



MAY 2026

THIS MONTH @ FCC

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

I want to share some things around FCC I am celebrating:

- On Sunday I led the final session of the *Discovering the Bible* study. This was a 30-week study that met for 1 ½ hours each week and asked participants to do homework between sessions. It was no small commitment. While a few folks were not able to complete the study, I am so proud to say that 20 people did! I am so grateful for their commitment and for the conversations we had along the way.
- This month we have seen a great example of how the church can make a difference in the community. We had eleven individuals over two days build eight dressers, and thirteen youth and adults do four home deliveries, all with Houses into Homes. We served 149 meals at Free Lunch Program. Additionally, we have been serving in other ways and advocating for folks in the world.
- Our church's commitment to care for their pastors with the gift of sabbatical will soon be active again. Pastor Laura will be on sabbatical June - August. She is looking ahead and doing all she can to leave us in good shape and ready for that time. And we will be excited to give her this break and then to hear about her time away when she returns.
- Speaking of sabbatical, don't worry that I will be leading music - the Personnel Team would never do that to you! 😊 We have a much better plan. Malinda Thomas will be working as our Sabbatical Music Director. We are grateful for her willingness to take on this short term role in addition to her ongoing role as our Office Administrator.

What is happening at FCC that you are excited about? I'd love to hear!

With Care,

Jill

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connect with us

Announcements

This May, watch for flocks of pink flamingos landing in yards around the neighborhood!

We are hosting a fundraiser to support kids attending our church camp and the United Way campership program. For a suggested \$40 donation, you can host a flock in your own yard, send a flock to someone's home or purchase "flamingo insurance" to keep your own yard flock-free.

Watch for a separate communication with details and help us send more kids to summer camp!



Church Potluck!



MAY 17, 11:15AM

Plan to stay after worship on Sunday, May 17 for a potluck to celebrate our graduates. You are invited to bring a family favorite or simply something you enjoy eating. Graduation cake will be provided by the church.

As usual we will need people to help before, during, and after the potluck, so [sign up here!](#)

CRASE Training



SUNDAY, MAY 31, 11:15AM-1:30PM

On Sunday, May 31 following worship we will welcome the Coralville community Resource Officer and other Coralville police officers who will lead us in CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events) Training.

While this is information we hope we never need, the Safety & Security Policy Team thinks it is important to bring this training to the church, both so we all can have the information and to inform the policy they are working on.

There will be activities for children through 5th grade during this training. Middle and high school youth are invited to attend at their family's discretion. Please RSVP (by May 25) your intention to attend [using this sign up](#). Lunch will be provided for all, so RSVP for kids as well as youth and adults.

General Assembly is Coming in July

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) gathers as a denomination periodically. Historically we have done this every other year at a common location. You might remember last summer several of us went to Memphis for the gathering of the General Assembly.

A change in our structure invites us to gather every year. The new rotation will mean that we gather in 2026 and 2027 online and then in 2028 at a common location. The hope is to give more people the opportunity to participate and to connect with Disciples from beyond our local congregation. Dates this year are July 10-11, 2026.

There are two ways you can participate:

- If you would like to simply attend the General Assembly, [registration](#) is open. The cost is \$30. You can read an [overview here](#). You can see the [schedule here](#). Participating is a great way to get a taste of General Assembly.
- If you would be interested in being a voting delegate for our congregation, please let Pastor Jill or Marian know. Delegates will generally serve a 3-year term, but with the new structure we will start with staggered (1-year, 2-year, and 3-year) terms. Let us know about your interest or questions.



At First Christian

Our Ministry Together

MAY 7, 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, May 7 at 6pm. Future meetings are planned for June 4, July 2, and August 6. 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

Get registered for church camp at our regional camp & conference center. FCC covers 50% of the fee! Learn more and [register here](#).

Music Ministry @ First Christian

Love to sing or play an instrument? Want to learn to play handbells? Have a piece of special music you'd like to share? There are many ways to get involved with music @ FCC - [ask Laura](#).

Scone Making Class

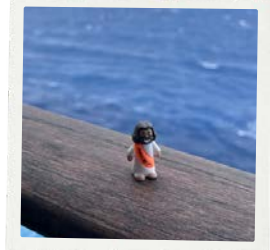
JUNE 6, 10AM - 12NOON

Learn to make an American-style scone, with your choice of fruit, flavorings or other add-ins. Space is limited to seven stations - you can chef individually or with a partner, including a youth. Cost is \$5 per station, to be paid upon arrival. More information is available when you register on [SignUp Genius](#). This event is Sponsored by Disciples Women.



Where's Jesus Now?

Little Jesus has been hanging with superheroes in Whitney's office and with our youth, traveling to San Diego with Jon and cruising with Pastor Jill. Where will you take him next? Share your pictures with [the office](#) or the church Facebook group.



Go Green Tip:



Plastic is a convenience material that is wreaking havoc on our planet and our health. "[Let's Go Green](#)" has some information and tips to help reduce the impact of plastics, as well as how to [recycle plastics](#) that you can't leave at the curb.



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)

Upcoming Sermons

May 3 - 5th Sunday of Easter

Deuteronomy 34:1-5, *Unfinished Business*

May 10 - 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14, *Look Around*

May 17 - 7th Sunday of Easter

II Timothy 3:14-15

Youth Sunday, Graduate Recognition, and Baptisms

May 24 - Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21, *Moving in Our Midst*

May 31 - 1st Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 28:16-20

Faith Formation: Sundays, 11:15am

May 3: Final session of *Planning for Next...making your wishes known*

- Estate Planning with Kirby from Christian Church Foundation.

May 10: Intergenerational Activity

May 17: An all-church potluck follows worship to celebrate our graduates

Faith Formation takes a break during the summer. It will return after Labor Day. Look for other opportunities for learning and fellowship throughout the summer.

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



Jayse invites adults to join him for Children's Moment.



Alana shares our Easter benediction.



Teegan, Jayse, & Ava lead worship on Easter morning.



Jane leads Faith Formation talking about medical directives

Bible Study



WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON
CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM LINK

- Upcoming Scriptures*
- May 6: II Timothy 3:14-15
 - May 13: Acts 2:1-21
 - May 20: Matthew 28:16-20
 - May 27: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Faith Together

Youth Groups



GRADES 9-12

CYF (grades 9-12) will meet from 4:00-5:30pm on May 3 & 17. May 3 will take place at church. May 17 will take place at the Clark home. Youth will also lead worship on Youth Sunday (May 17).



GRADES 6-8

Chi Rho (grades 6-8) meets from 4:00-5:30pm on May 3 for Youth Sunday planning and on May 17 for an end of year gathering.



GRADES 2-5

JYF (grades 2-5) meets from 12:00 - 1:15pm on May 3 & 17 at the church for lunch, activities and fun!

The youth pause their regular gatherings during the sunny summer months for adventures with family, friends, and going to church camp! Watch for pop-up events, and get ready to jump back in when meetings resume in September!



Youth studying at Baptism class



Delivery with Houses into Homes



Christian Century Conversations

MAY 10, 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, May 10.

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, MAY 12, 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, MAY 14, 6:30PM

CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR ZOOM LINK

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

Ladies Night Out

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 5:30PM

All women of the church are invited to attend to Ladies Night Out! Enjoy an evening out as we meet for dinner at Maggie's Farm Pizza (1308 Melrose, Iowa City). If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [Nancy](#).

Book Club

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 7PM

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM LINK

This month's book is *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali. This coming-of-age story of hope and betrayal explores the lives of two girls growing up in Iran in the 50's and 60's. Questions? Contact [Nancy](#).



Disciples Women

SUMMER UPDATES

Disciples Women are hosting a Scone Making class in June (information on [page 03](#)). Their next scheduled business meeting is August 17 at 6:30pm. And they are planning a fun social event for September 21...more information to come. Questions about Disciples Women? Contact [Mary](#).



Women's Social: Spring Dreams & Flower Schemes

Keeping Connected



Men preparing breakfast on Easter Sunday



JYF kids playing cooperative games



FCC attends Loteria for Open Heartland



In the Community

JOIN US @ IOWA CITY PRIDEFEST!

SATURDAY, JUNE 20 11AM-6PM

SIGN UP

First Christian Church will once again celebrate and support the LGBTQ+ community by participating in the Iowa City Pride parade and hosting a booth at the festival. We'd love for you to be part of this meaningful day! Please use this [sign-up link](#) to:

- Donate non-chocolate candy (don't want it to melt in the heat!)
- Walk (or ride) in the parade at noon with FCC
- Volunteer for a time slot to be a host at our booth

Pride is a powerful way to extend the message of love, welcome, and inclusion to the broader community.



2025 Pride Parade



Serving at the Free Lunch Program and building dressers for Houses Into Homes.

Pentecost Offering

SUNDAYS, MAY 17 AND 24

In a world where many people feel uncertain, divided, or disconnected from one another, the Church is called to be a different kind of presence – one that reflects Christ's compassion, humility, and grace. Not just believe. Not just gather. But to live in ways that bring healing and hope. The New Church Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is committed to doing just that with emerging and affiliating congregations. Your gifts to the Pentecost Offering help support this work. To give, mark your checks "Pentecost Offering" or [give online](#) using the "Special Offering (Regional)" fund and the "Pentecost" memo.





Celebrating our Graduates

CONGRATS

Join us in worship on
May 17, when we will
recognize and celebrate
all our high school
graduates this year
including:

Jacob

Jack

Mae

Teegan

Dakota

Brogan

Vincent

Grayson





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



WHO IS MY ELDER?

Last Name Your Elder

A-CI Julie

Co-F Nancy

G-Kin Al

Kit-Mic Steve

Mo-Sch Marcus

Sea-Z Jane

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
Jenna Janssen
Custodians

Lori Smith
Bookkeeper

Cameron Michel
Technology Assistant

McKenna Geake
Teegan Michel
Ella
Sophia Romero
Nursery Caregivers


First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ



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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

