

AUGUST 2025

THIS MONTH @ FCC

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

As August begins, the signs of seasonal change will begin to give way. The long days of summer are already getting shorter and will soon give way to cooler evenings; iced tea will be replaced by hot cider; we'll soon not leave the house without a sweatshirt or jacket. Routines will shift as a new school year begins - for both families with children as well as all those who work in education. In our household, that means one child heading back to college in California, one starting his senior year of high school, and two others beginning 10th and 3rd grades.

This season also brings a personal milestone I'm excited to share with you: later this month, I'll begin seminary studies at Phillips Theological Seminary. This has been my hope/wish, sparked when I started our region's Commissioned Minister Education Program (CMEP). Then, since the first of the year, several doors have opened—making this next step feel not only possible but truly right.

While I value the education I received through CMEP, I believe theological study through this graduate level program will strengthen my ministry—and hopefully bless our shared life as a church. Most of my courses will be online, allowing me to continue serving as your Associate Pastor while also caring for my family. Occasionally, I'll travel for short in-person intensives.

I ask for your support and prayers as I begin this journey, and I give thanks for the encouragement that has brought me this far. Change can be hard, but it can also bring new growth, insight, and grace. I'm grateful to walk this journey with you.

With gratitude,
Kara

This Issue

Announcements
[PAGE 02](#)

At First Christian
[PAGE 03](#)

Sunday Morning
[PAGE 04](#)

Keeping Connected
[PAGE 05](#)

In the Community
[PAGE 06](#)

Summer Camp & More
[PAGE 07](#)

August Calendar Link
Your Elder
[PAGE 08](#)

connect with us





Announcements

Free Ice Cream in August!

MONDAYS IN AUGUST, 7-8PM

In August we continue our Mondays on the Lawn by serving ice cream and other frozen treats! You are invited each Mondays in August between 7 and 8pm for a refreshing treat. Frozen treats are served on the front lawn. Stop by and take one to go or bring a lawn chair and stay a while to visit with friends.



Special Offering

AUGUST 24, IN WORSHIP

Join us Sunday, August 24 for a special Back-to-School Blessing during worship. We'll also receive a special offering for the First Christian Church Scholarship Fund, which supports individuals in our community pursuing post-secondary education or training.

Gifts can be made anytime in August—during worship, by mail, or [online](#) (select Directed Contribution and FCC Scholarship). Please note “scholarship” on all donations. Thank you for helping us support students and invest in their future!

Welcome Sunday

SEPTEMBER 7

Join us on Sunday, September 7 for worship followed by food, fun, and a celebration of the warm welcome that defines FCC. It's a great Sunday to invite a friend, neighbor, or coworker! More details, including RSVP and volunteer info, coming soon.

New Policy

In organizing the Mondays on the Lawn events in July, where we intentionally hosted immigrants, we discovered that we lacked a policy regarding potential interactions with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. Utilizing resources provided by our denomination, a policy was drafted and FCC's board acted quickly to approve a policy for First Christian.

General Assembly Recap

Last month, Pastors Jill and Kara, along with several FCC members, attended the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) General Assembly in Memphis. In addition to worship and workshops, we took part in important business sessions.

Curious about what was approved? [Click here](#) for details, including three emergency resolutions. Stay tuned for upcoming conversations about what these resolutions mean for our congregation!



Above: A tshirt at General Assembly in support of GA-2513 (Disability Justice & Inclusion)



Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON

Upcoming Scriptures

July 30: Isaiah 58:1-12

August 6: Psalm 137

August 13: Psalm 54

August 20: Psalm 103

August 27: TBD

At First Christian

Above: Some of our participants at General Assembly in Memphis in July.

Monthly Potlucks All Summer Long

Join us for our next potluck on **August 17**, when our theme is Your Favorite Potluck Dish. What's your favorite thing to bring to a potluck? Bring that along with a story of why it's a favorite!



--Please bring your own table service to help reduce waste. Reusable plates, cups, and silverware are encouraged.

--We are looking for volunteers to ensure that the potluck runs smoothly. [Click here to sign up to help!](#)

Left: Baked potato with lots of toppings at the July potluck.

Around the Fire - August 16, 7PM

You're invited to an evening "Around the Fire" as we dedicate the new permanent fire pit on FCC grounds (thank you Teegan!) and celebrate the summer camping season. Bring a lawn chair and a camp story to share! Fire and smores ingredients will be provided!

Save the Date: Church Workdays

Thanks to all who participated in our Church Workday on July 26! Windows were washed, weeds were pulled, and walls were painted.

Mark your calendars for upcoming workdays: September 27 and November 22. Workdays will be on Saturday mornings from 9am - 12pm. If you have any questions, please reach out to [Sally S.](#)



Everyone helps out at FCC's July workday.



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

In August we are exploring the psalms in a worship series “Finding Freedom in the Psalms,” a reminder of the full spectrum of emotions that exist in the psalms. We also have a special treat on August 10 with Kalea Seaton preaching.

- August 3: **When We Feel Confidence in God** (Psalms 91 and 121)
- August 10: **Let Love Be Louder**, Kalea Seaton (Isaiah 58:1-12)
- August 17: **When We Are Lost and Want Revenge** (Psalm 137)
- August 24: **When We Feel the World is Against Us** (Psalm 54)
- August 31: **When We Are Grateful** (Psalm 103)

Clergy Chat: August 3, 11:15am

You are invited to join Pastors Jill and Kara on the 1st Sunday of August after worship.

This time is designed for folks who are new to First Christian to come and ask questions and get to know the pastors. It is also open to anyone else who would like to visit or has inquiries for the pastors.

Nursery

Throughout the summer, childcare is available on Sundays beginning at 9:30am for infants through kindergarteners, and older children if needed. The nursery is in the lower-level east classroom.

Sunday Mornings



Sunday worship brings together many hands and hearts. 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 opportunities to serve.

ICDISCIPLES.ORG/VOLUNTEER



Worship leaders: Billy runs AV, Corinne reads scripture, Laura offers communion, a child serves as acolyte.



Coffee with Friends

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 9:00AM

Men & women alike are invited for coffee and conversation at HyVee (3285 Crosspark Rd., Coralville). This gathering will be happening each month and is sponsored by Hannah Circle. You're invited to stop by!

FCC Connect

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 6:30PM

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 Night Out

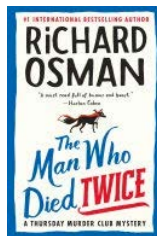
THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 5:30PM

Join the FCC ladies for good food and conversation! This month we are heading to Sutliff Bar. Want to carpool? Contact [Nancy R.](#) with any questions.

Book Club

THURS, AUGUST 28, 7:00PM

In August we are reading *The Man Who Died Twice* by Richard Osman. Elizabeth gets a letter from an old colleague in trouble with stolen diamonds and a violent mobster. As the situation worsens and bodies accumulate, she enlists the Thursday Murder Club to find the killer and the missing diamonds. Join this conversation at FCC or on Zoom. Questions? Contact [Nancy M.](#)



Disciples Strings & Singers

WEDNESDAYS, 6:00PM

You are invited to share in music ministry at FCC! For more information, please contact [Pastor Laura](#).



Keeping Connected



Top: Scam Me Not Fraud Presentation for FCC folks,
Middle/Bottom: Friends of all ages connect at the July potluck.



In the Community



SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION

THRU AUGUST 3, 2025

As students are preparing to head back to school, we are collecting **multi-subject notebooks, glue sticks and round-tipped scissors** in support of Ready Set School. This is a collaborative event for K-12 students in Johnson and Washington Counties which brings together services like vaccines, dental and vision exams, and haircuts, as well as providing backpacks and school supplies to students in need. **Please have supplies at First Christian by Sunday August 3.**

IN AUGUST WE SERVE FREE LUNCH!

AUGUST 23, 2025

The next meal FCC serves at Iowa City Free Lunch will be on Saturday, August 23, featuring a summer menu with hot dogs or baked potatoes, pasta salad, salads, desserts, and beverages, serving about 130 meals.

- To donate food items or volunteer on Free Lunch Day, use [Signup Genius](#).
- Non-perishable items can be dropped in the blue Free Lunch Box anytime; perishable items should go in the FCC kitchen fridge.
- Drop-offs are also accepted on Friday, August 22, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, with a **deadline of 1 pm on Friday**.



AUGUST 23
FREE LUNCH
PROGRAM
[SIGN UP HERE](#)

First Christian Church prepares and serves Free Lunch every other month on the 4th Saturday. In 2025, we also look forward to serving on October 25 and December 27.

Monetary donations are welcome anytime, either in person, by mail, or [online](#) (select Fund: Special Offering (Local) and Memo: Free Lunch Program). You are also invited to browse the [FLP's Amazon Wishlist](#) or [sign up to serve](#) on additional days.



At Mondays on the Lawn in July we had love offerings for immigrant supporting organizations. Together we collected \$2,111.09! Thank you for your generosity!

- Open Heartland: \$511.09
- Immigrant Welcome Network: \$531
- Free Medical Clinic's Women's Health Clinic: \$444
- Prytula Foundation: \$625

SAVE THE DATE

Don't let the warmth of summer days distract you from the approaching cold seasons! The Warm Winter Wear Distribution is scheduled for October 12-18. More info coming soon!



Summer 2025 Attendees

July 28-August 2,
Adventure Camp

- Rachel
- Leo
- Melody
- Jay (counselor)

August 4-9, Junior 3

- Jayse
- Kalea (counselor)

FCC @ Summer Camp

The final weeks of summer camp are underway at our regional camp and conference center. A couple of reminders below for sending a note of encouragement to our final campers of the season!

Address/Subject: [Camper name & Camp attending]

via USPS:

c/o Christian Conference Center
5064 Lincoln St
Newton, IA 50208

via email:

campermail@newtonccc.org



Left: FCC campers and Christian Conference Center staff after worship at FCC on 7/27. Middle/Right: Fun at camp this summer!

Mondays in July

Music on the Lawn was incredible! Each Monday in July, many gathered at FCC to enjoy and celebrate the incredible diversity of culture right here in Eastern Iowa. And a special thank you to all our wonderful guests who performed and attended!



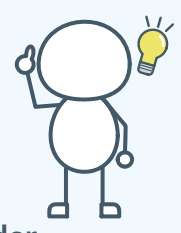


WELCOME
-AUGUST-

CLICK
HERE FOR
FCC'S
AUGUST
CALENDAR



WHO IS MY ELDER?



| Your Last Name | Your Elder |
|----------------|------------------|
| A-CI | <u>Jon F.</u> |
| Co-F | <u>Maggie K.</u> |
| G-Kin | <u>Al Z.</u> |
| Kit-Mic | <u>David K.</u> |
| Mo-Sch | <u>Marcus S.</u> |
| Sea-Z | <u>Jane D.</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

Carol Mertens
Office Manager

Michael Hull
Custodian

Lori Smith
Bookkeeper

Cameron Michel
Technology Assistant

McKenna Geake
Teegan Michel
Ella Romero
Nursery Caregivers

First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ

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



connect with us

