

JULY 2025

# THIS MONTH @ FCC

## A Note from the Pastor

Friends,

This time of the year I look forward to church camp. I have the joy of co-directing one of our CYF camps (July 20-26). That means I get to spend a week with high school students from across our region. And truly, I think high school youth are magical. It is such a privilege to spend this time with them.

My love for CYF camp started when I was in high school. It was such an important part of my summer. I wouldn't have missed camp for anything. I love to help create that opportunity for young people today.

And I love to see how many of our folks participate in camp, either as campers, counselors, or directors. We have 25 people of all ages going to camp this summer, some to more than one camp.

This year July brings another opportunity. The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will gather in Memphis (July 12-15). This is the whole church gathering of our denomination. In some ways the assembly reminds me of camp. I see people I haven't seen in a while, learn new things, experience meaningful worship, carve time out of my regular schedule, and find myself refueled for ministry. And this year there are around 12 people from FCC who are attending!

I mention both of these because they are good reminders of several things:

- We are part of something bigger than ourselves. We are in covenantal connection with the larger church.
- Time away can hold great gifts for us.
- There are many ways for you to participate in the church both in and beyond our congregation. Just ask - I'd love to share more!

With care, *Jill*

P.S. Please take a moment and read the next page about staff time away during July. Each of us will be gone at various points, but there will always be someone on call and available for you.

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*connect with us*





# Announcements

## Mondays on the Lawn - A Celebration of Cultures

Throughout July, join us on the lower east lawn at First Christian Church on Mondays at 7pm to celebrate arts and music of many cultures. A love offering (cash or checks made to First Christian) will be taken each week to support a different community agency. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and get ready to enjoy the line up for this summer!



**July 7:** Open Heartland Children's Folklorico dancers will perform and Mexican sweetbreads served. Donations will support Open Heartland.

**July 14:** Iowa Sudanese Music Band with Dr. Almousaly will perform. Sudanese sweets served and immigrant artisans will attend. Donations will support Immigrant Welcome Network.

**July 21:** Celebrate the Culture of Women and the Legend of Mexican Moon Goddess Coyoxauhqui with poet Corinne Stanley and musicians Megan Valencia and Laura Kittrell. Donations will support Iowa City Free Medical Clinic's women's health clinic. Fruits and nuts will be served.

**July 28:** Svitlana Volkogen, musician, will share Ukrainian songs, rituals, and the story of Ukrainian immigrants. Svitlana will bring her cookies to serve. Donations will support the Ukraine Prytula Foundation.

## Staff Time Away in July

During July all of our pastors and office staff will be out at various times. Please be mindful of these absences:

- Carol will be out July 2-8. Pastors and volunteers will staff the office and respond to messages.
- Kara will be at church camp July 6th (after worship) through 9th and then at General Assembly July 11-16.
- Jill will be at General Assembly July 10-16 and then at church camp July 20th (after worship) through 26th.
- Laura will be having surgery on July 28 and will be out for a few weeks after that.

During these times other staff and your elders are available for whatever you need.

**During General Assembly (July 11-16), in addition to Pastor Laura, FCC elders Jon F. and David K. will be on call.**

**Want to  
Learn  
More  
About the  
Bible?**

Beginning this fall, Pastor Jill will lead a 30-week course called *Discovering the Bible*—an engaging journey through both the Hebrew (Old Testament) and Christian (New Testament) Scriptures. Whether you're new to the Bible, know it well or fall somewhere in between, this survey course offers a chance to explore scripture, history, culture, and key themes together.

Participants will need to purchase a \$44 workbook (financial help available), commit to weekly readings and reflections, and attend a 90-minute class each week. The class will be scheduled based on participants' availability. Past participants found the experience deeply rewarding.

Please [sign up here](#) by July 31 or email [Pastor Jill](#) with questions or to indicate interest.





## Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM INFO

*Upcoming Scriptures*

July 2: Ephesians 3:20-21

July 9: Psalm 139:1-12

July 16: Psalm 38:1-11, 15

July 23: Psalm 91 and Psalm 121

July 30: Psalm 137

# At First Christian

*Above: First Christian folks get ready to walk in the Pride parade. Below: Teegan works on his Youth Leadership Symposium project which was to build a permanent fire pit on FCC's grounds.*

## Monthly Potlucks All Summer Long

Join us for our next potluck on **July 20**, when our theme is a **Baked Potato Bar**. Bring your favorite toppings and don't hesitate to be creative!

- Please bring your own table service to help reduce waste. Reusable plates, cups, and silverware are encouraged.
- We are looking for volunteers to ensure that the potluck runs smoothly. [Click here to sign up to help!](#)

Also, don't forget to save the date for next month's potluck on August 17! All are welcome!

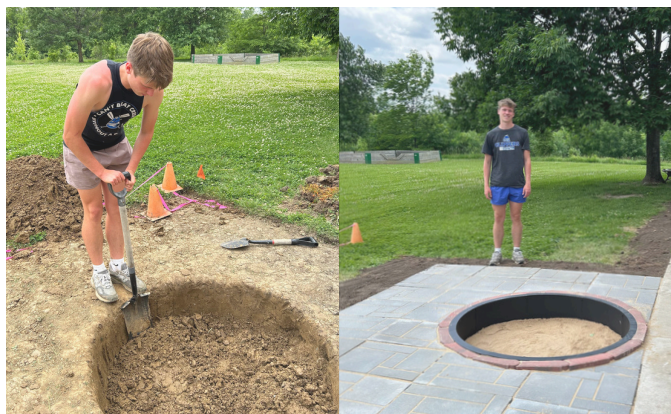
## Church Workday

We will be organizing church workdays every other month on the fourth Saturday morning, alternating with our Free Lunch dates.

On **July 26, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon**, we will have projects suitable for all ages and skill levels. Join us to enjoy time with fellow church members while helping to care for our building and grounds. If you have any questions, please reach out to [Sally S.](#)

## There's a New Fire Pit at FCC

We are excited to announce the addition of a new, permanent fire pit on our grounds! Teegan has been diligently working on this project as part of his participation in the Youth Leadership Symposium. Materials for construction of the fire pit were funded through FCC's memorial funds. Keep an eye out for upcoming announcements regarding gatherings around the fire!



**WELCOME SUNDAY @ FCC**  
**SEPTEMBER 7**





# 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

In July we will conclude our series, “Beyond...” as we listen for God’s call. Next up: “Finding Freedom in the Psalms,” a reminder of the full spectrum of emotions that exist in the psalms.

- July 6: ***Beyond Our Wildest Dreams***  
(Isaiah 5:8-9)
- July 13: **Marian Hart, preaching**  
(Ephesians 3:20-23)
- July 20: ***Always in God’s Presence***  
(Psalm 139:1-12)
- July 27: ***When We Need Healing***  
(Psalm 38:1-11, 15)

## Let’s Talk: General Assembly, July 6

You are invited to stay after worship on July 6 to join those from First Christian Church who will be attending the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) later in July for a conversation about the items on which we will vote.

Our voting delegates - Pam R., Sally S., and Cameron M. - are especially interested to hear your feedback as they will vote on your behalf. [Learn more about business items here.](#)

## Nursery

Throughout the summer, childcare is available on Sundays beginning at 9:30am for infants through kindergarteners, and older children if needed. The nursery is in the lower-level east classroom.

# Sunday Mornings



Sunday worship brings together many hands and hearts. 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 opportunities to serve.

[ICDISCIPLES.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://ICDISCIPLES.ORG/VOLUNTEER)



Top: Dancing during the closing hymn. Bottom: Tesla lights the Christ candle as we begin worship.





## Coffee with Friends

TUESDAY, JULY 8, 9:00AM

Men & women alike are invited for coffee and conversation at HyVee (3285 Crosspark Rd., Coralville). This gathering will be happening each month and is sponsored by Hannah Circle. You're invited to stop by!

## FCC Connect

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 6:30PM

Contact office for Zoom info

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 Night Out

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 5:30PM

Join the FCC ladies for good food and conversation! This month we are heading to Sutliff Bar. Want to carpool? Contact Nancy R. with any questions.

## Book Club

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 7:00PM

Contact office for Zoom info

In July we are reading **Take My Hand** by Dolen Perkins-Valdez. This historical fiction story follows Civil Townsend, fresh out of nursing school in 1973 and ready to help women make choices for their lives and bodies. In the face of injustice, she decides to risk everything to stand up for what's right. Join this conversation at FCC or on Zoom. Questions? Contact Nancy Mc.



## Disciples Strings & Singers

WEDNESDAYS, 6:00PM

You are invited to share in music ministry at FCC! For more information, please contact Pastor Laura.



# Keeping Connected



Top: Eunice, Nancy, and Jan head home after worship; Middle: Sally, Randy, Marian, and Dave get ready to walk in the Pride parade; Bottom: Friends visit at June's Ice Cream Social.



# In the Community

Learn more about the non-profit organizations you are invited to support with your free-will offerings during FCC's Monday's on the Lawn in July.

Open Heartland is a community-led non-profit organization in Johnson County dedicated to welcoming and supporting immigrants, especially those facing systemic barriers. Through programs that provide resources, build connections, and celebrate cultural diversity, the organization promotes inclusion, empowerment, and opportunity for all.



The Immigrant Welcome Network of Johnson County (IWNJC), is a diverse, immigrant-led non-profit supporting newly arrived immigrant and refugee families. By connecting individuals, community groups, landlords, and employers, IWNJC works to break down systemic barriers and amplify immigrant voices creating pathways to stability and belonging.



The Iowa City Free Medical and Dental Clinic (FMC), founded in 1971, is a nonprofit providing free, accessible health care to those in need. Guided by the belief that health care is a human right, FMC offers a range of medical and dental services while removing barriers, protecting privacy, and advocating for the underserved.



Prytula Foundation USA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing critical humanitarian aid to Ukrainians affected by war. Uniting the Ukrainian diaspora, global donors, and partners, the foundation delivers medical supplies and direct assistance while supporting long-term recovery and resilience.



IOWA CITY

**Free Lunch Program**

Our congregation provides, prepares and serves free lunch on the 4th Saturday of every other month. Looking to the rest of 2025, we will be providing meals on:

August 23  
October 25  
December 27

July is an off month for FCC, but the Iowa City Free Lunch Program always needs your support. Monetary donations are welcome anytime, either in person, by mail, or online (select Fund: Special Offering (Local) and Memo: Free Lunch Program). You are also invited to browse the FLP's Amazon Wishlist or sign up to serve on additional days.





## Summer 2025 Attendees

June 30-July 5, Junior Camp 2  
-Cameron (counselor)

July 7-9, Beginner Camp  
-Alana  
-Olivia  
-Kara Seaton (counselor)

July 21-26, Chi Rho 2  
-Satchel  
-Melody

July 21-26, CYF 2  
-Teegan  
-Brogan  
-Jill Michel (co-director)

July 28-August 2, Adventure  
Camp  
-Rachel  
-Simon  
-Melody  
-Jay (counselor)

August 4-9, Junior 3  
-Liana  
-Jayse  
-Kalea (counselor)

# FCC @ Summer Camp

Camping season at the Christian Conference Center in Newton is well underway! Over the summer, our church will send 25 campers and volunteers to experience a week of faith, fun, and community. Here are a few meaningful ways you can support this ministry:

### Send a Note

Camp mail brings big smiles!

- Mail or email cards
- Write a note on church-provided cards—the office will send them weekly

[Camper name & Camp attending]  
c/o Christian Conference Center  
5064 Lincoln St  
Newton, IA 50208  
[campermail@newtonccc.org](mailto:campermail@newtonccc.org)

### Pray for Campers

Keep our campers and volunteers in your prayers each week. Camp is exciting but can also be challenging.

### Connect & Encourage

- Before they go: share your excitement and encourage them
- After they return: ask about their favorite moments, new friends, or lessons learned

### Give to Support Camp

Our church covers at least 50% of each camper's fee. Your donations help make camp possible for all.

- Drop gifts in the offering box ("youth camp")
- Mail a check ("youth camp")
- Give online (Fund: Church Camp)



Left: FCC middle schoolers attend a Mini Mission Trip in Cedar Rapids along with 2 other churches; Right: FCC at camp in Newton.



# July

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY



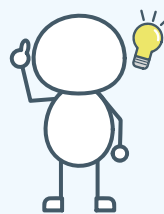
To manage your information and access FCC's online directory, click the Realm logo above.



900 Lincolnshire Place  
Coralville, IA 52241  
319-337-4181

[icdisciples.org](http://icdisciples.org)

## WHO IS MY ELDER?



Your Last Name

Your Elder

A-CI

Jon F.

Co-F

Maggie K.

G-Kin

Al Z.

Kit-Mic

David K.

Mo-Sch

Marcus S.

Sea-Z

Jane D.

FCC elders through February 2026.

## 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  
Ella  
Sophia Romero  
*Nursery Caregivers*

*connect with us*



*There's Room  
at the Table  
for Everyone*

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

*clergy staff available  
by appointment*