

AUGUST 2024

THIS MONTH @ FCC

A Note from the Moderator

Friends,

August is almost here! It means people are squeezing in last-minute vacations, starting to prepare for the upcoming school year, and we are all starting to wish for cooler days! It also means that Pastor Jill is about to start her sabbatical.

We celebrate that our church can provide this well-deserved opportunity for our pastoral staff to experience rest and renewal so that they can continue to serve with vitality. In the book *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal and Delight in our Busy Lives*, Wayne Muller states, "Let us breathe deeply in the rhythms of life, of the earth, of action and rest." Our prayer for Jill during this time is that she is able to breathe deeply and experience the peace of Sabbath rest.

We are fortunate that we have so many strong leaders (on staff and beyond) that are able step in and seamlessly continue ministry while Jill is away through October. I want to thank the Personnel committee for putting in place the detailed staffing plans and all of those who have said "Yes" to new responsibilities during this time. One thing that I hope to see during Jill's sabbatical is that we will continue to learn to take greater ownership for the ministries of the church and become less staff dependent. Each of us has gifts and abilities that can be put to good use in the church if we learn to listen for God's nudge. I hope that all of us will commit to taking Sabbath 'moments' during this busy season, to breathe deeply so that we can hear God's whisper and be prepared for action. I am confident that God will continue to do good work through this congregation!

As a reminder, please reach out to those on staff (or your elders) for any church needs you may have while Pastor Jill is on sabbatical so that she may fully disconnect during this time and return recharged

With care,
Sally Strah



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connect with us





Notes from Your Staff



Traci Massman will be coming on staff during sabbatical to serve as our Acting Children's Minister.

Most everyone now knows that I am currently attending a lay training program through Phillips Theological Seminary. I have been honored to take part in worship services and could not ask for better role models than Jill, Kara, and Laura.

Having worked in education my entire professional life, I am thrilled to use my theological training and my experience working with children in the role of Acting Children's Minister. I will have big shoes to fill, but

knowing I have the love and support of this congregation, I am excited for the challenge.



Laura Kittrell continues in her role on staff with expanded responsibilities.

I've been part of the ministerial staff for five years, music director for many more years, and a member of this congregation since 1971. So I am excited to see what new challenges will arise during Jill's sabbatical. Some of the additional activities I will be doing include worship preparation and preaching. I look forward to doing more pastoral care, and expanding ways that I can serve.



Kara Seaton continues on staff as Associate Pastor and will be filling many roles of the senior pastor during sabbatical.

Living in a University town, August has long brought about change in many areas of our lives and this year will be no different in that regard. It also brings about an additional change that we've been talking about for some time, as we lovingly send off Pastor Jill on sabbatical.

You know that Jill is leaving us equipped for this time. Months of intentional conversation and planning have gone into what these 3 sabbatical months will look like for our congregation.

During those preparations, people have volunteered to take on additional duties, while others have stepped into new leadership. You can expect that I'll be passing along many of my children's ministry responsibilities to Traci Massman, in order to create space that I can take on many of the roles of the senior pastor.

Change can be hard, but it also can be really good. I am confident that the congregation (and your staff) are prepared and ready to receive the gifts of this sabbatical season, both that we will experience as a community of faith, and that Pastor Jill will experience through rest, self-care and renewal.

Staff Updates

With **Kalea Seaton** moving to California for college, we will be saying goodbye to her as one of our regular nursery attendants. We know the kids will miss her and so will we. We will be recognizing her in worship before she leaves, but would encourage you to thank her for her service when you have a chance. And it

is likely we will see her back in the nursery occasionally when she is home on break!

Speaking of college students on staff: **Cameron Michel** will remain on staff as Technology Assistant. While he is moving to Ohio, his job can be done remotely.



Hannah Circle provided cake and decorations to celebrate FCC's high school graduates.

Exploring Hannah Circle

AUGUST 19, 6:30PM

Hannah Circle, the women's fellowship group at First Christian, is hosting an event on August 19 at 6:30pm. Join other ladies for sweet treats, beverages and conversation. All women are invited to attend and learn more about Hannah Circle - what it is, what they do, and the ministries they support. RSVPs are appreciated but not necessary. If you have questions or to RSVP, please contact [Pat Boelens](#).

Welcome Sunday

SEPTEMBER 8, FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Before we know it, it will be time for Welcome Sunday! Welcome Sunday happens each year on the Sunday after Labor Day. It is a time for us to worship, eat, and play together as we get back into our fall routine. As we have in recent years we will have large tents on the front lawn and enjoy a meal and games for all ages after worship. Perhaps you have a friend, co-worker, neighbor or family member that you've been wanting to invite to FCC...this is a great Sunday to bring them! Visit the sign up below RSVP and to volunteer to help out!



Click above to RSVP for Welcome Sunday!



Announcements

Scholarship Fund Offering

AUGUST 18, DURING WORSHIP

Scholarships are available from two funds within the church that were made available through the generosity of persons who were firm believers in the benefits of higher education. These scholarships are administered by Hannah Circle, the women's group at the church. The First Christian Church Scholarship (formerly the Helen Gay Scholarship) awards \$500 scholarships to students pursuing post-secondary education. In total, \$25,000 has been distributed and continuing to offer this scholarship is an honor. On August 18 in worship, we will take a special offering for the First Christian Church Scholarship and you are invited to give to that scholarship fund. You are also welcome to send in donations via mail or electronically anytime in August. Make sure to mark all gifts with the notation "scholarship." Our hope and dream is that this scholarship fund will remain full and ready to dispersed for years to come!



[Click Here to Give Online](#)
Select "Directed Contribution"
and then "FCC Scholarship"

Save the Date!

PET BLESSING - SEPTEMBER 29 @ 3PM

FCC will be hosting our 3rd annual pet blessing in September! Look for more information - including a pet food collection in the next newsletter.

Please note the monthly newsletter deadline is changing. Please see the calendar for the updated date.

ATTENTION
PLEASE





Being Together

Mondays on the Lawn

MONDAYS, JULY & AUGUST, 7:00-8:00PM

Poetry, Music & Storytelling

July 29: *Spoken Word with Open Mic*

Event features local poet-authors Corinne Stanley & Mario Duarte. Others are welcome to prepare 3-4 minute readings of original work or appreciated work of others. Sign up for open mic when you arrive. Meet on the lower east lawn and bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on.

Ice Cream Treats in August

Come by the front lawn **every Monday in August** for a frozen treat (dairy and non-dairy options available). Just come through the upper lot (drive-up, bike-up or walk-up) - all will be served! Bring a chair and stay to chat or take it to go. Totally free and open to all!

Stories & Smores

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 7:00PM

This years edition of Stories & Smores is right around the corner! Each household that contributed towards camp fees for our children & youth in 2024 is invited to attend. We will meet on the back patio at the church. Bring a lawn chair and we provide the smores!

Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON ON ZOOM

Upcoming Scriptures

July 31: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

August 7: Esther 4

August 14: 1 Kings 8:1-21

August 21: Joshua 1:5b; Matthew 28:20b; and Eph. 3:20,21

August 28: TBD

DONATE ♥



Contact the
office for Zoom
information





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)



Nursery

Childcare is available each Sunday morning during Worship. Staff are available beginning at 9:30AM. 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.

Who's Preaching?

During the month of August, you will hear several thoughtful and inspiring messages from our selected guest preachers. Expect to hear from Rev. Liz Woodward, Partner Regional Minister, as well as the following individuals from our congregation: Marian Hart, Rev. Laura Kittrell, and Kent Clark.

Back to School Blessing

During worship on August 18 we will share a back-to-school blessing with the congregation as children, teens and many adults head back to school after summer break. Students of course, but also teachers, professors, staff and those in administration who are connected with education are invited to come receive the blessing and a backpack tag or sticker.

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](#)



FCC Connect

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8 AT 6:30PM

Please contact the office for zoom information

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

Hannah Circle is hosting "Exploring Hannah Circle" on August 19 @ 6:30PM. Ladies of the church are invited to come learn more about the ministries of this group at First Christian. See [Page 3](#) for more information on this event!

Ladies Night Out

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15 AT 5:30PM

Ladies of the church are invited to share an evening of food and conversation. In August, join us at Black Angel (630 Iowa Ave., Iowa City). We will be sitting outdoors on the patio. Please RSVP to [Nancy Ream](#) if you plan to attend.

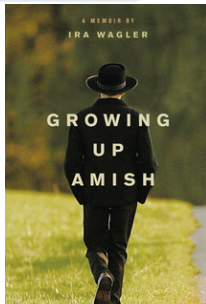
Book Club

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 7:00PM

Please contact the office for zoom information

The FCC Book Club is reading [Growing Up Amish](#) by Ira Wagler. This memoir follows Ira from childhood to adulthood on a quest to discover who is and where he belongs.

Join the conversation onsite at the church or online via Zoom.



Keeping Connected

Children & Youth

Preparations are underway for children's and youth activities through FCC which will begin in September. For questions about children's activities at FCC, contact [Traci Massman](#). Questions about youth activities can be direct to [Pastor Kara](#).



Music Opportunities

[CLICK HERE FOR A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LAURA](#)

Do you play an instrument? Do you like to sing? Click the link above (page 8) for a music update from Pastor Laura. If you have questions about participating in music at FCC, please contact [Pastor Laura](#) directly.

FCC's Online Directory

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS DIRECTORY](#)



First Christian has an online directory! Use it to update your information as well as to connect with each other. If you have questions about using Realm, please contact the church office.



In the Community

SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION



IOWA CITY
COMMUNITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

AUGUST 1-18, 2024

This month we will be collecting school supplies for the Iowa City Community School District. Please help out by bringing some of their most needed items (listed below) to the church through August 18.



Above: FCC folks work at the habitat build in memory of Bill Laubengeyer

♥ HEAVY-DUTY BACKPACKS

(MUST BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE CHROMEBOOKS - THINK MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS)

♥ HEADPHONES AND EARBUDS

(WITH STANDARD PLUG FOR COMPUTERS)

♥ HARDTOP PENCIL CASES

♥ DRY ERASE MARKERS

♥ KLEENEX

♥ MONETARY DONATIONS

(WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE SCIENTIFIC CALCULATORS)

FREE LUNCH PROGRAM



IOWA CITY
Free Lunch Program

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024

FCC serves at Iowa City Free Lunch on Saturday, August 24. Our summer menu includes: hot dogs & baked potatoes (with chili and cheese options), sides, desserts, granola bars, and drinks. We anticipate serving 120 meals! For the meal, you are invited to provide food items or to volunteer to serve, see the sign up link for both of these.

FCC serves at ICFLP every other month. This year, we will also serve on October 26 & December 28



Serving shifts are divided into a longer shift (10:30am - 1:30pm) and a shorter shift (11:45am - 1:30pm). Non-perishable food items can be placed in the church's FLP tub in the narthex; perishable items should be purchased after **August 10** and refrigerated/frozen as appropriate. Items may be delivered to church on Friday, August 23 between 11:30am - 1:00pm.

ALL GROCERY ITEMS MUST BE AT THE CHURCH BY 1 PM ON AUGUST 23.



COMING SOON

On select dates in September, we will collect **WARM WINTER WEAR** for the Winter Clothing Distribution, an annual event (which our congregation helped to found!) hosted by the Consultation of Religious Communities of Iowa City. Now is a great time to go through the closets and wash items that can be donated so they are fresh, clean and ready to go to a new home!



Final Letters to Summer Campers

The summer camping season is wrapping up at our regional camp and conference center in Newton, Iowa, as our final campers are in attendance this week and next. There is still time to send a note of encouragement through email or mail - and our table is still set up to do so in the sanctuary. Thank you for your ongoing support of our young people and adult volunteers!

July 22-27, ADAM Camp

Gloria Licon Klein
Isabel Licon Klein
Spencer Thomas
Malinda Thomas (counselor)

July 22-27, Adventure Camp

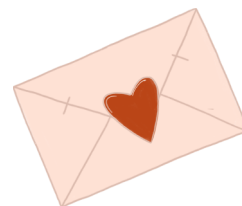
Rachel Samuel
Lucy Gerlieb
Jay Thomas (counselor)

July 29-August 3, Junior 3

Liana Chimenti

[Camper name & Camp attending]
c/o Christian Conference Center
5064 Lincoln St
Newton, IA 50208

campermail@
newtonccc.org



Music Ministry Update

You may have noticed that the Disciples Strings & Singers configuration has changed. With the purchase of the new sound system came an opportunity for us to switch things around, in order for those in the group to better communicate with one another.

One future addition that hopefully will be happening is a riser so that we can have two lines of singers. This will allow us to further expand Strings & Singers to include all who wish to join us.

We would be happy to have you as a part of this ministry! So, if you like to sing, and/or if you play an instrument, please consider coming to practice every other Wednesday night. Rehearsals in August will be the 14th and the 28th at 6:00 pm. You can also join us for warm-ups Sunday mornings at 9:30.

We have a lot of fun as we share together in music ministry. Come share the fun with us!





August

Wishing a
**Happy
Birthday
and a
Happy
Anniversary**
to all those
celebrating
in August!



Who? IS MY ELDER

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Elder</u>
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



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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. Kara Seaton
Associate Pastor

Rev. Laura Kittrell
Minister of Music &
Worship

Traci Massman
Acting Children's Minister

Carol Mertens
Office Manager

Michael Hull
Custodian

Lori Smith
Bookkeeper

Caitie Klein-Lester,
Teegan Michel, and
Kalea Seaton
Nursery Caregivers

Cameron Michel
Technology Assistant

Rev. Jill Cameron Michel
Senior Pastor
On Sabbatical
August 1 - October 31

connect with us

