

SEPTEMBER 2025

# THIS MONTH @ FCC

## A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Jim and I took Cameron back to college in Ohio this past week as he begins his second year. Teegan started his senior year in high school on Monday. Next year at this time, I anticipate we will be loading up the cars twice and moving kids in two different directions. Others of you have moved children or grandchildren to college or moved yourself, started school or sent kids off to school, welcomed new students or just experienced the change that happens in our community as the school year begins. This is, in so many ways, our new year.

Our church rhythms change at this time of year, too. There are several things I'm particularly looking forward to:

- Welcome Sunday is September 7. This is a day when we renew our commitment to welcome and hospitality in worship and then eat and play together after worship. Plan to stay for the meal and participate in games and activities. RSVP or sign up to help here.
- *Discovering the Bible* starts in September. This is a 30-week long Bible study course that does a survey of the whole Bible. I offered this opportunity, and 25 of you signed up to participate! We'll have three sections of this class, and I can't wait to be on this journey!
- Youth groups resume in September. We have youth groups for elementary, middle school, and high school students and each one has its own rhythms. If you are a young person or have young people in your life, I hope you'll try youth group.
- We have a congregational meeting on Sept. 14 to approve revised Bylaws. I am excited about how the changes impact ministry.
- Our updated lighting (in the sanctuary and other places around the church) will be installed this month. There are ways you can help.

Mostly, I look forward to continued life and ministry with you!

With Care, *Jill*

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*connect with us*





# Announcements

## You're Invited to Welcome Sunday!

RSVP

SEPTEMBER 7

Join us on Sunday, September 7 for Welcome Sunday - a celebration of the warm welcome that defines FCC. It's a great Sunday to invite a friend, neighbor, or coworker! After worship there will be lunch, games and friendly competitions both indoors and outdoors, and time to visit. Please visit here to RSVP and to volunteer to help.

## Fall Faith Formation - FCC Showcase

SUNDAYS THIS FALL, 11:15AM

Following worship each Sunday we have Faith Formation for all ages. Children Worship & Wonder resumes for our elementary aged students. Adults and youth are going to experience - a showcase of FCC folks and ministries.

Some weeks we will be taught a new skill from someone in the congregation. Some weeks we will hear a presentation from the experts among us. Some weeks we will be given a chance to learn more about or participate in FCC ministries. Each week will be something new.

## Help Needed

SUNDAY, SEPT. 21

Please plan to stay after Faith Formation on Sunday, September 21 to help move chairs out of the sanctuary. The sanctuary lighting work will begin September 22. The sanctuary will be reset at the workday on September 27.

## Exploring First Christian Church

AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE

Are you curious about who the Disciples are? Are you wondering about our congregation? Are you wanting to know how to get involved or to join the church? Pastor Jill shares insights and invites you into these conversations in these four brief videos. As you watch them, your pastors would love to hear your thoughts, your questions, and just generally engage in more conversation.

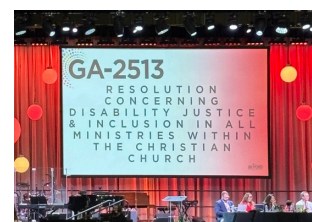
## Congregational Meeting



SEPTEMBER 14, 11:15AM

We will have a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 14 after worship to approve updates to the Bylaws. The major change is going from a Ministry Planning Team to four Ministry Teams that will plan ministries of worship, outreach, education, and hospitality. Plan to attend the meeting and then stay after for breakout sessions to learn more about the ministry team(s) you are interested in. Read Bylaws here. Paper copies can also be requested from the office.

## General Assembly - Now What?



Last month we received an update on the resolutions from General Assembly. This month we want to talk about what that means for us (individually and congregationally). We hope that people will take initiative in helping us live into these resolutions.

To read a synopsis of each item as well as some possible actions [click here](#). As you read, imagine where you might lead and how you might help us to live into these commitments.





## Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON

CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR ZOOM INFO

*Upcoming Scriptures*

September 3: Micah 6:8

September 10: Luke 12:13-21,  
Luke 21:1-4

September 17: Luke 18:18-25

September 24: Luke 17:7-10

# At First Christian

*Above: First Christian Church friends enjoying ice cream on the front lawn.*

## Youth Groups Are Back!

With fall comes the return of regularly scheduled youth groups. Read on for more information.

CYF

CYF (grades 9-12) will be meeting on Sundays from 4:00 - 5:30pm.

- **September 14** - Kick Off with snacks, games and group activities @ church
- **September 21** - Appetizers & Art with Julie Fitzpatrick @ church - you don't have to be an artist to participate!
- **September 28** - Dinner and activities @ Clark home (include address)

CHI RHO

Chi Rho (grades 6-8) is getting ready for a great year! Stay tuned—plans will be shared with families soon and in our weekly emails.

JYF

JYF (grades 2-5) will meet twice a month on Sundays from 12-1:15pm at the church.

- We'll begin our fall semester on **September 21** with some fun kick-off activities and getting to know each other. Lunch will be served!

Contact [Pastor Kara](#) with questions about children/youth programs.

## Caring for FCC: Church Workday

You are invited to join others from First Christian as we work together to take care of our building and grounds. Join us on Saturday, September 27 from 9am - 12noon. Stay all morning or just drop in for a while.

Mark your calendars for the next workday: November 22. If you have any questions, please reach out to [Sally S.](#)



*Left: Enjoying delicious food at August's potluck. Right: Pastor Jill speaks out for immigrant rights.*





# 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 September we will explore the theme, "Generosity in the Way of Jesus and Justice." We begin this exploration with Welcome Sunday and continue throughout the month.

September 7: **Generosity of Spirit**

(Matthew 25:31-40)

September 14: **Generosity and Justice**

(Micah 6:8 and various texts)

September 21: **Jesus and Generosity**

(Luke 12:13-21 and Luke 21:1-4)

September 28: **What Are We To Do?**

(Luke 18:18-25)

## Faith Formation: Sundays, 11:15am

Faith Formation begins again September 14.

Children (Pre-K - 5<sup>th</sup>) will gather for Children Worship & Wonder.

Adults and Youth (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) will participate in a variety of presentations and activities:

- Sept. 14 - Congregational Meeting followed by Ministry Team break out sessions.
- Sept. 21 - Realm Tutorial - Learn about our online membership portal and church directory
- Sept. 28 - So You Want to Know About FCC's Finances? presented by Tom G.

## Nursery

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. There's a role for everyone! To learn how you can serve, call the church office or visit the link below.

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



Carol & Megan sing a duet; Kalea offers us a challenge as she preaches; Steve joins Kara and the kids for Children's Moment; Sara shares special music.





## Coffee with Friends

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 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, SEPTEMBER 11, 6:30PM

CONTACT THE 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.

## Hannah Circle - Business Meeting

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 6:30PM

CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR ZOOM INFO

All women of FCC are welcome! Come explore potential membership and participate in this important program planning meeting for the upcoming year. Questions? Contact [Mary C.](#)

## Ladies Night Out

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 5:30PM

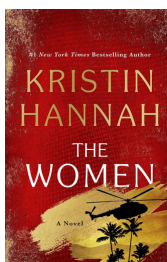
Join the FCC ladies for good food and conversation! This month we are heading to Marque Pizza (in IRL, 920 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Coralville). Contact [Nancy R.](#) with any questions.

## Book Club

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 7PM

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM INFO

In September we are reading *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. This is a story of a woman who joins the nurse corps and is sent to Vietnam. It is a novel about deep friendships, bold patriotism, and the complexities of war. Join this conversation at FCC or on Zoom. Questions? Contact [Nancy M.](#)



# Keeping Connected



Top: Friends gather around the firepit for the dedication and s'mores. Middle: A little Jesus. Bottom: Children & youth receive a back-to school blessing from Pastor Kara.



# In the Community

## WARM WINTER WEAR DISTRIBUTION



FCC COLLECTION DATES:  
SEPT. 28 - OCT. 12

On September 28, we will begin collecting WARM WINTER WEAR for the Winter Clothing Distribution, an annual event (which our congregation helped to found!). Items collected provide new and gently used warm winter clothing to community members. This event is hosted by the Consultation of Religious Communities of Iowa City, and they have also partnered with the Iowa City Police Department again this year.

In preparation for this event, donations of **gently used or new coats, snow pants, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, boots, winter shoes, heavy sweaters & sweatshirts** are requested. We hope you will begin collecting items at home until Sept. 28, when we will have collection bins at church to collect your donations.

Collecting the items is just part of this effort...the other is volunteering at the event, scheduled for the week of Oct 12. Stay tuned for information on how you can get involved by volunteering at the distribution.



## THANK YOU, FCC!

First Christian collected 458 items for the Ready Set School supply drive. We also contributed \$200 for the purchase of additional supplies. The drive served nearly 1,600 students. Thank you for supporting school kids in our community as they head back to school this fall!

SPECIAL OFFERING  
SEPTEMBER 28,  
OCTOBER 5



For more than 40 years, Disciples have had a visible ministry to address racism in society. Gifts to Reconciliation Ministry, through its Offering or throughout the year, support programs and initiatives aimed at dismantling racism. You can give to this ministry through October 6, by mailing a check to the office, leaving your donation in the offering box on Sundays, or [giving online](#) (select Special Offering - Regional, and Reconciliation Offering).





REHEARSAL  
WEDNESDAYS  
6-7PM

## Discover Disciples Strings & Singers

We are the folks who help lead music on Sunday mornings. We practice each Wednesday at 6pm for about an hour. Typically, we rehearse music for two weeks in a row. We have both instrumentalists and singers (and some who do both!) and we enjoy fellowship together.

I would like to invite any of you (instrumentalists of all kinds and/or singers) who are interested in participating in Disciples Strings and Singers, I'd love to hear from you and share more about getting involved!

If you aren't interested or don't have the time to join us weekly, you are welcome to share in the music ministry of First Christian by providing solo or ensemble music during worship. Please let me know if this would be of interest to you.

I look forward to sharing in music and fellowship with you! Blessings, Pastor Laura.

## Returning to Sacred Ground: Home, Land & Our Living Stories

September 26-28, 2025

Koronis Retreat Center, Paynesville, MN

**Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy, Keynote Speaker**  
**Kirby Gould, Worship Leader**

## Upper Midwest Women's Retreat

SEPTEMBER 26-28

READ MORE 

What makes a place Sacred? What makes a place home? What stories live in the land? Can we feel at home in places that hold both beauty and harm? This September, join us for a journey of storytelling, reflection, and spiritual practice as we explore what makes a space sacred—from Indigenous memory to personal experience, from loss to reclamation. Together we will honor the stories carried by the land while also discovering the living stories we each hold.

Come and explore what it means to call a place sacred—and how we live into that sacredness today.

FCC's Malinda T. will be attending this retreat and would love to share more with you. Please connect with her if you'd like more information about the retreat weekend.

## In the Region

### Regional Gathering

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18,  
10AM - 4PM

Listen! Hearing God's Wisdom in the Struggles is the theme of this year's Regional Gathering. It will take place on **Saturday, October 18** from 10am-4pm at the Christian Conference Center in Newton. Join others from around the region for worship, learning, and fellowship. Activities are also being planned for youth. Learn more and register here.

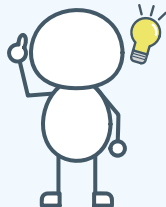


# WELCOME September

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



## WHO IS MY ELDER?



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 Michel  
Ella Romero  
Nursery Caregivers



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

*There's Room  
at the Table  
for Everyone*

Office Hours:

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

*clergy staff available by appointment*



*connect with us*

