

FEBRUARY 2025

THIS MONTH @ FCC

A Note from the Pastor

Friends,

Do you ever wonder if preachers keep thinking about their sermons? I can assure you we do. Here are excerpts of what I am carrying with me from Sunday's sermon as I work to live more faithfully:

"Sometimes Jesus and his priorities make us uncomfortable. And, if we are honest, Jesus is just who we need.

"Because we live in a world where not only are our systems built on white supremacist values but where it has become more acceptable to be openly racist.

"We live in a world where the rights and protections of those who identify as anything other than straight and cisgender are being taken away.

"We live in a world where weather patterns are changing, where parts of it are literally on fire because of the habits of humanity, and yet against all evidence voices of power are claiming that climate change isn't happening.

"We live in a world where immigrants and refugees are scared to go to work or to the grocery, where our schools are counseling parents to update information in case their child goes home to an empty house.

"We live in a world where people are being forgotten because profits have been deemed more important, where the wealth of a few is allowed to destroy the lives of many.

"But we are followers of Jesus. So, our mission is the same as his. How are we bringing good news to the poor and release to the captives? How are we bringing recovery of sight to the blind? How are we setting free those who are oppressed? How will we proclaim the year of the Lord's favor? How will we live as those who truly follow Jesus?"

With care, *Jill*

Please note...My family no longer as a landline at the house. So, if you have our local phone number (319-665-2276) in your contact list or written down somewhere, please make sure to replace it with my cell phone number.

This Issue

Announcements
[PAGE 02](#)

Sunday Mornings
[PAGE 03](#)

Bible Study, Youth
[PAGE 04](#)

Keeping Connected
[PAGE 05](#)

In the Community
[PAGE 06](#)

Summer Camp,
Bike Ministry
[PAGE 07](#)

Birthdays/Anniversaries
February Calendar Link
[PAGE 08](#)

connect with us





Announcements

Annual Congregational Meeting

FEBRUARY 23, 11:15AM

First Christian Church's Annual Congregational Meeting takes place on the last Sunday in February. This year we will meet on Sunday, February 23 following worship at 11:15am. Attend onsite or online to hear a recap of our last year, anticipate our ministries in the year ahead, and elect leadership positions. All are welcome, members can vote.



Please contact the church office for the Zoom link.

Winter Youth Retreats



FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 2

Register now for the Chi Rho (grades 6-8) and CYF (grades 9-12) mid-year retreats! Take a moment to rest and relax and enjoy camp during the year. Both retreats will be held from February 28 to March 2.

The retreats are held at the camp & conference center of our region, located in Newton, Iowa. First Christian takes youth to mid-year retreats each winter and we also pay 50% of registration fees!

[Click here for more information and to register.](#) Questions? Please contact [Pastor Kara.](#)

Lent Begins Next Month

MARCH 5 - APRIL 19, 2025

Lent marks a special six-week period in the Church's calendar, starting with Ash Wednesday and concluding just before Easter Sunday. In 2025, the Lenten season begins on March 5th with Ash Wednesday. Please stay tuned for opportunities to engage and connect during this season, including special worship services, a devotional and sign ups for Lenten groups. These plans will be shared in Sunday worship and through our weekly email updates.

Scholarships at FCC

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
APRIL 7, 2025

First Christian Church has two 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](#)



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)



Upcoming Sermons

- February 2: *Listening When We Don't Want to Hear*
Luke 4:21-30
- February 9: *Eric Rucker, guest preacher*
Exodus 16:1-26
- February 16: *Who Do We Value?*
Luke 6:17-26
- February 23: *Take What We Need*
Luke 9:1-6

Faith Formation

Faith Formation (ie. Sunday School) meets on Sundays following worship until 12 noon. Through February 16, youth and adults will continue having discussion around Christian Nationalism and considering why it matters to us today as followers of Jesus.

During this time, children in K-5th grades are invited to participate in Children Worship & Wonder, as we listen, wonder and respond to stories of Jesus' life.

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 for nurturing care 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: Children enjoy their special space at the front of the sanctuary during Sunday Worship.



Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM INFO

Upcoming Scriptures

February 5: Luke 6:17-26

February 12: Luke 9:1-6

February 19: Luke 9:28-36

February 26: TBD

Faith Together

Above: JYF children find a sweet hiding place during a game. Right: CYF goes bowling, CYF & Chi Rho participate in a cooking challenge.

Youth Group - High School

FEBRUARY 2, 9, 16, 23

CYF (grades 9-12) meets on Sundays from 4:30-6pm with Steve Clark, Chris Radcliff and Pastor Jill. Feb 23 will be a joint meeting with Chi Rho youth (grades 6-8). Locations this month will depend on activities, so stay tuned for details. All high schoolers are welcome to come enjoy food, friendship and activities.

Youth Group - Middle School

FEBRUARY 9 & 23

Chi Rho (grades 6-8) will meet on February 9 at Pastor Kara's home, and then will participate in a shared activity with CYF (high school) on February 23 - location TBD.

Youth Group - Grades 2, 3, 4, 5

FEBRUARY 9 & 22-23

JYF (grades 2-5) will meet with Steve Strah & Pastor Kara on February 9 from 12-1:15pm in Fellowship Hall for lunch, an activity and games. On February 22, we will gather at the church for a lock-in.

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





FCC Connect

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 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, FEBRUARY 20, 11:30AM

In the winter months we gather for lunch! This month, Ladies Lunch Out will meet at Chicken Salad Chick, 2510 Corridor Way, Coralville (near Texas Road House).

Hannah Circle

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17 & 24, 6:30PM

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM INFO

Hannah Circle is meeting twice in February, both on Zoom! February 17 is a planned business meeting, then on February 24, all are invited as we welcome Barb Stein to share information about TRAIL (Tools and Resources for Active Independent Living). Whether you are looking for help to meet your own needs or hoping to volunteer to help others, join us to learn more. If you have questions, please contact Pat Boelens.

Book Club

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 7:00PM

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM INFO

This month's book is "A Return to Common Sense - How to Fix America Before It's Too Late" by Leigh McGowan. A concise, no-nonsense guide to understanding and reclaiming our government. "We can fix this, but the way forward starts with understanding." Gathering available at FCC and on Zoom. 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: JYF take part in a Good Samaritan reader's theatre. Middle: FCC musicians lead worship music. Bottom: Pastor Jill leads faith formation.



In the Community

FCC @ FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 22, 2024

[**FLP SIGN UP HERE**](#)



Just some of the household items donated by FCC for DVIP/RVAP clients.

FCC serves at Iowa City Free Lunch on Saturday, February 22. Our menu includes cheesy potatoes with ham casserole, mixed vegetables, fruit salad, green salad, bread & butter, dessert (cupcakes, cookies, bars, granola bars), juice or milk, and coffee. We expect to serve 140 meals. For the meal, you are invited to provide food items or to volunteer to serve.

The casserole signup sheet and pans with the recipe will be on the table by the church office by Sunday, February 2. To donate other food items or work on free lunch day, use the Signup Genius link above.

At any time, non-perishable items may be placed in the Free Lunch Box just inside the front doors of the church, and casseroles and desserts may be placed in the FCC kitchen freezer. Items may also be delivered to church on Friday, February 21 between 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. **All meal items must be at the church by 1 pm, February 21 at which time they will be transported directly to the FLP kitchen.**

First Christian Church prepares and serves free lunch on the 4th Saturday every other month. Our 2025 dates are April 26, June 28, August 23, October 25 and December 27. The guests at Free Lunch truly appreciate your generosity!

Other FLP Needs & Opportunities: The Iowa City FLP lists needed supplies on their [Amazon Wishlist](#). You can also find open days to volunteer on [FLP's Winter Sign Up Genius](#).

WEEK OF COMPASSION



SPECIAL OFFERING – **Week of Compassion**
FEBRUARY 16 & 23, 2025

Disciples congregations collect six special offerings annually to support ministries of the general church. In February, give to Week of Compassion, the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

This offering helps Disciples, through week of Compassion, to be able to respond quickly to disasters, both domestic and abroad. Working with trusted partners, they provide solidarity grants to meet urgent needs such as emergency supplies, water, shelter, and food. The special offering also supports refugee and immigrant assistance, and sustainable development efforts worldwide.

Here at First Christian, we invite you to support Week of Compassion with your financial gifts, which can be shared anytime in February. You may give by mailing a check to the church office or leaving it in the offering box (please make sure all gifts are marked “Week of Compassion”). You can also [give online](#) (select Fund: Special Offering (Regional) and Memo: Week of Compassion).

Thank you for your generosity!





More from our community



Spring Bike Tune-Up @ First Christian

Being near a busy biking trail is an advantage to FCC. And we all know that more bikes on the road leads to healthier humans and fewer emissions. Are you passionate about supporting cycling, or capable of helping tune and repair bikes? Kent Clark is convening a group to discuss a bike repair event at the church to get more people rolling. [Email Kent](#) if you'd like to be a part of the planning!

Simpson Youth Academy

Since 2017, First Christian has supported Simpson Youth Academy (SYA) and we have had four of our high school youth take part in this program that invites high school students to explore their faith more deeply.

We are pleased to have made a commitment to continue as one of the Allies in Youth Ministry congregations through 2027. SYA Director, Eric Rucker will join us in worship on February 9 to preach and will also lead conversation in Faith Formation following worship. Please join us on February 9!

[CLICK HERE FOR A REFLECTION BY A CURRENT SYA PARTICIPANT.](#)



Summer Camp Info



The 2025 camp schedule is now available! This year's theme is **Another Way**. Jesus reminded us that God always invites us to reimagine who we are and how we do things. At camp we will explore what would change if we lived as our authentic selves and respected the truths of others. In this humility, we will imagine how growing changes the way live.

Each year, children & youth from First Christian participate in summer camp at the Christian Conference Center, and we have several adults that attend as camp directors and counselors. We also cover 50% of camp registration fees!

[Click here for more information and to register.](#) Questions? Please contact [Pastor Kara](#).



My sincerest thanks for the conversations, cards, calls and other caring actions you have offered me during my recent time of loss. Once again, this congregation has illustrated the value of kindness and compassion in the real world! Bless you all for living your faith in remarkable ways!

Peace and Love in Christ, Carol Mertens, Office Manager FCC



February

WISHING A HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ALL THOSE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH!



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

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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