

MARCH 2026

THIS MONTH @ FCC

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Lent is underway and we are exploring the theme “Tell Me Something Good: Grounding Ourselves in the Good News This Lent.” This theme is not a denial of the difficult things in our personal lives or in the world. But it is a reminder that we are invited to find our rootedness & our nourishment in God’s good news. Boy, do we need this!

Over the coming weeks we give attention to different facets of the good news of our faith. We have already talked about the wideness of God’s invitation and the surprising nature of God’s abundance. We will continue by talking about God’s great love, the impossible being possible, God’s protection and care for the vulnerable, the connection between good news, justice and mercy, and so much more.

I hope you will make a point to be worshipping with us throughout the season. And if you can’t be here onsite, always remember worship is available online through our [YouTube channel](#). I also hope you picked up a Lenten devotional booklet. And it’s not too late, you can still get one (or we’ll mail you one if you would like).

One other reminder: Laurel Preston, our Office Administrator, is moving to California to pursue an acting opportunity (Yay, Laurel!). She will complete her work with us on March 5. I’d encourage you to send her an email or a note or just stop by to thank her and wish her well. Beginning March 2 you will also see Malinda Thomas, our new Office Administrator, in the office and you can welcome her in this new role.

With Care, *Jill*

PS - I will be out of the office March 13 - 21. For pastoral care needs, please reach out to one of the other pastors or your elder.

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connect with us





Announcements

Pastor Laura's Sabbatical is Coming

At First Christian Church we honor our pastors by offering them three-month sabbaticals at regular intervals - some of you will remember that Pastor Jill had one in 2024.

Somewhat different from academic sabbaticals, clergy sabbaticals are grounded first in the Biblical concept of sabbath - rest, renewal, and wholeness. While sometimes learning and writing/producing are part of clergy sabbaticals, there is also an intentional focus on slowing down and experiencing renewal.

This summer Pastor Laura will be taking her sabbatical June - August. In addition to rest, her plans include intentional retreat time at Prairiewoods and/or Our Lady of the Prairie retreat centers, taking guitar lessons, and working on some songwriting with her friend and fellow singer/songwriter, John Jacobs.

It is our intention to hire someone to take on Laura's primary music responsibilities, while sharing other responsibilities across the current staff and volunteers.

If you have questions or curiosities, just ask. Laura is happy to talk about what she is looking forward to. The Personnel Team or other pastors are happy to talk about the significance of sabbatical.

Looking ahead, anticipate hearing more about Pastor Kara's sabbatical which will occur in 2027.

Big T-Shirt Order!

We will be doing another bulk order for t-shirts this month! If you would like to order a First Christian shirt, click the link [here](#) to see what is available.

Orders placed by March 18 will be delivered to the church without shipping costs - just mark "Team or Group Pick Up".

REMINDER! It is helpful to have church t-shirts for events in the community.

★ ★ Ready to Share ★ ★ ★ ★ Your Talent? ★ ★

Do you sing? Play an instrument? Are you funny? Do you write poetry? Do you dance? Do you juggle? Are you a beginning magician, or a seasoned one? Do you have other hidden or not-so-hidden talents?

If so, you are invited, whatever age you may be, to share your talents with the best audience ever! Join us for the First Christian Church Talent Show on Saturday, April 11 at 6pm

If you plan to join the fun, please [sign up online](#) or call the church office at 319-337-4181

Plan Ahead for Holy Week and Easter

Thursday, April 2:
Holy Week Soup Supper at 6pm
Holy Week Worship at 7pm

Sunday, April 5:
Worship at Sunrise
Easter Breakfast and Activities at 8:45am
Worship at 10am



At First Christian



Our Ministry Together

MARCH 5, 6:00PM

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, March 5 at 6pm. Future meetings are planned for April 9, May 7 and June 4. Come see where your gifts might fit or contact a team chair to learn more.

FCC's Ministry Teams

 **Connections Crew**
Hospitality & Fellowship
Chair: [Chris](#)

 **Faith in Action**
Missions & Outreach
Chair: [Suzanne](#)

 **Explore and Grow**
Christian Ed for All Ages
Chair: [Jay](#)

 **Worship Team**
Meaningful Worship
Chair: [Dave](#)

Green Potluck!

March 15 | 11:15am

Is it the luck of the Irish or spring fever? Whichever you would like to celebrate on March 15, join us for a potluck. Think green: Salad, Pistachio, Guacamole, Pickles, Spinach, even Green eggs and ham! Be creative!

If you are planning on coming, make sure to RSVP [here](#) and tell us what green treats you are bringing! Also if you would be willing to help set up, serve & clean up.

Hope to see everyone!

SPRING CLEANING

Join the Facilities Team on Saturday, March 28, from 12noon - 3pm (note the time change) for our next church workday. Think spring cleaning and outdoor work to prepare the grounds for growth.



In case you missed Mary's presentation "Incorporating Art into Your Life" you can access the slides [here!](#)

First Christian Board met on February 10

If you are interested in reading meeting minutes, board reports, and the financial summary, contact the church office for a copy of the board packet.



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](https://youtube.com/icdisciples)

Sunday Mornings



There's a role for everyone on Sunday mornings! To learn how you can serve, call the church office or visit the link below.

ICDISCIPLES.ORG/VOLUNTEER

Upcoming Sermons

Mar 1 (2nd Sunday of Lent)

Luke 7:36-50, *The Good News in Acts of Great Love*

Mar 8 (3rd Sunday of Lent)

Mark 6:32-44, *The Good News: Impossible Made Possible*

Mar 15 (4th Sunday of Lent)

Matthew 19:13-15 & Deuteronomy 24:17-22,
The Good News is for the Vulnerable

Mar 22 (5th Sunday of Lent)

John 8:2-11, *The Good News is Rooted in Mercy*

Faith Formation: Sundays, 11:15am

Mar. 1 - Ap. 12: We will discuss Rev. Terri Hord Owens' book *Staying at the Table: Being the Church We Say We Are*. Terri is the General Minister and President of our denomination. Her book challenges us to confront inconsistencies that diminish the impact of the Christian message. While reading the book is not required, be watching the Monday emails for suggested scripture readings to help you prepare.

Christian Century Conversations

MARCH 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 [Pat](#) and/or [Beth](#).

Nursery

Childcare is offered Sundays from 9:30am 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.



Disciples Strings & Singers



Jon offers communion



Mark reads scripture



Eric w/ SYA visits



Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON

ZOOM INFO THROUGH CHURCH OFFICE

Upcoming Scriptures

March 4: Matthew 19:13-15 and Deuteronomy 24:17-22

March 11: John 8:2-11

March 18: Mark 11:1-11

March 25: Matthew 28:1-10

Faith Together

Youth Groups

CYF

CYF (grades 9-12) will meet from 4:00-5:30pm on March 1, 8 & 29. Because of spring break we will not be meeting March 15 & 22. On March 29 we will meet at the North Liberty Rec Center - more details coming.

CHI RHO

Chi Rho (grades 6-8) will meet from 4:00-5:30pm on March 1, 8 & 29. Because of spring break we will not be meeting March 15 & 22.

JYF

JYF (grades 2-5) meets from 12:00 - 1:15pm on March 8 & 29 at the church for lunch, activities and fun!



Youth group games



JYF winter retreat in Newton



Youth lead trivia



Coffee with Friends

TUESDAY, MARCH 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, MARCH 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!

Disciples Women

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 6:30PM

Contact church office for ZOOM info

On Monday, March 16th Disciples Women will meet and invites any individuals interested in planning FCC women's fellowship events to attend this planning meeting on Zoom. Have questions? Contact [Mary](#).

Ladies Lunch Out

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 11:30AM

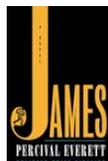
All women of the church are invited to attend to Ladies Lunch Out! This month we will meet at 2 Dogs Pub, 1705 S 1st Ave, Iowa City. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [Nancy R.](#)

Book Club

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 7PM

Contact church office for ZOOM info

This months book is *James* by Percival Everett. A dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi river toward the elusive and too-often-unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond. Told through the lives of Jim and Huck Finn. Questions? Contact [Nancy M.](#)



Faith Formation w/ Whitney

Keeping Connected



Bell choir practice



Faith Formation w/ Megan



Souper bowl potluck



In the Community

EASTER OFFERING

March 29 & April 5

The Easter Offering provides vital support for the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your generous gift helps equip college students for leadership, strengthens global mission partnerships, sustains health and social service ministries, supports the formation of new congregations, cares for pastors and chaplains, and so much more. Your gift has the power to transform lives and extend the love of Christ around the world. Mark your checks "Easter Offering" or [give online](#) (Fund: Special Offering (Regional), Memo: Palm Sunday/Easter).



Sing for Justice & Peace



Protective Accompaniment in Cedar Rapids

Supporting Houses Into Homes

March 1-15



FCC's Faith in Action Team is collecting donations March 1, 8 and 15 for Houses into Homes. HiH provides beds, furniture, and household items for people in Johnson County who are exiting homelessness, domestic violence, and other crisis situations.

Donation options are:

Cash Donation: Designate your FCC gift for Houses into Homes Dressers. FCC's goal is to purchase a minimum of 5 dresser kits (\$150 each) to build for the youth to deliver in April. [Giving online?](#) Use fund "Special Offering (Local)" and memo "Houses Into Homes."

Most Needed New or Gently-Used Items: Toasters, baking pans, baking sheets, pots and pans, can openers, table knives and cereal bowls. Place items in the designated box.

We will collect and deliver all donated items after Sunday, March 15. We will ask HiH to purchase the dresser kits plus provide an opportunity in April for FCC members to build the dressers.

Shelter House Book Sale!

March 28 and 29
860 Quarry Road,
Coralville 10:30a-4:00p

On February 15, the shelter house began collecting donations of books, cds, dvds, and puzzles. Donation times are every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 10:00am-2:00pm, and Sundays from 2:00pm-4:00pm.

They need many volunteers to help sort books and help during sale days. Sign up [here](#) to volunteer!





March



CLICK HERE
FOR FCC'S
MARCH
CALENDAR

WHO IS MY ELDER?



Last Name	Your Elder
A-Cl	<u>Jon</u>
Co-F	<u>Maggie</u>
G-Kin	<u>Al</u>
Kit-Mic	<u>David</u>
Mo-Sch	<u>Marcus</u>
Sea-Z	<u>Jane</u>



First Christian Church Staff

Rev. Jill Cameron Michel
Senior Pastor

Rev. Kara Seaton
Associate Pastor

Rev. Laura Kittrell
Minister of Music & Worship

Laurel Preston (thru 3/5)
Malinda Thomas
(begins 3/2)
Office Administrator

Michael Hull
Custodian

Lori Smith
Bookkeeper

Cameron Michel
Technology Assistant

McKenna Geake
Teegan Michel
Ella

Sophia Romero
Nursery Caregivers

connect with us



900 Lincolnshire Place
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