

First Christian Church
Iowa City - Coralville

NOVEMBER 2026

THIS MONTH @ FCC

A Note from Pastor Jill

Dear Friends,

While I have a commitment to gratitude as an ongoing spiritual discipline, the month of November brings it to the forefront. And in these days when so many people are hurting, when headlines seem overwhelming, when anxieties are high, especially in anticipation of elections, gratitude is not only important but necessary. Gratitude doesn't deny the struggles, but it does help us hold onto hope. Gratitude doesn't make everything okay, but it does help us not give in to despair. Gratitude is another way we remember that many things can be true at once...worry, pain, and fear are real *and* we have much to be grateful for.

I am grateful for you. I am grateful for the ways I witness you caring for one another, for our community, and for the world. I am grateful for your commitment to being the heart of Jesus in this world. I am grateful to share this ministry with you.

With Care,

Jill

PS - Don't forget to "fall back" by setting your clocks back before bed on October 31. Enjoy that extra hour of sleep, and join us for All Saints Sunday worship on November 1!

Update from Pastor Kara

I'm grateful for the continued love and support you've shown me and my family since my breast cancer diagnosis. My next step is a second surgery on October 29, and I expect to begin radiation therapy later in November. Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers!

Kara

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Announcements

FCC Lunch Out

NOVEMBER 8, 2026

The Connections Crew has planned a lunch out after worship on November 8. Join others from FCC at **Watermill Kitchen + Bar** (located in the Hyatt Regency at Iowa River Landing in Coralville) at 11:30am. Everyone will be responsible for the cost of their own lunch. Reservations will be made on November 3rd, so contact the office RSVP here ASAP!

Help Care for the Church

NOVEMBER 21, 2026

You are invited to our final Church Workday of the year on Saturday, November 21, 9am - 12noon. This is one way all of us can help keep our church building and grounds in good condition. There are jobs for all ages and abilities. The more of us who are here, the more we can get done. Questions? Contact Sally, Facilities Team chair.

Alternative Gift Market

NOVEMBER 22, 2026

The Alternative Gift Market has turned into an annual tradition at First Christian. On November 22, we will be hosting representatives from a number of our community partners. After worship, there will be opportunity to talk to them and ask any questions you may have. You can choose to support these important groups with a financial gift that can be made in honor of someone on your gift list! A card will be provided for you to gift to your special recipient.

Help Decorate for Christmas

NOVEMBER 22, 2026

Plan to stay after the Alternative Gift Market on Sunday, November 22 to decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. We anticipate beginning about 12noon. All ages are welcome to help!

Advent Begins

NOVEMBER 29, 2026

You are invited to make worship a priority during Advent as we explore the theme "Until the Dawn..."

After worship you are invited to slow down and stay for a bit as we "Linger Longer" with each other. During this less-structured time there will be opportunities for conversations with old and new friends.

Additional worship services include:

- **Longest Night Worship** on **Monday, Dec. 21** at 7pm - a service that acknowledges that grief and joy live together in this season.
- **Christmas Eve Worship** on **Thursday, Dec. 24** at 7pm - a service that celebrates the birth of Jesus and the promise of God with us always.
- **Brunch and Worship** on **Sunday, Dec. 27** at 10am - an informal service of worship at our usual worshiping time that takes place in Fellowship Hall as we share worship and brunch together.

You are also invited to be a "Christmas Elf" and provide a gift for one of the families we are partnered with. Learn more on page 7.



At First Christian

Our Ministry Together

NOVEMBER 5, 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, November 5 at 6pm.

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

Sound Reach Choir performance at FCC

Sound Reach Choir is an inclusive, adaptive community music program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. facilitated by local music therapists. Please join in supporting these enthusiastic singers as they share their talents and joy through music on November 18 @ 6:00pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome!

Thanksgiving Offering

The Thanksgiving offering supports higher education and theological training through Disciples-affiliated schools. Several FCC members have been the recipient of scholarships funded through this offering. And a number of FCC members - including two of your current pastors - have attended (or are attending) Disciples affiliated colleges, universities, and seminaries. Gifts will be collected on November 15 and 22 onsite or give online (select Special Offering - Regional, and Thanksgiving Offering).

Where's Jesus Now?

Jesus continues to show up in all sorts of places! Since our last newsletter, Jesus has been trying different modes of transportation with Jim & Heather; from trains, horse drawn buggies (1) and even a motorcycle (2) all in Kalona. However he seemed most at home on the camel (3) in Marilyn's home! Finally, did you know that some of our kids bedazzled Jesus (4)? There are a few around the church - see if you can spot them!



1



2



3



4

Go Green Tip:

Do you care about the impact you make on the earth? Do you get overwhelmed trying to figure out what to do? "Let's Go Green" has some tips for how to start living more sustainably - check them out here.

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

Upcoming Sermons

November 1 - All Saints Sunday
Joshua 3:7-17, *Moving Forward*
November 8 - 24h Sunday after Pentecost
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25, *What Commitments Do We Keep?*
November 15 - 25th Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 16:13-16, *We Call Ourselves Disciples*
November 22 - Thanksgiving Sunday/Alt. Gift Market
Psalm 103:1-5 & Matt. 25:31-40, *Gratitude to Action*
November 29 - 1st Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 64:1-9, Until the Dawn...Cry Out

Sundays for Children

- Children are always welcome in the sanctuary
- Bags & a table of worship materials are available
- A rug in the sanctuary provides a comfy place to sit
- Childcare is offered on Sundays from 9:30am through the end of Faith Formation. Care is available for infants up to kindergartners and older children as needed. The nursery is located in the lower-level east classroom.

The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss

SUNDAYS AT 11:15AM

People of all ages are invited to this intergenerational exploration of Dr. Seuss books and themes.

- November 1 - *Green Eggs and Ham*
- November 8 - FCC Lunch Out @ Watermill
- November 15 - *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*
- November 22 - Alternative Gift Market

A nursery is provided for the youngest among us as needed.

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



Jon shares with the children on World Communion Sunday



Sunday morning AV volunteers, Randy and Jim



Worship leaders on Children's Sabbath



Youth share special music on Oct. 18

Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM LINK

Upcoming Scriptures

November 4: Matthew 16:13-16
November 11: Psalm 103:1-5 and Matthew 25:31-40
November 18: Isaiah 64:1-9
November 25: No Bible Study today

Faith Together

This fall, our middle and high school youth are asking, "What is Faith?" Together, we're learning about the Bible, Christian history and traditions, world religions, and what it means to live out our faith. We meet on Sundays from 4:30–5:45 pm. Our last gathering of the year will be November 15, and we'll resume in the new year. We'd love for you to join us!

EXPLORING FAITH



A youth leads children's moment



Youth prepare worship for Oct. 18



Artwork from Faith Fomation

Youth @ FCC!

CHI RHO

Chi Rho (grades 6-8) meets on **Nov. 22** from 4:30-5:45p to make Xmas cards and tie-blankets.

JYF

JYF (grades 3-5) meets **Nov. 8 from 11:30 - 1:00pm** and **Nov. 22 from 12:00 - 1:15pm** at the church for lunch, activities and fun!

CYF

CYF (grades 9-12) meets on **Nov. 22** from 4:30-5:45p to make Xmas cards and tie-blankets.

Coffee with Friends

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 9:00AM

You are invited to stop by for coffee and conversation at the Crosspark Hy-Vee in Coralville (3285 Crosspark Rd). Everyone is invited to this event on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, sponsored by Disciples Women.

FCC Connect

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 6:30PM

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM LINK

Catch up with many of your FCC friends! FCC Connect is an online opportunity to do just that. Sign on and join the conversation!

Disciples Women - Holiday Card-Making

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 6:30PM

Join the Disciples Women's group for a Holiday Card-Making Workshop with Heather. Your options will include embossing, die-cutting, layering, lining envelopes, and adding embellishments. No experience necessary, all materials will be supplied, and refreshments will be served!

Ladies Night Out

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 5:30PM

All women of the church are invited to join Ladies Night Out at The Copper Boar (575 Cameron Way, NL). Please note: there will be no night out in December. Beginning in January, we'll meet at lunchtime during the winter months. If you plan to attend in November, please RSVP to Nancy.

Book Club

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 7PM

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM LINK



Are you loving the book club discussions, but they haven't picked your favorite book yet? Here's your chance to make suggestions for 2027! This meeting between Thanskgiving and Christmas will be for choosing next year's books.



Ready to cheer on the Hawks

Keeping Connected



Grinch treats in Faith Formation on Oct. 11



Regional Gathering in Newton on Oct. 17



Stories Behind the Stitches w/ Disciples Women on Oct. 19

In the Community

BLOOD DRIVE @FCC

NOVEMBER 14

A Scout from a troop that meets at FCC is organizing a blood drive! ImpactLife will be at FCC on **November 14 from 8:30 a.m. to noon**. Consider participating in this life-saving project by signing up through the ImpactLife portal. Your donation could make a life-saving difference!

do good things

BE A CHRISTMAS ELF!

Sign up!

BRING GIFTS BY DECEMBER 6

First Christian Church is partnering again this year with Open Heartland to provide gifts for three families this Christmas. It is our goal to provide 2 gifts to each family member. It will take your participation to get this done! Here's how it works: Click this link to look over the list of gifts and sign up for what you want to purchase. Purchase the item (remember to provide gift receipts, especially for clothes and shoes). Wrap the item and label it with the first name and family # of the recipient (this information is provided when you sign up). Return the wrapped, labeled gift to First Christian Church no later than December 6.

Open Heartland
welcoming • including • strengthening









Clockwise: sorting coats for the Warm Winter Wear Distribution, final dresser build, serving at Free Lunch, Interfaith diaper bundling event

CELEBRATING OUR IMPACT

During October, First Christian impacted our community by:

- Donating 79 coats (51 adult; 28 kids) along with other winter wear. Combined with other donations, 2187 coats were shared. We also had 10 volunteers work at the distribution event.
- Donating 27 boxes (containing 2948 diapers) to the Coralville Community Food Pantry with 9 volunteers at the bundling event.
- Building the last 3 dressers for Houses into Homes with 11 volunteers working at this build.
- Serving 140 meals at Free Lunch with the help of 12 FCC volunteers.



November

CLICK HERE FOR FCC'S NOVEMBER CALENDAR

WHO IS MY ELDER?

Last Name	Your Elder
A-Cl	Julie
Co-F	Nancy
G-Kin	Maggie
Kit-Mic	Steve
Mo-Sch	Marcus
Sea-Z	Jane

First Christian's online directory

realm

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

First Christian Church Staff

Rev. Jill Cameron Michel
Senior Pastor

Rev. Kara Seaton
Associate Pastor

Rev. Laura Kittrell
Minister of Music & Worship

Malinda Thomas
Office Administrator

Michael Hull
Jenna Janssen
Custodians

Lori Smith
Bookkeeper

Cameron Michel
Technology Assistant

Sophia Romero
Ella Romero
Jacob Hall
Teegan Michel
Nursery Caregivers

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