

JANUARY 2025

THIS MONTH @ FCC

A Note from the Pastor

Friends,

Sometimes we welcome the new year with hopeful anticipation. Sometimes with uncertainty. Sometimes with fear-filled dread. Sometimes January 1 seems like just another day. Most of the time, as with so many experiences, the new year comes with a mix of feelings. After all, our lives contain a great variety of experiences.

I am aware that for many of us, this year feels like it is looming. As we prepare to turn the calendar, I wanted to remind you of some truths of our faith:

- We are - YOU are - loved. Always. No matter what.
- We are able and asked to do good in this world. Even small things matter.
- We are built to live in community. This isn't just about smiling at our neighbors, but every decision we make is to be made with our human family and all of creation in mind.

A new year is almost upon us. How we live in it matters.

With care, *Jill*

Updated Hours for Staff

While the office is not officially open on Fridays, it has not been unusual for one or more of your pastors to work that day. However, beginning after Christmas **we plan for Friday to be a day off for all of our staff.** This allows our pastors a much needed weekly sabbath.

- Carol's hours remain the same: Monday - Thursday, 9am - 12noon.
- Laura is typically in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays.
- Kara and Jill typically work long days on Sunday as well as being in Monday - Thursday, and Saturday as needed.
- Always know that your pastors are available anytime for emergencies, but we ask that you save other matters for days when they are typically working.

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connect with us





Announcements

Tree of Memories

Many loved ones were remembered on our 2024 Tree of Memories. Those remembered include:



- Cindy Lou remembered by Nancy Ream
- Our parents remembered by Maggie & Kevin Keyser
- Emily Palmer-Dunham, Everett, Dorothy & Doug Dunham, Edythe Benson, and Duane Benson remembered by Steve Dunham & Lora Morgan Dunham
- Marvin Sass, Vincent Risten, and Mark Risten remembered by Sharon Sass
- Matthew Hansen remembered by Gene Hansen
- Gene remembered by Marian Hart
- Steven P. Strah, Gary Meineke, and Denver Smith remembered by Sally & Steve Strah
- Kay Hudson and Dennis Kirkpatrick remembered by Laura Kittrell
- Susan Popanz remembered by Stan & Karen Stenson
- John Pelton, John & Helen Ford, and Charles & Rosanna Pelton remembered by Beth Pelton
- Dave Comodeca remembered by Vern Duba & Jon Feaver
- Barb Massman remembered by Traci Massman
- Keener Hall, Charles Williams, Betty Williams, Meama Williams, and Papa Williams remembered by Mark & Becky Hall and family
- Clarence & Laura Cameron and Richard & Edna Eldridge remembered by Jill & Jim Michel and family
- Rae Seaton and Jackson remembered by the Seaton family
- Joy Blair and Ron Hertel remembered by Diane Hertel
- Bob Welsh remembered by Eunice Welsh
- Paul Davidson and Sharon Pickens remembered by First Christian



Thank You

We offer our sincere gratitude for the generous Christmas gift shared with each of the staff from the congregation. It is an honor and joy to serve with you all in our shared ministry!

From your First Christian Staff:

*Jill Kara Laura Traci Carol Lori Ella
Teegan Kalea Michael McKenna Cameron*

Winter Youth Retreats

Experience the joy of camp in the middle of winter!

Junior High & High School Youth

Feb 28-Mar 2

Both retreats are on the same weekend



Winter Youth Retreat & Summer Camp Info



Opportunities for children, youth & families are available! This is the camp and conference center of our region, located in Newton, Iowa. First Christian takes youth to mid-year retreats each winter, and many of our children, youth and families attend camp in the summer. We also contribute to your registration fees! Click the images for more information and to register. Questions? Please contact [Pastor Kara](#).

Through the Tree of Memories, \$200 was given to Green Chalice, the creation care ministry of our denomination.



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



Upcoming Sermons

- January 5: *The Road Isn't Straight*, Matthew 12:1-12
- January 12: *Dry Off...There's Work to Do*, Luke 3:15-16, 22-11
- January 19: *What Questions Do We Ask?* John 2:1-11
- January 26: *Is Scripture Fulfilled Today?* Luke 4:14-21

Faith Formation

Faith Formation (ie. Sunday School) meets every week following worship until 12 noon. A new series for youth and adults will begin on January 12. You are invited to join us for conversation as we explore together White Christian Nationalism - what it is and the history, and consider why it matters to us today as followers of Jesus.

Children in 5th grade and younger will resume Children Worship & Wonder and will begin listening and responding to stories of Jesus' life.

Nursery

Childcare is available on Sunday mornings during Worship & Faith Formation hours. 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.

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: Nancy McKinstry shares a message with our children in worship on December 15.



Bible Study

Please contact the church office for Zoom info.

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON

Upcoming Scriptures

January 1: No Bible Study

January 8: John 2:1-11

January 15: Luke 4:14-21

January 22: No Bible Study

January 29: Luke 5:1-11

Faith Together

Above: CYF youth pack boxes of goodies and go caroling.
Right: JYF children go caroling and enjoy a treat.



Youth Group - High School

JANUARY 12, 19, & 26

CYF (grades 9-12) meets on Sundays from 4:30-6pm with Steve Clark & Chris Radcliff (855 Pheasant Ln, North Liberty). January 19 will be at a different location - watch for information. All high schoolers are welcome to come enjoy food, friendship and activities.

Youth Group - Middle School

JANUARY 19

Chi Rho (grades 6-8) will be participating in a shared activity with CYF (high school) on Sunday, January 19 at 4:30PM. We also will be sharing information on regular gatherings this month!

Youth Group - Grades 2, 3, 4, 5

JANUARY 12 & 26

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

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





FCC Connect

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 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, JANUARY 16, 1:00PM

In the winter months we move from dinner to lunch! This month, Ladies Lunch Out will meet on January 16 at 1:00PM at Encounter, 376 S. Clinton in Iowa City.

Hannah Circle

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 6:30PM

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM INFO

Hannah Circle will meet January 20 @ 6:30pm on Zoom for a planning and business meeting. We will discuss programs for the first half of the year as well as officers for the coming year. All who are interested are invited to attend and bring ideas for the coming year. If you have questions, please contact [Pat Boelens](#).

Book Club

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 7:00PM

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM

Start the year with *The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women* by Kate Moore. This non-fiction book tells the story of young American women whose once loved work was the very thing that was slowly killing them and their determination to fight for justice. Questions? Contact [Nancy McKinstry](#).



Keeping Connected



Disciples Strings & Singers

WEDNESDAYS, 6:00-7:00PM

Whether you have an instrument you play, you like to sing, or both, you are invited to share in music ministry at FCC! For more information, please contact [Pastor Laura](#).



Top: Painting mini canvases at intergenerational Faith Formation on 12/1.
Bottom: FCC Musicians play at Cookies & Carols on 12/11.



In the Community

JANUARY COLLECTION supporting

For the 2nd year in a row, we sent the largest check from FCC's Alternative Gift Market to Domestic Violence Intervention Program/Rape Victim Advocacy Program (DVIP/RVAP). Clearly, our congregation has a heart for those who are victims and survivors of domestic violence and rape.

Free & Confidential 24/7

DVIP & RVAP
Domestic Violence Intervention Program
Rape Victim Advocacy Program

800.373.1043 800.228.1625

Safety & Dignity. Always.



Snack packs made by FCC folks in Faith Formation for the IC Free Lunch Program.

The DVIP/RVAP branch that serves Johnson County has offices located in Iowa City, and they also serve Cedar, Des Moines, Henry, Iowa, Lee, Van Buren & Washington counties. To further support this organization, we will be taking a collection at the church during the month of January. Listed below are specific *new* household items that have been requested for departing clients of DVIP/RVAP who are settling into new homes.

Please bring items to the church by Sunday, January 28, so we can deliver them to DVIP/RVAP the following week. And thank you for supporting DVIP/RVAP!

Shopping List for DVIP/RVAP

- sturdy plastic plates, bowls & cups
- silverware
- kitchen towels & dish cloths
- twin bedsheet sets

MLK, JR. DAY

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



On January 20, 2025, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday will mark the 30th anniversary as a National Day of Service. Locally, the City of Iowa City and the University of Iowa will be planning sponsoring events. Click the links for more information as events are finalized.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Alternative Gift Market in 2024. Collectively, the amount you gave totaled \$8,520! Your gifts have been shared with 12 local helping organizations according to your designations.



Free & Confidential 24/7

DVIP & RVAP
Domestic Violence Intervention Program
Rape Victim Advocacy Program

800.373.1043 800.228.1625

Safety & Dignity. Always.





January

Here's wishing a happy birthday and 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 |

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
417-439-7391

Rev. Kara Seaton
Associate Pastor
319-530-3255

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

Carol Mertens
Office Manager

Michael Hull
Custodian

Lori Smith
Bookkeeper

Teegan Michel
Ella Romero
McKenna Geake
Nursery Caregivers

Cameron Michel
Technology Assistant

connect with us

