

SEPTEMBER 2026

THIS MONTH @ FCC

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

There are three things on my mind as I sit down to write this.

The first, which technically happens in August, is worship this coming Sunday (Aug. 30). This Sunday our worship will be modeled after the worship of the Taize community. If you aren't familiar with Taize, you can [learn more here](#). Taize is an ecumenical monastic community in Southern France that welcomes visitors to be part of community life centered on prayer, service, connection, and curiosity. Jim and I had the fortune of visiting Taize back in 2006 and that experience has stuck with us. So, on Sunday we will be modeling our worship after theirs. What does this mean? You can expect a more simple service. You can expect more silence (that might make you nervous, but you can do it!). You can expect simple, repetitive songs, many of which we are already familiar with. The sanctuary will look a little different. Worship will feel a little different. And I hope you'll come and see!

The second thing on my mind is Welcome Sunday which is coming up on September 13. What a great Sunday this is with worship followed by a shared meal as well as games and activities. Welcome Sunday is intergenerational - it's for all of us! I hope you'll be here and I hope you'll invite someone new to join you or reach out to someone from FCC who you haven't seen in a while and encourage them to be present. Read more on page 2 and RSVP there.

Finally, a word about Kara's recent breast cancer diagnosis. Thank you for the ways you have already responded with compassion and care to her and her family. And thank you in advance for all you will do in the coming months to help make this more manageable. As she anticipates surgery and treatment, we will offer support, adapt as needed, and step up to give her space to focus on healing.

With Care,

Jill

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Announcements

Update on Pastor Laura

As you may remember, Pastor Laura's sabbatical is scheduled through August 31. Meanwhile, she is also continuing her recovery after breaking her leg. At this time, we are uncertain exactly what her return will look like. Laura has an appointment this week that will tell us more, but it is possible that we may need to transition her slowly back to her work here.

We are grateful for Malinda who has served as our Sabbatical Music Director and who is willing to continue serving as needed to help us and Laura through this transition.

We will share information as we know more.

Sip & Paint

SEPTEMBER 21, 6:30PM

Inviting all women!
Come and join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. Along with refreshments, mocktails, and good conversation, Julie Fitzpatrick will lead us in discovering our inner creativity. Everyone will go home with their own painted masterpiece!



Please [pre-register here](#) as spaces are limited. A \$5.00 supplies fee will be collected that evening.

This event is sponsored by Disciples Women. Any questions? Contact Linda.

Welcome Sunday

@First Christian Church

SEPTEMBER 13

Each year on the Sunday after Labor Day we celebrate "Welcome Sunday." This is a time to gather together as friends, invite guests, and simply enjoy being together. It is also the time when we acknowledge that the rhythm of our life together changes with fall.

Join us for worship at 10AM, then plan to stay after to share a meal, enjoy conversation and games, and even win prizes!

Between now and then, here are some things you can do to prepare:

- Think of someone you would like to invite and reach out to them.
- [RSVP here](#) so we can plan for the right number of people.
- Consider helping with games or the meal. [Sign up here](#) to help.

ALL are welcome!

Celebrating a Century

Eunice will be celebrating her 100th birthday on September 8. Let's help her celebrate with a card shower. Contact the office for her address to mail cards to!



At First Christian

Our Ministry Together

SEPT. 3, 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, September 3 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's On Your Mind? You Can Let Them Know

Did you see someone on the prayer list and want to send good wishes their way? Have you noticed someone missing from worship lately? Did someone from church simply cross your mind?

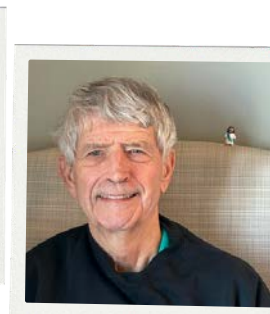
There are "Thinking of You" cards at the church for you to use and you can do it right from church when it's on your mind. They are on one of the high top tables at the back of the sanctuary seating.

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!

Where's Jesus Now?

Jesus continues to show up in all sorts of places. Since doing RAGBRAI, he has traveled to Mt. Rushmore and to Kelly-Ingram Park in Birmingham, AL. Look close - you'll also notice little Jesus watching over Francis as he prepares for physical therapy at rehab.

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



Speaking of the church Facebook group...if you are on Facebook and not yet part of it, send a Facebook friend request to Pastor Jill or Pastor Kara and they can help you connect. This private group is a place where announcements, pictures, and conversation are shared.



Go Green Tip:



Are you trying to reduce the water you waste? Do you wonder how you can be part of the solution? "[Let's Go Green](#)" has some tips for minimizing wasting water indoors at home - 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

September 6 - 15^h Sunday after Pentecost

2 Timothy 1:1-5, *Telling Stories of Faith*

September 13 - 16^h Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 58:6-10, *Telling Stories of Welcome*

September 20- 17^h Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 20:1-16, *Telling Stories of Abundance*

September 27 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21, *Telling Stories of Integrity*

Sundays for Children

Children are always welcome in the sanctuary at FCC. There are bags of worship materials at the back of the sanctuary as well as a rug with more materials up front - these are to make our children feel welcome. 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.

Faith Formation is Back for All Ages

BEGINNING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

This fall we will explore the **Gospel According to Dr. Seuss**. This is an intergenerational opportunity involving a mix of hands-on activities, discussions, readings, and clips from many Dr. Seuss stories including *Horton Hears a Who*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *The Lorax*, *The Sneetches*, and others. Explore and grow with us as we examine how “a person’s a person no matter how small” and “speaking for the trees” are expressions of faith.

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



Disciples Ringers playing on August 16



Children gathering at the “campfire” in Aug. 23 worship



Linda and Jane serving each other communion



FCC gathering for worship

Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM LINK

Upcoming Scriptures

September 2: Isaiah 58:6-10

September 9: Matthew 20:1-16

September 16: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

September 23: Galatians 3:27-29

September 30: Acts 4:36-37

Faith Together

Church Camp by the Numbers

Now that the camp season has concluded, take a look at FCC's support and participation at the Christian Conference Center during Summer 2026:

- 10 different camps with FCC campers attending.
- 38 spots at camp filled.
- 25 unique campers from FCC.
- 7 unique volunteers from FCC.

You can support this important ministry by donating financially to the camp [here](#), or by donating your time at work days and events throughout the year.

Christian Conference Center...more than a summer camp!



Jay and Gene enjoying ice cream together



Paul and Jim were all smiles doing dishes at FLP



Deb and Barb serving treats



Camp style worship



Coffee with Friends

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 9:00AM

Susan & Paul are hosting this month's gathering in their garden--contact office for address--(rain loction - Crosspark Hy-Vee, 3285 Crosspark Rd.). Future meetings will move to Crosspark Hy-Vee in Coralville. Everyone is invited to this monthly event, sponsored by Disciples Women.

FCC Connect

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 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!

Ladies Night Out

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 5:30PM

All women of the church are invited to join Ladies Night Out at Red's Alehouse (405 Dubuque St, North Liberty). If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [Nancy](#).

Disciples Women

THIRD MONDAYS OF THE MONTH, 6:30PM

September 21: Sip & Paint w/Julie. Read more on page 2 and [register here](#).

October 19: Quilting program with FCC quilters.

November 16: Card Making with Heather.

Book Club

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 7PM

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM LINK

Grace March's weekly attic-room dinner parties and window-brewed sun tea become a healing balm on all the lives of her oddball collection of neighbors, but she hides a terrible secret of her own. When a shocking act of violence tears apart the house, the Briar Club women must decide once and for all: Who is the true enemy in their midst? Linda will lead discussion on this month's book, *The Briar Club*.



Enjoying frozen treats on Mondays in August

Keeping Connected



August Potluck enjoying picnic foods...



...each other's company...



...and watermelon on a stick !



In the Community

FCC DRESSER BUILDS

SEPT. 12 AND OCT. 13

We have 8 dressers and 1 nightstand to build and will do so on:

- Sept. 12 (10am-noon)
- Oct. 13 (5-7pm)

It takes a team of two to build one dresser. Invite your spouse, a friend or youth to participate. No special skills needed. Volunteers must be 11 years or older to volunteer; ages between 11 to 13 should have an adult with them to assist/supervise.

Two-Step Signup:

1. New Volunteers must create an account with HiH's Bloomerang Volunteer System.
2. After creating an account, sign-up for the dresser build opportunity and choose which shift you would like to attend.

Questions? Ask Mary.

WARM WINTER WEAR DRIVE

SEPT. 20 - OCT. 11

Once again, FCC will be participating in the distribution of winter clothing to those in need. The event, to be held Oct. 11-17, is sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Communities and the Iowa City Police Dept. Donations of new or gently used coats, snow pants, hats, gloves/mittens, scarves, boots, warm socks, sweatpants, vests, sweatshirts, jeans & sweaters in infant, child & adult sizes are welcome. We will be collecting these clothing items at church from Sept. 20-Oct 11.

FCC and friends serving Summer Lunch at CCFP





With Other Disciples



Disciples Mission Week

SEPTEMBER 8-13

Together with Disciples across the denomination, we will claim that everyone has a place in God's mission. There are four webinars offered, each at 6:30pm CST. Sign up [here](#) for any or all of them.

- Food Insecurity - 9/8
- Healthcare Equity - 9/9
- Housing Insecurity - 9/10
- Disability Equity - 9/11

Also, Disciples Mission Week's Day of Service is 9/12, and we will build dressers together at Houses into Homes. More info about this project is on page 7.



Reconciliation Offering

SEPTEMBER 27 & OCTOBER 4

This Disciples offering provides grants to ministries and congregations actively developing and implementing programs that promote our denomination's identity of Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racist. This year, FCC was a recipient of one of these grants, which helped support the Iowa City Freedom School, a local project we partnered on. Reconciliation offerings will be collected 9/27 and 10/4.



UMW Regional Gathering

OCTOBER 17, 2026

Make plans now to attend the Upper Midwest Regional Gathering "We Call Ourselves Disciples" on Oct. 17 at the Christian Conference Center. This important event is a full day of worship, education, and planning. Lunch is included, as is childcare, programming for youth, and hayrack rides touring the grounds. A personal visit from Alexander Campbell is expected! [Register here.](#)

UMW Region Fall Women's Retreat

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026

Held at beautiful Lake Koronis in Minnesota, the regional Fall Women's Retreat is a lovely weekend of fun, friends, and food open to all women and female identifying persons. Our own Malinda is the current president of the Women's Retreat and will be attending; she would love to pack her van with other women from FCC! [Registration](#) is open until Sept. 16.



Worship Space at Camp Koronis



September



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



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

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 &
Sabbatical Music Director*

Michael
Jenna
Custodians

Lori
Bookkeeper

Cameron
Technology Assistant

McKenna
Sophia
Ella
Nursery Caregivers

connect with us



*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*

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