



THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 15, 2023

A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Friends,

We are about halfway through Lent. We continue to explore the theme “Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith.” Some of you are worshipping with us. Some of you picked up a devotional booklet and are using that on your journey through Lent. Some of you are participating in a Spiritual Life Group. Some of you are doing all of these. I hope that you are finding ways to engage with this theme and, particularly, with the questions and longings of your heart.

Even if you haven’t really started engaging this season, it’s not too late to start. Here are some questions written to go along with our theme and season (Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org):

- At the end of your life, what do you want people to say about you?
- Is there a spiritual practice you would like to develop? If so, what and why?
- Where in your life would you like to say yes?
- What voices are harmful to you?
- What is something you are learning right now?
- What prevents you from starting over or beginning again?
- What can you offer the world? Are you offering it?
- How do you describe God?
- What do you long for?
- What grief do you carry in this season?
- Where are you going? What are you working toward?
- What are you afraid of?
- Where do you experience new life?

I am interested in what discoveries you make if you spend some time with these and other questions. I am interested in the ways that we grow when we face even difficult questions and are honest about them. I am interested in what our faith would look like if we embraced more questions. I’d love to hear from you.

With care, *Jill*

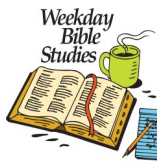
I am currently out of town with my family for Spring Break. Pastors Kara and Laura are on call if you need anything.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know you can support First Christian’s ministry by making a gift directly from your IRA? If you are 70 ½ years old or older, you can give up to \$100,000 per year directly from your IRA to First Christian Church (and any other charity). If you’re 72 or older, gifts from your IRA count toward your required minimum distributions. It is very easy to do, and the tax savings effectively lower your cost to make a gift, or to give more than you otherwise could.

The church’s upcoming capital campaign makes this a good time to check out efficient giving strategies. As with any giving and tax matters, you should consult your own trusted tax advisor—but if you’d like some tips on how to start that conversation, we can help. Contact me if you’d like to discuss options. Kent Clark, Capital Campaign Chair

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



BIBLE STUDY

Join us using [Zoom](#). We meet at **12noon each Wednesday.**

Upcoming scriptures:

March 15: John 11:1-45

March 22: Matthew 21:1-11



STRINGS AND SINGERS

All musicians are invited to be part of Disciples Strings and Singers. Want to join? You are welcome! Upcoming rehearsal dates are **March 15 and 29** at 6pm.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT



Ladies' Night Out in March will be at 5:30pm on Thursday, **March 16** at Reunion Brewery (516 2nd St., Coralville).

HANNAH CIRCLE

Hannah Circle will meet [on Zoom](#) on Monday, **March 20** at 1pm.

HANNAH



FCC'S BOOK CLUB

Join the First Christian Book Club on **March 23 @ 7PM** via [Zoom](#) for a discussion of Marianne Cronin's book The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot. This story of relationships across generations will remind you that there is life left to live even when one's days are short.



All 3rd - 5th graders are invited to JYF on **March 26** at noon in Fellowship Hall.

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.

March 5 - April 2:

Plenty Good Room: A Lenten Bible Study based on African American Spirituals (youth and adults)

Stories of Jesus (Pre-K through 5th grades)

Nursery for our younger kiddos

SUMMER MINISTRY PLANNING TEAM

Do you have creative ideas for summer ministry? Do you love to think outside the box and try new things? It is time to start planning for summer at FCC. If you would like to be part of our Ministry Planning Team (MPT) that works on planning for May through August, we would love to have you!

To participate, call or email Pastor Jill (icdisciple.pastor@gmail.com) by March 18 and let her know you want to be part of the Summer MPT. Questions? She'll be happy to answer those, too!

TIME TO REGISTER FOR CHURCH CAMP!



Children and youth (grades 2 - 12) can go to church camp with their peers. There is also Family Camp and Grand Camp (for grandparents and children). There is even a camp for Senior Adults (age 55+).

To learn more information and to register [visit the Christian Conference Center's website](#). And, remember, the church pays 1/2 of your registration, so be sure to use the code "church50"!

Church camp is a great experience! If you have questions, just ask!

PRAYERS & PRAISE

- We pray for Otto Newnum who tested positive for COVID.
- We pray for Jan Jensen's dad who is now on Hospice care.
- We pray for all who are traveling this week for Spring Break.
- We celebrate with Jan Jensen who has been selected for the Assistant Coaches Hall of Fame Class of 2023 and with Jayse Steeples whose basketball team won 1st place in their division of Special Olympics.
- We pray for all who are living in the aftermath of flooding, especially those in California.
- We continue to pray for those who are in a nursing home, homebound, have emotional and physical needs.

Please always let your pastors know about surgeries, hospitalizations, or other pastoral care needs.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who joined our staff in leading worship on March 12: Gene Hansen and Shannon Yost (Greeters); Krista Kronstein and Payton Steeples (Ushers); Al Zimmerman and Strings & Singers (Musicians); Jaida Kronstein-Steeples (Acolyte); Bruce Fischer (Scripture Reader); Maggie Keyser (Children's Moment); Emily Steeples, Cameron Michel and Teegan Michel (Communion servers); Emily Steeples (Elder); David Klein and Pam Ries (A/V); Kronstein-Steeples Family (Fellowship Time Host); Steve Strah (Valet Parking).

TWO SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

There are two scholarships available through First Christian annually and the scholarship application is ready for you! Applications for both scholarship are due April 3.

First Christian scholarship: [First Christian Church Scholarship | First Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\) \(icdisciples.org\)](https://www.icdisciples.org)

Sunier scholarship (English language literature or poetry) [Sunier Scholarship | First Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\) \(icdisciples.org\)](https://www.icdisciples.org)

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



(nancy.a.mckinstry@gmail.com, 319-400-1380) with questions or to sign up for these roles.

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 (laurie.dahms@gmail.com).

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

WORSHIP - MARCH 19, 2023 (4TH SUNDAY IN LENT)

Hymns - Open Our Eyes, Lord; Eat This Bread and Never Hunger; Amazing Grace!

Scripture - John 9:1-11

Sermon - Who Sinned?



SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE IS COMING

The Shelter House Book Sale will take place **March 25-26**. There are many ways you can prepare to participate:

Donate: Gather books, CDs, DVDs, vinyl records, and puzzles you are ready to part with. They can be dropped off (Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays 10am - 2pm; Sundays 2 - 4pm) through March 22 at 860 Quarry Rd, Coralville.

Volunteer: [Sign up to work a shift](#) either setting up before or working during the event.

Shop: Mark your calendar to shop at the sale March 25 or 26 from 10:30am - 4pm.

As a Dementia Friendly congregation, this opportunity might interest some of you.

MINI MEDICAL SCHOOL SERIES - NEURODEGENERATION: THE QUEST TO SAVE THE AGING BRAIN

This three-week Mini Medical School series will “simulate” medical school with hands-on activities and thought-provoking presentations to demonstrate how advances in neuroscience research are impacting quality of life.

This immersive program is designed to provide interactive experiences coupled with an engaging lecture in layman's terms breaking down cutting-edge research and biomedical discoveries at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.

Sessions take place April 18, April 25, and May 2 from 6:30 - 8:30pm at the Medical Education Research Facility on Newton Rd. The cost is \$25 for this series. You can [register here](#).

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!

What's on the table changes all the time...see if there is something there you might enjoy!

FIRST CHRISTIAN'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL

If you haven't already subscribed to it, visit it today. YouTube has simplified the web address so you can find it at:

<https://youtube.com/@icdisciples>



March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BIRTHDAYS Ollie Bogs 3/5 Scott Van Oss 3/7 Vic Edwards 3/7 Victoria Threlkeld 3/10 Thea Coobs 3/13	Rayanna Haslett-Tomova 3/14 Diane DeWitt 3/21 Jaida' Rose Kronstein-Steeple 3/22 Jay Thomas 3/22 Jan Ricklefs 3/23	Jan Ricklefs 3/23 Jane John 3/26 Mark Smith 3/31	1 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon Disciples Strings & Singers 6 PM Spiritual Life Group @ Jill Michel home 6:30PM	2 Spiritual Life Group @ Dahms' 11 AM	3	4
5 Worship 10 AM Faith Formation 11:15 AM Handbells 12 noon SLG Zoom 2:30PM Troop 270 5:30 PM Troop 2000 7 PM	6 Capital Campaign Team 6:30 PM	7 Spiritual Life Group @ Anderson/Dohrmann home 7 PM	8 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon Spiritual Life Group @ Jill Michel home 6:30PM	9 Spiritual Life Group @ Dahms' 11 AM Clergy Cluster 12 Noon FCC Connect @ Zoom 6:30PM Arrow Chapter 7PM	10	11  Change your clocks before bed!
12 Worship 10 AM Faith Formation 11:15 AM Handbells 12 noon SLG Zoom 2:30PM Troop 270 5:30 PM Troop 2000 7 PM	13 Finance Team 6 PM	14 Spiritual Life Group @ Anderson/Dohrmann home 7 PM	15 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon Disciples Strings & Singers 6 PM	16 Spiritual Life Group @ Dahms' 11 AM Ladies Night Out @ Reunion Brewery 5:30 PM Kara's PST 6:30 PM	17 	18
Pastor Jill on vacation (March 13-18)						
19 Worship 10 AM Faith Formation 11:15 AM Handbells 12 noon SLG Zoom 2:30PM Troop 270 5:30 PM	20 Hannah Circle @ Zoom 1 PM Capital Campaign Team 6:30 PM	21 Staff Meeting 10AM Spiritual Life Group @ Anderson/Dohrmann home 7 PM	22 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon Spiritual Life Group @ Jill Michel home 6:30PM	23 Women Clergy @ Zoom 10 AM Spiritual Life Group @ Dahms' 11 AM FCC Book Club @ Zoom 7 PM	24 Scout Troop 2000 Overnight Lock-in 7PM	25 Scout Troop 2000 Overnight Lock-in 1PM Dismissal
26 Worship 10 AM Faith Form 11:15 AM JYF 12 noon SLG Zoom 2:30PM Troop 270 5:30 PM Troop 2000 7 PM	27 Fellowship Hall in use 6:30 PM	28 Spiritual Life Group @ Anderson/Dohrmann home 7 PM	29 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon Spiritual Life Group @ Jill Michel home 6:30PM	30 Spiritual Life Group @ Dahms' 11 AM	31	ANNIVERSARIES Kent & Rebecca Clark 3/31



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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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

