office Manager

Michael Hull
Custodian

Lori Smith
Bookkeeper

Cameron Michel
Technology Assistant

McKenna Geake
Teegan Michel
Ella Romero
Nursery Caregivers

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