



THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 14, 2022

A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Friends,

While I wasn't physically present on Sunday, I did get to worship online. So, first, I need to say - weren't the kids magnificent!?! And I love that we had willing adult volunteers who got right in there and took on parts. It was a beautiful program. I also want to say that I am so glad we have the technology we do which allows so many to be included. Because of technology kiddos who couldn't be at church Sunday morning still got to participate in the program. Because of technology my family was able to worship with FCC from the car as we were driving home from out of state. Because of technology we have people from all over worshipping with us from Sunday to Sunday. So, I am celebrating our kiddos, our technology, and the leadership of Kara and others who helped Sunday. Also, if you missed it, the communion song we sang this past week was written by our own Laura Kittrell. A day like Sunday reminds me how talented the people who serve here are!

I also want to remind you that today is Peggy's last day in the office. Retirement starts at noon today. I'm glad so many of you were here to help celebrate her on Sunday. And I trust that you will continue to hold her in prayer, not only for this transition, but for her surgery which happens tomorrow. Carol Mertens will be serving as our Temporary Office Assistant for the coming months. Carol will not only keep things going at First Christian, but she will help us as we ask questions to make sure that the job description for this position not only meets our needs today, but moves us into the future. Thanks to Peggy for nearly 7 years of faithful work. And thanks to Carol for stepping up in this transition.

The next eleven days are inevitably busy for many of you, but I remind you that there are also opportunities to make them meaningful. I hope you are finding the Advent Devotional Booklet helpful in giving you a chance to take some intentional pauses along this Advent journey. Remember there are several opportunities to share worship and carol singing together (read below in the lavender box). This is also a great season to take time out to do something for someone who needs it, whether that be lend a listening ear to someone who is sad, offer help with food or gifts to someone who is struggling, or simply slow down and be present with others.

And, remember, if you don't have other plans after the 7pm worship service on Christmas Eve, you are invited to come join my family and I for soup at our house. Just let me know if you plan to come.

With care, *Jill*

PS: Next week's newsletter (Dec. 21) will be the last one for 2022. Expect the next on Jan. 4, 2023. Also, it's that time of year when we remind you that if we have closures due to weather, that information will be shared on Facebook, through email, and also on KCRG.

Pause: An Advent Journey of Slowing Down

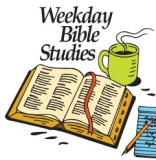
Worship with us. We will worship together each Sunday morning, including Christmas Day, at 10am. Other worship opportunities include:

- **Longest Night Worship** on **December 21** at 7pm
- **Christmas Eve Worship** on **December 24** at 5pm and 7pm (the service will be the same at both times).

Sing together. Stay after worship on Sun, **December 18** for a Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long from 11:15am - 12noon. You'll even get to help pick out what we sing!

Practice Generosity. We are challenging households to collect one food item for each day from December 1 - 24. The list of items is in the Advent Devotional Booklet. You can collect them at home throughout the month or bring them little by little to church each Sunday. You can collect all 24 items or just bring a few.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



BIBLE STUDY

Join us using Zoom. We meet at **12noon each Wednesday.**

Upcoming scriptures:

December 14 - Luke 2:1-20

December 21 - Matthew 2:13-23



JOIN STRINGS AND SINGERS

All musicians are invited to be part of Disciples Strings and Singers and help lead worship music. Mark your calendar for this month's rehearsals on **December 14 and 28.**

FCC CONNECT - Thursdays @ 6pm

Join us for a time of visiting with friends from FCC. We gather on Zoom on **Thursdays at 6pm.**

Tomorrow will be the last FCC Connect of 2022. In 2023 we are going to shift to offering it one time each month, on the second Thursday of the month.

FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

Our next serving date at Iowa City's Free Lunch Program (FLP) is Saturday, **December 24.** However, since it is Christmas Eve, we are only going to supply the food to be served. FLP will staff that day with holiday volunteers. **If you would like to provide food for the meal please [sign up here](#).** Food can be brought to church anytime between now and December 23. Leave non-perishables in the bin in the narthex and casseroles in the freezer.

FAITH FORMATION

(AKA: SUNDAY SCHOOL)

Each Sunday there are classes for children (age 4) through adults and a nursery for younger children. Classes go from 11:15am - 12noon.

December 18

- Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long in the sanctuary.

There will be no Faith Formation Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

VALET PARKING IS NOW AVAILABLE

Feel free to use our Valet Parking service on Sundays from 9:30 - 10am and for 30 minutes after worship. Just pull up to the front door.



On **December 18**, we will give to our denomination's Christmas Offering. This offering supports the work of the Upper Midwest Region of the Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ).

Our region helps connect Disciples congregations together, supports congregations and clergy, provides opportunities for church camp as well as other educational experiences, supports congregations in times of transition and conflict, and more.

[Watch this video](#) about what our region has been doing this year.

END OF YEAR GIVING REMINDER

It's time for the annual reminder that if you have gifts to share with First Christian which you would like on your 2022 tax statement, they need to be in to the church office by Thursday, December 29 as the church office is closed on Fridays. Gifts given online will be recorded on 2022 tax statements as long as they post by December 31.

Content covered to protect privacy

WORSHIP - DECEMBER 18, 2022

Remember, you can join us in person at church or worship with us on [YouTube](#) each Sunday at 10am.

Hymns - Awake! Awake, and Greet a New Morn; When God Is a Child (vs. 4); Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence; People, Look East

Scripture - Hosea 11:1-9

Sermon - Pause in Love

WE NEED YOU!

Sundays rely on volunteers to go smoothly! If you are willing to serve as a Greeter, Usher, Scripture Reader, Fellowship Time Host or Acolyte (K-6th grade), please [choose your dates and sign up here](#) (use the drop down menu in the upper right to toggle between various roles). You can also contact Nancy McKinstry (nancy.a.mckinstry@gmail.com, 319-400-1380) with questions or to sign up for these roles.



If you are interested in doing Children's Moments, speak with Pastor Kara (icdisciple.kids@gmail.com).

If you would like to be trained to run sound or PowerPoint, speak with Laurie Dahms (laurie.dahms@gmail.com).

THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who joined our staff in leading worship on Sunday, December 11: Francis and Pat Boelens (Greeters), Sheree Williams and Nancy Ream (Ushers), Tim Fees and Disciples Strings & Singers (Musicians), Tesla Newnum (Acolyte), Kara Seaton (Children's Moment), Maggie Keyser and Krista Kronstein (Scripture Reader), Maya & Alana Seaton, Spencer King, Etta & Eli Goedken, Tesla & Otto Newnum, Payton & Jayse Steeples, Jaida & Armani Kronstein-Steeples, Annie, Charly, and Emmy Hansen, Carol Mertens, and Rob King (Christmas program participants), the kids (Offering helpers), Jay Thomas, Jensen-Fitzpatrick family, Clark family (Communion servers), Julie Fitzpatrick (Elder), Dave Klein and Grayson Seaton (A/V), Personnel Team (Fellowship Time Host), Steve Strah and Jay Thomas (Valet Parking).

TREE OF MEMORIES



Each year at this time we offer the opportunity for people to sponsor angel ornaments in memory or honor of loved ones. This is one way to remember those who matter to us and to celebrate the memories of lives that have impacted our own.

Darrell Flinn had the following poem shared with him and he found it meaningful. While we recognize that different things are meaningful to different people, he asked us to share it in case there are others for whom it might be helpful during this Christmas season when grief is a reality alongside joy. The poem is titled, "My First Christmas in Heaven."

*I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below,
With tiny lights, like heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.*

*The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear.
For I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I hear the many Christmas songs, that people hold so dear,
But the sounds of music can't compare, with the Christmas choir up here.*

*For I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring.
For it is beyond description, to hear an angel sing.*

*I can't tell you of the splendor, or the peace here in this place.
Can you just imagine Christmas, with our Savior, face to face?*

*I'll ask Him to light your spirit, as I tell Him of your love;
So then pray for one another, as you lift your eyes above.*

*Please let your heart be joyful, and let your spirit sing.
For I'm spending Christmas in Heaven, and I'm walking with the King!*

*I know how much you miss me; I see the pain inside your heart.
But I'm not so far away, we really aren't apart.*

*So be happy for me, dear ones, you know I hold you, dear,
And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I send you each a special gift from my heavenly home above.
I send you each a memory of my undying love.*

*After all "love" is the gift, more precious than pure gold.
It was always the most important in the stories Jesus told.*

*Please love and keep each other as my Father said to do,
For I can't count the blessings or the love He has for you.*

*So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear.
Remember I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year!*

Raymond E. Owen

Colleen J. Owen

Betty Oetken

Michael Alber

Linda Flinn

Marilyn Colby

Caryl Gloege

Carol Gloege

Rudy Stenson

Grace Stenson

Keener Hall

Betty Williams

Charles Williams

Meamaw Williams

Kay Hudson

Rae Seaton

James Haynes (in honor)

Anne Haynes

Ron Hertel

Joy Blair

Roy Allen

John Clark

Keith Noard

Owen Skelly

Dorothy Vanatta

Alice Carpenter

Emily Palmer-Dunham

Duane Benson

Doug Dunham

Everett, Dorothy, Edythe, & Clynis

Harold & Frances Seyb

John Pelton

John & Helen Ford

Charles & Rosanna Pelton

Steven Leitman

Vincent Ridsen

Mark Ridsen

Matthew Hansen

Patrick Hansen

Henry

DECEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Women Clergy @ Zoom 10 AM Nominating Committee 2 PM FCC Connect @ Zoom 6 PM Book Club @ 7 PM	2	3 Rockets Pie Making 10am—8pm Gifts for Parents @ St. Mark's UMC
4 Worship 10 AM Faith Formation 11:15 AM Handbells 12 noon Troop 270 5:30 PM Troop 2000 7 PM	5 Scouts 6 PM	6	7 Exec. Comm 10 AM Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon	8 Clergy Cluster 12 Noon FCC Connect @ Zoom 6 PM Spring MPT 6:30 PM Arrow Chapter 7 PM	9 - 11 Jill out of town December 9 - 11	
11 Worship 10 AM (Christmas Program) Reception for Peggy Faith Formation 11:15 AM Handbells 12 noon Laura PST 6:30 PM Scouts 5:30 & 7 PM	12 Nominating Comm. 2 PM Finance Team 6 PM	13 Board Mtg 5:30 PM	14 CRC 10 AM Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon Disciples Strings & Singers 6 PM	15 FCC Connect @ Zoom 6 PM Spring MPT 6 PM	16	17
18 Worship 10 AM Carol Sing-a-Long 11:15 AM Joe Page Recital 2:30 PM Troop 270 5:30 PM Troop 2000 7 PM	19	20 Staff Mtg 10 AM	21 Bible Study @ Zoom 12 Noon Longest Night Worship 7 PM	22 No FCC Connect	23	24 FCC Provide FLP Meal Christmas Eve Worship 5 and 7 PM
25 Worship 10 AM 	26 Office Closed	27	28 No Bible Study Disciples Strings & Singers 6 PM	29 No FCC Connect	30	31



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Staff:

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Home Phone: 319-665-2276
Rev. Kara Seaton, Minister of Children, Youth & Families
Rev. Laura Kittrell, Minister of Music and Worship
Peggy Bothell, Office Manager
Michael Hull, Custodian
Lori Smith, Bookkeeper
Damian Rivas, Technology & Communications
Kalea Seaton, Nursery Caregiver

