

FEBRUARY 2026

THIS MONTH @ FCC

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Many things can be true at once. These are hard times *and* there is goodness all around us. The realities of challenges we and our neighbors face are real *and* the normal commitments of life - working, fixing dinner, raising children, dancing in the rain - are real, too. We are carrying deep grief, pain, and fear *and* we also carry hope and joy.

In these times, let me remind you to take care of yourself and each other. And remember that quote Laura shared Sunday from a Disciples clergy friend from Minneapolis who recently commented, "Not everyone can do everything. You show up how you can, when you can. There's a lane for everyone." We are called to be present in this world and the best way to do that is by seeking the place where your particular gifts meet the world's needs. This is where you will find what you can do, how you can love and protect and support both your neighbors and the ways of Jesus.

Also know that there are many conversations happening about how we can build solidarity in these times, how we can support each other, how we can speak out, how we can harness our energy for good. Be watching communications for ongoing opportunities.

With Care,



P.S. Mark your calendars for our annual congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, February 22. We will elect new leaders and look ahead to 2026.

We also have lighting contractors coming Feb 2 & 3 to finish up our sanctuary lighting project. We need help removing the sanctuary seating at 12noon on Sunday, February 1 and then resetting the seating on Thursday, February 5 beginning at 5pm (before Ministry Team meetings). If you can help either time, it will be greatly appreciated.

This Issue

Announcements
[PAGE 02](#)

At First Christian
[PAGE 03](#)

Sunday Mornings
[PAGE 04](#)

Faith Together
[PAGE 05](#)

Keeping Connected
[PAGE 06](#)

In the Community
[PAGE 07](#)

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

connect with us





Announcements

GAME NIGHT

FEBRUARY 27, 7PM

Bring your favorite game and a snack to share!



If you have any questions, email

Chris R.

Summer Camp

REGISTER BY MAY 1
FOR EARLY BIRD PRICING

Summer may seem far away, but it will be here before we know it. Church camps are offered for families, grandparents & kids, senior adults, and 3rd-12th graders. Learn more and [register here](#).

ATTENTION

The book & puzzle exchange table will be extended through Sunday, March 22.

Happy 95th Birthday
Marilyn Woodin!

Feb. 23 1:00pm- 2:30pm

Jim and Heather invite you to gather with them for a party at Melrose Meadows. The party is in the lower level Wellness Center.

No need to RSVP—just stop by for a cupcake and to share good wishes.

No gifts, please, but cards/notes are appreciated.
For more details contact Heather.



Scholarships at FCC

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
APRIL 6, 2026



First Christian Church has two scholarship opportunities available and applications are now being accepted. Students pursuing post-secondary education or training after high school and who are connected with the church are encouraged to apply. Read more about the scholarships and find the application instructions through the link above.

'Souper' Bowl Potluck

FEBRUARY 8, 11:15PM

RSVP with what delicious potluck soup or dessert you will be bringing as well as if you would be willing to help set up, serve, and/or clean. We will also be collecting cans of hearty soup to donate to Mark Twain-Lucas Farms Food Pantry.

Don't forget to bring your own bowls and cutlery!



At First Christian

Lent is Coming...

The season of Lent is just around the corner. We invite you to engage it in meaningful ways.

Our **Lenten theme** this year is, "Tell Me Something Good: Grounding Ourselves in the Good News This Lent." In difficult times, while we continue to acknowledge the challenges, we will also remember God's good news.

Ash Wednesday - We will worship together onsite and online on Wednesday, February 18 at 6pm.

Lenten Small Groups - We will be offering Lenten Small Groups that will meet weekly for the six-weeks of Lent. Groups are offered at various times throughout the week and various locations, including a Zoom group. You can [sign up here](#).

Our Ministry Together

FCC's Ministry Teams FEBRUARY 5, 6:00PM

Connections Crew

Hospitality & Fellowship
Chair: [Chris R.](#)

Faith in Action

Missions & Outreach
Chair: [Suzanne K.](#)

Explore and Grow

Christian Ed for All Ages
Chair: [Jay T.](#)

Worship Team

Meaningful Worship
Chair: [Dave K.](#)

FCC's four Ministry Teams help dream, plan, and carry out the work of our church. Teams meet monthly, with the next gathering on Thursday, February 5 at 6pm. Future meetings are planned for March 5, April 9 and May 7. Come see where your gifts might fit or contact a team chair to learn more.



Special Offering: Week of Compassion February 15 and 22



Each year, Disciples congregations collect special offerings to support the wider church. In February, we focus on Week of Compassion, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) relief, refugee, and development fund.

Your gifts help provide emergency aid during disasters, support refugee and immigrant assistance, and fund sustainable development projects worldwide.

Here at First Christian, you can give anytime in February by check (marked "Week of Compassion"), in the offering box, or [give online](#) (select Fund: Special Offering (Regional) and Memo: Week of Compassion).

Thank you for your generosity!



Worship

SUNDAYS AT 10:00AM

All are invited and welcome to worship week.
Worship is available onsite in the sanctuary
and online at youtube/@icdisciples 

Upcoming Sermons

- Feb 1 (4th Sunday after the Epiphany)
Matthew 5:1-12, *The Work of Community*
- Feb 8 (5th Sunday after the Epiphany)
Matthew 5:13-20, *How Is Your Light Shining?*
- Feb 15 (6th Sunday after the Epiphany)
Luke 2:21-38, *Who We Really Are*
- Feb 22 (1st Sunday in Lent) John 2:1-11
The Good News Catches Us By Surprise

Faith Formation: Sundays, 11:15am

- Feb. 1: Megan V. presents, *Move Better Feel Better.*
- Feb. 8: 'Souper' Bowl all church potluck
- Feb. 15: Rev. Eric Rucker presents, *A.I., Faith, and Discipleship: How to be church in light of rapid tech advances.*
- Feb. 22: Annual Congregational meeting

Christian Century Conversations

FEBRUARY 8, 9:00AM

Join us before worship on the 2nd Sunday of each month for conversation around thought-provoking Christian Century articles. Meet in the upstairs conference room. Grab an issue, read what interests you, come share your thoughts. Questions? Contact Patricia A. and Beth S.

Nursery

Childcare is offered starting at 9:30am and goes through faith formation. Care is available for infants up to kindergarteners, and for older children as needed. The nursery is located in the lower-level east classroom.

Sunday Mornings



Sunday worship brings together many hands and hearts. There's a role for everyone! To learn how you can serve, call the church office or visit the link below.

ICDISCIPLES.ORG/VOLUNTEER



Marian leads children's moment



Dale reads scripture

Gale and John special music



Chi Rho & CYF Winter Retreat

Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON

Contact church office for ZOOM info

Upcoming Scriptures

February 4: Luke 2:21-38

February 11: John 2:1-11

February 18: Luke 7:36-50

February 25: Mark 6:32-44

Faith Together

Youth Groups



CYF (grades 9-12) meets on **Sundays, 4:00 - 5:30pm** at the church (unless specified otherwise). This month we will meet on **February 1, 15 & 22**. On **February 8** the youth are invited to help with some activities at the Souper Bowl Potluck after worship. There will be no afternoon meeting that day (2/8). All high school youth are invited to join us!



Chi Rho (grades 6-8) meets on **Sundays, 4:00 - 5:30pm** at the church (unless specified otherwise). This month we will meet on **February 1, 15 & 22**.



JYF (grades 2-5) meets once or twice a month on **Sundays, 12 - 1:15pm** at the church. In February we will meet on **February 8**. The regional winter retreat in Newton for this age group is Feb. 20-22. If your child is not yet signed up please register now and use code "CHURCH50."



Nancy blesses children in Worship & Wonder



Whitney leads a session on cancer in Iowa



Youth lead worship at winter retreat



Coffee with Friends

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 9:00AM

You are invited for coffee and conversation at HyVee (812 S. 1st Ave, Iowa City). This gathering happens on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and is sponsored by Disciples Women. All are invited!

FCC Connect

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 6:30PM

Contact church office for ZOOM info

Enjoy visiting with others? FCC Connect is an online opportunity to do just that. Sign on and join the conversation!



Saying goodbye to Bob & Diane before their move

Keeping Connected



Dancing at Vern's Retirement Party



Jesus in Mexico



Jim prepares the baptistry for spring baptisms

Ladies Lunch Out

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 11:30AM

All women of the church are invited to attend to Ladies Lunch Out! This month we will meet at Encounter Cafe, 376 S. Clinton St., Iowa City. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Nancy R.

Book Club

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 7PM

Contact church office for ZOOM info

This months book is *How to Read a Book* by Monica Wood. A charming, moving novel about second chances, unlikely friendships and the life changing power of stories. Questions? Contact Nancy M.





In the Community

We Serve Free Lunch!

The next meal FCC serves at Iowa City Free Lunch will be on Saturday, February 28. Our menu will include chicken and rice casserole, mixed vegetables, fruit salad, green salad, bread & butter, dessert, granola bars, juice or milk, and coffee. We expect to serve 145 meals.

- To donate food items or volunteer to work on Free Lunch Day, use the [Signup Genius link](#).
- A casserole signup sheet and casserole pans with recipe are available at church.
- Non-perishable items can be dropped in the blue Free Lunch Box anytime; perishable items should go in the FCC kitchen fridge; casseroles & desserts may be placed in the FCC freezer.
- Drop-offs are also accepted at FCC on Friday, February 27, from 11:30am to 1 pm.

ALL ITEMS MUST BE AT FCC BY 1pm ON Feb. 27, at which time they are transported to FLP.



FCC folks serve at Free Lunch

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciling (AR/PR) denomination. Every year, the Upper Midwest's AR/PR team puts together an "action calendar" for Black History month (February). This calendar includes educational opportunities and actions we can take, such as eating at a minority-owned restaurant.

[Click here to access the Black history month calendar.](#)

**SHELTER HOUSE
BOOK SALE**
860 Quarry Road, Coralville
Saturday, March 28 and Sunday, March 29
10:30 am - 4:00 pm



to learn how you can support Shelter House through their annual book sale by shopping, donating and volunteering!



February

**CLICK HERE
FOR FCC'S
FEBRUARY
CALENDAR**



WHO IS MY ELDER?



Last Name Your Elder

A-Cl Jon E.

Co-F Maggie K.

G-Kin Al Z.

Kit-Mic David K.

Mo-Sch Marcus S.

Sea-Z Jane D.

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*

Laurel Preston
Office Administrator

Michael Hull
Custodian

Lori Smith
Bookkeeper

Cameron Michel
Technology Assistant

McKenna Geake
Teegan Michel
Ella Romero
Sophia Romero
Nursery Caregivers

First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ

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Coralville, IA 52241
319-337-4181

icdisciples.org



*There's Room
at the Table
for Everyone*

Office Hours:
Monday & Wednesday:
9:00AM - 1:00PM
Tuesday & Thursday:
1:00 - 5:00PM

clergy staff available by appointment

connect with us

