

OCTOBER 2026

THIS MONTH @ FCC

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

October promises to be a full month in worship, in the ways serve our community, and with a chance to think ahead to 2027 and how we will continue to grow and nurture the ministry of First Christian Church.

During the month of October we will observe World Communion Sunday on October 4 and Children's Sabbath on October 18. We will have opportunities to serve with the Warm Winter Wear Distribution, building dressers with Houses into Homes, donating and bundling diapers with the Coralville Food Pantry, and serving at Free Lunch.

There is much more going on (keep reading the newsletter to find out!), but just the things listed above remind us of some of the imp reasons why First Christian matters in our world. Our commitment to welcome, our commitment to valuing the vulnerable in our midst, and our commitment to letting our faith drive us out into the community with acts of love - these are all commitments that make the world better. Thank you for being part of First Christian!

So, what is it that you love about First Christian? Why do you choose to be part of this faith community?

I encourage you to think about your answers to those questions. I think they are always important questions, but especially at this time of year as we look ahead toward 2027. In the coming weeks you will receive communications asking you to consider the commitments you will make - with your time, with your talents, with your money - commitments to help First Christian continue to have an impact. So, I think that question of why FCC is important to you matters.

In addition to helping to shape the commitment you make for the coming year, I'd love to hear your stories. Why is First Christian a priority in your life? Send me an email and tell me. Or, if you prefer, record a video answering that question and [upload it here](#).

With Care, *Jill*

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connect with us





Announcements



Stories Behind the Stitches

OCTOBER 19, 6:30PM

Have you ever wondered why people spend countless hours creating quilts? Join us for an engaging evening as First Christian Church quilters share the stories, inspiration, and experiences behind their art.

Presented in a relaxed "talk show" format, several experienced quilters discuss how they got started, what keeps them quilting, where they find inspiration, and the life lessons they've learned along the way. They will also share some of their most meaningful quilts and the personal stories stitched into each one.

Whether you're an experienced quilter, a beginning sewist, or simply curious about this timeless art form, you'll enjoy this entertaining and heartfelt look at creativity, friendship, family traditions, and the power of handmade treasures.

Guests will have the opportunity to view a variety of quilts and ask questions following the presentation.

Regional Gathering

OCTOBER 17, 2026



The Upper Midwest Regional Gathering "We Call Ourselves Disciples" will be Oct. 17 at the Christian Conference Center. This important event is a full day of worship, education, and planning. Several people from FCC are planning to attend, so ride sharing could be arranged. Registration is only \$10. Lunch is included, as is childcare, programming for youth, and hayrack rides touring the grounds. A personal visit from Disciples founder Alexander Campbell (or his look-alike) is expected! [Register here.](#)

Update from Pastor Kara

Thank you for the cards, kind words, prayers, and well wishes you have shared since my breast cancer diagnosis. Many of you have also reached out to my family, and we are so grateful for your love and support.

I am anticipating surgery on September 30 and plan to be away from the office for about a week. In mid-October, I'll meet with my surgeon for a follow-up and then begin meeting with my oncology doctors to determine the next steps in my treatment.

Thank you again for your kindness and support during this time. They mean more than you know!

With gratitude, *Kara*



At First Christian

Our Ministry Together

OCTOBER 1,
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, October 1 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

Who Are You Thinking Of?

Remember, there are "Thinking of You" cards at the church for you to use. The process is simple. Write a note. Write the recipient's first and last name on the back of the notecard. Place the notecard in the offering box. The church office will mail it for you!

Reconciliation Offering

We continue to receive the Reconciliation Offering, which supports ministries and programs promoting the Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racist ideals of our denomination. You can give to this ministry through October 4, by mailing a check to the office, leaving your donation in the offering box on Sundays, or giving online (select Special Offering - Regional, and Reconciliation Offering).



Where's Jesus Now?

Jesus continues to show up in all sorts of places. Since our last newsletter, he has gone on a quilting retreat with Sally, visited an aquarium with Frank & Sheree, accompanied Quinn as he purchased his first house, and traveled with Chris to the beach.

Where will you take him next? Share your pictures with the office or on the church Facebook group.



Speaking of our church Facebook group...if you're on Facebook and haven't joined yet, send a friend request to Pastor Jill or Pastor Kara to get connected. It's a place to share announcements, pictures, and conversation.



Go Green Tip:



Many personal care items are packaged in plastics, designed to be disposable, or made with chemicals that harm the environment. "Let's Go Green" has some tips for rethinking these products - 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](https://youtube.com/icdisciples) 

Upcoming Sermons

- October 4 - World Communion Sunday**
Galations 3:27-29, Telling Stories of Connection
- October 11 - 20^h Sunday after Pentecost**
Acts 4:36-37, Telling Stories of Generosity
- October 18- Children's Sabbath**
Matthew 22:34-40, Telling Stories of Love
- October 25 - Commitment Sunday**
Joel 2:1-18, Telling Stories of Hope

Sundays for Children

Children are always welcome in the sanctuary at FCC! There are bags with worship materials at the back of the sanctuary as well as a rug with more materials up front to help children engage in worship. Childcare is also 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.

- October 4 - *The Zax*
- October 11 - *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*
- October 18 - *The Lorax*
- October 25 - *Horton Hears a Who*

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



Malinda shares a children's moment on Sept. 13



Mary reads scripture in worship on Sept. 20



Singers lead worship on Sept. 20



Cornhole champions on Welcome Sunday!

Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM

Upcoming Scriptures

October 7: Matthew 22:34-40

October 14: Joel 2:1-18

October 21: Joshua 3:7-17

October 28: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Faith Together



This fall, our middle and high school youth will explore the question, "What is Faith?" Together, we'll dig into the Bible, Christian history, world religions, the Disciples of Christ, living out our faith, and discerning God's call.

Pastor Jill, Pastor Kara, and other adults will lead conversations and activities, with time together as a whole group and in smaller groups. We'll meet September 20–November 15, with no class on October 18. We hope you'll join us for the whole series!

Youth @ FCC!

JYF

JYF (grades 3-5) meets from **12:00 - 1:15pm** on **September 27, October 11 and 25** at the church for lunch, activities and fun!

CHI RHO & CYF

Chi Rho (grades 6-8) and CYF (grades 9-12) are invited to volunteer at the Warm Winter Wear Distribution the **morning of Saturday, October 17**. Check your email for the sign up!



Youth Group began Sept. 20





FCC Connect

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 6:30PM

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM

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

Coffee with Friends

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 9:00AM

Coffee With Friends has moved! Beginning this month it will be meeting at Crosspark Hy-Vee in Coralville (3285 Crosspark Rd). Everyone is invited to this monthly event, sponsored by Disciples Women.

Ladies Night Out

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 5:30PM

All women of the church are invited to join Ladies Night Out at Thai Spice (1210 S. Gilbert St, IC). If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [Nancy](#).

Disciples Women

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 6:30PM

The October program is "Stories Behind the Stitches." Read more on [page 2](#).

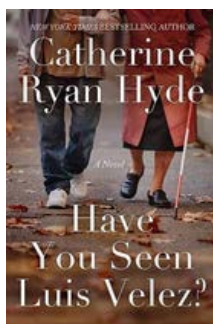
Plan ahead for **Nov. 16** at 6:30p for a Card-Making Workshop with Heather.

Book Club

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 7PM

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM

Raymond Jaffe feels like he doesn't belong. Raymond has only two real connections: to the feral cat he's tamed and to a blind 92-year-old in his building who's introduced herself with the curious question "Have you seen Luis Velez?" As Raymond tries to find Luis Velez a deep and unexpected friendship blossoms between the two. Join [Nancy](#) in discussion about *Have You Seen Luis Velez?*



Coffee w/ Friends at the Davis' home on Sept. 8

Keeping Connected



Welcome Sunday meal on Sept. 13



Faith Formation on Sept. 20



Sip & Paint w/ Disciples Women on Sept. 21



In the Community



Above: FCC builds dressers for Houses into Homes for Sept. 12

OCTOBER REMINDERS



SIGN UP

OCTOBER 11 & 13

- **Warm Winter Wear Drive:** We are collecting new or gently used winter clothing and outerwear in infant, child & adult sizes through Oct 11. On Oct. 11 you are invited to come to church at 9am to help with sorting/bagging our donations to get them ready for deliver. The CRC distribution event is Oct. 11-17. You can [sign up to help here](#) to help at the distribution.
- **FCC Dresser Build, Oct. 13:** We will participate in a second fall Dresser Build for Houses into Homes from 5-7pm.

DIAPER DRIVE & BUNDLING EVENT



CORALVILLE
COMMUNITY
FOOD PANTRY

OCTOBER 11, 18 & 21

[October 21 Sign Up](#)

In October we will participate in a diaper drive for the Coralville Community Food Pantry. Disposable diapers can be brought to church on Oct. 11 and Oct. 18. There will be a diaper collection bin in the church narthex. Sizes 5 and 6 are especially needed. Adult diapers are also welcome.

You are also invited to take part in the Interfaith Day of Service on Wednesday, Oct. 21 from 5-6:30 pm at the food pantry. The diapers will be bundled at the event to be distributed through the Pantry. [Sign up](#) to participate. Contact Linda Jans with any questions.

FCC SERVES FREE LUNCH



IOWA CITY

Free Lunch Program

Sign Up

OCTOBER 24

FCC is serving Free Lunch on Saturday, Oct. 24. [Sign up](#) to help serve or to provide food for the event. Food items can be dropped off at FCC on Friday, Oct. 23 from 11:30am to 1pm. Signup sheets, recipes, and casserole pans will be available Sunday, Oct. 4.

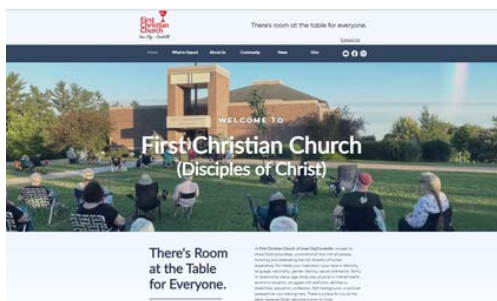


October



**CLICK HERE
FOR FCC'S
OCTOBER
CALENDAR**

Our Updated Website



First Christian's website has a fresh new look! Check it out at ICDISCIPLES.ORG.

Having trouble getting it to load?
You may need to clear your browser's cache.



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

icdisciples.org

WHO IS MY ELDER?



Last Name Your Elder

A-CI Julie

Co-F Nancy

G-Kin Maggie

Kit-Mic Steve

Mo-Sch Marcus

Sea-Z Jane



[FCC's online
directory](#)

*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
Nursery Caregivers

connect with us

