



THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 18, 2023

A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Friends,

Supporting and uplifting youth has long been a tradition and priority of this congregation. Showing interest in, developing friendships with, financially supporting our youth are second nature to you all. And that is wonderful as faith communities are one of only a few opportunities people have to mingle with, get to know, and learn from people across multiple generations.

This Sunday, we are delighted to welcome Rev. Eric Rucker to join us in worship. Eric is a campus chaplain at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, where he also directs the Simpson Youth Academy (SYA) program for high school students. SYA is a program you may have heard about throughout our faith community in the past year, and I'd like to share a little with you about it. SYA is a program grounded in Christian tradition that comes together each summer to create a community of high school youth and adult mentors. During the program (which hosts around 25 high school juniors and seniors each year), deeper questions about faith and social justice issues are explored, in order to equip (and empower!) youth to live into their callings as agents of peace and justice in the church and world. They take part in religion classes and visit a variety of settings where "faith in action" is being lived out, in addition to being challenged to think theologically about issues and situations in the world. During the summer of 2022, Kalea Seaton and Spencer Thomas started their journey with an 9-day residency at Simpson College (Quinn Thomas also took part in one of the first years of the program several years ago). Kalea and Spencer continue with the program throughout this school year with retreats, meetings, and working with a mentor to implement a local project.

Each fall, Pastor Jill and myself meet with Eric (SYA director), to talk about the program and consider youth, both within our congregation and beyond, who may have interest and flourish in the program. In light of this ongoing relationship, this past fall, SYA invited First Christian Church to become an Ally in Youth Ministry. This designation is a covenant which asks us to continue doing things we already do, like identifying youth to participate in the program and inviting our congregation to support our youth. In addition, it asks that we pledge a yearly financial gift to the program, covenant to pray as a community for all youth who are part of SYA, and invite SYA staff and youth to participate in a worship service each year. In return, SYA covenants to be a program for youth that creates space to ask questions and grow in faith, to develop leadership skills and explore how those may intersect in vocational choices. At the meeting on October 18, 2022, the board at First Christian Church voted that our faith community would indeed covenant to be Allies in Youth Ministry with SYA.

This weekend, Rev. Eric Rucker will join us as guest preacher and I look forward to the message he will be sharing in worship. Kalea and Spencer will also be joining him in leading worship. Following worship (during our Faith Formation hour), Eric will be sharing specifically about SYA, and Kalea and Spencer will be sharing their experiences, as well as the projects they are currently working on through the program. We hope you will join us for worship this weekend, and for those who are local, also for the Faith Formation hour. I also challenge you to consider how you may be (or continue to be) an ally to the youth of our community and beyond, in this new year.

Your partner in ministry, *Kara*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



BIBLE STUDY

Join us using Zoom. We meet at
12noon each Wednesday.

Upcoming scriptures:

January 18: Micah 6:1-8

January 25: Isaiah 58:1-12

LADIES' LUNCH OUT

In January and February, Ladies' Night Out will shift to a lunch gathering in order to keep people from having to drive when it is so dark.

You are invited to gather on Thursday, **January 19 at 11:45am** at 30 Hop in the Iowa River Landing (900 E. 2nd Ave., Coralville).



JOIN STRINGS AND SINGERS

All musicians are invited to be part of Disciples Strings and Singers. Want to join in the new year? The next rehearsal will be **January 25** at 6pm.

This group of musicians leads music in worship weekly, bringing their mix of vocal and instrumental gifts to worship.



FCC BOOK CLUB

The FCC Book Club will start the year reading *Shattered Dreams: My Life as a Polygamist's Wife* by Irene Spencer.

This book shares Irene's story of growing up in a fundamentalist family, finding herself in a plural marriage at age 16, and then choosing to leave that situation and create a different life in a world she knew little about.

The meeting to discuss this book will be on Thursday, **January 26** at 7pm on Zoom.

FAITH FORMATION

(AKA: SUNDAY SCHOOL)

Each Sunday there are classes for children (age 4) through adults and a nursery for younger children. Classes go from 11:15am - 12noon.

January 22: Pre-K/Elem: Exploring the Parables
Youth/Adult: Kalea Seaton, Spencer Thomas, and Eric Rucker present about Simpson Youth Academy and the projects Kalea and Spencer are doing.

January 29 - February 12: Living in Faith Together—an intergenerational learning experience. All are invited as we gather around tables to share conversation, activity and a snack.

YEAR END GIVING STATEMENTS

Year End Giving Statements for 2022 will be coming over the next couple weeks. If we have an email address for you in Realm, that is how you will get your tax statement. If not, it will be sent via USPS. If you have had any changes to your email or USPS address recently, please update us. Any updates or questions can be shared with Cory Coobs (icdisciple.giving@gmail.com)

BOOK AND PUZZLE EXCHANGE TABLE

Do you have a book you read and loved? Ready to share it with someone else, but don't know who?

Are you looking for a good book and could use a recommendation?

Do you have a jigsaw puzzle you enjoyed but don't need to put together a second time?

Do you enjoy a good jigsaw puzzle and could use a new one?

Visit the Book and Puzzle Exchange Table in the narthex at church!

Content covered to protect privacy

THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who joined our staff in leading worship on January 15: Gene Hansen and Vern Duba (Greeters); Maggie Keyser and Nancy Ream (Ushers); Disciple Strings & Singers (Musicians); Janie Jensen-Fitzpatrick (Acolyte); Sally Strah (Scripture Reader); Sally Strah, Julie Fitzpatrick, Janie Jensen-Fitzpatrick (Communion servers); Julie Fitzpatrick (Elder); David Klein and Pam Ries (A/V); Vern Duba (Fellowship Time Host); Steve Strah (Valet Parking).

WE NEED YOU!

Sundays rely on volunteers to go smoothly! If you are willing to serve as a Greeter, Usher, Scripture Reader, Fellowship Time Host or Acolyte (K-6th grade), please

[choose your dates and sign up here](#) (use the drop down menu in the upper right to

toggle between various roles). You can also contact Nancy McKinstry with questions or to sign up for these roles. **There are many available opportunities in this new year!**

If you are interested in doing Children's Moments, speak with Pastor Kara (icdisciple.kids@gmail.com).

If you would like to be trained to run sound or PowerPoint, speak with Laurie Dahms.



Remember, you can join us in person at church or worship with us on [YouTube](#) each Sunday at 10am.

WORSHIP - JANUARY 22, 2023

Hymns - Gather Us In; For the Bread and Wine and Blessing; I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Scripture - Isaiah 9:1-14 and Matthew 4:12-23

Sermon - Rev. Eric Rucker, Guest Preacher

JANUARY MISSION FOCUS - IOWA CITY FREE MEDICAL AND DENTAL CLINIC

This month we are learning more about and connecting with the Iowa City Free Medical and Dental Clinic.

Did you know?

- At 52 years old, the Iowa City Free Medical and Dental Clinic is the 2nd longest running free clinic in the United States.
- The Clinic serves people who are both uninsured and underinsured.
- There is a connection between health disparities and social/economic inequities. Because people of color in our country are impacted by social/economic inequities at a higher rate, this also means they have greater health disparities.
- 60% of patients at the Free Medical Clinic live with hypertension and/or diabetes. These are diseases that impact poor people at a higher rate.
- The Free Medical Clinic provides primary care for many of their patients.

How can you support the Clinic's work?

Donate items. We will be collecting the following items (from their most needed list) throughout the month of January: ibuprofen (200mg dosage preferred, any size containers), pill box organizers, hand sanitizer, Depends (any brand is fine; adult sizes medium and large are most needed), facial tissues, and forever stamps. These items can be brought to the church and placed in the marked bin.

Volunteer at the Clinic. [Visit their website](#) and make arrangements to volunteer with them.

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN GIVE TO THE CHURCH THROUGH *STUFF*?

First Christian has an account (25144) at Coralville *Stuff* and you can contribute to it.

If you are getting rid of items that they would take on consignment you can leave them under our account number and First Christian will get the proceeds from the sale.

Remember, you can take one tote at a time or five large items.

Proceeds from *Stuff* are used to support people in need.

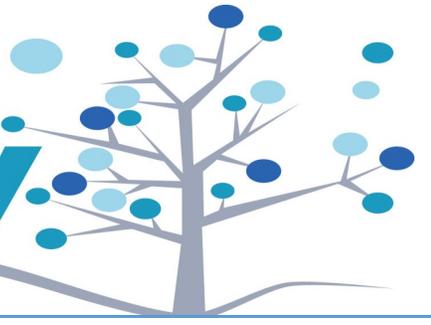
REALM - OUR CONNECTION TO AN ONLINE DIRECTORY

If you haven't already, we hope you will use the QR code here or just visit onrealm.org to set up your Realm account. Remember your password—you will need it for future access. Once you login, set your privacy settings to "Anyone in the church" in order for your information to be in our church directory. These settings need to be changed for each person in your household. Prefer using an app? Get Realm Connect from the App Store!



Have questions? Ask Pastor Jill or Laurie Dahms.

january



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 10 AM	2 Office Closed	3	4 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon	5	6	7
Laura on vacation		Kara on vacation				
8 Worship 10 AM Faith Formation 11:15 AM Handbells 12 Noon Troop 270 5:30 PM Laura PST 6:30 PM Troop 2000 7 PM Kara on vacation	9	10 Kara's PST 6:30 PM	11 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon COVID Response Team @ Zoom 1:30 PM Disciples Strings & Singers 6 PM	12 Clergy Cluster 12 Noon Nom. Comm 2 PM FCC Connect @ Zoom 6:30 PM Spring MPT 6:30 PM Arrow Chapter 7 PM	13	14
15 Worship 10 AM Faith Formation 11:15 AM Handbells 12 Noon Troop 270 5:30 PM Troop 2000 7 PM	16 MLK Day Office Closed Tour at Free Medical Clinic 2 PM Finance Team 6 PM	17	18 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon	19 Ladies Lunch Out 11:45 AM @ 30 Hop Elders @ Zoom 7 PM	20 Nom. Comm 2 PM	21
22 Worship 10 AM Faith Formation 11:15 AM Handbells 12 Noon Troop 270 5:30 PM Troop 2000 7 PM	23	24 Staff Meeting 10 AM	25 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon Jill's PST 5:30 PM Disciples Strings & Singers 6 PM	26 Women Clergy @ Zoom 10 AM FCC Book Club 7 PM	27	28
29 Worship 10 AM Faith Formation 11:15 AM Handbells 12 Noon Troop 270 5:30 PM Troop 2000 7 PM	30 Capital Campaign Team @ Zoom Pastors at Minister's Institute Fell Hall in use 6:30 PM	31				



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

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Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 9am to noon

Staff:

Rev. Jill Cameron Michel, Sr. Pastor

Home Phone: 319-665-2276

Rev. Kara Seaton, Minister of Children, Youth & Families

Rev. Laura Kittrell, Minister of Music and Worship

Carol Mertens, Interim Office Assistant

Michael Hull, Custodian

Lori Smith, Bookkeeper

Damian Dorta, Technology & Communications

Kalea Seaton, Nursery Caregiver

Caitie Klein-Lester, Nursery Caregiver



Pictured above: FCC folks and Free Medical Clinic staff sharing a tour together on Monday.

Pictured below: Adults and children together at the Children's Moment.

