

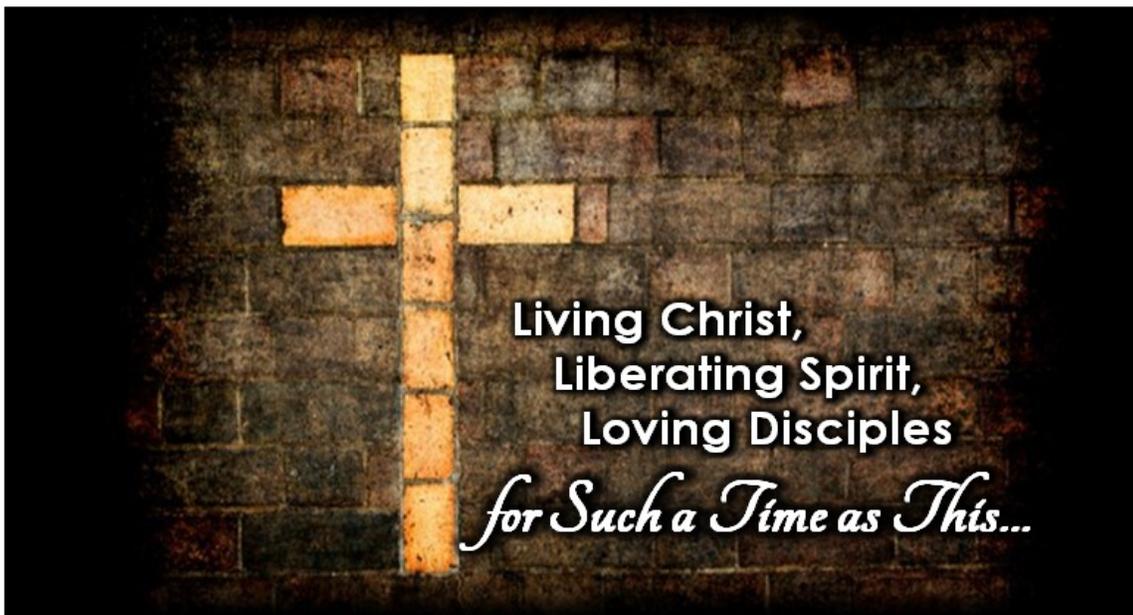
ISSUE NO. 3
MARCH, 2018

The Call



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Happy Anniversary! Three years ago, on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2015, Food at First served their first meal here at First Christian Church and a beautiful ministry partnership began. Together we have built a positive and healthy relationship based on good will and common purpose. Together we have faced a variety of challenges and found solutions where our paths cross in caring for our community.

If you haven't been at First Christian Church (FCC) very long you may wonder how this all came about. Well, in August of 2011 the FCC Board decided to enter a visioning process with the Disciples based Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation. Through this process we looked at all aspects of our life together as a faith community – finances, organization, program, property, etc. We received a report from the consultant, then met in small groups to process its content. At the conclusion of those meetings it was clear there was a desire to stay in our current location so we can be in ministry more effectively with our community, especially those in need.

Next we sent out scouts to identify the needs of our local Ames community.

(Continued on page 2)



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
611 Clark Avenue, Ames, Iowa
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That culminated in a Future Story Retreat in the fall of 2012 where we named our core values and set our focus for ministry. You'll find the core values listed on the "back" or last page of The Call each month. The areas of focus include becoming a Community Resource Center and a place of connecting people to God and one another. The Coffee House remodel and ministry, the sanctuary transformation, and the 2nd floor remodel were all part of creating space for connection. But becoming a Community Resource Center took a special task group working to find the right ministry partners to make this part of the vision come to fruition.

The first ministry partner was *Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance* who moved into what used to be the church parsonage (the house next door). Next *Raising Readers* moved their "library" of books to give out into a storage room on 2nd floor. Then *Food at First* was added as a ministry partner, and finally *ACCESS* (Assault Care Center Extending Shelter & Support) opened offices in the second floor of the house next door with Good Neighbor. Because of our partnership with these wonderful, caring organizations, the NW corner of 6th & Clark has indeed become a Community Resource Center! Because of our vision, both the number of people we experience coming in and out of our buildings, and the opportunities for us – the people of First Christian Church – to be in ministry with these people has increased.

A year ago, I as Pastor and you as congregation were getting ready to begin our Clergy/Congregational Renewal. In the Lilly Grant application we described who we are as a faith community: "*Come as you are. You belong!*" is more than a motto for First Christian Church. In 2011, we began an intentional movement towards a greater congregational identity, embodying healing, inclusiveness, and wholeness for the diverse Ames Community. The church is being transformed into a community resource center – a place of connection for those who are on the margins of society." We described our partnerships and both the challenge and joy that has

come in sharing our space and our care in this way. "How do we cultivate and balance healthy boundaries within this context of borderless welcome and belonging?" As the hub between the various organizations and people, my job as Pastor of First Christian Church has increased in scope, as has that of our Administrative Assistant, Liz Collazo and Jim Lester a primary person who keeps the mechanical things running. This broadening of our role led to the need for me to step back during the renewal and try to tap into the source of our life and our life together. And it led the congregation to operate in some different ways.

As we prepared for my 3 month renewal away from FCC, 14 people were trained to be "Building Hosts" who were present in the building M-TH during office hours to be the first point of contact and help direct people to resources, or help problem-solve as situations arose during the day, and to be a second person in the building so Liz was not alone. This Building Host ministry was certainly necessary while I was away. But it is clear to me, especially one year later, that this form of ministry is necessary for the church to embrace in a fuller, more sustainable way, our vision of being a Community Resource Center. That vision is so much more than simply sharing space. It is also joining hearts and lives and helping to make connections as hosts. That is a ministry of the congregation as a whole. That can only happen in that "loaves and fishes," multiplying way of Jesus when we have many FCC people here, in the building, seeing and responding, learning and growing with this community we serve as Christ's hands and feet. That is an on-going, post-renewal shared ministry opportunity we have because of the big vision God inspired in us as we seek to be citizens of God's Kingdom on earth. So, expect to hear more as Easter comes and we celebrate life springing forth among us, as we walk with the Living Christ, through the Liberating Spirit, as Loving Disciples.

—Pastor Mary Jane



Worship Schedule

Lent Worship

Liberating Spirit!
 Another Kind of Power
 The Last Week



	Title/Chapter	Scripture
Mar. 25	Friday/Saturday Dignity & Worth	Mark 15:1-47



2018 Eastertide Worship

Liberating Spirit!
 A New Way of Seeing

Between Easter and Pentecost, April 8 – May 20, worship will center on post-resurrection stories from the New Testament. The Spirit liberates us from those aspects of ourselves and our lives that keep us from experiencing resurrection and abundant life. During “Eastertide” we will look at the way that Liberating Spirit brings about “a new way of seeing” for some of the early followers of Jesus following his death and resurrection. Maybe we can learn something from their stories that will allow us “a new way of seeing” as well. Characters include the likes of Thomas, Paul, and Silas.

—Pastor Mary Jane

	Title	Scripture
April 8	Thomas	John 20:19-31
April 15	Paul’s Conversion	Acts 9:1-19
April 22	Paul and Silas	Acts 16:16-34
April 29	Paul’s Sermon at Athens	Acts 17:16-31
May 6	Partnership in the Gospel	Philippians 1:1-18a
May 13	The Christ Hymn	Philippians 2:1-13
May 20	PENTECOST Rejoice in the Lord	Acts 2:1-21 Philippians 4:4-7

The “Prayers of the People” Board in the Sanctuary

A board to post your prayers will be present in the sanctuary close to the pulpit during Lent. If you have a prayer request, please write it down and pin it to the board. Your requests will be offered in prayer Wednesday at noon and at worship on Wednesday evenings.



Easter Prayer Vigil

The Easter Prayer Vigil sign up board is located by the Narthex/East Entrance (by Fareway), or you may sign up online to pray, at <http://bit.ly/1E2rhX8>. Please help us fill as many slots as possible so we may have an unbroken prayer chain for Easter.

Wednesday Night Worship

During Lent, our worship time on Wednesday night, 6:50 – 7:10 pm in the Great Room, will be spent in the *Iona Abbey Worship Book*. The services in *The Iona Abbey Worship Book* reflect the Iona Community’s commitment to the belief that worship is all that we are and all that we do, both inside and outside the church, with no division into the sacred and the secular. They draw on many traditions, including the Celtic, and aim to help us to be fully present to God, who is fully present to us in our neighbor, in the political and social activity of the world around us, and in the very center and soul of our being.



ECUMENICAL MAUNDY THURSDAY

**THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 7PM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

"MAUNDY" COMES FROM THE LATIN WORD "MANDATUM," WHICH MEANS "COMMANDMENT." ON MAUNDY THURSDAY, WE HONOR JESUS' COMMANDMENT TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS HE LOVES US, AND TO REMEMBER JESUS' LAST SUPPER ON THE NIGHT BEFORE HE WAS CRUCIFIED.

GRIEF OF GOOD FRIDAY

**FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 7PM—
AMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

THE STORY OF GOOD FRIDAY IS SO HORRIBLE, SO SORROWFUL, THAT MANY (MOST?) OF US SKIP IT, LOOKING THE OTHER WAY UNTIL EASTER'S SUNRISE. THIS YEAR WE ARE GOING TO TAP INTO THE SORROW AS IT CONNECTS TO THE SORROW IN OUR OWN LIVES VIA MARY THE MOTHER OF JESUS. OURS IS NOT A GOD THAT WANTS SUFFERING BUT ONE WHO KNOWS IT INTIMATELY YET STILL OFFERS HOPE. CHILD-CARE WILL BE PROVIDED. JOHN 13.1-33

Holy Week Observances

EASTER PRAYER VIGIL

**FRI., MARCH 30, 1PM—SUN., APRIL 1, 6AM
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

A TIME FOR PRAYER OR DEVOTION AS WE "HOLD VIGIL," REMEMBERING THE TIME BETWEEN THE DEATH OF JESUS ON GOOD FRIDAY AND HIS RESURRECTION ON EASTER MORNING.

EARLY EASTER SERVICE AT REIMAN GARDENS

**SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 7AM
HOSTED BY FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH WILL BE HOSTING THE EARLY EASTER SERVICE AT BEAUTIFUL REIMAN GARDENS. WE WILL CELEBRATE NEW LIFE IN A SPIRIT OF ONENESS IN CHRIST AS WE JOIN TOGETHER WITH THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TO LIFT OUR VOICES IN SONG AND TO HEAR AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS. FCC WILL BE PROVIDING LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AFTER THE SERVICE. IF YOU WOULD VOLUNTEER TO SERVE OR BRING PASTRY OR FRUIT, PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR MARY JANE.





EASTER SERVICE

SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 10:30 AM
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SCRIPTURE: MARK 16:1-8

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON EASTER SUNDAY, AT 10:30 AM, AS WE CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS AND BEAR WITNESS TO THE BAPTISM OF SEVERAL OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

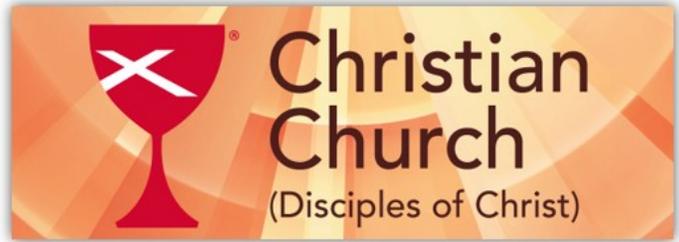
2018 Easter Special Offering



Received on Sundays,
March 25th, and April 1st.

Like good stewards of the multi-colored grace of God, serve one another with

Your gift to the Easter Offering helps bring life, love and learning through the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). **You may give on Sunday mornings in the designated envelope, or [online](#).**



Get your polos, shirts, hoodies, and hats, in a variety of colors from http://store.disciples.org/disciples_of_christ/shop/home.



When you order Disciples apparel **10% of all proceeds** are donated directly back to the **Disciples of Christ Mission Fund.** We appreciate your support!

- Orders will be collected for fulfillment by **March 23rd** -

Cool It!

Announcing A Fundraising Drive To Air Condition The Coffee House



For donations by check, please indicate “Air Conditioning” on the memo line. For cash donations, please indicate that on the envelope or cover letter. Donations can be put in the offering tray during worship or mailed to the church office.

**Please be prompt and generous
so we can “Cool It”
in the Coffee House this summer!**

—Jim Gaunt
Chair, Air Conditioning Working Group

[Other members are Darla Ewalt, Dave Fitz, Vern Hawkins, Jim Lester, Stacey Maifeld, and Sue Prins.]

At the February 2018 Board meeting, the Board approved the Trustees' recommendation to accept the proposal from Converse Conditioned Air, LLC to install air conditioning in the Coffee House for a cost of \$7,697. Installing a concrete pad and electrical wiring will likely bring the total project cost to about \$9,000. Part of this approved recommendation was to require that **at least \$5,000** of the project cost be raised from donations. In view of this, the Board added “Air Conditioning” to the congregation's Designated Giving List.

As of this writing, members of the Air Conditioning Working Group have themselves **donated \$3,550**, which is **over 70%** of the required \$5,000 in donations and **almost 40%** of the estimated project cost.

**The AC Working Group
invites you to join us in putting
this project over the top!**

While we must raise at least \$5,000, we would be delighted if you could help us raise the entire project cost. Should you bless us with donations in excess of the estimated \$9,000 project cost, those donations will remain in the Air Conditioning fund and be used for the eventual replacement of the AC equipment for the 2nd Floor, which is many years past its expected service life (a cost of roughly \$10,000).

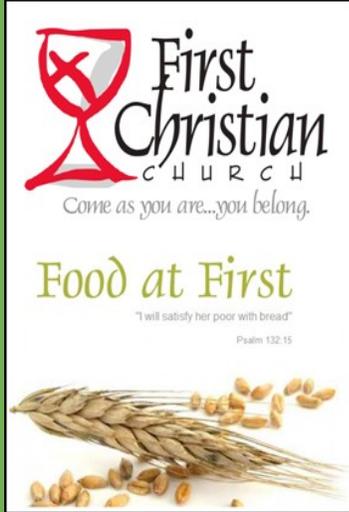


The Ukuleleis



Ukeleleis practicing on Monday mornings. From left to right, Eileen Sambos, Sherri Khan, Janet Lott, Sue Prins, and Darla Ewalt.

Food at First Celebrates 3 Years at FCC



In March of 2015, Food At First, (FAF), moved operations in the lower level of the First Christian Church, (FCC), in Ames, Iowa. The move to the current location has so many benefits over working out of two other locations.

distribution. This has made such a difference in the lives of those that need help in our community.

FAF is also very thankful for everyone at FCC for their support and helpfulness with our very worthwhile combined project! It means so much to be able to work together in unity and harmony.

—Patty Yoder
Executive Director/Coordinator

Meals had been provided everyday at the First United Methodist Church in Ames and the Food At First Free Market was run out of a separate location on Washington Avenue in Ames. Guests of the Market were required to wait outside in all types of weather due to space restraints. Volunteers were needed at both locations and it wasn't possible to share volunteers easily between the two different work areas.

Now that FAF has consolidated operations at FCC, many benefits have been realized. Guests no longer need to wait outside in the elements of rain, snow, cold and summer heat. Volunteers can easily move back and forth from the Free Market to the kitchen for meal preparation as work needs dictate. Also, the Head Chefs no longer need to travel back and forth between the market and the kitchen by car but can just wheel a cart to the next room.

FAF has added air conditioning to the FCC basement to help with excessive heat during the summer months. Improvements have also been made to the kitchen to make things more efficient for daily meal preparation and serving.

The volunteers and guests at FAF are grateful for the FCC facilities to combine daily work for food preparation and food

The Fun of Being a FAF Volunteer Coordinator

I have been rounding up volunteers for Food at First meals prepared and served the first Saturday of each month for almost 2 years now, ever since Mary and David Gregory traveled to St. Vincent and the Grenadines for their Peace Corps work. The e-mail reminder I send out on Monday or Tuesday before our FAF meal always lists the 3 basic shifts: food preparation, serving, and cleanup, and what time the volunteers should be there. The e-mail list has been growing, thankfully, because even with a good number of "regulars", there have been a couple times when the numbers were a bit low for food prep or for cleanup. Now and then people do have other plans, so it's great to have a long list of volunteers to fall back on.

Our regulars include: Jim and Cynthia Gaunt, Jason Paull, Corry Bertelsen, Kay Scott, Linda Anderson, Stacey Maifeld, Eric Wierson, Mark Love, Vern and Delores Hawkins, David Digby and Meg Knol-Digby, Deb Lewis, Gloria Carpenter, Bonnie Smith, David Nelson, Tristan Cook, Cindy

(Continued on page 8)

Ratliff, and Doan Schmitz. Typically we serve about 50 to 55 people. The highest number we ever served was about 62, and the lowest was about 38, including our volunteers. The grace before the meal is also a shared responsibility, and one of our guests takes time to entertain us with singing his favorite tunes after people have had a change to eat their fill.

Amanda Mokaya was the head chef when I took over for Mary and David in the summer of 2016. She has been excellent in coming up with delicious meal ideas based on what food items are available that week in the Food Market area and the pantry. Since Amanda gave birth to her 2nd daughter, we have had the privilege of enjoying the culinary skills of head chefs Corry Bertelsen, Jim and Cynthia Gaunt, and Jason Paull, taking turns coming up with a meat dish and a vegetarian option, fruit salad and a green salad, other hot side dishes, and plenty of desserts (cookies, bars, pies, cakes, etc.)

We always find a way to get rid of “leftovers” because plastic storage containers are always plentiful and hungry eaters are willing to take a dinner-sized portion home with them, especially if it’s something like lasagna, beef stroganoff, or a popular vegetarian dish. Everyone has their favorite meals and their own cooking style, so we enjoy a balanced meal with sweet and savory and spicy flavors. It’s also a great time for visiting when our work is all caught up and Vern has all the food prep dishes washed before the meal begins. And we do have fun and work hard too!

For the March 3rd meal, we had the privilege of extra cooks joining us, just in time to have a meatball making session, ending up with about 400 meatballs. At 11:00 a.m., the young people in the Baptism class and their sponsors started arriving. I had to leave just as that 2nd group started to come in, but I heard that the entire experience went very well for everyone and the meatballs were delicious! I’m glad our church is involved in providing a comfortable place for hungry guests to share a meal together and being good hosts to the “family” that gathers here.

—Cynthia Gaunt



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 Easter Offering on Sundays, or online.
- Sign up for the Easter Prayer Vigil, [online](#), or in the Sanctuary.
- Volunteer to serve & set-up at the Early Easter Service. Contact Pastor Mary Jane for more information.
- Sign up to volunteer for the General Assembly in 2019.
- **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 cy_gaunt@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.

Update from Mary & David Gregory



The assembled student body at Mary's school (Lauders Primary) holding a "Thank You" sign along with a few of the many books sent by our U.S. friends.

Dear Friends at FCC,

This thank you note is long overdue, but we believe the accompanying photo will win us some forgiveness! The wonderful collection of books that you sent has made a huge difference to the children in both of our schools, and to David and I who use them daily. Thank you! Thank you!

Life here is a bit of a roller coaster ride, literally, in crowded bus-vans that careen downhill at lightning speed with twists and turns on narrow roads, and figuratively, in the continual ups and downs we experience in our emotions. The landscape entrances and the pollution dismays, the children soften us while the crime and corruption harden us, we rejoice at each small improvement we witness in our students and grow

discouraged at how systemic the educational problems are. The list goes on and on. Throughout it all we feel your continued support and we are very grateful for it. So please keep those prayers and emails coming!

Living here in the countryside is not convenient, but it in many respects it is pleasant. The inside/outside distinctions are muted and it is lovely to hear the gurgling river in the valley below as we lie under our mosquito net at night. The breezes in these higher regions offer a welcome reprieve from the oppressive heat. I like seeing goats each day as I make the grueling hike up "killer hill" to my school. Dogs lie in the middle of the road not bothering to move until they hear the sound of a van growing close. Adults we encounter, greet us with an affection-

(Continued on page 10)

from the Peace Corps...

ate “Hi, Teach” as we go by. People yell from hillside to hillside “y’all right?” Roosters strut about crowing at all hours of day and night. Often people sing as they walk the roads. These things we embrace and delight in.

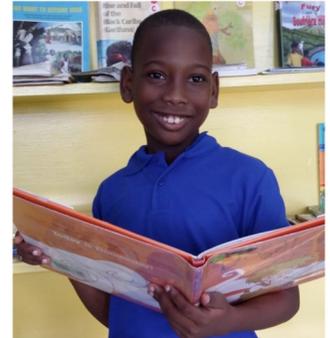
Harder to deal with are the loud noises of arguing, music blasting from vehicles, and children crying. Watching the headteacher walk to assembly with a leather strap at the ready to discipline children is disheartening, even though this teacher is someone I have grown to like and respect. Given how our own culture prizes promptness, initiative, planning and communication, we are continually amazed and frustrated by the seeming lack of those things here. Moving anything from place to place is really a challenge, as most in our village do not own cars and vans are not reliable. I am currently trying to figure out a way to return a flip chart because the holes on the easel do not match up with those on the flip chart paper. We had purchased it with some grant money our school received. I think I am the only one who felt this serious flaw was worth the hassle of returning it, but I am determined to get a product that meets the purpose for which it is designed.

It is our hope that this little letter provides a snapshot of our life here as well as our appreciation for your sustaining prayers and gifts. Rest assured that we miss all of you, and eagerly look forward to seeing you in August! We will think of you on Easter, envisioning you celebrating an early service in the beautiful Reiman Gardens! For our part, we will be spending a 2 week break from school exploring some of the lovely Grenadine Islands and recharging for our last 4 + months of Peace Corps service.

With much affection,
—Mary and David Gregory



Frankroy



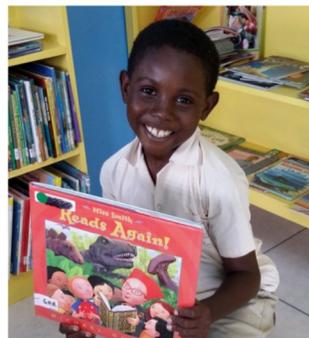
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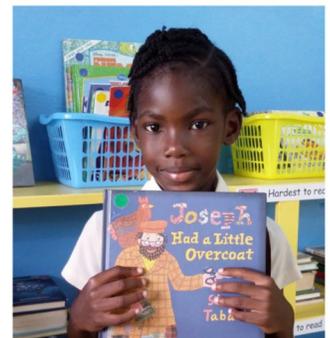
Kevorne



Roniece



Nathaniel



Mahaelia



**General Assembly
of the
Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**

**July 20-24, 2019
Des Moines, Iowa**

The Christian Church in the Upper Midwest is hosting the 2019 General Assembly! The Local Arrangements Committee is already seeking volunteers to help plan and carry out this fun and faith-filled event. There are lots of ways to be a part of it! Find a way to share your gifts by checking out the online sign up form:

[www.SignUpGenius.com/
go/409094EAFAB2FAB9-local](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/409094EAFAB2FAB9-local)



Summer Camp 2018

It's cold and icy outside, and between scraping our cars and shoveling our sidewalks, summer seems so far away... But it's not! Summer's just around the corner, and it's time to register for



There are a lot of new things going on for Camp this year — a few new camps (there are descriptions of camps by the Coffee House bulletin board, and in the church office) and a NEW Camp store where campers can purchase shirts.

And the registration process couldn't be easier! **First Christian Church will pay for HALF the registration costs of each Camp participant, for one camp.**

You may register **ONLINE** and pay for YOUR portion of camp costs. Just make sure to designate FCC Ames as your church — and forward your confirmation email to fccames@fccames.org, so we may know to pay for the rest. You can also fill out a paper application with the church office.

Don't wait too long! Camp slots fill fast, and the early bird deadline is May 1st!

—Liz Collazo,
FCC Administrative Assistant

Regional News

**Around the Region —
Things We Do Together**

For more info or to register for events:
<http://www.uppermidwestcc.org/regional-newsletter-dte>

Below, @CCC =
held at the Christian Conference Center

- Mar 25 Regional Operations Council online
- Mar 30-Apr 1 CCC Closed for Easter
- Apr 7 Committee on Ministry
- Apr 21 Regional Property Committee
- Apr 22 Regional Operations Council online
- Apr 27-29 Work Retreat at CCC
- May 5 Committee on Ministry
- May 11-12 CMEP Retreat
- May 20 Church Camp Season Begins!

MAY 1ST IS THE LAST DAY FOR EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION!

Summer Camp 2018



Christian Conference Center

Summer Camp Sessions and Dates

Grand Camp (Age 4 to grade 2 and grandparent)

Session 1: June 22-23
Session 2: July 13-14
Cost: \$50 per person

Senior Adult Retreat (Ages 55+)

Session 1: July 1-3
Cost: \$110

Family Camp (Kids 0-18 with an adult)

Session 1: June 8-10
Session 2: August 17-19
Cost: \$30 per person, \$120 max per family

Beginner Camp (Grade 2)

Session 1: July 1-3
Cost: \$110

Junior Camp (Grades 3-5)

Session 1: June 10-15
Session 2: June 24-29
Session 3: July 8-13
Session 4: August 5-10
Cost: \$220

Middle School Camps (Grades 6-8)

Rustic Chi Rho 1: June 10-15
Rustic Chi Rho 2: June 17-22
Rustic Chi Rho 3: June 24-29
Rustic Chi Rho 4: July 8-13
Cabin Chi Rho: August 5-10
ADAM Camp: July 15-20
Adventure Camp: July 29-Aug 3
Cost for all middle school camps: \$220

High School Camps (Grades 9-12)

CYF 1: June 17-22
CYF 2: July 22-27
ADAM Camp: July 15-20
Adventure Camp: July 29-Aug 3
Standing Rock Camp: June 9-16
Cost for all high school camps: \$220

Young Adult Mission Camp (Ages 18-25)

May 20-25
Cost: \$220

Register through your church office or online at www.uppermidwestcc.org.

Registration Opens February 1st!



5064 Lincoln Street
Newton, Iowa 50208
Phone: 641-792-1266
Email: christianconferencecenter@gmail.com
www.uppermidwestcc.org



Featured Member: The Hale Family

Children are an important and treasured part of First Christian Church, which is one of many reasons why FCC is a wonderful church for Cassi and Jerad Hale. The Hales have made caring for children a central focus of their life, and we are so blessed to have their family at First Christian Church!

Jerad grew up in the small town of Luther, Iowa, about 10 minutes from Ames. He describes it as a wonderful country town where “you could go on vacation for a month with your doors unlocked and wide open and upon returning home find absolutely nothing out of place.” Cassie was born in Kirkland, Washington, and adopted by her paternal grandparents after four years in foster care. When Cassi moved to Boone at age 15, she attended Boone High School where she met Jerad. They were high school sweethearts! After going separate ways for awhile, they later reconnected and were married on August 23, 2010. They renewed their vows on their five-year wedding anniversary in 2015, right here at FCC.

Jerad was a member of the U.S. Army for four and a half years as an Airborne Combat Engineer. He served one year in Afghanistan and was stationed in Bamberg, Germany, with the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team. His specialties were demolitions and explosives, route clearance, and jumping out of airplanes. Jerad currently works at Lane Trailer Manufacturing as a welder and fabricator. Both Jerad and Cassi are attending DMACC in Boone. Cassi is studying psychology and plans to later attend Iowa State for her bachelor’s degree and

eventually seminary. Jerad is pursuing a goal to become an EMT.

The Hales found First Christian Church because Cassi was born and raised within the Disciples of Christ (Christian Church) denomination, with her first church home being Lake Washington Christian Church. Her former pastor in Washington helped her find First Christian Church in Ames. The Hales have made FCC their church home, and Jerad was baptized here in 2015. “We couldn’t have asked for a better church family,” Cassi said. Cassi is on a

journey to pursue a call to ministry, and we have been blessed to have her serve as a summer ministry intern with FCC. She said throughout her life she has been helped and lifted up by others within the church.

“This is a big part of my drive to give in ministry and to help other youngsters to bless their life with God in it and keeping their faith,”

she said. “‘Even when there is no light God is the air we breathe.’ This is something I used to say to myself when I was down and out.”

The Hale family stays busy outdoors. They love to have fun camping, swimming, singing, dancing, grilling and being around friends. Madox, 13, plays percussion and volleyball at Boone Middle School, all while maintaining an impressive 3.8 GPA. Maleigha, 9, loves art (her favorite color is purple), drawing, and writing stories. Her parents describe her as “enthusiastic about life.” She is a member of the Tour of Life Class this spring. Kaiden, 6, is a smart, lovable young man who says he “loves his baby sister beyond all means and with all of



(Continued on page 14)

his heart.” Makaylynn, 11 months, is a healthy, happy baby with two teeth and she will be walking soon. Their family also includes Jerad’s daughter Kymberli, 13, who lives with her mom in Cambridge, Iowa, and Jorge, who is now living and working in Washington state. The Hales ask for prayers for Jorge as he starts a new chapter in his life. They have also provided a home for their nieces Kaylee and Taylor.

“We have a very open house and allow many children a safe place to live,” Cassi and Jerad said.

Cassi and Jerad are Deacon Chairs at FCC, and their whole family has been active in various parts of the church. The Hales said their children have loved being part of the Christmas pageants at FCC and have fun during Learning Time on Sunday mornings.

“We love how many more children are attending our church and how that has grown since we have been coming here.”

—Stacey Maifeld

Warm Hugs Meeting

Saturday, April 14 from 9 to Noon in the Hub (2nd floor) We will be working on piecing some small quilts, but please feel free to join us and bring whatever you are working on (doesn’t need to be quilting) We just like being together. It will be great to make new friends and renew existing friendships. **Questions?? Call Dawn Heaberlin 451-9618.**

Fellowship Dinner

Fellowship Dinner will be on Sunday, April 15th, and ham will be on the menu. Please bring sides and dishes to go with that. **Your ideas for future Fellowship Dinners are requested! Contact Doug Clark at 233-6028.**

New Childcare Worker!



First Christian Church welcomes a new member to childcare staff! On Sunday, February 25, Rev. Mary Jane introduced Brienna Steffens to the congregation as the new Childcare Worker.

Originally from Atlantic, Iowa, Brie is a junior at Iowa State University majoring in Elementary Education. She has been active in her church and has mentored at-risk middle school youth, volunteered with Special Olympics, and tutored at Meeker Elementary School here in Ames.

Brie will work with nursery children Sunday mornings 9:00am - 12:00pm, and Wednesday evenings 5:45pm – 8:15pm she will work with nursery through fifth grade youth. Having childcare available Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings allows

members with small children to participate in Learning Time and worship on Sunday mornings and also in Bells, FCC Singers, and other Wednesday Church Night activities.

Brie has met most of the younger children and has already become an integral part of the First Christian Church childcare family. Welcome, Brie Steffens!!

—Vern Hawkins



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

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

Stewardship Report

January Giving. February not yet available.

Income:	\$18,169
Expenses:	\$19,102
Difference:	(\$933)
Disciples Mission Fund:	\$1,438
Week of Compassion:	\$1,088.54

In and Out of the Hospital:
Gwen Mitzel, Mark Love, Dorothy Hayes.

**The Easter Offering
will be received on Sundays,
March 25th and April 1st.**

Holy Week Observances
Maundy Thursday Service
March 29, 7 PM, Ames UCC

Easter Prayer Vigil
Friday, March 30th, 1 pm,
through Sunday, April 1st, 7 AM

Good Friday Service
March 30th, 7 PM
Ames United Church of Christ

Early Easter Service,
April 1st, 7 AM, Reiman Gardens
(hosted by FCC)

Easter Sunday Service
April 1st, 10:30 AM, at FCC



**SUMMER CAMP
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**
Early registration ends on
May 1st!

Baby Blessing and Welcoming

Congratulations to Amanda and Dennis Mokaya whose newborn baby girl, Natalia Joy Mokaya, was blessed on Sunday, March 4th, 2018.



Baby Natalia was welcomed and showered with well-wishes by the FCC family and friends during our Sunday Coffee Fellowship. Below, from left to right, are Roger Bertelsen, Amanda, Natalia, Angela and Dennis Mokaya, and Corry Bertelsen.



News from the Pews



THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED AT THE MARRIAGE OF

Hannah & Hannah

Monroe

Button-Harrison

River Road Unitarian Church

May

4:00 pm

6301 River Road

26

Dinner Reception to Follow

Bethesda, MD

2018

For more information, or to RSVP, contact

Pastor Mary Jane Button-Harrison by April 23rd.



Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, Inc. Director Job Description and Qualifications

Mission:

To provide emergency rent, utility, food, and transportation assistance to our neighbors in Story County in an atmosphere of dignity, comfort and encouragement.

General Description:

Under the direction and guidance of the Board of Directors, the Director is a full-time salary exempt position responsible for the planning, organizing, staffing, marketing, directing, resource and fiscal management of a non-profit agency serving individuals and families living in poverty and the working poor.

Qualifications:

Minimum of a Bachelors Degree in Human Services or related discipline.
Minimum of three years of experience in the Human Services field.

Salary:

\$35,000 minimum plus monetary compensation for health insurance and other benefits.

Application Process:

Send cover letter of application, resume and three professional references to gneainc@gmail.com.

Review of applications will begin March 26. Preference may be given to candidates with qualifications above the minimum. Questions and a complete position description may be requested at gneainc@gmail.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 Every 2nd Thurs. of the month 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 meeting 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 style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="font-size: 48px; font-weight: bold; color: purple; margin-right: 20px;">April</div> </div>				* Denotes birthday Chapel – 2 nd Floor BT = Bell Tower CH = Coffee House FH = Fellowship Hall LIB = Library		
1 Easter Sunday Easter Offering Received 7:00 am Early Easter Service at Reiman Gardens 9:15 am Learning Time 10:30 am Worship followed by Coffee Fellowship	2 10-11:30 am Ukuleleis Practice (CH) 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting (CR)	3 6:30 pm Council of Ministries Meeting (HUB)	4 12:15 Prayers (CH) <u>Wed. Night Church</u> 5:45 Dinner with FAF 6:30 Spirit. Practices 6:50 Worship 7:15 Singers Practice	5 5:30-7pm Listening to God (Great Rm.)	6 *Jerad Hale	7 9:30 – 1 pm FCC volunteers for Food at First (FH) *Laura Pogwizd
8 9:15 am Learning Time 10:30 am Worship	9 10-11:30 am Ukuleleis Practice (CH) *Michael Ewalt	10 7:15 pm Property Meeting (Library)	11 12:15 Prayers (CH) <u>Wed. Night Church</u> 5:45 Dinner with FAF 6:30 Spirit. Practices 6:50 Worship 7:15 Singers Practice	12 5:30-7pm Listening to God (Great Rm.) 7 pm Second Thursday at The Hub	13	14 9 am – Noon Warm Hugs (The Hub) *Gwen Mitzel
15 9:15 am Learning Time 10:30 am Worship followed by Fellowship Dinner 12:45 pm Elder's Mtg. (CH)	16 10-11:30 am Ukuleleis Practice (CH) Noon – The Call Deadline	17	18 12:15 Prayers (CH) <u>Wed. Night Church</u> 5:45 Dinner with FAF 6:30 Spirit. Practices 6:50 Worship 7:15 Singers Practice *MaKayLynn Hale	19 5:30-7pm Listening to God (Great Rm.) 7:00 pm Faith Formation Team Meeting (HUB) *Faith Pogwizd	20 *Daniel Clark	21 *Colleen Ryan
22 9:15 am Learning Time 10:30 am Worship *Amber Culp	23 10-11:30 am Ukuleleis Practice (CH) *Angela Opheim	24	25 12:15 Prayers (CH) <u>Wed. Night Church</u> 5:45 Dinner with FAF 6:30 Spirit. Practices 6:50 Worship 7:15 Singers Practice *Killian Schwartz	26 5:30-7pm Listening to God (Great Rm.)	27 *James Brenden *Marv Prins	28 *Hannah Button-Harrison
29 9:15 am Learning Time 10:30 am Worship	30 10-11:30 am Ukuleleis Practice (CH) *Dee Matthews *Jeff Sobotka	1	2 12:15 Prayers (CH) Wed. Night Church 5:45 Dinner with FAF 6:30 Spirit. Practices 6:50 Worship 7:15 Singers Practice	3 5:30-7pm Listening to God (Great Rm.)	4 *Corry Bertelsen *Sam Brown	5

	Ushers	Narthex	West Entry
April 1 (Easter Sunday)	Bob & Jean Watson	Cassi & Jerad Hale Family	Kay Scott
April 8	Bob & Jean Watson	Cassi & Jerad Hale Family	Kay Scott
April 15	Kris & Larry Mesenbrink	Gloria Carpenter	Carol Baker
April 22	Kris & Larry Mesenbrink	Gloria Carpenter	Carol Baker

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:	Brie Steffens

Return Service Requested

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

Fax: (515) 233-6294

Phone: (515) 232-5766

Ames, Iowa 50010-6137

611 Clark Avenue

(Disciples of Christ)

First Christian Church