

MAY 2024

# THIS MONTH @ FCC

## A Note from the Pastor

It is May! This year is already flying by. On a personal note this means that my older child, Cameron, will soon (May 2) be having ACL surgery and then he will be graduating from high school soon after that (May 24). So, while trying to be present in each day, I already know the month is going to go fast.

And both in our individual lives and here at First Christian it's difficult not to be looking ahead because there are exciting things coming.

We will have our annual "Meet Your Elder" event on May 5. We will have Youth Sunday on May 12. We will celebrate our graduates in worship and at the potluck on May 19.

We will soon be seeing more of the projects that are being made possible with our Capital Campaign become a reality. Read more about this on page 2.

We are also anticipating my sabbatical which will begin in August and have some exciting announcements about how the sabbatical will be staffed in my absence. Read more about this on page 2.

We also have some young people who will soon be preparing for baptism and some folks newer to First Christian who will be gathering for a class we call "Discovering FCC."

Meanwhile, each day and each moment matters. It is easy to get caught up reflecting on the past or anticipating the future. And while both have value, we never want to lose this present moment. So, I'm going to stop right now and take a deep breath, look around me and offer up gratitude for the gifts of my life, and just be present in this moment. I invite you to do the same right now and each and every day.

With care, *Jill*

P.S. I will see you Sunday, but will be leaving during worship in order to make it to Des Moines for a 1 o'clock event where Cameron will be getting an award. I will miss visiting with you after worship.

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*connect with us*





# Capital Campaign Updates



We kicked off our “A Place for Everyone” Capital Campaign this time last year with commitments of \$265,000 toward a variety of projects. Here are things to be watching for this month:

- The **handicap door opener** on the lower east door has been installed. We anticipate the electrician being here in early May to get power hooked up so it is working.
- New sensors have been installed at entrances and some interior doors for a **key card/fob system**. The final work on this will be finished once the handicap door opener is complete downstairs. We will then be re-keying the entire building. As that gets finished, look for information about how to get new keys if you are a person who needs building access.
- The much-anticipated **audio/visual equipment** for the sanctuary and fellowship hall will begin to be installed on May 28. We are all looking forward to being able to hear better and having better screens in the sanctuary.
- We are still on track to get our **new sanctuary seating in July**. The board has decided that it makes sense to go ahead and begin preparation for this. So, be aware that sometime well in advance of the new seating arriving, we will begin the process of getting rid of our current pews. Doing this ahead of time will allow us time to have the sanctuary floor refinished and keep us from being rushed when the chairs arrive. Know that this will mean we will be asked to be flexible either with where we worship (perhaps in fellowship hall some Sundays) or the set up of the sanctuary (perhaps with chairs from other parts of the building for some Sundays).

# Sabbatical Staffing Updates

While Jill’s sabbatical is still several months off, your staff and Personnel Team are hard at work preparing for it. The Personnel Team is excited to share this staffing plan for the months of August, September and October while Jill is away:

- Kara, as the other full-time pastor, will take on the majority of Jill’s responsibilities including administrative tasks, pastoral care, and about half of the preaching during the sabbatical.
- Laura will take on several additional worship related tasks as well as leading weekly Bible Study, preaching two Sundays and some pastoral care.
- Traci Massman will be joining the staff for the three months of sabbatical and will take on responsibility for Children’s Ministry.
- Carol will be available for a few extra hours a week to support the staff and congregation.
- Kent Clark, Marian Hart, and Liz Woodward (our Partner Regional Minister) will all be part of the preaching rotation during sabbatical.



# Announcements



## Fall Ministry Planning

It's time to start planning for our ministry together this fall (September through Christmas). If you'd like to serve on this team which plans for faith formation, fellowship opportunities and mission focus, please contact Pastor Jill, [icdisciple.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:icdisciple.pastor@gmail.com) by May 15.

## Circle of Support

A NEW MINISTRY AT FCC

With the leadership of Jane Dohrmann and Carla Melby-Oetken, we are developing a new ministry called Circle of Support. This ministry will work with the pastors and elders by adding an additional layer of pastoral care. The purpose is to strengthen the support and care that is offered to people who are part of First Christian Church. We look forward to discovering ways this new ministry can supplement the care already being offered.

## Stories & Smores

SUMMER CAMP FUNDRAISER

Back by popular demand this year is Stories & Smores! Help us support those who are headed to summer camp at the Christian Conference Center in Newton. During May, we will be collecting donations with each dollar going towards a youth's camp fees. Each household that contributes will receive an invitation to Stories & Smores, an event at FCC later in the summer, which will feature the sharing of camp stories and smores!

How can you donate? Mail a check to the church office or place your donation in the offering box on Sundays - please be sure to mark all contributions for "Youth Camp." Electronic giving is also available through Realm or the church website...select "Directed Contribution" and then "Youth Camp" as the memo. Thank you for your support!

## PrideFest Leadership

Iowa City PrideFest is Saturday, June 15 and it's time to start planning! We are seeking 2 individuals to coordinate our church's presence at the event to support the LGBTQ+ community. If you're wondering what is involved, please contact Pastor Jill. Read more and to find the sign up to participate, see [page 8](#).

## Scholarships Recipients

First Christian Church offers two scholarships, one most often goes to those graduating from high school, the other to those in upper level English Literature courses. This year the Scholarship Committee is happy to announce nine scholarship recipients for the First Christian Church Scholarship:

- Gabe Clark*
- Leila Coobs*
- Elly Grimes*
- Cameron Michel*
- Sophia Romero*
- Kalea Seaton*
- Spencer Thomas*
- Tanvi Vibhakar*
- Noah Yost*





# Learning Together

## Faith Formation for Adults & Youth

### May 5 Meet Your Elder Event

Each Elder at First Christian has a group of people we call a care group. This means each participant at First Christian has an Elder to connect with. On May 5 adults and youth are invited to join their Elder and others in their care group for a time of visiting. Children will participate in Children Worship & Wonder. A nursery is always available for our youngest friends.

### May 12 Discovering Disciples

Join a conversation about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), historically and currently. This is for both those new to the Disciples and those with long history.

### May 19 Congregational Potluck

Bring a main dish or a side dish. Dessert will be provided by the Hannah Circle. If you're available to help with set up, serving, or clean up for this meal, please sign up below!

[Sign up here to help with the May 19 potluck](#)

## Faith Formation for Children

MAY 5 & 12

As we continue through the Easter season, children in Kindergarten through 5th grade will hear and wonder about stories of Jesus through our Children Worship & Wonder Ministry.

*At First Christian we do not have weekly Faith Formation from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Watch for information about other opportunities to learn and connect throughout the summer.*







## 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)



## Faith Formation - All Ages

SUNDAYS AT 11:15AM

Classes and activities are offered for children age 5 through adults in this time following worship. Please note we will break for summer beginning May 26.

## Nursery

SUNDAYS 9:40AM - 12:00PM

Childcare is available each Sunday morning during Worship and Faith Formation. 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 free play.

## Youth Sunday - May 12

FCC youth is planning and sharing worship with the congregation on May 12. Look forward to this special Sunday!

## Graduate Recognition - May 19

On May 19 in worship we will be recognizing the many high school graduates in our midst.

## Pentecost Offering - May 12 & 19

The Pentecost Offering is one of the special offerings collected by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This offering supports new churches and will be collected onsite on May 12 & 19 and online through May 19.

# Sunday Mornings



## 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](#)



## Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON

CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM LINK

### Upcoming Scriptures

May 1: TBD

May 8: Acts 2:1-21

May 15: Matthew 28:16-20

May 22: Acts 15:1-12

May 29: I Corinthians 12:14-20



# Faith Together

## Youth Group - High School

SUNDAYS, MAY 5 & 19,  
4:30-6PM

May 5 CYF youth will gather at Pastor Jill's as we work on worship for Youth Sunday.

May 19 the CYF group will have a cookout for its last meeting of the year.



## Youth Group - Middle School

MAY 5 & 19, 12-1PM

Chi Rho Youth (grades 6-8) meet from 12-1PM at the church for lunch and activities.

## Youth Group - Grades 3, 4, & 5

MAY 5 & 19, 12-1PM

JYF Youth (grades 3-5) gather from 12-1PM at the church for lunch and activities.

## Disciples Strings & Singers

### WORSHIP MUSIC

You are invited to be part of Disciples Strings & Singers, the music group that leads worship music at FCC. All instruments and abilities are welcome! Join us for rehearsals on: May 8 at 6PM in the sanctuary and on Sunday mornings at 9:30AM.

## Disciples Ringers

FCC has a handbell choir - and they are willing to teach this instrument to any who want to learn! Practice takes place on select Sundays from noon-1pm.



Questions about participating in music at FCC?  
Contact Pastor Laura, [icdisciple.music@gmail.com](mailto:icdisciple.music@gmail.com).

For information about Children & Youth Ministries at FCC,  
please contact Pastor Kara, [icdisciple.kids@gmail.com](mailto:icdisciple.kids@gmail.com).





## FCC Connect

THURSDAY, MAY 9 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, MAY 20 AT 1:00PM

[CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM LINK](#)

Hannah Circle will meet at 1PM at the church and on Zoom. All ladies of the church are invited to attend.

## Ladies Night Out

THURSDAY, MAY 16 AT 5:30PM

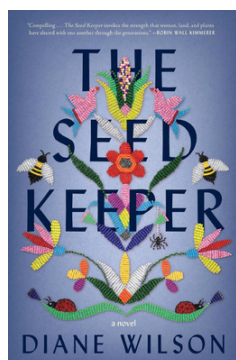
Ladies of the church are invited to share an evening out with good food and good conversation. In May, join us at 2 Dogs Pub (1705 S. 1st Ave., Iowa City).

## Book Club

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 7:00PM

[CONTACT OFFICE FOR ZOOM LINK](#)

The FCC Book Club is reading *Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson, a haunting novel about a Dakota family's struggle to preserve their way of life and their sacrifices to protect what matters most. Join the conversation onsite at the church or online via Zoom.



# Keeping Connected

## 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.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Hannah Circle is the women's group at First Christian Church, but they do much more than attend monthly meetings!

The Scholarship Committee of Hannah Circle has had the joy of giving out 52 scholarships since 2001.

Thank you Hannah Circle members for your dedication and commitment to First Christian!

*Be sure to see the list of this year's scholarship recipients on page 3 of the newsletter!*





# In the Community

## Saturday, May 4, 2024

Terry Trueblood Recreation Area  
(579 McCollister Blvd, Iowa City)

8:30 AM - Registration Opens  
9:00 AM - Entertainment & Activities  
10:00 AM - Walk Starts



(319) 337-5400 olivia.colosimo@namijc.org namijc.org



FCC Volunteers at Houses Into Homes on April 7

Lace-up your sneakers and join us for NAMIWalks 2024, a community event dedicated to raising awareness for mental health. Every step you take supports mental health education, advocacy, and support programs. Support NAMI's mission to improve the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness. Together, we stride towards a stigma-free world! Event highlights include inspirational speakers, family-friendly activities, live entertainment and fundraising challenges!

## Sunday, May 19, 2024

St. Andrew Presbyterian's Act Justly ministry is planning a showing of the 30-minutes "Humanize My Hoodie" documentary followed by discussion to educate and promote justice in our area. This event will take place at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church (140 Gathering Place Ln., Iowa City) on May 19 at 7:30 pm. For more information, [visit this link](#) or contact the St. Andrew church office at 319-338-7523.



## 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. As we begin planning, 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 below to participate in the parade or select a time to host the FCC booth!



[FCC PrideFest Sign Up](#)







# Celebrating our Graduates

The church has received the following invitations to graduation parties to share with the congregation:



You are invited to celebrate the graduation of Cameron Michel from Clear Creek Amana High School on Saturday, May 25. Please contact the church office for party location and time.



You are invited to celebrate the graduation of Kalea Seaton from City High School on Friday, May 31. Please contact the church office for party location and time.



You are invited to celebrate the graduation of Spencer Thomas from West High School on Saturday, June 1. Please contact the church office for party location and time.



You are invited to celebrate the graduation of Tanvi Vibhakar from Liberty High School on Sunday, June 2. Please contact the church office for party location and time.



You are invited to celebrate the graduation of Leila Coobs from Liberty High School on Saturday, June 15. Please contact the church office for party location and time.

# CONGRATS

Join us in worship on May 19, when we will recognize and celebrate all our high school graduates this year including:

- Gabe Clark*
- Leila Coobs*
- Elly Grimes*
- Gloria Licon-Klein*
- Cameron Michel*
- Sophia Romero*
- Kalea Seaton*
- Spencer Thomas*
- Tanvi Vibhakar*
- Noah Yost*

# Class of 2024



# May



**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.

Last Name	Elder
A-CI	TBD
Co-F	Maggie Keyser
G-Kin	Martha Melton
Kit-Mic	David Klein
Mo-Sch	Marcus Seaton
Sea-Z	Nancy McKinstry



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*

## 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*

