

ISSUE No. 08,
AUGUST 2019

The Call

Fall Kick-Off 2019

Inside This Issue

Fall Kick-Off	1
Worship Schedule	2
Summer Worship Survey	3
Nominations	4
Stewardship	6
Fall at FCC	7
•Wednesday Church	
•Listening to God	
•Music at FCC	
•Learning Time	
Authors in Our Library	9
Regional News	10
Opportunities to Serve	12
News from the Pews	13
Calendar and Servant Schedule	17
Stay Connected with FCC!	18

“Ya’ll Come!” — Sunday, September 8, 2019

Summer is nearly over. School is just about to begin. Vacation is nearly done. It’s time to gear up for fall! Now is the time to recommit yourself to the practices of your faith. Now is a great time to explore the many opportunities to connect with God and others through the life and ministries of First Christian Church.

COME – bring your family, friends and neighbors – on Sunday, September 8th and discover anew the many possibilities to grow and live out your faith.

9:00 Gathering time – All ages will gather all together in the Coffee House for drinks, snacks, and conversation.

9:15 Opening time – Gathered together across the ages, we will share in an opening time with a prayer and a song or two, in the Coffee House.

9:25 Learning Time – classes for all ages will begin.

10:30 Worship – come and invite others, volunteer to bring those who have trouble getting to church, or who are new and don’t know anyone, as we lift our voices in song and prayer and our hearts in thanksgiving to God. After the summer, maybe it could be like a reunion.

11:45 Sunday Sundaes – Ice Cream Social on the church lawn (weather permitting) or on Second Floor if it is raining. There will be activities as well as a time for socializing and enjoying sweet treats. (Warning: this could spoil your lunch!)

Wouldn’t it be fun if everyone came?!

—Pastor Mary Jane



This year, 2019-2020, our theme at First Christian Church will be “Journey to the Common Good: Resistance, Revelation, Revival.” With that as our theme, we will explore those great stories of the Bible that remind us of God’s generous, saving, freeing, just and loving acts throughout history and try to identify how they continue today. In so doing, we will hopefully stop resisting the image of God within us and instead resist anything that degrades God’s image and desire for the common good. As God’s ways are revealed to us, and our passion to be a blessing to God and the world is ignited, we might just experience a revival of faith and a depth of commitment that is needed for the common good of all creation.

—Pastor Mary Jane

Journey to the Common Good: Resistance, Revelation, Revival

“In the beginning...” God created the heavens and the earth with every kind of creature and plant. And God created humankind in God’s own image and likeness and saw that it was all good, VERY good! It didn’t take long for humans to resist the image of God and the vision of abundance and grace set forth in creation. And when we turn from God’s intention for all creation there is brokenness and suffering. The Bible is full of stories of God working hard to help people find their way back from fear and an attitude of scarcity to love and the ability to see the bounty of God’s provision.

In his book, “Journey to the Common Good,” biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann begins chapter 1 (subtitled *Faith, Anxiety, and the Practice of Neighborliness*) writing, “The great crisis among us is the crisis of “the common good,” the sense of community solidarity that binds all in a common destiny – haves and have-nots, the rich and the poor. We face a crisis about the common good because there are powerful forces at work among us to resist the common good, to violate community solidarity, and to deny a common destiny. Mature people, at their best, are people who are committed to the common good that reaches beyond private interest, transcends sectarian commitments, and offers human solidarity.” (*Journey to the Common Good*, p.1)

Journey to the Common Good: Resistance, Revelation, Revival	
Sept. 8	In the Beginning... God Saw It was Good Genesis 1:1-2:4
Sept. 15	Connected to the Source Together for the Common Good John 15:1-5
Sept. 22	Resistance and Revival God’s Image Revealed Genesis 4:1-16
Sept. 29	Brokenness and Reconciliation God’s Dream of Wholeness Genesis 6:1-9:17
Oct. 6	Dream God’s Dream Genesis 11:1-9
Oct. 13	All Will Be Blessed Through You Genesis 12:1-9

Survey Results on Summer Worship Time

This summer we tried something new. Instead of having worship at 9:30 am as we have in the past, we kept worship at 10:30 am. We said we'd survey people at the end of the summer to see how you experienced the new time, and we did!

There was a paper survey in the worship bulletins on 8/11 and 8/18, plus the church board was given the opportunity to fill them out at their meeting on 8/13. Here are the results.

Surveys returned: 49

In response to the statement "I want FCC to continue worshipping at 10:30 am next summer, too." On a scale from 1 – 5, with "1" indicating you "strongly disagree" and "5" indicating you "strongly agree" with that statement, here's the breakdown:

Prefer 9:30

1 – 6 people

2 – 2 people

Comments on why 9:30 is preferred include: "Had to make more choices between church and other activities." "More time after church to do things." "I like worship best when it's cooler and I can enjoy summer activities afterwards."

Happy either way

3 – 7 people

Prefer 10:30

4 – 7 people

5 – 27 people

Comments on why 10:30 is preferred include: "I was there more often." "Less stressful getting kids there on time!" "I was happy for the elderly who have wanted this for a long time." "I was more awake and could concentrate." "I felt less rushed, so was more in a "spirit" of worship from the time I got to FCC."

Total 49

Agree and Strongly Agree (4&5) **34 69%**
prefer the 10:30 worship time.

Neutral (3) **7 14%**
are neutral about worship time.

Disagree and Strongly Disagree (1&2) **8 17%**
prefer the 9:30 worship time.

Thanks for your feedback! —Pastor Mary Jane

Join us for
Sunday Sundaes
First Christian Church
Sunday, Sept. 8th
After worship on our
South Lawn
(2nd Floor
if it rains.)

This is an all Church event. Mark your calendars, and plan to come. Be sure to invite students and newcomers to the area to enjoy ice cream and good conversation!

CROP AMES HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

Sunday, October 13, 2019

Save the Date!

Location: Brookside Park

Walk Distance:

Registration Time:

1:00 PM

Contacts:

David Gregory

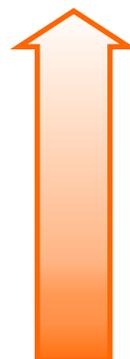
dgregory@iastate.edu

515-708-9004

Walk Time:

Mary Von Ah-Gregory

mvonahgregory@yahoo.com



Walk. Give.

✓	REGISTER
\$	DONATE

LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS

The Prayer of Jesus

is one of the best loved and most spoken prayers on the planet. There are numerous versions of the prayer, based on the text on Matthew 6:9-11 and Luke 11:2-4.

Across time and cultures people have prayed it and adapted it into over 1800 languages and dialects. Here is one such rendering:

New Zealand Aborigine

O most Compassionate Life-giver,
may we honor and praise you;
May we work with you
to establish your new order
of justice peace and love;
Give us what we need for growth,
And help us,
through forgiving others,
to accept forgiveness.

Strengthen us
in the time of testing,
that we may resist all evil,
For all tenderness,
strength and love are yours,
now and forever.

Amen.

There is so much joy in thinking about the many gifts of leadership and service at First Christian Church and how those gifts help us care for each other and our community.

The Nominations Team is beginning its work of prayerfully and carefully preparing nominations for our 2020 leadership at FCC. These nominations will be presented to the General Board at the October Board meeting and to the congregation at the December Annual Congregational meeting.

A list of the leadership positions, as well as examples of some of the attributes and gifts desired for each position, are shared on the following page.

Your input, suggestions, and prayers during the nominations process are gratefully invited!

The Nominations Team
Stacey Maifeld (chair)
Rev. Mary Jane Button-Harrison
Vern Hawkins
Amy Kuehl
Deb Lewis

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AT FCC



The Board Chair: Presides at all meetings of the General Board and Congregation and performs other duties normally associated with the office of the Chair. *Thick skin, can stay on task, well grounded, internal strength, humor, spiritual maturity, enthusiasm, good at asking the right questions, diplomacy skills, available and responsive.*

The Vice-Chair: Supports the Chair, presides in the Chair's absence, and serves as Chair of the Personnel Committee. *Thick skin, can stay on task, well grounded, internal strength, humor, spiritual maturity, enthusiasm, good at asking the right questions, diplomacy skills, available and responsive.*

The Secretary: Keeps Minutes of all meetings of the General Board and Congregation and provides them for review and approval by the General Board. *Good listener, organized, detail oriented, focused.*

The Treasurer: Records expenses of the Congregation, provides written reports of income and expenses to the General Board and signs checks. *Detail oriented, comfortable with numbers, self-motivated, problem solvers.*

The Financial Secretary: Records and deposits all income, tracks individual pledges and reports to the General Board. *Detail oriented, comfortable with numbers, self-motivated, problem solvers.*

The Property Committee Chair: Recruits committee members, leads the Property Committee, coordinates its work with the Trustees, and reports to the General Board. *Mission-focused, works well with others.*

The Nominations Committee Chair: Leads the Nominations Committee and reports to the General Board. *Sees the big picture, empowers people, sees gifts of others, works well with a team.*

Stewardship Committee Chair: Recruits committee members, leads the Stewardship Committee, coordinates its work with the Trustees, and reports to the General Board. *Leads an intentional process, enthusiasm for Stewardship as it applies to the whole of life.*

Elders: Seek the greatest spiritual growth of all members, preside at communion, and share with the minister(s) in pastoral responsibilities. *Handles tough questions gracefully, leadership skills, ability to listen without judgement, calm during conflict or anxious situations, mature, respect for confidentiality, works well with others, open-hearted, compassionate, slow to anger, "has seen it all."*

Deacons: Are responsible for a ministry of service, most visibly known in communion and baptism. *Caring, serves with a sense of purpose, flexible.*

Trustees: Serve as legal agents for the Congregation and present an annual Congregational budget to the General Board in advance of the annual meeting of the Congregation. *Seasoned individuals, may have served in other positions previously, sees big picture, does due diligence.*

Council of Ministries Moderator: Leads the Council of Ministries and reports to the General Board. *Team-oriented, organized, skilled listener, spiritually mature, encouraging, understands FCC Core Values and Future Story.*

Delegates (Ames Ecumenical Housing, Emergency Residence, Good Neighbor, and Food at First): Represent the Congregation on Boards of these organizations. *Passionate about the organizations' programs and their impact in the community.*



In the Flow of Life

- Trusting in God's Abundance
- Living a cheerful generosity

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. II Cor 9

God is always present in our lives

Vocatus atque non vocatus, deus aderit. [Bidden or not, God is always present.]

—Carl Jung house plaque

The Bible constantly assures us that God is always present in our lives. Was - is - always will be. Always. We can't ask God to be more present: God already is. Our faith grows as we 'practice the presence of God' in our lives - and have faith that God is continually blessing us as well.

The River of Life

Water and rivers in the arid Middle East were life itself to the Biblical authors. Thus they used 'The River of Life' as a metaphor for God's continuing presence and blessings, which flowed to them. They also realized that a river flows in two directions. God's abundance was meant to flow outward from them as well. The above quote from II Corinthians is 'right in the flow of the River of Life.'

In the Flow of Life - at First Christian Church

At First Christian Church we feel God's abundance flowing to us: the Disciples who went before us, our building, God's message through our ministers and lay people, our members and guests, our volunteers, our music program, our partnerships with Food at First, Good Neighbor, ACCESS, etc. etc. etc.

And God is able to provide us and FCC with every blessing in abundance

Now we choose a cheerful generosity as we let God's abundance flow outward from us. Flowing into our lives, flowing out of our lives. We receive, we give, we receive, etc. In the Flow of Life.

... We may share abundantly in every good work through FCC [Apologies to II Corinthians]

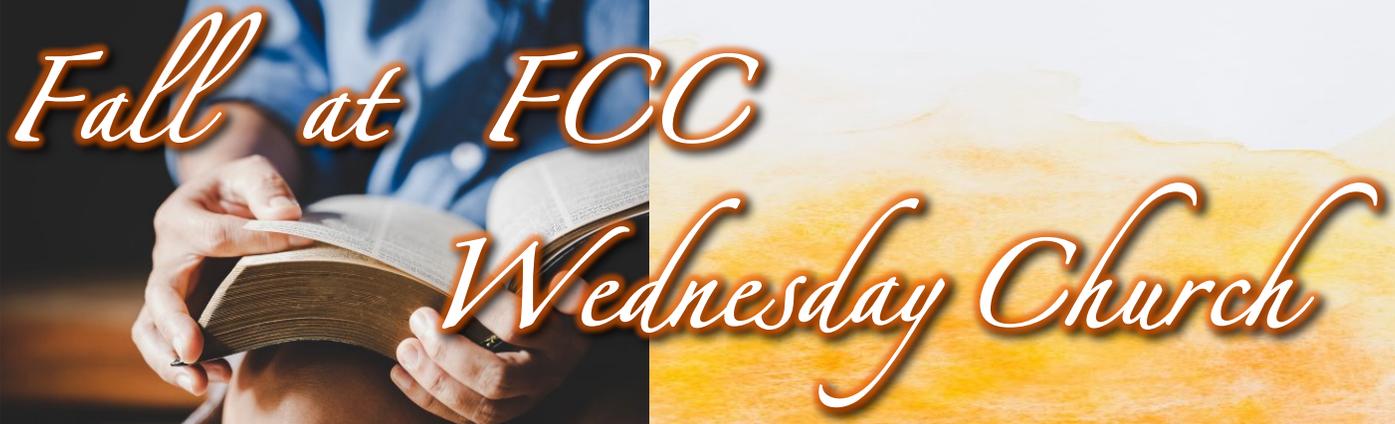
Stewardship 2020: Come join with us in the adventure!

Join together with our church friends as we continue our financial and service support to FCC, and begin our annual stewardship campaign. We have the opportunity to reconsider our support to the church. As the 'river' flows outward from us through FCC we have more 'space' for God's abundance to flow inward to us. In the Flow of Life.

The Stewardship Team

Vern Hawkins, Stacey Maifeld, Don Withers, Mary Jane Button-Harrison

Have good ideas? Creative? The Stewardship Team invites you to join with us!
We are seeking one, two, ... people to join us for Stewardship 2020 and our ministry of generosity,
both in FCC and in our lives. Don Withers 956-3186



Fall at FCC Wednesday Church

Noon Prayers — 12:15 pm—12:45 pm, Coffee House

The gathering for prayers at “noon” on Wednesday began during FCC’s Year of Discovery in 2000. It started as I realized that my own practice of praying would be helped if I committed to a time each week to pray. The prayers are primarily intercessory -- prayers of request -- and include prayers of gratitude. The group of us who meet in the Coffee House is small, although many of you have been there from time-to-time. We invite your participation by joining us any Wednesday or by giving me or Pastor Mary Jane your prayer request. Know that it will be held in confidence unless you give permission for it to be shared any further (if you wish, your request can be forwarded by us to the elders, who also hold such requests confidential, and/or Pastor Mary Jane will send it out to the "Prayers of the People," but only with your permission). Most importantly, be people of prayer, any-time and anywhere!

—Deb Lewis

Wednesday Night Church — 5:15 pm—6:00 pm, Great Room

Join us on Wednesday evenings
for a mid-week time to refresh,
renew, and recharge our spirits!

Wednesday Church Night Schedule:

- 5:15 pm Spiritual Practices
- 5:30 pm Worship
- 6:00 pm Dinner available with Food at First in Fellowship Hall
- 6-6:55 pm FCC Ringers Practice (Beg. Sep. 11)
- 7-8:00 pm FCC Singer’s Practice (Beg. Sep. 4)

Wednesday Church Night is planned so anyone can join in. Whether you are an FCC Singer, or an FCC Ringer, or neither, there will be a time for you to join others in the Great Room on second floor for experiences to recharge your spirit. From 5:30—5:50 pm we will all gather together for worship through song, scripture, silence, and prayer.

—Pastor Mary Jane



Listening to God Thursdays, 5:30 – 7:00 pm, Great Room

“God’s first language was silence. Anything else is a bad translation!” — Thomas Keating

Listening to God is a group of people seeking a deeper relationship with God. The group meets every Thursday at 5:30 pm with a short check in time followed by a 20 minute Centering Prayer time and a study period. All are invited to

join this small group as we practice simply resting in God. If you have never practiced Centering Prayer, we’ll help you. For more information contact Darla Ewalt at (gsioey69@hotmail.com).

—Darla Ewalt



Music at FCC: Sing & Ring, Blow & Beat, Hum & Strum

The core values of FCC are: 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. One way to live into our core values here at FCC is through music. All levels of abilities are welcome.

FCC Singers, Tuesds., 7:10 – 8:10 pm, Sanctuary. Beginning Tuesday, September 3. The Singers offer music in worship twice a month in Sunday worship.

FCC Ringers, Tuesds., 6:00 – 7:00 pm, Sanctuary Balcony. Beginning Tuesday, September 10.

Ukuleles Play, Mons., 10:00 – 11:30 am, Coffee House. Beginning September 9. We have a few extra ukes available if you'd like to give it a try.

Instrumentalists

We encourage instrumentalists to offer music during worship, as soloists or in ensembles. Please let Tim or Janet know if you'd like to play in a group or as a soloist.

Children!

During the last song in Sunday worship, we encourage all the children, who wish to, to come forward and play the hand percussion - our leaders in making a joyful noise!

Talk to us about your involvement in the music ministry at FCC.

Tim Button-Harrison fccamesmusic@gmail.com
Janet Lott jalott@isunet.net

Learning Time Beginning Sunday, Sept. 8th

Learning time will resume on Kick-Off Sunday, September 8th. I hope you are EXCITED for a new year of living in God's wonderful story with the congregation.

Adults will meet in the Coffee House, and children go to the south end of 2nd floor. 0-3 in nursery; 4 yr old – 6th grade in the Green Room.

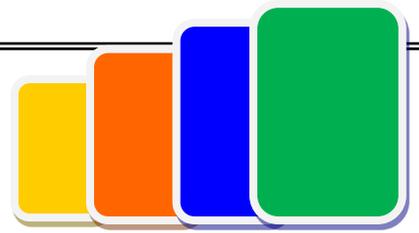
The 7th – 12th grade meet with the adults in the coffeehouse or talk with Pastor Mary Jane or Tim Button-Harrison about other ways to be involved during that time.

Karen LeCount and Eiley Misfeldt continue to provide care for the younger children in the nursery.

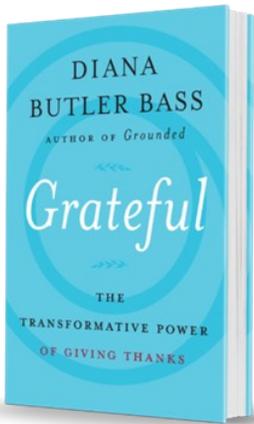
Darla Ewalt and Nancy Schroeder will be teaching the 4 yr. – 6th grade class. *Suzanne Clark and Tiffany Walker* will join them as needed.

Nursery	Infant – 3 years	2 nd Floor, Nursery
Joyful Path	4 years – 6th Grade	2 nd Floor, South Room – Green
Youth	7-12 th Grade	Coffee House
Adults	Adults	Coffee House

Authors in our Library

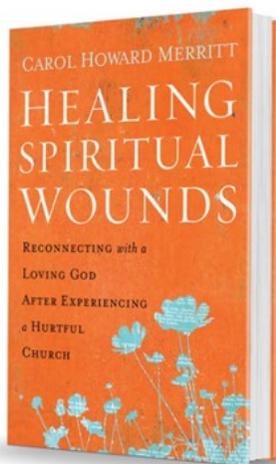
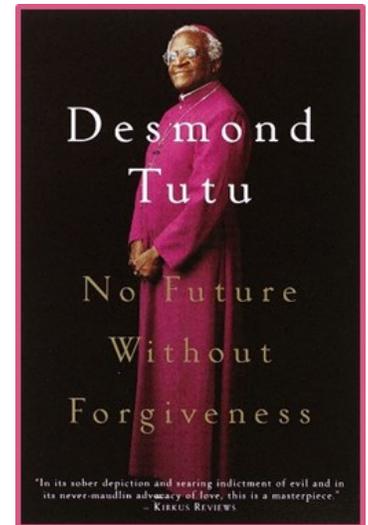


I'd like to use *The Call* to periodically showcase authors whose books, both new and old, can be found in the FCC Library. Hopefully, this will pique your curiosity and encourage readers to make use of this wonderful, in-house resource. Let's start with these three writers...



Diana Butler Bass is an author, speaker, and independent scholar specializing in American religion and culture. She is also an advisor on the project for a National Museum of American Religion in Washington, D.C. In addition to her books, she has published in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Huffington Post*. We currently have six of Dr. Butler Bass's books in our collection: *Broken We Kneel: Reflections on Faith and Citizenship* (2004); *Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith* (2006); *A People's History of Christianity* (2009); *Christianity After Religion* (2012); *Grounded: Finding God in the World* (2015); and *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks* (2018).

Desmond Tutu is a South African Anglican cleric and theologian known for his work as a human rights activist. With Nelson Mandela, he worked to end apartheid in South Africa, and ultimately chaired that country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He is a prolific author and a Nobel Peace Prize laureate (1984). Currently, the following works by Archbishop Tutu can be found in our library: *No Future Without Forgiveness* (1999); *Believe: The Words and Inspiration of Desmond Tutu* (2007); and *Made for Goodness: And why this makes all the difference* (2011).



Carol Howard Merritt is a Presbyterian minister and Adjunct Faculty member at Dubuque Theological Seminary. She's known for serving growing congregations in the Presbyterian Church (USA), especially those with a deep commitment to the poor and disenfranchised. As a writer and speaker, her topic is frequently ministering in a new generation. We have three of the author's books in our library: *Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation* (2007); *Reframing Hope: Vital Ministry in a New Generation* (2010); and *Healing Spiritual Wounds: Reconnecting with a Loving God After Experiencing a Hurtful Church* (2017).

Watch for future author profiles, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or suggestions regarding our church library.

--David Gregory, FCC Librarian

Around the Region — Things We Do Together

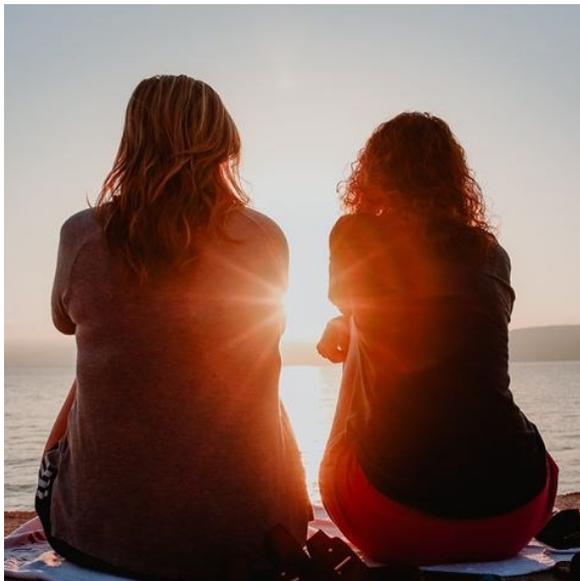
For more info or to register for events:

<http://www.uppermidwestcc.org/regional-newsletter-dte>

Below, @CCC =

held at the Christian Conference Center

Aug 25	Regional Operations Council Online
Sept. 6-7	Regional Committee on Ministry
Sept. 27-29	Upper Midwest Fall Women's Retreat, Lake Koronis Assembly Grounds
Sept. 29	Regional Operations Council Online
Oct. 19	Property Meeting @ CCC
Oct. 27	Regional Operations Council Online
Nov. 1-3	Chi Rho Retreat @ CCC
Nov. 8-9	Committee on Ministry @ WDMCC



Reclaiming Our Souls Through Friendship

**Christian Church
in the Upper Midwest
Women's Fall Retreat**

**Lake Koronis Assembly Grounds
Paynesville, MN
September 27-29, 2019**

What is Fall Retreat?

Each autumn, women gather for a weekend away from the everyday. We learn, pray, sing, play, rest, and build relationships (and let someone else make our meals). We enjoy the beauty of the change of season on the shore of Lake Koronis. We are touched by each other's stories and we might shed a tear or two and almost certainly will laugh a lot! The Retreat is yours for what you need - activities, rest, learning, enjoying nature, reading, craft projects, and being with other delightful women!

What is the form of this year's Retreat theme?

We're trying something new this year! Instead of hearing from a keynote speaker in person, this year we'll have video presentations (TEDx downloads) by Shasta Nelson on the theme of the importance of friendships to our lives, followed by discussions and activities to deepen our connections with each other. We are excited that Rev. Anjeanette Perkins, a long-time attendee of the Fall Retreat, will be our Chaplain this year!

Sept. 11 is the Early Bird Registration Deadline.

**LEARN MORE AND
REGISTER TODAY!**

General Minister and President reflects on General Assembly

[See PDF Newsletter](#)

Dear Church –

My heart is still singing from the holy time we shared in Des Moines last month. The Spirit was present and real in [worship](#). The discussions were deep in the workshops. The joy was tangible at the meal events. Our programming for youth and young adults included education about the governance of the church, and we saw how important multi-generational worship is when we gather. Many of those gathered spoke strongly for justice in the [business](#) sessions, at the candlelight vigil and the [post-assembly rally](#). As the General Youth Council reminded us with their resolution, we must continue to invite one another to listen and discuss, even when we disagree. To walk together in love even when we disagree is at the heart of being “Disciple”.

I am genuinely hopeful for the future of this Church. I saw signs of life and growth everywhere, of Disciples who are learning to abide whether that means waiting with expectation or tarrying a while in the Presence. While we spent some time [celebrating our past](#), I also heard from many dedicated Disciples that we are a group whose time has come in this fragmented world. A look at the [MissionFest](#) projects made me both proud and excited about the ministry that Disciples are engaged in across the US and Canada. To quote the Week of Compassion team, “Good work, Church!”

In partnership with the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, we celebrated the 50th Anniversaries of The [Design](#) and the Merger Agreement, two documents which shaped our current manifestation as church together. As many of us gathered to look forward in the “Design at 100” and “Second 50” workshops, I was encouraged by the presence of two of our former GMPS, Sharon Watkins and Dick Hamm, as they facilitated a conversation about what our church needs to look like in the next 50 years. Disciples from across our church stood to speak truth into the room, naming both our challenges as well as our hopes. This kind of real talk must continue to be part of our work as we move forward together. The conversations

revealed that we are not as afraid of change, and that we are confident in God’s ability to empower us for ministry.

In the midst of the celebrations, we marked two very important occasions. One was the [culmination](#) of a major part of the 2020 Vision. Former General Minister and President Dick Hamm set the vision before us in the 1990s and he was there to announce the achievement of one of the goals of beginning more than 1,000 new faith communities. While not every start continued, we have more than 60 percent who did. But another effect of those planting operations was to work new church ministry into our DNA, to make the planting embedded in who we are today.

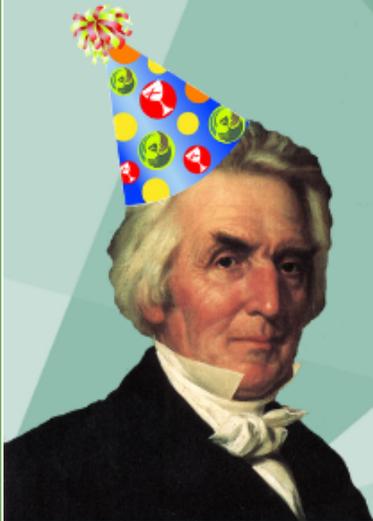
We were also blessed to affirm our [full communion](#) agreement with The United Church of Canada. We were already in partnership through two of our Canadian congregations and our shared relationship with the United Church of Christ. This agreement closed the triangle to make all three denominations stronger with shared ministry. Not a merger, but a partnership, this agreement will be celebrated in October in Winnepeg.

Disciples, while we are primed for growing into what the Lord has in mind for us – to become a healing, helping force for good in this fragmented world – we must make it a priority to be connected to the Vine, Jesus Christ, through the disciplines of prayer and Bible study. We must be strengthened in our spiritual beings in order to bear the fruit that is only possible through Christ. I invite you to do that work together, wherever you are, wherever you serve. We will be stronger as a church because of it. We must continue to abide, to remain, to persist.

I am looking forward to what we can accomplish before we meet again in Louisville, KY, in 2021. I am honored to be on this journey with you.



With God’s love,
Terri Hord Owens
General Minister and
President of the Christian
Church (Disciples of Christ) in
the United States and Canada



YOU'RE INVITED

Celebrate Alexander Campbell's 231st birthday with a giving day!



Thursday, Sept. 12

disciplesmissionfund.org/DMFday

#DMFday

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)

Summer brings MANY opportunities to serve!

- **WELCOME** the new season by attending Fall Kick-Off Sunday, on September 8th! We will be resuming Learning Time and have sundaes on the South Lawn after worship.
- **GET INVOLVED** by helping to facilitate worship with reading, or with sound or video on Sundays. For more information, contact Janet Lott at jalott@isunet.net.
- **FIGHT HUNGER.** Join FCC’s core of Food at First Volunteers by helping to serve a meal every first Saturday of the month. For more information, you may contact Cynthia Gaunt at cygaunt@hotmail.com.
- **GROW IN FELLOWSHIP** by connecting with other women during the Fall Women’s Retreat. The retreat will be Friday, Sept. 27 through Sunday, Sept. 29. See page 9 for more information, or contact Janet Lott at jalott@isunet.net.



- **NOMINATE** persons for positions of leadership at FCC. Do you know someone who is talented and could help the Church grow by sharing their gifts? Let the Nominations Team know! Contact Stacey Maifeld at 515-520-9844.
- **JOIN** the Stewardship Team! The Stewardship Team needs one or two persons with creativity and vision to help them plan the Stewardship Season, as they prepare for the 2020 Pledge Campaign. Contact Don Withers at 515-203-5255.
- **CELEBRATE** Alexander Campbell’s 231st birthday by giving generously during the Disciples Mission Fund Day, on Thursday, September 12.
 - **BEAUTIFY** the church! We need many hands for chores like mowing, weeding, planting, painting, etc. Contact Shirley Malaby at 233-1827, for more information.
 - **GOING ON VACATION? PLAN AHEAD** to faithfully commit to the mission and vision of First Christian Church, by remembering your pledge. You can set up auto-pay through your bank, or through PayPal. Every little bit of help is so important. Contact Dave Fitz for more information at 515-509-0751

Thank you so much for what you do! 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.

News from the Pews



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

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

Stewardship Report

	July	2019 YTD
Income:	\$32,777	\$143,882
Expenses:	\$16,873	\$147,332
Difference:	\$15,904	\$(3,450)
Outreach		\$10,973

Our Deepest Sympathies: to the family Darla Ewalt, whose mother passed away on Sunday, Aug. 18 at Bethany Life, in Story City.
In and Out of the Hospital: Thelma Miller.

- ISU Welcome Fest is Wednesday, August 28th from 5:30—8:30 PM, at the Great Hall in the Memorial Union. FCC Has a booth!
- FCC will also have a booth during Ames PrideFest, on Saturday, September 7th, from 10 am to 8 pm in downtown Ames, Douglas Ave.

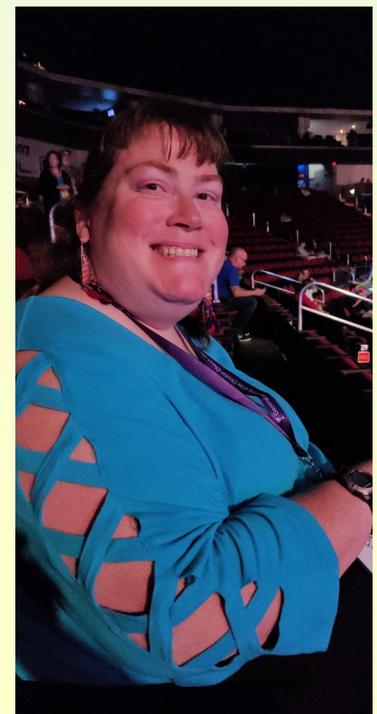


Kick-Off Sunday
Sunday, September 8, 2019
9:00 am Gathering Time
9:15 am Opening Time
9:25 am Learning Time
10:30 am Worship followed by Sunday Sundaes

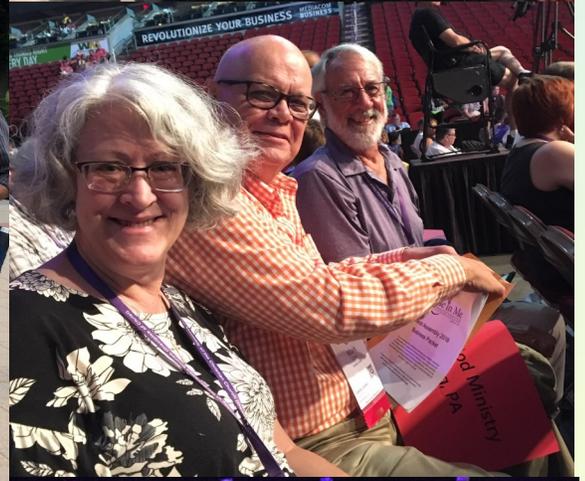
Pastor Mary Jane will be at a preaching conference in Indiana, Monday, Sept. 9 through Thursday, Sept. 12.

#DMFday of Giving is September 12.

Sunday worship, July 21st, 2019, at the General Assembly



General Assembly 2019, Des Moines, IA



General Assembly Worship, July 21, 2019

General Assembly Thank You's

[Ames First Christian Church \(FCC\)](#) was a host site for worship on Sunday, July 21, for attendees of the [2019 General Assembly](#) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). On that Sunday we welcomed Rev. April G. Johnson, Executive Director of Disciples [Reconciliation Ministry](#), who reminded us that we cannot do anything if we are not connected to the vine. Indeed, it took many hands connected to the vine to help make this event a success. Thank you!

Dear All,

I want to thank you (and those I may have inadvertently omitted) for everything you did to make the meal and our building for our assembly guests, UCC friends and all church attendees a pleasant and welcoming experience. A big thank you also to Jim Lester, Sherri and Ginny Khan, Anita Lee, Nathan Schmitz and Adam Pendry. Whether you cut corn off the cob, moved tables and chairs, decorated, served, poured, cooked, cleaned, organized, directed, answered questions, planned, mowed / gardened, repaired/replaced, cleaned up, baled me out or any of the many other jobs -

You are appreciated!!! I also appreciate all that was done in so many other areas to make this event a success (almost everyone had a job). At risk of missing someone (including new faces), I want to thank everyone who had jobs that were so important, but not as visible. Thank you Patty for sharing food, teaching us about FAF and your friendship - we couldn't have done it without you! Last of all a standing ovation to Rev. Mary Jane who shared the idea of bringing a guest minister and Assembly goes to be with us in Ames, Iowa. We thank you for all you do Mary Jane!

We work together well! Our little village is making a difference!

Humbly, Dawn Heaberlin

Hello All,

Thank you, Dawn, for expressing what many of us are feeling right now – gratitude for all the wonderful people we get to be in this life with. From my end, the names I would like to thank Anleah and Harrison Walker. Anleah played in worship, hidden behind the piano, and Harrison worked with Scott for weeks getting our livestream ready. He was up in the balcony and in the Coffee House troubleshooting tech and recording the worship service. I want to thank all you people who helped the worship service run so smoothly. That includes all the setting-up and serving. I particularly liked how coffee and water magically appeared in different areas of the sanctuary. You are a blessing to us.

The building and grounds looked great. In every nook and cranny there was a Building Guide smile to welcome us. The meal organization and hospitality was impressive to say the least (it was amazing, actually). John and I stayed until 1:30 and there were still guests and FCCers hanging around chatting. To use April Johnson's words "make yourself at home" - we did...because we were welcomed to by you who got the building ready, who welcomed us, and who prepared

and served the meal (and cleaned up after us!).

As I sat in the chancel with the choir on Sunday, the congregation didn't seem as full as I expected it would. You know, thoughts of packed balcony. Then, I realized that there were dozens of the FCC family moving around, being hosts, fixing the meal, caring for children, playing music and singing....moving around some more to make sure everyone was welcome. We had over 175 people in the building on Sunday. That filled more than the balcony. The whole building was totally full of excellent energy.

And I second Dawn's ovation for Mary Jane. I've had the privilege of working with her on this event in the planning group. I witnessed her see and express and work through the details of the big picture that many of us don't have to think about or even notice. She helped us weave all the parts together, more than we can realize. Thank you, Mary Jane.

Thanks again, FCC!
Janet, as part of the General Assembly Sunday Planning Team
(aka Council of Ministries)

(continued page 16)

General Assembly Worship Sunday Thank You's

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now." Philippians 1:3-5

I arrived home from attending the 2019 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) stirred and exhausted! What a whirlwind of activity; what a mix of people and perspectives; what a joy and a challenge to learn more about what it means to Abide in Christ, the true vine.

Being at the Assembly and sharing in worship with you all and those who came last Sunday confirmed my call and identity to be a member and minister in this diverse denomination, and more specifically at Ames First Christian Church!

I add my voice to the throng of thanksgiving and appreciation for all the hearts and hands and voices who made last Sunday's worship and meal one of welcome, extravagant hospitality, grace, and Spirit-filled!

From the greeting and help people received in the parking lot and entrances, to the welcome and assistance they received as they entered the building and sanctuary, to the service of our deacons and elders, to the amazing voices and spirit of the joint choir, to the brilliance of the children, and those who cared for them, and the warm and gracious heart and mind of Rev. April Johnson, to the controlled chaos as people left the sanctuary uplifted and made their way to the Fellowship Hall, to the clean and welcoming space and set up for the meal and the service thereof, to the displays and the goodwill all around, to the hands and smiles who cooked and cleaned and offered extra touches, people left feeling part of something big and meaning-filled, expressed in acts of love and generosity offered graciously in the spirit of Christ. I was humbled by the whole experience and offer words of heart-felt thanks to God for everyone of you.

Much work happened ahead of the 21st. Bob Logston spent weeks painting. Sue Prins worked closely with Alfred's to make sure the new carpet was installed in time. Jim Lester and Dave Fitz did much trouble-shooting with building related repairs. The musicians held extra practices. Vern and others set up chairs in the

sanctuary, Coffee House, and Great Room. DeLores Hawkins thought through all the details of serving offering and communion. Scott Walker and Harrison Walker made sure we could live stream and then oversaw the live stream on the 21st. And of course, there were those who went the extra mile to make sure the church grounds were beautiful! Thanks to Janet for her organizational skills that helped track on "paper" the task teams and ideas people offered to help everything run more smoothly.

One of the risks of naming people is that someone might not receive a mention. So I ask you to receive this word of thanks for your part, including showing up. One of the best gifts we have to give others in the church is our presence for and with one another. As Rev. Johnson titled her sermon, and as the joint choir sang, "Never Alone," and "No one stands alone."

Thank you! One thing that is true about First Christian Church - we work well together and we know how to show a generous welcome! Those two things go together. As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work." And while I'm not sure the work always felt light, it was certainly joyful and humbly offered. Well done, good and faithful servants!

In Christ's Service,
Mary Jane

Dear FCC Ames,

Thank you so much for the hospitality you showed us at worship on July 21.

The congregation was so welcoming by furnishing us transportation to your church, greeting us with smiling faces, providing a meaningful worship and inviting us to share a meal with you. We were truly blessed by your thoughtfulness and kindness.

God's blessing.
Sara Compton & Terry Petersen,
Nevada, MO

Calendar and Servant Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h2 style="font-size: 2em; color: #0070C0;">September</h2> 				<p>* Denotes birthday Chapel – 2nd Floor BT = Bell Tower CH = Coffee House FH = Fellowship Hall</p> <p>LIB = Library CR = Conf. Room GR = Great Room</p>		
1 10:30 am Worship *Bonnie Smith	2 Labor Day – Office Closed	3 9:30 am Welcome Group Mtg. (LIB) 7:10 pm Singers Practice (Chancel)	4 12:15 Prayers (CH) Wed. Church Night 5:15 pm Spiritual Practices 5:30 pm Worship	5 5:30-7pm Listening to God (Great Rm.)	6 *Nancy Schroeder	7 9:30 AM – 1 pm FCC Volunteers for Food at First (FH) 10 am – 8 pm Ames Pride Fest – FCC has a booth! *Bob Watson
8 FALL KICK-OFF 9:00 am Gathering Time (CH) 9:15 am Intergenerational singing & prayer 9:25 am Learning Time for all 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Sunday Sundaes on the church lawn	9 10-11:30 am Ukuleile's Play Pastor Mary Jane at a Preaching Conference in Indiana	10 10am Communications Team Mtg. (LIB) 6:00 pm Bells Practice (Balcony) 7:10 pm Singers Practice (Chancel) 7:15 pm Property Mtg. (LIB)	11 12:15 Prayers (CH) Wed. Church Night 5:15 pm Spiritual Practices 5:30 pm Worship	12 5:30-7pm Listening to God (Great Rm.) *Terry Lewis	13	14 United Way's Annual Day of Caring *Cynthia Gaunt
15 9:15 am Learning Time 10:30 am Worship *Mary Jane Button-Harrison *Diane Neal	16 10-11:30 am Ukuleile's Play 11:00 am Elder's Circle, (LIB)	17 6:00 pm Bells Practice (Balcony) 7:10 pm Singers Practice (Chancel) 7:00 pm Faith Formation Team Meeting. (LIB)	18 12:15 Prayers (CH) Wed. Church Night 5:15 pm Spiritual Practices 5:30 pm Worship 6:00 pm Faith Formation Mtg. (LIB) 6:00 pm Bells Practice (Balcony) 7:00 pm Singers Practice (Chancel)	19 5:30-7pm Listening to God (Great Rm.)	20	21
22 9:15 am Learning Time 10:30 am Worship followed by Fellowship Dinner (FH) 12:45 pm Elder's Meeting (CH)	23 10-11:30 am Ukuleile's Play 11:00 am Elder's Circle, (LIB) Noon – Call Deadline 7 pm Trustees (CR)	24 6:00 pm Bells Practice (Balcony) 7:10 pm Singers Practice (Chancel)	25 12:15 Prayers (CH) Wed. Church Night 5:15 pm Spiritual Practices 5:30 pm Worship 6:00 pm Bells Practice (Balcony) 7:00 pm Singers Practice (Chancel) *Carol Gagnier	26 5:30-7pm Listening to God (Great Rm.)	27 Women's Retreat →	28 *Jane Love *Nic Pogwizd
29 Reconciliation Offering Received 9:15 am Learning Time 10:30 am Worship	30 10-11:30 am Ukuleile's Play 11:00 am Elder's Circle, (LIB)	1 6:00 pm Bells Practice (Balcony) 7:10 pm Singers Practice (Chancel)	2 12:15 Prayers (CH) Wed. Church Night 5:15 pm Spiritual Practices 5:30 pm Worship 6:00 pm Bells Practice (Balcony) 7:00 pm Singers Practice (Chancel)	3 5:30-7pm Listening to God (Great Rm.)	4 *Chris Haley	5 9:30 AM – 1 pm FCC Volunteers for Food at First (FH)

Servant Schedule

	Ushers	Narthex	West Entry
Sept. 1 (Labor Day Weekend)	Kris & Larry Mesenbrink	Sam Brown	Kay Scott
Sept. 8	Kris & Larry Mesenbrink	Sam Brown	Kay Scott
Sept. 15	Shirley Malaby and Carol Baker	Jeff Sobotka	Eileen Sambos
Sept. 22	Shirley Malaby & Carol Baker	Jeff Sobotka	Eileen Sambos
Sept. 29	Stacey Maifeld and Gwen Mitzel	Jeff Sobotka	Meg Knol-Digby

Deacons Serving in September:

- Captain: Doug Clark
- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Meg Knol-Digby | 3. Amanda Mokaya |
| 2. Corry Bertelsen | 4. Eileen Sambos |

Elder's Serving in September:

- Offering: Amy Kuehl
 Communion: Vern Hawkins
 Alternate: Cynthia Gaunt
 Chaplain: Deb Lewis

10 Ways to Know What's Happening at FCC

- The Call Newsletter – 3rd week of the month
- Weekly News Update – an email sent every Thursday
- Worship Bulletin Inserts – every Sunday
- Prayers of the People – an email sent as needed
- Video Slides before Sunday worship – every Sunday
- Announcements during Sunday worship – every Sunday
- Bulletin boards in the church - ongoing
- Word of mouth - ongoing
- Facebook – First Christian Church (Disciples) Ames
- Website - www.fccames.org

To receive a hardcopy newsletter, please contact the church office.

To receive newsletter, news updates and prayers via email **please sign up by clicking on an icon.**

Weekly News Update



Prayers Of The People



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)

Grocery Distributions: Monday and Thursday at 4:45 pm and Saturday at 10:00 am. Sign Up to Volunteer at <http://bit.ly/1tG7Xb2>

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

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:	Eiley Misfeldt

Return Service Requested

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

Phone: (515) 232-5766

Ames, Iowa 50010-6137

611 Clark Avenue

(Disciples of Christ)

First Christian Church