

JULY 2026

THIS MONTH @ FCC

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

I was having a conversation with my Pastoral Support Team recently about scheduling, calendars, and how we all - including the church - seem to run full speed ahead into many events. And that is often because the things that we are doing are exciting, meaningful, enjoyable, or important. The challenge, however, is to be intentional about how we use our time for **both** activity and rest. In that conversation someone (who herself has a very full calendar) said something simple yet profound that I have been sitting with:

There is no harm in rest.

I am curious what feelings you have when you hear that statement. Does your body relax because you've heard an important truth? Do you push back because slowing down and resting feels scary?

I find myself, both because of this conversation and because of the reality that when August rolls around our children will both be away at college and our calendar will change, wondering...

- How do we, as individuals & church, decide how to spend our time?
- Are we intentional about filling our calendars with things that are important or meaningful, or do we just fill them for busyness' sake?
- Do we really value rest? Do we remember that it is actually a value of our faith?

I would be curious to hear your responses.

With Care, *Jill*

PS - I will be leaving after worship on July 12 to co-direct CYF Camp, and then, upon return, immediately head to Colorado for vacation. Between July 12 and 24 please reach out to Pastor Kara or your elder for pastoral care needs.

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Announcements

HELLO
MY NAME IS

Meet Your Elder

SUNDAY, JUNE 28,
11:15AM-NOON

Following worship on Sunday, June 28 is FCC's "Meet Your Elder" event, an opportunity to connect with your elder, ask questions about the church and our ministries, and get to know other congregants better. Light snacks will be provided. We hope you'll join us!
[Who is your elder? Click here!](#)

Thanks for Your Generosity!

Thanks to you we raised \$2,390.54 to support sending folks from FCC to church camp!



\$1305 was raised through the Flamingo fundraiser.

\$1085.50 was raised through your donations at the Baked Potato Bar.

Additionally we donated \$350 for a United Way summership which provides a local youth the opportunity to attend a community camp.

You Can Attend General Assembly

The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is coming: July 10-11. This year, for the first time, the gathering is online which makes it much more accessible to many people. And everyone is invited.

If you would like to 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.

You can also support with your prayers our three voting delegates who are: Sally, Malinda, and Whitney.

If you have questions, ask [Pastor Jill](#).

FCC Board Report



The First Christian Church Board met on June 16.

Contact the office to access the meeting minutes, board reports and financial summary.

You're Invited: Community Potluck

MONDAY, JULY 13, 7:00PM

As a "people of the table", it always seems fitting for us to have opportunities to gather at the table both together and with new friends. This month, we will not have a Sunday potluck because we are doing a Community Potluck on Monday, July 13 as part of our *Mondays on the Lawn* series.

That evening we will have friends from Immigrant Welcome Network with us along with a Sudanese band who will be performing.

As a way to build relationships, we are hosting a potluck. The church will provide Maidrites (a great Iowa food) and ice cream treats for dessert. You are asked to bring side dishes. And remember, this event is open to the public, so we want to be prepared to feed those who don't have a chance to bring food with them.

If you have questions or are able to help with set up or tear down, please reach out to [Chris](#) or [Heather](#).





At First Christian

Our Ministry Together

JULY 2, 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, July 2 at 6pm. Future meetings are planned for August 6, September 3, and October 1. 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](#)

MONDAYS *on the* LAWN

AT 7:00PM CONTINUING IN JULY

Summer Mondays mean activities at First Christian Church. In July, we welcome our immigrant neighbors with community music:

- **July 6:** Folklorico Dancers with love offering for Open Heartland
- **July 13:** Sudanese Band and Community Potluck with love offering for Welcome Network of Johnson County
- **July 20:** Reflection on Home by Svitlana Volkogon with love offering for Prytula Foundation USA
- **July 27:** Songs of Resistance with love offering for Eschucha Mi Voz

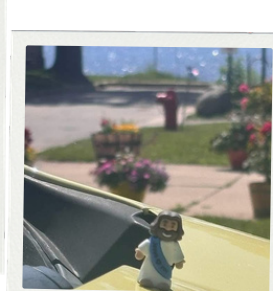


Please mark your calendars and plan to attend these wonderful events! In August, Free Ice Cream will again be served every Monday evening

Where's Jesus Now?

Jesus has been on the go. This past month, he's gone many places including the International Quilt Museum in Nebraska, as well as Wisconsin, Indiana Dunes National Park, and Tuscany!

Where will you take him next? Share your pictures with [the office](#) or on the church Facebook group.



Go Green Tip:



Do you like the idea of composting but not know where to start? "[Let's Go Green](#)" has some tips for where to begin. Also, check with the city you reside in - curbside composting has become much more common in recent years.



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

July 5 - 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30, *Called to Freedom*

July 12 - 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23, *Called into Conversation*

July 19- 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, *TBD*

July 26 - 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Psalms 71:1-16, *Service of Lament*

Nursery

Childcare is offered on Sundays from 9:30am through the end of worship. Care is available for infants up to kindergartners and older children as needed. The nursery is located in the lower-level east classroom.

“The Will of God” Summer Study

SUNDAYS, 4PM ON ZOOM

In the early-1940's amidst WWII, Pastor Leslie Weatherhead preached a series of sermons on the will of God. These have since been published and have continued to speak across generations.

This six-week study based on these sermons will be finishing up in July. Even if you haven't attended before, you can still join any session. We will meet on July 12 and July 19 from 4-5:15pm on Zoom. Links to each week's reading will be in the prior Monday email.

*Faith Formation takes a break during the summer.
It will return after Labor Day.*

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



Carol and Megan offer special music on June 21



Children's Moment on June 6



Sunday worship on May 31



Scone making w/ Disciples Women

Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM LINK

Upcoming Scriptures

July 1: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 8: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 15: Psalm 71:1-16

July 22: Psalm 32:1-7

July 29: Psalm 30:1-5 and 2 Kings 5:1-14

Faith Together



Mondays on the Lawn - Yard Games & Escape Rooms

Music Opportunities @ FCC

Last Sunday we were treated to special music as Carol and Megan sang, "Whispering Hope." We know they are not the only ones with these gifts.

If you are a vocalist or instrumentalist or dancer who would like to share special music during worship, that would be welcome. In fact, it's one of the goals that Malinda, our Sabbatical Music Director has for this summer - to have more special music.

Malinda would welcome your participation in this way, so please contact her with questions or to indicate interest in sharing your gifts.

The Singers & Strings or Disciples Ringers would also welcome your gifts if you're more comfortable in a group!





FCC Connect

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 6:30PM

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM LINK

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

Coffee with Friends

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 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!

Ladies Night Out

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 5:30PM

All women of the church are invited to attend to Ladies Night Out! We will meet for dinner at Blackstone (503 Westbury Dr. #1, Iowa City, IA). This will be Lynn C.'s birthday as well as Ladies Night Out. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Nancy.

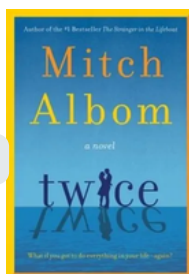
Book Club

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 7PM

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM LINK

This month's book is *Twice* by Mitch Albom, which tells the story of Alfie Logan, who discovers at age 8 he can relive any moment of his life and alter the outcome-though he must accept the consequences of his second choice. Questions? Contact Nancy.

**Note: There has been a schedule change. The August and September books will swap months.*



Disciples Women

2026 FALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 17-Business & Planning Meeting

Sept. 21-Sip & Paint with Julie.

Oct. 19-Quilting Program with Pat, Susan, Maggie, & Sally.

Nov. 16-Card-Making Workshop with Heather (embossing, die-cutting, envelope lining & embellishments)



CRASE Training w/ Officer Detwiler

Keeping Connected



FCC at Fundraiser for Open Heartland



Work project in classroom



Baked Potato Bar Camp Fundraiser



In the Community

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 8:00AM

Spots are still available to work with other FCC members on a Habitat build in our community! FCC is partnering with Habitat for Humanity on July 18 for a morning of hands-on service. No experience needed, just willing hearts and hands. Contact [John](#) with any questions. [Sign up here](#) or at the welcome table on Sundays. Participants need to be age 16 or older.



School Supply Drive



First Christian is partnering with [Ready Set School](#), a collaborative community outreach event that provides free school supplies to local children. Donations collected will help students start the school year prepared and ready to learn.

Requested items include:

- Round-tipped scissors
- 24-count boxes of crayons
- 12-count packages of colored pencils
- Glue sticks
- Pencil pouches

Please bring donations to the church between July 26 and August 2. Thank you for supporting children and families in our community!



SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

THURSDAYS, JULY 30 & AUG. 13

On July 30 and August 13, FCC partners with the Coralville Community Food Pantry to serve lunch to children and their families. Most shifts are from 11am to 1pm. Local restaurants provide the meals. [Sign up now](#) to be part of this event in service to the young families in our wider community!



CORALVILLE
COMMUNITY
FOOD PANTRY



FCC at Iowa City PrideFest



FCC @ Summer Camp

Summer Camp 2026

July 5-10

Junior Camp 2:

- Liana
- Claire
- Sarah
- Tesla
- Olivia
- Alana
- Zahra

July 12-17

Chi Rho Camp 2:

- Satchel
- Violet
- Jay (counselor)

CYF Camp 2:

- Teegan
- Brogan
- Melody
- Jill (co-director)

July 19-24

ADAM Camp:

- Maya
- Payton
- Malinda (counselor)

July 26-31

Adventure Camp:

- Jaida
- AJ
- Melody
- Abriella
- Jay (counselor)

The camping season continues at the Christian Conference Center in Newton! This summer, 32 campers and volunteers from First Christian will experience a week of faith, fun, and community. Even if you aren't going to camp yourself, here are a few ways you can get involved:

Send a Note

Receiving mail at camp always warms one's heart! You can:

- Mail or email cards (addresses below)
- Write a note on the cards available at church—our office will send them weekly.

Pray for Campers

Each week, keep our campers and volunteers in your prayers. Camp is exciting and fun, but there can also be nerves and challenges for campers and leaders.

Connect

Before they go, let them know you're excited for their journey. After they return, ask about their favorite moments, new friends, or what they learned. Your interest helps show them how valued they are in our church family.

Give to Support Camp

First Christian covers 50% of the registration cost for each camper—sometimes more. Donations help make camp accessible for all (please make sure to mark any gifts as for 'youth camp.')

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



June 2026 Campers:



Grand Camp



Family Camp



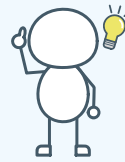
Jr. & Chi Rho Camps

July

**CLICK HERE
FOR FCC'S
JULY 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 Michel
Senior Pastor

Rev. Kara Seaton
Associate Pastor

Rev. Laura Kittrell
*Minister of
Music & Worship*
On sabbatical 6/1-8/31

Malinda Thomas
*Office Administrator &
Sabbatical Music Director*

Michael Hull
Jenna Janssen
Custodians

Lori Smith
Bookkeeper

Cameron Michel
Technology Assistant

McKenna Gaeke
Teegan Michel
Kalea Seaton
Nursery Caregivers

connect with us



**First
Christian
Church**
Disciples of Christ

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

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*