

The Call

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Belonging and Sharing Gifts In the Faith Community

“**Come as you are, you belong!**” This is a statement of faith at Ames First Christian Church, not just a motto. We define belonging as including people! We are connected, as God’s beloved children. And we are connected like different parts of one body. The body of Christ! We have different functions and perspectives and need one another to be healthy and whole.

Belonging was a focus of the Clergy/Congregation Renewal. During worship you reflected on ways First Christian Church does or can practice belonging. Here are some things you said.

- Participate in the life of the church.
- Get to know one another.
- Through all of the many things we are doing take time to see when people may need – a hug, a word of welcome, a listening heart, appreciation, encouragement, reaching out to the community, upholding everyone in prayer.
- Really listen to and care about what others are passionate about.
- Continue to expose ourselves to others by getting out there and getting to know people different than ourselves. Not just expect them to come to us. We must also go to them so we can get rid of the “them vs. us.”
- Encourage one another to join activities, to build and strengthen relationships, to work and play together.”

Come as you are, you belong! Let’s whole-heartedly put our faith into action. Let’s boldly act like *we* belong and *others* belong. Let’s courageously take the initiative to greet others and ask about their lives and experiences. Look for

(Continued on page 2)



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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(Continued from page 1)

initiative to greet others and ask about their lives and experiences. Look for the giftedness of others and share our giftedness to build up the faith community to be the Living Christ in our community and the world. Encourage others through our presence and participation, giving generously who we are and what we have for God's vision for First Christian Church.

Renewal... and Beyond!

At an All Congregational Gathering on October 22nd we shared our renewal experiences and what we hope will come from our renewal. An important discovery for the congregation was what it takes to keep the church going. And with that the joy of having so many people to step up and do what needs to be done. The sense of belonging increased the more people became involved.

As we thought about what comes next it seemed important for us to:

- Continue to involve more people in the work of the church.
- Continue to build on our ability to work with each other even when it is difficult.
- Continue to seek a balance of spiritual, work, and fellowship activities to strengthen us both individually and as a congregation.

This is a season of giving and generosity. Sunday we dedicate our stewardship commitments of time, talent and treasure for the coming year. Next Thursday we count our blessings on Thanksgiving. Let us open our hearts, minds, spirits, and lives to the see the goodness, abundance, and generosity of God. And give thanks for God's indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15)

—Pastor Mary Jane

The Christmas Offering will be received on **Sundays, December 10 and 17.**
You may give on Sunday mornings, or you may give [online](#).

Christmas
Offering
For
Regional
Ministry
2017



Regional Ministry
knits the church
together by
equipping leaders,
encouraging
congregations, and
building
relationships

For information go to:
<http://disciples.org/regional-ministries/>
Or
<http://disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/>



Thanks Be to God for God's Indescribable Gifts!

Worship for Stewardship Dedication Sunday, November 19

Before we offer our pledges of stewardship for the coming year, during worship on November 19 we will have time to reflect on the scripture and the following questions:

Read 2 Corinthians: 9: 6-15: ⁶ The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹ As it is written, "God scatters abroad, God gives to the poor; God's righteousness endures forever." ¹⁰ The one who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹² for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for God's indescribable gift!

Reflect on these questions:

2 Corinthians 9: 6 When we sow sparingly we reap sparingly.
Where have you seen this in your life or in the world around us?

2 Corinthians 9: 7 God interrupts our stinginess with generosity.
How have you experienced this in your life or in the world around us?
2 Corinthians 9: 8 – 15 Generosity, God's and ours, produces gratitude and thanksgiving. Imagine a world full of gratitude and thanksgiving. What does that world look like?

—Janet Lott
Minister of Worship Arts

Worship Schedule

Living Christ,
Liberating Spirit,
Loving Disciples
for Such a Time as This...



	Title	Children's Time	Scripture
November 19	Thank God!	Thanksgiving	2 Cor. 9:6-15
November 26	A Still More Excellent Way	Love	1 Cor. 12:27-31 1 Cor. 13:1-13

Living Christ!
Love in the Flesh

*Worshiping in Advent
and Christmas*

December 3	Do Not Be Afraid	Hope	Isaiah 11:1-9; Matthew 1:18-25
December 10	Let It Be	Peace	Isaiah 40:1-5; Luke 1:26-56
December 17	Hear the Good News!	Joy	Christmas Story Various Scriptures
December 24 Morn	Witness the Glory	Love	Isaiah 9:2-7; John 1:1-18
December 24 Eve	Christmas Eve	Christ Candle	Christmas Story Various Scriptures
December 31	Open Your Treasure Chest: Offer Your Gifts	Epiphany	Matthew 2:1-12

FCC Advent Singers (*aka Christmas Choir*)

Would you like to sing with a choir in December? Come to Singers rehearsals on Wednesdays, November 29, December 6, and December 20, from 7:15 to 8:15 pm in the Sanctuary.

Here's what we're doing:

Sunday, December 10

I Hear the Prophet Callin'

Wednesday, December 13
(Christmas Party)

In the Bleak Midwinter and something fun

Sunday, December 17

Oh, Shepherds, Aren't You Happy

Sunday, December 24 morning

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Questions? Contact Janet Lott, jalott@isunet.net or 232-3522 or talk to me after worship on Sundays.



Hanging of the Greens Party!

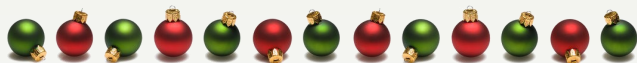


**Sunday, November 26,
4:00-6:00 PM
in the Coffee House**

And, there will be...

making of construction paper chains
stringing popcorn and cranberries
into garland
decorating Christmas cookies
plus snacks to eat!

Come join the FUN as together we
prepare the church and ourselves for
Advent!



**Calling all FCC Members
to join us for this year's**

Annual Congregational Meeting

**On Sunday, December 10
After worship
In the Sanctuary**

**At this year's Congregational Meeting,
we will:**

- 1. Elect new leadership,**
- 2. Adopt a budget for 2018, and**
- 3. Consider a proposed change to
our by-laws.**

**Following the Annual Meeting
We will go Christmas Caroling!**



**There will be a light soup lunch
provided for those who go caroling!**



Join us for the
First Christian
Church
Christmas Party!

Wednesday,
December 13th
Great Room 5-7 PM



Joy Sunday

FCC Children's Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 17th, 10:30 am

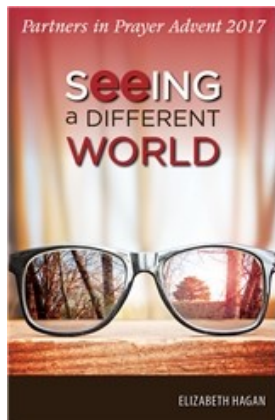


Join us for Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship
Sunday, Dec. 24 at 7PM



First Christian Church
611 Clark Avenue

Advent Devotionals for 2017 — Seeing a Different World



Advent invites us to prepare for the coming of Christ, to see a new world being born in our midst. Where do we notice Christ already working in the world? Where is Christ needed next? How can we be Christlike in new ways? What if we could adjust our glasses to recognize God's work

unfolding right in front of us? In *Seeing a Different World*, author and pastor Elizabeth Hagan ([Birthed](#)), invites us to see a different world in which Jesus is present in our everyday actions.

Beginning on the first day of Advent, *Seeing a Different World* offers daily meditations and prayers centered around four week-long themes: Seeing New Hope, Seeing New Peace, Seeing New Joy, and Seeing New Love. Transform the way you see Advent this year. Look for the new Advent devotionals by church pews in the next coming weeks.

Advent begins on Sunday, December 3rd.

Poinsettias for Advent

We will be ordering some poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary for the Christmas season. If you would like to [I would like a poinsettia!](#) buy some in remembrance of a loved one or in your own name, they will be \$6.00 each. Please get your money and information to the office before Dec 7.

—Thank you - Sue Prins



Share your gift of welcome as an FCC greeter or usher in 2018



USHERS & GREETERS

One of our core values at FCC is to genuinely accept, welcome and love everyone as Jesus did.

And one way you can share your gifts of acceptance, welcome

and love is by serving as an FCC greeter or usher in 2018. Ushers and greeters have the role of greeting, smiling, saying hello, and warmly welcoming everyone on Sunday mornings. They also guide new visitors into the sanctuary and help them feel comfortable and pass out bulletins. Serving as Sunday morning greeters would also be a wonderful way for children to practice this core value together with their family.

If you would like to serve as an usher or greeter in 2018, please find Stacey Maifeld in worship, or contact Stacey at stacey-maifeld@gmail.com or 515-520-9844 for more information. Thank you!

United Church of Christ Theologian In Residence

Mark your calendar. UCC will be hosting the 2018 Theologian-In-Residence program on Friday evening, January 26, and Saturday morning, January 27. It is open to all interested persons. This is done every year, but this year sounds especially interesting. David Csinos, a theologian and Christian educator, is the leader this year speaking on education of children and youth. The planning committee consists of people from 10 churches, and I am on that committee, so I will share more information on this at a later date.

—Nancy Schroeder



DECEMBER 2

ADVENT RETREAT

PREPARE THE WAY IN YOUR HEART

Contemplative Outreach of Central Iowa, a member of Contemplative Outreach International developed by Fr. Thomas Keating, is sponsoring a mini-retreat focusing on scripture readings and writings of mystics focusing on the image of opening our heart to the birth of Jesus within our lives. The morning will begin and end with Centering Prayer with time for silence and contemplation in between. Start your Christmas preparation with time for reflection on the deeper meanings of Christ's birth.



Contemplative Outreach
of Central Iowa

Silence Solitude Solidarity Service

www.CenterIowa.org

Silent Saturday
First Saturday in
Advent
First Christian
Church

Story Meditations
that bring the
birth of Christ
alive for you
today.

Sponsored by
Contemplative
Outreach of
Central Iowa

Register online at
centeriowa.org/events.
For more information,
call Mary Jo Pfeifer
Wulf

611 Clark Ave. 2nd floor

Ames Iowa

Saturday December 2

8:30 AM-noon

Suggested Donation \$15

**STRONG CITIES ARE BUILT ON
STRONG FAMILIES IN STRONG INSTITUTIONS**

MECHANICS OF STRENGTH



**An Institutional
Development Training
presented by AMOS**

Saturday, January 13, 2018
Registration at 8:30 a.m.
Sessions from 9:00 a.m. through 5 p.m.
Bethesda Lutheran Church
1517 Northwestern Avenue

RSVP to your institution's core team,
including dietary restrictions,
by Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

Opportunities to Serve

"Each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift... The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ..." (Eph. 4:7;11)

Opportunities to serve:

- Give generously to the Christmas Offering.
- Volunteer to help prepare the Annual Free Community-Wide Thanksgiving Meal. Contact Food at First at 515-344-4357.
- Help with the Christmas Party. Contact Corry Bertelsen at 290-1664.
- **Volunteer with music or worship arts**, to be readers, writers, actors, musicians, singers, bell ringers for worship. Contact Tim Button-Harrison at 641-485-5604
- **Help out with Sound or Video**, on Sundays. Contact Janet Lott at jalott@isunet.net
- **Join FCC's Food at First Core Group of Volunteers**, which serve every first Saturday of the month. Contact Cynthia Gaunt at cygaunt@hotmail.com.
- Be a faithful steward, and **fulfill your monthly pledge**.

Keep watching this box and respond as you are able. It takes a lot of people contributing their gifts to keep the ministry of FCC moving, growing and vital.

Regional News

Upper Midwest Response Exceeds Expectation



As we reported last month, our Upper Midwest churches responded incredibly to the call for Church World Service kit supplies. Even in the midst of gathering supplies, our churches were also gathering funds. The outpouring of contributions designated for hurricane relief and to Week of Compassion in general has been astounding and funds continue to come! To date, the churches in the Christian Church in the Upper Midwest have given over \$50,000 for disaster relief.



WOMEN'S GATHERING LUNCHEON & STOCKING STUFFING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 12-3 PM AT THE HUB



For further information, contact Dawn at (515) 451-9618 or cnmdawn@gmail.com. If you are able to provide cash donations for small toys and candies for the stockings, contact Deb Lewis at (515) 290-6736 or dlewis@iastate.edu.

Mitten Tree

Starting Sunday, December 3rd, you are invited to bring new hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves to help people in need to stay warm during the winter season.



Featured Members: Bob Logston

Bob Logston has been a member of FCC for nearly 20 years. You'll find him most Sundays sitting on the front pew (North side) of the sanctuary. He was born in Des Moines and lived there until his parents moved to Kirksville, Missouri. While Bob and his twin brother Ron were high school juniors, their dad was transferred to Atlantic, where Bob and Ron graduated from high school in 1972. It was at Atlantic that Bob decided to attend Iowa State University. His brother Ron, sister Sherry and mom all retired from 3M and live in Ames. His second sister, Sheila is a professor at Truman State University.

He worked at Friley Hall on campus and paid his way through college. He is grateful that he was able to work and be a full time college student. He is also grateful for all the people that helped him through college. Since he always enjoyed History and Social Studies, he majored in History and graduated in 1976. While at ISU he was exposed to diverse cultures and points of view. Bob feels Ames remains an interesting and at times an exciting place to live.

Bob was a teacher in Iowa for 35 years and taught in several smaller communities, but he always kept his application on file with the Ames School District. His family lived here and Iowa State Athletics had a strong pull. During his 26 years as a teacher in Ames, he taught special needs, seventh grade geography and eighth grade history. He also coached interscholastic football, wrestling, track and basketball. Bob said he was fortunate to teach and coach many terrific students who have gone on to be successful in a variety of ways, some going on

to college, and some to professional sports.

To say Bob is a sports enthusiast is an understatement, and he has remained so since his college days. Bob has been a football season ticket holder for 46 consecutive years, missing only one game. He takes at least one road trip yearly. Tailgating with friends is part of his fall ritual. He has been to every bowl game since 2000, albeit that has not been as many as he

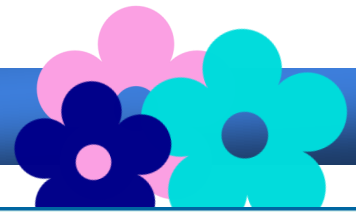
would like. He also loves men's basketball and attends every home game and takes in the men's Big 12 tournament in Kansas City. The past few years men's basketball has been exciting, especially since ISU has been the conference tournament champions for the past three years. Yes, he also supports wrestling.

He was attracted to FCC about twenty years ago

when looking for a church that he liked and wanted to be a part of. He heard David Digby preach and was impressed with his sermon, and Bob returned many times. Not long afterwards he joined FCC and was baptized here. He has many friends at FCC and feels he connects more to God and Jesus each week. Bob commented that FCC assists and looks after its members, the community and the world as well, and cares about our well being physically and spiritually. Bob has served as a trustee for FCC and in other capacities, including leading the effort to help paint/restore the second floor of our building. We are grateful to have Bob Logston on the FCC team.

—Bob Watson





Church office hours are
9 am—2 pm
Monday-Thursday

Have a question?
Email Liz Collazo at:
fccames@fccames.org

Stewardship Report

Giving during the month of October

Income:			\$ 28,856
Expenses:			\$ 17,827
Difference:			\$ 11,029
DMF:			\$ 2,284

In Our Prayers: Olene Dowell has moved to Israel Family Hospice House. Please pray for Olene and her family at this time.

The Christmas Offering will be Received Sundays, December 10 & 17.

Women's Luncheon & Stocking Stuffer
Sunday, Nov. 26, 12-3 PM
The Hub (2nd Floor)

Hanging of the Greens Party!
Sunday, Nov. 26, 4-6 PM
Coffee House

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 10
Following Worship
in the Sanctuary

We invite all FCC members to join us as we elect new leaders, adopt a new budget for 2018, and consider a change to our bylaws.



FCC Singers participate in the Good Neighbor Joint Choir, on Sunday, November 5th, 2017.



Little Library

For the Christmas season I will be putting jig-saw puzzles in the Little Free Library as well as books. If you have any puzzles you would like to contribute to the cause, please leave them in the office or in the old ACPC office, if it is unlocked. I'm also really short of children's books. We would appreciate any donations.

—Thank you - Sue Prins

Food at First & First Christian Church's 30th Annual Free Community Wide Thanksgiving Meal will be on Thursday,



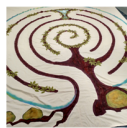
If you'd like to volunteer to help prepare the meal, to bake pies, or to clean up, please visit the Food at First [website](#) and follow the sign-up instructions; or contact Patty Yoder, with Food at patty@foodatfirst.com.

Join us in Fellowship at FCC!



Wednesday Prayers

Wednesdays, at 12:15 PM
Coffee House



Spiritual Practices

Wednesday Nights, Great Room
6:30 – 7:30 PM
Community Worship
6:50-7:10 PM



Listening to God

Every Thursday, from 5:30—7 pm,
in the Great Room.
(except major holidays)



Sunday Fellowship

Learning Time, 9:15 AM
Worship, 10:30 AM



Coffee Fellowship

Every First Sunday of the month, after
worship, and the first two Sundays in July



Fellowship Dinner

Every Third Sunday of the month,
after worship



A mid-week time to refresh,
renew, and recharge our
spirits! Anyone can join in.

You are invited to join us in
the Great Room on second floor for experiences to
recharge your spirit.

Church Night Schedule:

5:45 pm	Dinner available at Food at First – Fellowship Hall
5:50 pm	Bells – Sanctuary Balcony
6:30 – 7:30 pm	Labyrinth Walking, Posting Prayers, and other Spiritual Practices – Great Room.
6:50 – 7:10 pm	Worship – Great Room
7:15 – 8:15 pm	Singers – Sanctuary

SECOND THURSDAY @THE HUB

Connecting with God & One Another Thursday, December 14 at 7 PM

Join us every second Thursday of the month for
a casual time of fun, fellowship, and growing
closer to God and one another. We will be meet-
ing in The Hub, which is the space on Second
Floor just outside the elevator doors.

Food at First

Free Meal Program +
Perishable Food Pantry



Meals
Sunday thru Friday 5:45 pm and Saturday at 11:30 am
(7 days a week)

FCC's Volunteers the 1st Saturday of every Month!
Contact Cynthia Gaunt for more information,
at cygaunt@hotmail.com.

Grocery Distributions

Monday and Thursday at 4:45 pm a
and Saturday at 10:00 am

Sign Up to Volunteer at <http://bit.ly/1tG7Xb2>

Calendar and Servant Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>December 2017</div> 				* Denotes birthday Chapel – 2 nd Floor BT = Bell Tower CH = Coffee House FH = Fellowship Hall LIB = Library		
26 9:15 am Learning Time 10:30 am worship 12-3 pm Women's Luncheon & Stocking Stuffing (The Hub) 4-6 pm Hanging of the Green's Party (CH) *Doug Clark *Jorie Sanchez	27 10-11:30 am Ukuleleis Practice (CH) *Cassandra Hale	28	29 12:15 Prayers (CH) Wed. Night Church 5:45 Dinner with FAF 5:50 Bells Practice 6:30 Spirit. Practices 6:50 Worship 7:15 Singers Practice *David Gregory *Anleah Walker	30 5:30-7pm Listening to God (Great Rm.)	1	2
3 9:15 am Learning Time 10:30 am Worship followed by Coffee Fellowship	4 10-11:30 am Ukuleleis Practice (CH) NO Trustees Meeting in December	5 6:30 pm Council of Ministries Mtg. (The Hub)	6 12:15 Prayers (CH) Wed. Night Church 5:45 Dinner with FAF 5:50 Bells Practice 6:30 Spirit. Practices 6:50 Worship 7:15 Singers Practice *Jim Gaunt	7 5:30-7pm Listening to God (Great Rm.)	8	9 *Jaleel Khan
10 Christmas Offering Received 9:15 am Learning Time 10:30 am Worship followed by the FCC Annual Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary 12:30 pm Christmas Caroling (soup lunch provided for carolers)	11 10-11:30 am Ukuleleis Practice (CH)	12 7:15 pm Property Meeting (Library)	13 12:15 Prayers (CH) 5-7 pm Christmas Party (CH) *Jake Ewalt *Jeannie Fitz	14 5:30-7pm Listening to God (Great Rm.) 7 pm Second Thursday at The Hub	15	16
17 Christmas Offering Received 9:15 am Learning Time 10:30 am Christmas Pageant and Worship followed by Fellowship Dinner 12:45 am Elder's Mtg.	18 10-11:30 am Ukuleleis Practice (CH) Noon – The Call Deadline *Dawn Heaberlin *Ron Matthews	19 *Ella Baringer *Emma Mesenbrink	20 12:15 Prayers (CH) Wed. Night Church 5:45 Dinner with FAF 6:50 Spirit. Practices 6:15 Worship *Vern Hawkins	21 *Logan Mesenbrink	22 *Dianne Brown *Angela Schroeder	23 *Sophie Kuehl
24 9:15 am Learning Time 10:30 am worship 7 pm Candlelight Christmas Service	25 Christmas Day Office Closed 10-11:30 am Ukuleleis Practice (CH)	26 Liz Collazo out of the office *Ruth Johnson	27 12:15 Prayers (CH) Wed. Night Church 5:45 Dinner with FAF 5:50 Bells Practice 6:30 Spirit. Practices 6:50 Worship 7:15 Singers Practice *Peyton Culp *Dennis Heaberlin	28 5:30-7pm Listening to God (Great Rm.) *Darla Ewalt	29 *Kyle LeCount	30
31 9:15 am Learning Time 10:30 am worship *Jackie Haley						

Servant Schedule

	Ushers	Narthex	West Entry
December 3	Ron & Dee Matthews	Corry Bertelsen	Deb Lewis
December 10	Bob & Jean Watson	Jeff Sobotka	Eric Wierson
December 17	Bob & Jean Watson	Jeff Sobotka	Eric Wierson
December 24	Bob & Jean Watson	Eileen Sambos	Eric Wierson
December 24 Christmas Eve Service	Meg Knol-Digby	Corry Bertelsen	Eric Wierson
December 31	Meg Knol-Digby	Eileen Sambos	Deb Lewis

The people of First Christian Church accept these values as core...

Genuinely accept, welcome and love everyone as Jesus did.

Connect people to God and to one another.

Cultivate an environment where people grow in faith and discipleship.

Celebrate everyone's gifts for ministry and encourage people as leaders.

Minister in the community with God's healing love.

Staff at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Ames, IA:

Minister:	Mary Jane Button-Harrison
Minister of Worship & Discipleship:	Tim Button-Harrison
Minister of Worship Arts:	Janet Lott
Administrative Assistant:	Liz Collazo
Worship Musician:	Joseph Schwartz
Building Custodian:	Sherri Khan
Nursery Attendants:	Karen LeCount
Nursery Helper:	Gianna Heelan

Return Service Requested

Website: <http://www.fccames.org/>

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Ames, Iowa 50010-6137

611 Clark Avenue

(Disciples of Christ)

First Christian Church