

JUNE 2024

# THIS MONTH @ FCC

## A Note from the Pastor

Friends,

Even though summer doesn't officially begin for a few weeks, it feels like it is here. Graduations are underway. Memorial Day is passed. The weather is getting warmer (though I am glad the evenings remain cool).

With summer always comes a change in our rhythm and activities. At one point I thought things slowed down. Now I just think it's different, and often less routine and regular. This is true in so many facets of our lives and no less true here at the church.

So, I want to point out a few things that I hope you'll take time to read about and, even more so, that I hope you'll engage.

- We have three opportunities to serve in our community this month - participate in Iowa City Pridefest representing First Christian, volunteer to provide food or work when we serve at the Free Lunch Program and work on a Habitat for Humanity house at the build in memory of Bill Laubengayer. Sign up links are on [page 7](#).
- We can support our 25 youth and adults who are attending church camp this summer. This can be done by donating to the camp fund (remember, the church pays 1/2 of each registration and with so many campers, it takes many supporters!) and writing notes to campers and volunteers. Find more info on [page 3](#) and [page 8](#).
- We can learn and grow and connect. Even though we don't have Sunday Faith Formation, there are many other regular monthly groups to participate in. We are also doing a Monday evening Patio Chat about who we are as Disciples and our Exploring Baptism class will be starting soon. Read about the Patio Chats on [page 3](#).
- We are going to see (and hear) great progress on our Capital Campaign projects this month. There are ways you can help - please read more on [page 2](#) and volunteer as your able.

No matter the season, we love to see your face and share in these and other ministries with you. Hope to see you soon!

With care, *Jill*

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*connect with us*





# Capital Campaign Updates

**Financial Update:** We have now passed the one-year mark since Commitment Sunday for our “A Place for Everyone” Capital Campaign. We had \$265,080 pledged (that is more than our goal!) and to date \$200,754 (\$183,829 from those who pledged) has been donated. What great progress! If you made a pledge, be watching your email inbox or USPS mailbox for an update on your progress toward your pledge.

**Help Needed:** We will be getting the sanctuary ready for our new chairs. Part of the getting ready is going to be removing the pews we now have, which will require the help of as many hands as willing and are able. We will be taking the pews apart so that we can dispose of them in a ecological and economical way. Anyone helping will need to be able to lift and use light tools such as power saw, drills, and screw drivers. We will be doing a test on a pew this week so that we can figure out the best way to dismantle them.

- The plan is to start after church on June 9, and we will take apart as many as we can that afternoon.
- We will have a construction roll-off beginning on the 10th so we will work on dismantling and removing the pews as needed, all week.

Please contact Jim Michel or John McKinstry to let them know you are willing to help and/or if you have power tools. After removing pews, we will have the floor cleaned before the new chairs arrive in July.

**Exciting Progress:** Yesterday the work got started. Yes, our audio/visual systems in the sanctuary and fellowship hall are being replaced. We have been waiting for this for so long and will look forward to hearing and seeing the difference it makes. Thank you ahead of time for your patience with our sound technicians who will be learning how to run new equipment.

# Sabbatical Updates

We have been talking about Pastor Jill’s upcoming sabbatical for months. Some of you may be wondering if it is ever going to happen. Now that summer is upon us, it is getting closer. As a reminder, she will be on sabbatical from August 1 - October 31.

We have shared information about what our church staff will be doing and who will be added to the church staff. But churches aren’t reliant on staff alone. Rather each person in a congregation is gifted to share in ministry.

The sabbatical has given us a good opportunity to ask questions, not only about who will do things in Jill’s absence, but about what roles should be shared even beyond the sabbatical. Especially since COVID a lot of responsibilities that lay people used to do have been done by our staff. While we are grateful for them, we also are a people who believe in shared ministry and the “priesthood of all believers.”

Be watching (and reading this newsletter) for more information about ways you might be able to serve at and through First Christian Church. It takes all of us!



# Announcements

## New Phone Numbers

GRAND LIVING @ BRIDGEWATER 

Grand Living at Bridgewater has a new phone system, requiring you to enter an extension to reach different apartments. Dial the main number, (319) 930-3000, then dial the party's extension. Please check in with your friends for their extensions and update your phone list.

## Letters to Campers

[MORE INFO](#) 

BEGINS MAY 31

The summer camp season is beginning at our regional camp and conference center in Newton, Iowa, and this year, 25 individuals from our congregation will be attending as campers and volunteers. Visit [page 8](#) of the newsletter for information on how you can support those attending by sending them mail!

## Mark Your Calendar

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION JUNE 23

The congregation has received an invitation to stay following worship on June 23 for a meal in celebration of Nancy and John McKinstry's 50 years of marriage. The meal and cake is provided, and gluten-free and vegetarian options are also available. Plan to stay and celebrate with John & Nancy - all are invited! *Please no gifts.*



## Stories & Smores

[DONATE](#) 

SUMMER CAMP FUNDRAISER

We still need your help to send kids to church camp this summer! Not only will you be supporting an important faith experience for our youth, donations in any dollar amount will get you a ticket to Stories & Smores, an event later this summer that celebrates camp with sharing of stories, singing a few camp songs, and you guessed it, smores!

Donations can be mailed to the church office, placed in the offering box on Sundays, or electronically given through Realm or our website (link above). Please be sure to mark all contributions for "Youth Camp."





# Learning Together

## Patio Chat - Being Who We Are as Disciples

MONDAYS, MAY 27 - JULY 1, 7:00-8:00PM

Join Pastors Jill and Kara for a time of conversation in response to a sermon series called, "Being Who We Are as Disciples." For six weeks (May 26 - June 30) the sermons will focus on different aspects of what it means to be part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the denomination we at First Christian are part of. These Monday evening conversations will give us an opportunity to further discuss these themes and to ask questions about what these core values means for us today.

We will gather on the back patio at the church (or indoors if the weather is not favorable). Bring a lawn chair. Refreshments will be provided. Children are invited to come along and enjoy a time of supervised play.

## Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON ON ZOOM

### Upcoming Scriptures

June 5: Mark 14:3-9

June 12: Matthew 5:21-26

June 19: I Corinthians 12:4-11

June 26: Deuteronomy 5:12-15



Contact the church office for the Zoom link

## Exploring Baptism

This summer, Pastors Jill and Kara are hosting a class titled Exploring Baptism. This is an opportunity to learn about baptism, connect with others, and ultimately choose if this is the right time for you to be baptized. Youth in 6th grade and up, and any who have not been baptized are invited to attend. Please reach out to your Pastors or the office for more details.





## 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 - Being Who We Are

Throughout June we will explore what it means to be part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and ask questions about how we live into that today.

## Baptism & Scholarship Recognition - June 2

At onsite worship June 2 we will share the baptism of Janie Jensen-Fitzpatrick (which will be recorded and included in online worship on June 9). We will also recognize the 9 individuals who received FCC scholarships this year.

## Pride Sunday - June 16

Worship with us as we remember God's extravagant love, celebrate the anniversary of our becoming an Open & Affirming congregation and take an offering to support Alliance Q, the Open & Affirming ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

*Weekly Faith Formation at FCC is on summer break from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Watch for information about other opportunities to learn and connect throughout the summer.*

## 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](#)



## Hannah Circle

MONDAY, JUNE 10 AT 1:00PM

In June the Hannah Circle group will have a work session at church to organize and refresh centerpieces and go through other items in the storage closet as well as plan for an upcoming event. Join us in Fellowship Hall.

## FCC Connect

THURSDAY, JUNE 13 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.

## Ladies Night Out

THURSDAY, JUNE 20 AT 5:30PM

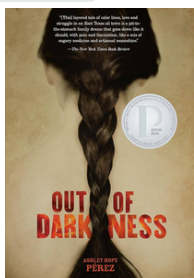
Ladies of the church are invited to share an evening out with good food and good conversation. In June join us at Basta (121 Iowa Avenue, Iowa City).

## Book Club

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 7:00PM

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM LINK

The FCC Book Club is reading *Out of Darkness* by Ashley Perez. Based on a 1937 explosion in East Texas, this is the story of teens learning about race lines that cannot be crossed. It involves segregation, love, and family drama. Join the conversation onsite at the church or online via Zoom.



# Keeping Connected

## Children & Youth

Many of our children & youth participate in church camp at the Christian Conference Center during the summer months. Check out [page 8](#) for how you can send them notes of encouragement while they are at camps! As other



opportunities for them to connect this summer become available, they will be announced. Regular youth group meetings will resume in September. For information about Children & Youth Ministries, please contact Pastor Kara, [icdisciple.kids@gmail.com](mailto:icdisciple.kids@gmail.com).

## Music Opportunities

Join Strings & Singers for rehearsals on **June 5 & 19 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, [icdisciple.music@gmail.com](mailto:icdisciple.music@gmail.com).

## 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

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024

Iowa City Pridefest is planned for Saturday, June 15, and as we do annually, First Christian is planning to participate in the parade and host a booth during the festival. We need two volunteers to serve as co-chairs to help coordinate our presence at Pridefest this year. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Jill to learn more about what this role entails. Also visit our sign up above to participate in the parade or select a time to host the FCC booth!

[Click here for PRIDEFEST SIGN UP](#)



## FCC @ FLP


SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2024



We serve at Iowa City Free Lunch on Saturday, June 22. Our summer menu includes: hot dogs & baked potatoes (with chili and cheese options), sides, desserts, granola bars, and drinks. We anticipate serving 120 meals! Our other 2024 dates are: August 24, October 26 and December 28.

For the June meal, you are invited to provide food items or to volunteer to serve, see the sign up link below for both of these. Serving shifts are divided into a longer shift (10:30am - 1:30pm) and a shorter shift (11:45am - 1:30pm). Non-perishable food items can be placed in the church's FLP tub in the narthex; perishable items should be purchased after June 10 and refrigerated/frozen as appropriate. Items may be delivered to church on Friday, June 21 between 11:30am - 1:00pm.

[FLP SIGN UP HERE](#)

ALL GROCERY ITEMS MUST BE AT THE CHURCH BY 1 PM, JUNE 21. 

## FCC @ HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

THURSDAY, JUNE 27 AND SATURDAY, JUNE 29

[SIGN UP](#)



Volunteers are needed for the mornings (8:00-noon) of Thursday June 27 and Saturday June 29 to assist in building a house in memory of Bill Laubengayer, longtime FCC Member and Habitat Volunteer. Bill played an integral role in helping 104 local families build safe, affordable, permanent homes. Please use Sign Up Genius link above to indicate your intention to volunteer.



### Summer 2024 Attendees

May 31-June 1, Family Camp  
Scott, Jessie & Olivia

June 10-15, Junior Camp 1  
Oliver

June 22-23, Grand Camp 1  
Linda  
Alana  
Kara (co-director)  
Maya (support staff)

July 1-6, Mission Trip - Chicago  
Cameron  
Teegan  
Brogan  
Kalea

July 8-13, Junior Camp 2  
AJ  
Jaida'Rose  
Tesla  
Jayse  
Violet

July 8-13, Chi Rho Camp 2  
Melody

July 15-20, CYF Camp 2  
Gloria  
Isabel  
Cameron  
Kalea  
Spencer  
Jill (co-director)

July 22-27, ADAM Camp  
Gloria  
Isabel  
Spencer  
Malinda (counselor)

July 22-27, Adventure Camp  
Rachel  
Simon

July 29-August 3, Junior 3  
Liana



## FCC @ Summer Camp

MAY 31 - AUGUST 3, 2024

Camping season begins this weekend at our region's Christian Conference Center in Newton. We are excited to be sending 25 people this summer! This is an important experience for our youth and adult volunteers, and you might be wondering, **How Can I Support FCC Campers?** Below are a few ideas:

**Send Mail:** Receiving a piece of mail at camp ALWAYS brings smiles to faces. Please help shower our campers (and adult volunteers) with notes of encouragement and love this summer! 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.

**Prayer:** Pray 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.

**Ask:** Talk to campers before and after they return. Share your excitement about them attending and be sure to follow up afterwards and ask about their favorite parts of camp.

**Financial Support:** Donations are a vital way you can support our campers. Our congregation commits to paying 50% of each registration for children & youth connected to our congregation and more when needed. Donations can be made through the offering box, mailing a check, or by using online giving (Fund: Directed Contributions; Memo: Youth Camp). Please make sure to note "youth camp" for gifts to make sure they are applied to the correct account.



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

campermail@newtonccc.org







# June

**WISHING A HAPPY BIRTHDAY & HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ALL THOSE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH**



## 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	TBD
Co-F	Maggie Keyser
G-Kin	Martha Melton
Kit-Mic	David Klein
Mo-Sch	Marcus Seaton
Sea-Z	Nancy McKinstry

## 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*

Kalea Seaton  
*Nursery Caregiver*

Caitie Klein-Lester  
*Nursery Caregiver*

Cameron Michel  
*Technology Assistant*

*connect with us*



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

[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*