

APRIL 2025

THIS MONTH @ FCC

A Note from the Pastor

Friends,

As I write this I recognize my heart is tender. In the last week we have said goodbye to two long time church members who were also dear, wonderful women. Both Janet Moore and Wilma Evans held a special place in my heart, as I know they did in many of yours. Additionally, in recent days we have worried and prayed for other beloved friends.

At the same time we welcomed five new members on Sunday (see picture in this newsletter) and we have celebrated with other church friends.

I suppose this is what life is made of, right? The ups and downs, the grief and joy, they exist together.

Many of you have heard me say that one of my favorite verses of scripture is Matthew 28:8. This verse comes in the midst of the resurrection story as the women have gone to the tomb and found it empty. That verse reads, "So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples."

As we move toward Easter and as we, too, live in this mix of experiences and emotions, it comforts me to know we are not the first. For as long as humans have existed we have lived lives where different realities comingle. And perhaps it is exactly there, when laughter is on our lips and tears are in eyes, that we live life most fully.

And I am glad to live this life with you.

With care, *Jill*

P.S. I will be out of the office April 23-25. In my absence, Pastor Kara and our elders are available for pastoral care.

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Announcements

A Women's Social Event - April 7, 6:30PM



**HOSTED BY
HANNAH CIRCLE**

TWO TRUTHS and a LIE

All FCC women are invited to an evening of fun in this get-know-each-other event. Enjoy an opportunity to strategically share and stump one another with fun facts and mistruths about your life. Light refreshments will be served. If you have questions, please contact [Mary](#).

We Love our Church Building & Grounds

We are excited that Sally Strah has agreed to serve as our Facilities Team chair. And Sally can't do it alone!

Be watching for a communication soon asking how you can help keep our building and grounds in good condition. There will be opportunities for those who like to help with planning and decision making, those who like to paint or clean, those who are good at repair jobs or capable of meeting with contractors when we need to enlist their help. Watch for more information or, if you already know how you can help, contact [Sally](#).

Welcome New Members!

In worship on March 23, we welcomed 5 new members to First Christian Church. Chris, Megan Satchel, Nola and Billy. If you haven't met them yet, please say hello and get to know these wonderful folks. Do you have questions about membership at First Christian? Talk to [Pastor Jill](#).



Scholarships at FCC

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:
MONDAY, APRIL 7**

Applications are being accepted for two scholarships offered through First Christian Church. Students pursuing 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 applications through the links below.

[First Christian Church Scholarship](#)
[Sunier Scholarship](#)

Summer Camp Info

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
MAY 1**

Children & youth from First Christian - you're invited to attend camp at the Christian Conference Center in Newton, Iowa this summer! Our congregation has a long standing relationship with the camp and sends many youth as well as adults serving as directors and counselors each year. Plus, FCC covers 50% of registration fees!

Check out the 2025 camp schedule and register below. Contact [Pastor Kara](#) if you have any questions!

> REGISTRATION



Lent & Easter

MARCH - APRIL 2025

Spiritual Life Groups Continue

These small groups continue during Lent exploring together the devotional "Facing Jerusalem" by Rev. Terri Hord Owens. Along with Pastors Jill & Kara, we thank the following people who are leading groups this season: Malinda, John & Nancy, Kent & Rebecca. Thank you!

Palm Sunday

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 10:00AM
Worship on this Sunday will begin with the waving of palm leaves as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We also will celebrate baptisms on this Sunday.



Soup Supper

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 6:00PM
FCC Elders are hosting a simple meal of soup and bread prior to the Holy Week Worship service. Join us in Fellowship Hall.

Holy Week Worship

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 7:00PM
Join us for this time of worship where we will hear the stories of and remember the last week of Jesus' life.



Easter Sunday at First Christian

APRIL 20

The season of Lent ends and the Easter celebration begins!

Easter Morning Schedule

6:15AM: Sunrise worship (onsite)

Come out early to celebrate the risen Jesus with a simple worship service that includes scripture, music and communion.

9:00AM: Light breakfast & intergenerational activities (onsite)

All ages are invited to gather in Fellowship Hall for a light breakfast and variety of crafts and other Easter morning activities.

10:00AM: Easter worship (onsite & online)

Join us in worship for traditional hymns, scripture, a meaningful message, baptisms and communion. All are welcome!



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



Upcoming Sermons

Everything we do is rooted in how we see ourselves and others. In Lent we continue to reflect on who we are and whose we are, embracing our identity as children of God.

April 6: **You are Connected**

(I Corinthians 12:14-26)

April 13: **You are Brave** (Esther 4:1-17)

We sometimes forget that God has claimed us. Easter invites us to remember, to live accordingly, and to share the good news.

April 20: **Remember What You Know**

(Luke 24:1-12)

Where do our loyalties lie? We are invited to renew our commitment to follow in God's ways even when it means risk.

April 27: **Choosing the Way of God**

(Acts 5:27-32)

Faith Formation

In Lent, we continue to explore together (with all ages!) what we can learn about God and creation through our senses. We'll also engage in a new prayer practice each week. Join us after worship for this interactive Lenten experience!

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.

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.

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Sunday worship leaders: acolyte and scripture reader.



Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON

Please contact the office for Zoom link.

Upcoming Scriptures

April 2: Esther 4:1-17

April 9: Luke 24:1-12

April 16: Acts 5:27-32

April 23: Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)

April 30: Acts 9:36-43

Faith Together

Above: Middle School and High School youth at the winter retreat in Newton.
Right: Middle school youth take part in a photo scavenger hunt at FCC.



Youth Group - High School

APRIL 6, 13, & 26-27

CYF (grades 9-12) has an exciting schedule this month:

- April 6 CYF will leave at 1pm to visit Culver-Stockton College in Canton, MO.
- April 13 will be a regular meeting at 4:30pm
- April 26 we will have a lock-in at the church and then volunteer with Houses Into Homes on April 27.

Youth Group - Middle School

APRIL 13 & 26-27

Chi Rho (grades 6-8) will meet on April 13, 4:30-6pm, at the church for activities. April 26 we will have a lock-in at the church and then volunteer with Houses Into Homes on April 27.

Youth Group - Grades 2, 3, 4, 5

APRIL 13

JYF (grades 2-5) will meet with Steve Strah & Pastor Kara from 12-1:15pm in Fellowship Hall for lunch, an activity and games.

If you have questions about programming for children & youth at FCC, please contact [Pastor Kara](#).



FCC Connect

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 6:30PM

Contact the office for Zoom link.

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, APRIL 17, 11:30AM

Join the FCC ladies for lunch! This month we meet at Hokkaido Ramen House (201 E. 9th St. Coralville). Contact [Nancy R.](#) with any questions.

Book Club

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 7:00PM

Contact the office for Zoom link.

In April we are reading

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store.

This book is historical fiction that takes readers into the lives of the people who live on Chicken Hill, a neighborhood of “ramshackle houses and dirt roads where the town’s Blacks, Jews, and immigrant whites who couldn’t afford any better lived.” Gathering available at FCC and on Zoom. Questions? Contact [Nancy M.](#)



Keeping Connected



Disciples Strings & Singers

WEDNESDAYS, 6:00PM

If you play an instrument, like to sing, or both, you are invited to share in music ministry at FCC! For more information, please contact [Pastor Laura.](#)



Top: Faith Formation, Praying in Color. Middle: FCC supports Pastor Laura receiving an award. Bottom: Two of our Sunday morning AV volunteers.



In the Community

IN APRIL, WE SERVE LUNCH!

APRIL 26, 2025

FLP SIGN UP HERE



IOWA CITY
Free Lunch Program

Saturday, April 26 is our next Iowa City Free Lunch Program (FLP) serving date. Our menu will be Chicken and Rice casserole, mixed vegetables, fruit salad, green salad, bread & butter, dessert, granola bars, juice or milk, and coffee. We expect to serve 140 meals.

The casserole signup sheet and casserole pans with recipe will be on the table by the church office by Sunday, March 30. 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; casseroles and desserts may be placed in the FCC kitchen freezer. Items may also be delivered to church on Friday, April 25 between 11:30am - 1:00pm. **All meal items must be at the church by 1 pm, April 25 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 remaining 2025 dates are June 28, August 23, October 25 and December 27. The guests at Free Lunch truly appreciate your generosity!

Other FLP Needs & Opportunities:

- Give - send monetary donations to FCC and designate for FLP.
- Purchase needed supplies from the FLP [Amazon Wishlist](#).
- Sign up for an open days to volunteer on [FLP's Spring Sign Up Genius](#).



Just part of FCC's generous donation of toilet paper, baby diapers and period product for our 3 local food pantries. Thank you to all who contributed!



APRIL 13 & 20, 2025

The Easter Offering provides vital support for the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), allowing us to do more together than we can alone. 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.

Here at First Christian, we invite you to support the Easter Offering with financial gifts, which can be shared anytime in April. 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 "Easter Offering"). You can also [give online](#) (select Fund: Special Offering (Regional) and Memo: Easter Offering). Thank you for your generosity!



April



*Warm wishes
to those
celebrating
birthdays and
anniversaries
in April.*



Who is my elder?

Last Name	Elder
A-CI	<u>Lora</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>

FCC elders through February 2026.

To manage your information and access FCC's online directory, click on the Realm logo



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

connect with us



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icdisciples.org

*There's Room
at the Table
for Everyone*

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
9:00AM to 12:00PM

clergy staff available
by appointment