



THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 19, 2020

The next Newsletter will be published on September 2, 2020

A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Friends,

We are now a little more than a week out from the devastating derecho that hit Iowa. I hope you are doing well. There are a few things I want to make you aware of.

- 1) If you need help we want to know. While some things need to be left to the professionals, there are many in our congregation who can assist with clearing out limbs, providing meals, helping with minor repairs, etc.
- 2) If you sustained damage to your residence, there are solidarity grants available through Week of Compassion. I will be reaching out about this to those I know had damage, but I don't know every situation. So, don't hesitate to reach out to me.
- 3) If you are looking for ways to help, you can do any of the following:

*Let me know what skills you are willing to offer so I can help match you with those needing help.

*Make a financial donation to [Week of Compassion](#). This Disciples' organization responds to the needs of Disciples' congregations and also supports long term recovery of the community.

*Check Facebook where we will post opportunities to help. If you aren't on Facebook and would like to receive an email or phone call about opportunities, please let me know. If you are aware of opportunities to help, you can also let me know that.

Peace, *Jill*

319-665-2276 (home)

P.S. I will be off Thursday, August 20 through Tuesday, August 25 for a little R & R. If you need pastoral care please contact Kara, Laura or your elder.

THANK YOU, FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH!

We are so grateful that over 50 households responded to the survey in last week's newsletter regarding a safe return to the building. Here are the main takeaways from the survey:

- There are many who feel comfortable with the idea of gatherings that take place outdoors with safe distance. There was a positive to response to both outdoor worship and outdoor small groups. We will be working on making plans to offer some options this fall.
- The overwhelming majority want decisions about our return to based on local virus data rather than on a calendar date. To this end we are working on putting together clear rubrics indicating what numbers we will look at and what stages of return we will go through. Be looking for more information as we formulate these tools.

The Return to the Building Task Force

UPCOMING EVENTS

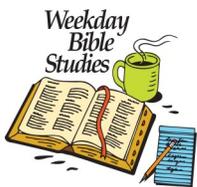
FCC SERVING DAY AT FREE LUNCH

We are seeking 5-6 volunteers to serve First Christian's final 2020 free lunch on Tuesday, **September 8**.

Coronavirus procedures involve serving sack or box lunches out the side door of the Free Lunch Program kitchen (1105 Gilbert Ct. in Iowa City). The menu we are serving has been simplified to accommodate a small work team of 5-6 people, assisted by a FLP co-director. The time commitment is 10:30am to 1:30pm on that day.

This is a perfect task for two family units that are comfortable working together in the FLP kitchen space. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Mary Curtis at (319) 430-6235 or mary.curtis@mchsi.com by **Tuesday, August 25**.

Another way you can participate is by donating food. Use [this Sign Up Genius link](#) to commit to the food you will bring. You can drop food off at church on Friday, September 4 or contact Jill (icdisciple.pastor@gmail.com) for pick up.



Join BIBLE STUDY on Wednesdays at 12:30pm using [Zoom](#).

Upcoming scriptures:

August 19 - I Corinthians 12:4-11

August 26 - Matthew 18:15-20

FCC CONNECT - Thursdays @ 6pm

Join us for a time of conversation with friends from FCC. We gather on Zoom each [Thursday at 6pm](#) (Meeting ID: 843 1879 9375; Password: 289211).

First Christian BOOK CLUB

The next Book Club meeting will be on **Thursday, August 27** at 7pm on [Zoom](#).

This month's book is *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman.



CULTURE THROUGH POETRY: INSPIRATION FOR OUR TIMES

Corinne Stanley will be leading a four-week journey of reading and discussing poets and poetry from around the world. Together participants will become familiar with poets from distinct cultures, respond to their poetry, and (if inspired) reflect and write original poetry. This class will meet on **Tuesdays, August 25, Sept. 1, 8 and 15 from 12:30 - 2:00pm** via Zoom.

If you missed the sign up but would like to participate contact Pastor Jill.

LIGHT A CANDLE WITH CHILDREN PRAYER VIGIL



Children's Sabbath is something we have observed for the past several years and we will continue to do so this year on October 18, 2020. On this day, worship will focus on children, justice, and the moral, spiritual, and ethical imperative to nurture, protect, and seek justice for all children.

This year, we are excited to offer a special practice leading up to this important Sunday by participating in the "Light a Candle with Children" prayer vigil.

Beginning September 8, and continuing daily for 40 days, we will have a daily prayer focused on children. You will be invited to light a candle and offer a prayer. You will also have the opportunity to be matched with a child from our congregation and to pray for them daily during the prayer vigil, as well as reach out to them with a special note during the 40 days.

We are asking those who would like to participate in the prayer vigil to [sign up here](#) by **September 2** so we can provide you with the daily prayers, a candle, and a child to pray for from our congregation.

Questions? Contact Kara (icdisciple.kids@gmail.com)

PRAYERS & PRAISES

- We pray for Kay Hudson who is in the hospital after having a stroke.
- We pray for Mark Clark who is home following hospitalization this last week with pneumonia.
- We pray for Rhonda Rossman and her family upon the death of her mother, Hilda McCumber.
- We pray for all those, including some from FCC, who continue their recovery after last week's Derecho.
- We pray for a friend of Dale Kepler whose husband has been diagnosed with stage IV gastric cancer, as well as family/friends of Dale's former co-worker who, with his wife, died in a plane crash leaving teenage children.
- We continue to pray for our members and friends who are in a nursing home, homebound, have medical and physical needs and problems.

Please always let Pastor Jill know about surgeries, hospitalizations, or other pastoral care needs.



STOP BY FOR A TASTY TREAT

Throughout the month of August, First Christian Church is hosting a Drive Thru/Walk Thru/Bike Thru Ice Cream Distribution each Monday evening from 7 - 8pm.

You are invited to come to the upper parking lot at church and get your treat to go. There will be two options each week - one ice cream option and one fruity (lactose free) option.

This is a simple gift to help FCC friends and neighbors cool off in the warmth of summer.

TWO WAYS YOU CAN HELP TABLE TO TABLE

Garden Recovery Program: Calling all Gardeners! Table to Table is looking for home gardeners with extra produce to donate. You grow and harvest it, and they will pick it up! Start donating now by contacting T2T at gardendonation@table2table.org, or by calling 319-337-3400.

Gleaning Program: Let's go glean! Help us glean (harvest) food from local farms to donate to our neighbors in need. Flexible schedule and social distancing outdoors. To volunteer, contact Table to Table at gleaning@table2table.org or call 319-337-3400.

You might remember in May we did a Zoom session talking about cooking and favorite recipes. We are going to share some of those recipes here. Look for more recipes in future weeks!

Malinda's Sausage Dip shared by Malinda Thomas

1 pound ground sausage, browned & drained
 1 pound (2 bricks) of cream cheese
 1 can Rotel tomatoes

Put all in the crock pot and cook until smooth & creamy. (Approx. 2-3 hours on high, and 3-4 hours on low.) Serve with tortilla chips, but also good with pretzels, pita chips, or crusty bread. Bonus tip: Serve leftovers (if you actually get any) over a fried egg & toast.

WORSHIP GUIDE FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Each week we post an electronic worship service on [YouTube](#) (and have an opportunity to gather together on Zoom). The new service is available beginning at 10am on Sunday. The worship guide below will function as a bulletin for those watching the worship service and can also be used independently by those who cannot or choose not to access YouTube.

In preparation for participating in worship, you are invited to gather some sort of food and drink to take at communion time. Remember, these don't have to be bread and juice or wine. If you desire, you may also want to have a candle nearby to light as we light the candle at the beginning of worship.

August 23, 2020

Greeting

Congregational Singing - "Make Us One"

Prayer

Take a moment to center yourself. Pay attention to the ways and places God shows up in your life.

- Pray for those who are not only living with the physical impacts of the recent derecho, but also the mental and emotional trauma.
- Pray for teachers, staff and children who are returning to school.
- Simply talk with God. What are the prayers of your heart?

Scripture - John 17:20-24 and Galatians 3:28

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world." (John 17:20-24)

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

Children's Moment and Back to School Blessing

Sermon - Songs of Unity and Connection

Consider the following questions: What difference does it make to think of Jesus praying not only for those he knew in his lifetime but for those of us who would come later and choose to live in his ways? Why is unity important? What is the difference between unity and uniformity? How can we be one in Jesus?

Offering

During this time we appreciate all who are continuing their financial commitment to FCC using the USPS or the ["Donate" button](#) on the website. We also encourage you to consider other ways you can be an offering beyond our congregation, to the community and our world. Find an act of kindness to share today.

Communion

This table is a place where all are welcome—no matter what. As you take the elements of communion, use this moment to commit your body again to God's work and to invite God's loving spirit to flow through you.

Congregational Singing - "They'll Know We Are Christians"

Benediction



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
16 Online Worship @ Zoom & YouTube 10 AM Return to the Building Task Force 7 PM	17 Finance Team @ Zoom 6:30 PM Ice Cream Distribution 7 PM	18 BOARD Mtg @ Zoom 7 PM	19 CRC @ Zoom 10 AM Bible Study @ Zoom 12:30 PM "How to Be an Antiracist" Book Study @ Zoom 6:30 PM	20 FCC Connect @ Zoom 6 PM	21 22 Jill out of office	
23 Online Worship with Back to School Blessing @ Zoom & YouTube 10 AM	24 Ice Cream Distribution 7 PM	25 Culture Through Poetry @ Zoom 12:30 PM	26 Bible Study @ Zoom 12:30 PM	27 Women Clergy @ Zoom 10 AM FCC Connect @ Zoom 6 PM Book Club @ Zoom 7 PM	28	29
Jill out of office						
30 Online Worship @ Zoom & YouTube 10 AM	31 Ice Cream Distribution 7 PM	Sept. 1 Culture Through Poetry @ Zoom 12:30-7 PM	Sept. 2 Bible Study @ Zoom 12:30 PM Executive Committee 5 PM	Sept. 3 Welcome! Sunday Packet Pickup @ 11 AM–12 noon, 5–6 PM FCC Connect @ Zoom 6 PM	Sept. 4 Free Lunch Food Drop Off 10 AM–1 PM	Sept. 5

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

September 7: Labor Day Holiday, Office Closed

September 8: FCC serving @ Free Lunch

September 13: Welcome! Sunday

Mark your calendars for this special day. While we won't have the usual in person games and festivities, we ARE planning to share worship on Zoom followed by games and activities using Zoom's break out rooms. We will be sending out a packet with materials to be used during worship as well as for the games. We will play Bingo, Pictionary, and more.

There will even be an adapted CAKE WALK! Hope you plan to join us!



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**OUR REGULAR SCHEDULE WILL
RESUME WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO**

For now we are worshipping virtually.

- Each week a new worship service is posted to our YouTube Channel at 10am on Sunday.
- You are also welcome to join others on Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9:45am. There we will share fellowship and conversation as well as watch the worship service.

All other meetings are also virtual.

For links or assistance, contact Pastor Jill.



"You've all heard that the church's computer system crashed Friday, and some of you may be hoping that I forgot to back up my sermon."