

APRIL 2026

THIS MONTH @ FCC

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Soon the season of Lent will be over and Easter will arrive. But before we rush ahead, I encourage you to stay present in this season. I recently read an article by Lorna Ramos, Director of the Office of Christian Vocations for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), titled "Returning to Ourselves and One Another." In it she talks about Lent as a season of returning, but asks the question, "To what do we return?" She proposes two things...returning to ourselves and to one another.

In Lorna's words, "Maybe return to ourselves, first. To sit still with ourselves, to name our wants, hurts, and distractions and set them down, is not a retreat from the world but a way of re-entering it with open and compassionate eyes."

She goes on writing, "Then, [we return] to one another. The fasting, prayer, and giving practices of Lent are not private acts. They are movements outward. When we fast, we feel the hunger of those who have no choice. When we give, we close the distance between our comfort and what others need. When we pray, we bring the suffering of the world before the One who holds it."

There is still time in this season to participate in both of these.

Be still. Reflect. Be honest with yourself.

Look outward. Connect with the hurts and pains of the world. Claim again God's love for the world.

One other thing...on Palm Sunday (March 29) there is an ecumenical Public Witness Event reminding us that at the core of Christianity is the call to stand with our neighbors. It is in downtown Iowa City from 2:30 - 3:30pm that day. I'll be there and would love to see you.

With Care, *Jill*

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connect with us



Holy Week & Easter at First Christian

PALM SUNDAY

Worship (10am) - Join us as we sing “Hosannas” and wave palms. Children will begin the service with a “palm parade” and we will all end the service with the waving of palms.

Remembering that Palm Sunday was for Jesus an act of public witness confirming the priorities of God, you are invited to **Palm Sunday Public Path**, an ecumenical public witness event, where we will affirm that our faith calls us to care for the vulnerable. This event begins at 2:30pm at 21 N. Clinton St, IC with a walk to the Ped Mall and continues at 2:45pm at the Ped Mall Stage.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

We miss an important part of Jesus’ story when we go straight from Palm Sunday to Easter. Holy Week worship allows us to remember all the events of Jesus’ last week.

Soup Supper, hosted by the Elders (6pm) - Join FCC’s Elders for a simple meal of soup, bread/crackers, and veggies.

Worship (7pm) - We will gather in the sanctuary for a meaningful service reflecting on Jesus’ last week and ending in silence.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunrise Worship (6:15 AM) - Gather on the back lawn around the fire pit for an early morning service celebrating the resurrection as the sun rises. Bring a lawn chair and dress to be outdoors.

Breakfast and Activities (8:45 AM) - In Fellowship Hall, breakfast will be served! Come enjoy pancakes (regular and gluten free), sausages (meat and vegan), fruit, juice, and coffee. The men are cooking - so if you’d like to help cooking, set up or clean up, [click here](#). While breakfast is going on, we’ll also have fun Easter themed activities for all ages.

Easter Worship (10:00 AM) - Join us in the sanctuary for a service of celebration as we remember the core story of Christianity.



MARCH 29 &
APRIL 5

The Easter Offering supports the vital ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), including leadership development for college students, global missions, health and social services, new congregations, and care for pastors and chaplains.

At First Christian, you’re invited to give by mailing a check, placing it in the offering box (put “Easter Offering” on the memo line), or [giving online](#) (Fund: Special Offering (Regional), Memo: Easter Offering). Thank you for your generosity!



Announcements



Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity held its Annual Habitat Friends Dinner & Awards on March 12. Jim (left) received the Tom Glau Award for outstanding ReStore volunteer service, and John (right) received the Kazi Alward Award for long-term dedication. Congratulations and thank you Jim, Tom and John for your commitment!

Supporting Our Immigrant Neighbors

There are several ways we can do this.

- Local organizations Catholic Worker House and Escucha Mi Voz sponsor protective accompaniment for local immigrants and asylum-seekers meeting at the **DHS offices in Cedar Rapids on the first Tuesday of every month**. Our role is to be physically present to provide support, encouragement, witness, protection, and comfort to those experiencing fear and anxiety. Follow Escucha Mi Voz on social media for updated information.
- Have fun for a good cause! Local immigrant support organization, **Open Heartland**, is sponsoring an evening of Lotería (think Mexican Bingo) with food, a silent auction, and fellowship with our immigrant neighbors at **Big Grove, Iowa City, on Thursday, April 16 at 6pm**. All proceeds will support food assistance for over 700 local immigrant families.
- Support local immigrant serving agencies such as Open Heartland, Immigrant Welcome Network, and IC Compassion with your donations and your volunteer hours.

Looking to learn more or attend events with a friend? Contact Jon.

Table to Table Dinner & Fundraiser



Join local food rescue organization Table to Table **Wednesday, April 22 from 5:30-7:30pm** at **Celebration Farm** for this year's Annual Dinner and fundraiser! Gather together for food from local restaurants, games and auction items to raise funds. Tickets are \$75 per person and can be purchased at www.table2table.org/dinner.

Support our community while enjoying fellowship and great food! See Jon for details or questions.

Save the Date

- A scone-making class will be hosted by Disciples Women on **Saturday, June 6, at 10am**.
- IC PrideFest is **Saturday, June 20**. FCC will have a booth & march in the parade. More info and sign up soon!



- Flamingos will be back in **May!** Be on the lookout for more info soon...





At First Christian

Our Ministry Together

APRIL 9, 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, April 9 at 6pm. Future meetings are planned for 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

Summer Camp

REGISTER BY MAY 1

Church camp for families and grades 2-12 at our regional camp & conference center, with FCC covering 50%—learn more and [register here](#).

Scholarships @ FCC

APPLY BY APRIL 6

FCC students planning post-secondary education after high school are encouraged to apply for our scholarships - learn more and [apply here](#).

All Church Talent Show

APRIL 11, 6:00PM

Do you sing, play an instrument, tell jokes, write poetry, dance, juggle, or have another talent? All ages are invited to share at the First Christian Church Talent Show on Saturday, April 11 at 6pm. [Sign up online](#) or call the church office at 319-337-4181.

Spring Dreams & Flower Schemes

APRIL 20 AT 6:30 PM

FCC women are invited to join the fun, conversation, and refreshments as Master Gardener Susan shares basic design concepts to transform flower beds or containers, plus ideas for incorporating herbs and vegetables—sponsored by Disciples Women.

Little Jesus Goes Places

Friends, as Disciples we carry Jesus in our hearts. The Explore and Grow Committee invites you to carry a "Little Jesus" in the days ahead and share a photo with [the office](#), [Pastor Kara](#), or the church Facebook group. Need a figure? Extras are in the office—we look forward to seeing where life takes him!



Go Green Tip:



We have likely all donated clothing to a thrift store, but what do you do with scrap fabrics and textiles that are no longer in good shape? "[Let's Go Green](#)" has some tips to help reduce our textile consumption and links to help recycle.



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://www.youtube.com/@icdisciples)

Upcoming Sermons

April 5 - Easter Sunday

Matthew 28:1-10, *The Good News Is Alive in the World*

April 12 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-31, *Peace Be with You*

April 19 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Luke 24:13-35, *In Grief and Celebration*

April 26 - 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47, *Life in Community*

Faith Formation: Sundays, 11:15am

April 5: Join us for Easter breakfast and activities at 8:45 am. There is no faith formation after worship on Easter Sunday.

April 12: We will finish our discussion of *Staying at the Table: Being the Church We Say We Are*.

April 19 - May 3: *Planning for Next...three planning seminars to make your wishes known*

- **April 19:** Healthcare and End of Life Planning with Elder Jane
- **April 26:** Funeral Planning with Pastor Jill
- **May 3:** Estate Planning with Kirby from Christian Church Foundation

Nursery

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

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/VOLUNTEERS](https://www.icdisciples.org/volunteers)



Stan and granddaughter read scripture



Serving as acolyte, Children's Moment with Chris



Disciples Ringers practice

Bible Study



WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON

CONTACT OFFICE FOR LINK

Upcoming Scriptures

- April 1: John 20:19-31
- April 8: Luke 24:13-35
- April 15: Acts 2:42-47
- April 22: TBD
- April 29: Acts 1:6-14

Faith Together

Youth Groups



CYF (grades 9-12) will meet from 4:00-5:30pm on April 12 & 19. On April 25 CYF has a lock-in and then volunteers at Houses into Homes on Sunday, April 26.

GRADES 9-12



Christian Century Conversations

APRIL 12, 9:00AM

You are invited to join the Christian Magazine discussion led by Beth and Patricia in upper level classroom (by the elevator) at 9am on Sunday, April 12.



Some of the articles in the April 2026 Christian Century are as follows: Easter in a Brutal World, A Better Prayer for Prisons, Sermons Without Church, Hope Arrives in the Present Tense, For Mark, Easter Begins in Trembling, Trama at the Tomb, and The Lives of Wild Seeds.

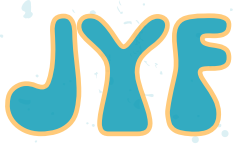
Chi Rho (grades 6-8) meets from 4:00-5:30pm on April 12 & 19. On April 26 Chi Rho will meet at Houses to Homes at 9:00am.



GRADES 6-8



Above: Youth group games



JYF (grades 2-5) meets from 12:00 - 1:15pm on April 12 & 19 at the church for lunch, activities and fun!

GRADES 2-5

You may be interested in the online Christian Century newsletter that you can find more information about at christiancentury.org. You will find 2025 Christian Century magazines on the table in the narthex. Articles within them are open for discussion also.



Coffee with Friends

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 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!

Ladies Night Out

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 5:30PM

All women of the church are invited to attend to Ladies Night Out! This month we shift back to meeting in the evening and will meet at Fiesta Mexican Restaurant (720 Pacha Pkwy, North Liberty). If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [Nancy](#).

FCC Connect

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 6:30PM

CONTACT OFFICE FOR LINK

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

Disciples Women

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 6:30PM

CONTACT OFFICE FOR LINK

Join Disciples Women on Monday, April 20, for Spring Dreams & Flower Schemes! Enjoy refreshments, conversation, and a presentation by Master Gardener Susan. Read more about this event on [page 04](#). Questions about Disciples Women? Contact [Mary](#).

Book Club

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 7PM

CONTACT OFFICE FOR LINK

This months book is *Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books* by Kirsten Miller. The provocative and hilarious satire about a small Southern town, a pitched battle over banned books, and a little lending library that changes everything. Questions? Contact [Nancy](#).



Game Night

Keeping Connected



Green Potluck



Children collect noisy offering





In the Community

IN APRIL, WE SERVE FREE LUNCH

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 10:30AM - 1:30PM

APRIL FREE LUNCH SIGN UP 

The next meal FCC serves at Iowa City Free Lunch will be Saturday, April 25, with a menu of cheesy potatoes and ham casserole, mixed vegetables, fruit salad, green salad, bread & butter, dessert, granola bars, juice or milk, and coffee. We expect to serve 130 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 will be 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, April 24, from 11:30am - 1pm. **ALL ITEMS MUST BE AT FCC BY 1pm ON APRIL 24** - at which time they are transported to FLP.



Above: FCC serves at the Free Lunch Program on Feb. 28. Below: FCC donations of household items for Houses into Homes in March.

HOUSES INTO HOMES DRESSER BUILD



APRIL 12, 4:30-7:00PM & APRIL 18, 9:30AM-12PM

Hooray! First Christian raised enough money to sponsor two FCC dresser builds! **Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, April 8.**

To participate, you must:

1. [Register HERE](#) with Houses into Homes in their volunteer system (Boomerang Volunteer), **AND**
2. [Sign up HERE](#) for the FCC build date of your choice.

All building will take place at Houses Into Homes, 401 6th Ave, Coralville.



April

CLICK HERE
FOR FCC'S
APRIL
CALENDAR



WHO IS MY ELDER?



Last Name	Your Elder
A-CI	<u>Julie</u>
Co-F	Barb
G-Kin	<u>Al</u>
Kit-Mic	Steve
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

Malinda Thomas
Office Administrator

Michael Hull
Custodian

Lori Smith
Bookkeeper

Cameron Michel
Technology Assistant

McKenna Geake
Teegan Michel
Ella
Sophia Romero
Nursery Caregivers

connect with us



First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ

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*