

JULY 2024

THIS MONTH @ FCC

A Note from the Pastor

Friends,

First, we have a favor to ask. The next step as we wait for our new seating to arrive is to have the floors done. That means we need your help again. If you can, please plan to stay after worship on Sunday to help stack chairs and move other items out of the sanctuary. We know the truth that “many hands make light work” so we hope you can stay.

As I write, I am marveling at the fact that this is our July newsletter. That means one more month before I am on sabbatical. As I prepare for sabbatical, and as we explore the idea of sabbath in worship throughout the month of July, this particular prayer from Ted Loder’s book *Guerrillas of Grace* captured my heart. It is titled, “Let Me Live Grace-fully” and it reads this way:

“Thank you, Lord, for this season of sun and slow motion, of games and porch sitting, of picnics and light green fireflies on heavy purple evenings; and praise for slight breezes. It’s good, God, as the first long day of creation. Let this season be for me a time of gathering together the pieces into which my busyness has broken me. O God, enable me now to grow wise through reflection, peaceful through the song of the cricket, recreated through the laughter of play. Most of all, Lord, let me live easily and grace-fully for a spell, so that I may see other souls deeply, share in a silence unhurried, listen to the sound of sunlight and shadows, explore barefoot the land of forgotten dreams and shy hopes, and find the right words to tell another who I am.”

There is little that describes the core purpose of sabbath and sabbatical better than this. I am particularly struck by the sentence, “Let this season be for me a time of gathering together the pieces into which my busyness has broken me.” This is at the heart of how I intend to spend the three months I am away and I hope to bring the essence of this back with me. I hope there are elements of this you can embrace as well.

With care, *Jill*

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Capital Campaign Updates



Seeing (and Hearing) Progress

- **Our new A/V system has been installed.** There are still a few items to complete, but we are hearing great feedback about the much improved sound and screens. We are also excited to have new A/V capabilities downstairs.
- **Thanks to all those who helped with pew dismantling and removal.** We are currently living in an “in between time” with our chairs from Fellowship Hall temporarily moved to the sanctuary. We just received word that our new seating has been delayed and should arrive this fall.



Sabbatical Updates

Pastor Jill’s Sabbatical will be here soon. It begins August 1 which is still a month away, but inevitably will come quickly. We want to share some more reminders and information as we prepare for it.

Jill will be gone during the months of August, September, and October. We ask that you respect her time away. She will not be responding to emails or worshipping with us. We will also see less of her family. In Jim’s absence, we need people to step up to help with Facilities Team and running sound in worship. You’ll see Teegan some as he has come on staff as one of our nursery attendants. Although Cameron will be moving to Ohio for college, he will continue to do our online worship video editing.

Meanwhile, we are being left in very caring and capable hands:

- Kara will remain full time and will be taking on many of Jill’s responsibilities including most of the pastoral care and administrative functions, as well as about half the preaching.
- Laura will continue to be part time but will be working more hours as she also does some pastoral care, leads Bible Study, takes on a few administrative functions, and preaches two Sundays.
- Also preaching during sabbatical are: Liz Woodward (our Partner Regional Minister in the Upper Midwest), Marian Hart, and Kent Clark.
- Traci Massman will be coming on staff during sabbatical and be leading our children’s ministries.
- Carol will be working some extra hours in the office to support our staff and will help you connect with the right person for whatever you need.
- Board Moderator, Sally Strah, will also be available to answer questions.

And remember, the staff does not do this ministry alone - you also, always, have an important role!



Announcements

Letters to Campers

[LEARN MORE](#)

The summer camp season is underway and we have 26 individuals attending camp at our regional camp and conference center in Newton, Iowa, and this year, Visit [page 8](#) of the newsletter for information on how you can support those attending by sending them mail!

Circle of Support

Circle of Support is a new ministry dedicated to offering an extra layer of care to congregants who may appreciate visits, calls, notes, and other forms of support. We understand that asking for help can be challenging, but we want you to know that we have members experienced in providing support who are ready to share their gifts with you. If you are interested in learning more or know someone who might benefit, please speak with a pastor or elder. Our goal is to ensure everyone in our community receives the right amount of support they need at the right time.

Stories & S'mores

[DONATE](#)

SUMMER CAMP FUNDRAISER
Saturday, August 10 we will be hosting Stories & S'mores! An invitation will go out to each household that has contributed towards camp fees for our children & youth this year. You will be invited to bring a lawn chair, and we will share camp stories and make s'mores. If you'd like to contribute financially to support our congregation's campers and our region's camping ministry in Newton, donations can be mailed to the church office, placed in the offering box on Sundays, or given electronically through Realm or our website (link above). Please be sure to mark all contributions for "Youth Camp."

Help Needed This Sunday

Calling all Disciples Strings and Singers! Sunday, June 30 following worship the sanctuary will be cleared in preparation for the floors being refinished. This means we will need to get all the music equipment, including the piano, moved to the narthex. If you are able to stay and help with this, please do. We need all the hands we can get!

In addition to musicians, we need people who are willing to help move the chairs and other items that are usually found in the sanctuary.





Being Together

Mondays on the Lawn

MONDAYS, JULY & AUGUST, 7:00-8:00PM

Being Who We Are as Disciples Patio Chat

(on the back patio)

- July 1 - What does it mean to be a movement for wholeness?

Poetry, Music & Storytelling in July

(on the lower, east lawn)

- July 8 - *A Different View*, an evening of storytelling
- July 15 - *Hymn Sing*
- July 22 - *Castle Ridge*, Mark & Joy Clark performing bluegrass & gospel
- July 29 - *Spoken Word with Open Mic*, featuring Corinne Stanley & Mario Duarte. Others are welcome to prepare 3-4 minute readings of original work or appreciated work of others. Sign up for open mic when you arrive.

Ice Cream Treats in August

(on the front lawn)

- Come by every Monday in August for a frozen treat - dairy and non-dairy. Bring a chair and stay to chat, or drive, bike, or walk up and take it to go. Totally free and open to all!

Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON ON ZOOM

Upcoming Scriptures

July 3: Exodus 17

July 10: I Kings 19:1-13a

July 17: Isaiah 40:30-31

July 24: Ephesians 4:1-7,11-6

July 31: TBD



Zoom link is available through the church office





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](https://youtube.com/icdisciples)



Sunday Mornings



Nursery

Childcare is available each Sunday morning during Worship. Staff are available beginning at 9:30AM. Infants through kindergarten age children (and older children as needed) are invited to join our caregivers in the lower level east classroom for nurture and play.

New Sermon Series - Gift of Sabbath

There has been much conversation about Pastor Jill's upcoming sabbatical, but sabbath is actually for all of us. It doesn't just happen in extended times away from the routine, but sabbath can be incorporated into our daily lives. Throughout July we will explore different aspects of sabbath and be invited to commit to choosing regular sabbath times and experiences.

Called to Serve

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sunday morning worship brings together many hands and many voices. 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! Visit the links below for a description of the roles and to sign up where you feel called to serve.

[Greeter](#)

[Usher](#)

[Valet Parking Attendant](#)

[Acolyte: children K - 6th grade](#)

[Fellowship Time: treats to share or make coffee](#)

[Communion Prep & Clean Up](#)

[Communion Servers](#)

[Scripture Reader](#)



Above: (Center) Dakota Mohr leads worship at Simpson Youth Academy at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa on June 24.



FCC Connect

THURSDAY, JULY 11 AT 6:30PM

[CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM LINK](#)

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

MONDAY, JULY 15 AT 1:00PM

In July, the Hannah Circle group will meet and plan events for the upcoming year. Even if you aren't part of Hannah Circle, be watching for information about the events they will be hosting in future months that you are invited to!

Ladies Night Out

THURSDAY, JULY 18 AT 5:30PM

Ladies of the church are invited to share an evening of food and conversation. In July join us at Blue Elephant Thai Restaurant (2301 2nd Street, Coralville). RSVP to [Nancy Ream](#) if you plan to attend.

Book Club

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 7:00PM

[CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM LINK](#)

The FCC Book Club is reading *Up Home* by Ruth J. Simmons. It is an inspiring memoir from the daughter of sharecroppers who became the first Black president of an Ivy League university.



Join the conversation onsite at the church or online via Zoom.

Keeping Connected

Music Opportunities

Do you play an instrument? Do you like to sing? You're invited to join **Strings & Singers** for rehearsals on **July 3** (in Fellowship Hall), **July 17 & 31 at 6:00PM** (in the sanctuary), and on 9:30 on Sunday mornings.

Interested in playing **handbells**? Join the choir at their Sunday practices (see calendar).

Questions about participating in music at FCC? Contact [Pastor Laura](#).



FCC's Online Directory

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS DIRECTORY](#)



First Christian has an online directory! Use it to update your information as well as to connect with each other. If you have questions about using Realm, please contact the church office.



In the Community



FCC @ PRIDEFEST



FCC @ FLP



FCC @ HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

THURSDAY, JUNE 27 & SATURDAY, JUNE 29

FCC volunteers will be working this week on the Habitat for Humanity build that is in memory of Bill Laubengayer. We look forward to hearing more about their experience.



COMING SOON

- In August we will collect school supplies for children in local schools.
- August 24 we will provide, prepare and serve a meal at the Free Lunch Program.
- In September we will collect winter coats for the CRC Winter Clothing Drive.



FCC @ Summer Camp

Camping season is in full swing at our region's Christian Conference Center in Newton. We invite you to support our children and youth who are attending as campers, as well as our adults who volunteer their time in leading camps.

Campers love MAIL! Receiving a piece of mail at camp ALWAYS brings smiles to faces. There are options to both email and mail cards to those at camp (addresses listed below). There are also cards at church you are welcome to write in, and the office will mail those to camp each week.

Say a little PRAYER for those attending camp each week. While this an exciting and fun filled week, it is also difficult for some campers to be away from home.

CHECK-IN with our campers, talk to campers before camp and after they return. Share your excitement about them attending and be sure to follow up afterwards and ask about their favorite parts!

[Camper name & Camp attending]
c/o Christian Conference Center
5064 Lincoln St
Newton, IA 50208



Send email
to a camper

Camp Attendees

July 1-6, Mission Trip - Chicago

Cameron Michel
Teegan Michel
Brogan Nelson
Kalea Seaton

July 8-13, Junior Camp 2

AJ Kronstein-Steeple
Jaida'Rose Kronstein-Steeple
Tesla Newnum
Jayse Steeples
Violet White-Haar

July 8-13, Chi Rho Camp 2

Melody White-Haar

July 15-20, CYF Camp 2

Gloria Licona Klein
Isabel Licona Klein
Cameron Michel
Kalea Seaton
Spencer Thomas
Jill Michel (co-director)

July 22-27, ADAM Camp

Gloria Licona Klein
Isabel Licona Klein
Spencer Thomas
Malinda Thomas (counselor)

July 22-27, Adventure Camp

Rachel Samuel
Simon Samuel
Lucy Gerlieb
Jay Thomas (counselor)

July 29-August 3, Junior 3

Liana Chimenti





July



Wishing a
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
and a
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
to those who
celebrate this month!

First Christian Church Staff

Rev. Jill Cameron Michel
Senior Pastor
Home: 319-665-2276

Rev. Kara Seaton
Associate Pastor

Rev. Laura Kittrell
Minister of Music & Worship

Carol Mertens
Office Manager

Michael Hull
Custodian

Lori Smith
Bookkeeper

Caitie Klein-Lester,
Teegan Michel,
Kalea Seaton
Nursery Caregivers

Cameron Michel
Technology Assistant

Who? IS MY ELDER

Wondering who your elder is? Find out here using the first letters of your last name.

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Elder</u>
A-CI	Lora Morgan Dunham
Co-F	Maggie Keyser
G-Kin	Martha Melton
Kit-Mic	David Klein
Mo-Sch	Marcus Seaton
Sea-Z	Nancy McKinstry



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Coralville, IA 52241
319-337-4181

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

