

The Call

ISSUE No. 11,
NOVEMBER 2019



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ADVENT 2019

A Voice Cries Out – Can We Hear?

A voice cries out:
*“In the wilderness prepare the
way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a
highway for our God.”*
Isaiah 40:3

Often in Advent we hear the words of the prophet Isaiah. The role of the prophet is not an easy one. The biblical prophets had to speak messages of challenge when the people had gone astray; when those expected to be beacons of God’s love and justice instead became mired in systems that

gave license to greed, corruption, and a lack of mercy and compassion for the most vulnerable people. In other words, the prophets were compelled to speak when those in power were no longer promoting the common good. In such bleak times so many of God’s people suffer, and like the Israelites in slavery in Egypt, they cry out. Prophets both hear the cries and see the suffering of those on the margins, and feel God’s heart breaking, and anger rising at the injustice. Rabbi and Jewish Theologian Abraham Heschel writes, “An analysis of prophetic utterances shows that the fundamental experience of the prophet is a fellowship with the feelings of God, a *sympathy with the divine pathos*, a communion with the divine consciousness which comes about through the prophet’s reflection of, or participation in, the divine pathos. The typical prophetic

state of mind is one of being taken up into the heart of the divine pathos.”

Advent is a time of journeying through the darkness that brings suffering and despair; facing the ways in which the world then, as now, longs for God’s love to be born and for the light to shine through the darkness. It is a time of listening, in the midst of so many voices, for the one crying out with a heart for those who suffer and a clarion call to turn to God’s way of justice and mercy, and in so doing, finding the hope, peace, joy, and love we, and the world, so desperately need. Our theme for Advent is: “A Voice Cries Out – Can We Hear?” The prophet Isaiah will be our guide as we hone in on where hope is found. May we listen to the voice that cries out from the heart of God.

Pastor Mary Jane

**Devoted to Generosity—
Trusting in God’s Abundance**

Nov. 24	Choose Life! Stewardship Dedication Deuteronomy 30:15-20
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**A Voice Cries Out—Can We Hear?
Advent and Christmas Worship**

Dec. 1	A Voice Cries Out: The Voice of Hope Isaiah 11:1-5
Dec. 8	A Voice Cries Out: The Voice of Peace Isaiah 11:6-10
Dec. 15	A Voice Cries Out: The Voice of Joy Christmas Pageant
Dec. 22	A Voice Cries Out: The Voice of Love Isaiah 35:1-10

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:

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 the tenderness,
strength and love are yours, now and
forever.

**Stewardship
Dedication Sunday**

**On Sunday, November 24th, we
will be Dedicating Our 2020
Stewardship Commitments —
Please bring your pledge cards!**

 <p>Devoted to Generosity Stewardship 2020 <input type="checkbox"/> I would like information about other ways I can give financially to the church.</p>	<p>Devoted to Generosity Trusting in God’s Abundance</p> <p>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.” -2 Corinthians 9:8</p> <p>In addition to gifts of time & talent, I/we will support the 2020 operational budget by giving: \$ _____ per week _____ per month _____ per year</p> <p>Please list time and talent gifts on the back. Name(s) _____</p>
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Higher Education &
Leadership Ministries
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Colleges &
Universities

Seminaries &
Divinity Houses



**Thanksgiving
Offering 2019**

Thanksgiving Special Offering

Received on
Sunday, November 24.

You may give on that Sunday in the designated envelope or [ONLINE](#) (select Thanksgiving Special Offering from the Designation dropdown list).

The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students and it makes a difference in the world.

Food at First

& First Christian Church present

32nd Annual
Free Community-Wide

Thanksgiving Meal

6th & Clark, First Christian Church

Thursday, Nov 28, 2019
11:30am - 1:00pm

Turkey, tofurkey, dressing
mashed potatoes, gravy
vegetables, ham
homemade pie!



Parking West of church & Fareway parking lot & City Hall parking lots FoodatFirst.com

Poinsettias for Advent



We will be ordering some poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary for the Christmas [I would like a poinsettia!](#) season.

If you would like to buy some in remembrance or in honor of a loved one or in your own name, they will be \$8.00 each.

Please get your money and information to the office before Sunday, December 15.

—Thank you - Sue Prins

Hangings of the Greens &

STOCKING STUFFER!



**Sunday, November 24
4:00-6:00 PM, Coffee House**

Stocking stuffing and supper!

Come join the FUN as together we (adults as well as children) prepare the church and ourselves for Advent!

This year the annual Women's Gathering stocking stuffing will be combined with the Hanging of the Greens event, beginning at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 24. Women members and friends of FCC, along with 4th through 8th grade youth and any high school students who would like to help, will meet in the Hub (2nd floor) to stuff 100 stockings for the Bethesda Lutheran Church Food Pantry. Afterwards, they will join the members and friends who participate in The Hanging of the Greens in the Coffee House. **An immediate need is for cash donations to purchase quantities of candy and small toys to fill the stockings!** Contact Deb Lewis at deb.q.lewis@gmail.com.

This is an ALL church, and ALL family event, for children ages 0 through 122.

And, there will be...
making of construction paper chains
stringing popcorn and cranberries
into garland
decorating Christmas cookies
plus snacks to eat!

**THE WOMEN'S
GATHERING**



This Advent season, as they have done in years past, the Women's Gathering will be collecting much needed items to bless a family and individuals in need through the Youth and Shelter Services. If you are wondering how you can help, there is a sign-up list in the Narthex with a description of each individual with a Christmas needs wish list. You may sign up on Sunday when you come to worship, or stop by the church office Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 2 pm. For more information, contact Deb Lewis at deb.q.lewis@gmail.com.

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

Annual Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, December 8
After worship
In the Sanctuary

At this year's
Congregational Meeting, we will:

1. Elect new leadership, and
2. Adopt a budget for 2020

Following the Annual Meeting
We will go Christmas Caroling!



Join Us for
Caroling

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



The Christmas Offering
will be received on Sundays,
December 15 and 22. You may give
in the designated envelopes on
those Sundays, or [ONLINE](#).

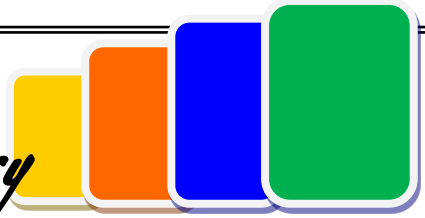
Our finest gifts support the work of regional
ministries this Christmas. Your regional ministry
works to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

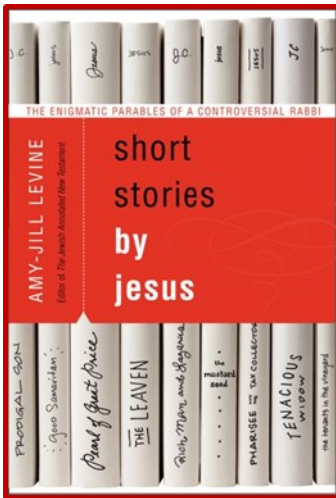
The Christmas Special Day offering supports all
of these and many other ministries of our
regions.

[Please give generously to this year's
Christmas Offering.](#)

Authors in our Library



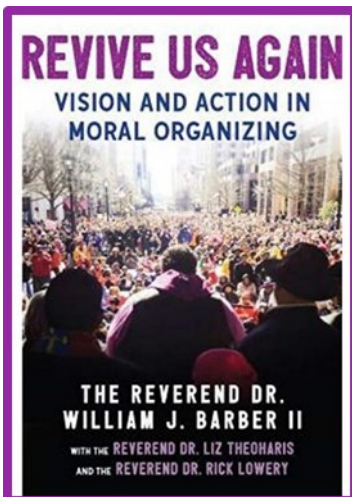
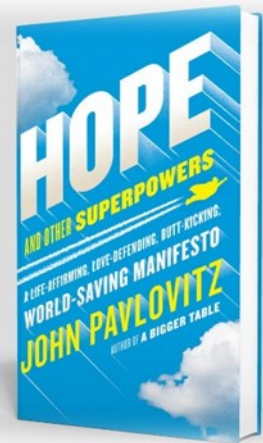
This month's profiled authors include a Jewish feminist scholar, a popular and provocative blogger, and a Christian pastor (Disciples of Christ) who is widely considered to be one of the most gifted organizers and orators in our country today. Check them out!



Amy-Jill Levine is a Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University, as well as a prolific writer and public speaker. She has described herself as a "Yankee Jewish feminist who teaches in a predominantly Protestant divinity school in the buckle of the Bible Belt" with a commitment to eliminating antisemitic, sexist, and homophobic theologies. In Spring 2019 she was the first Jew to teach New Testament at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome.

The FCC Library holds Levine's 2014 book, *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*, as well as three of the children's books she has co-authored with Sandy Eisenberg Sasso: *Who Counts? 100 Sheep, 10 Coins, and 2 Sons* (2017), *The Marvelous Mustard Seed* (2018), and *Who is My Neighbor?*

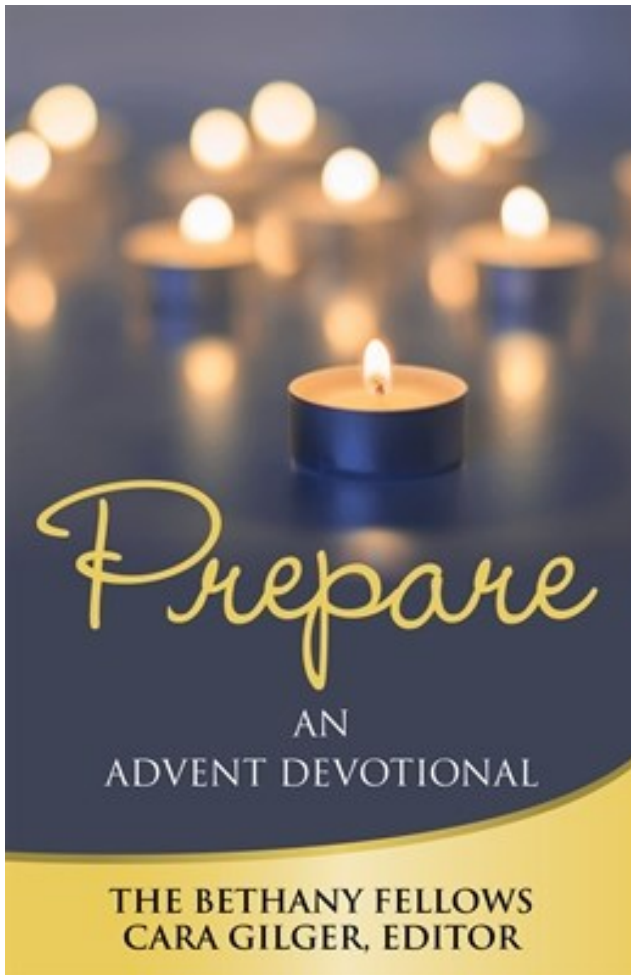
John Pavlovitz is a writer, pastor, and activist from Wake Forest, North Carolina. He worked for several years as youth pastor in a Methodist "megachurch" before getting fired in 2013 for provocative articles posted in his (still popular) blog, *Things That Need to be Said*. Both of Pavlovitz's recent books can be found in the FCC Library. *A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community* (2017) argues for creating a more inclusive society and church community. *Hope and Other Superpowers: A Life-Affirming, Love-Defending, Butt-Kicking, World-Saving Manifesto* (2018) offers advice for individuals seeking to counter "the highly partisan cultural climate."



The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II is the President & Sr. Lecturer of Repairers of the Breach, Co-Chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call For Moral Revival; Bishop with the College of Affirming Bishops and Faith Leaders; Visiting Professor at Union Theological Seminary; and Pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

All three of Rev. Barber's recent books can be found in the FCC Library: *Forward Together: A Moral Message For The Nation* (2014); *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and The Rise of a New Justice Movement* (2016); and *Revive Us Again: Vision and Action in Moral Organizing* (2018).

--- David Gregory, FCC Librarian



Prepare: An Advent Devotional

by [Bethany Fellows](#)
edited by [Cara Gilger](#)

In the over-commercialized, over-busy Christmas season, it's easy for us to lose focus on the Advent journey. *Prepare* provides a four-week resource to help us listen to God's call to faithfulness in Jesus being made flesh in our world. When we hear that call, how do we hope and pray and change and live differently? Daily, five-minute devotions beginning the first Sunday of Advent through Christmas morning include a scripture verse, a reflection, and a prayer.

Bonus Content: Four Advent candle-lighting services, plus one for Christmas Day, provide special liturgies for lighting the candles of Hope, Love, Joy, Peace, and the Christ candle at the center of the Advent wreath and our lives.

Look for this year's Advent devotional by church pews this Sunday morning.

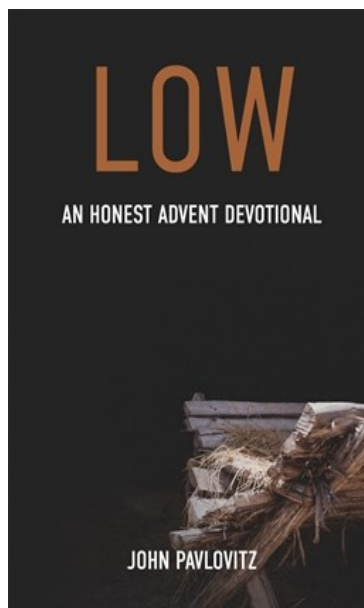
Two Additional Advent Devotionals

This year, Chalice Press is offering two additional Advent devotional choices.

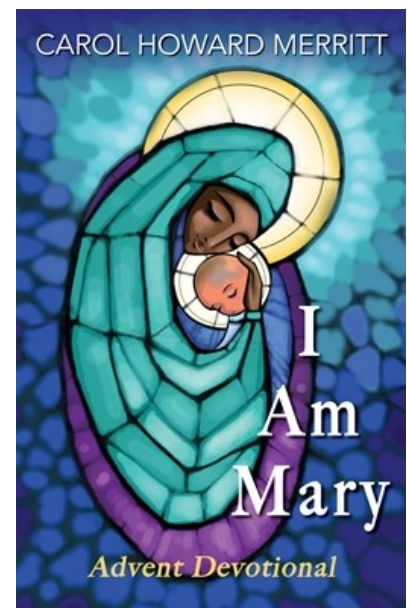
We have purchased a copy of each and will have them available in the Library for those interested.

They are: *Low, An Honest Advent Devotional* by John Pavlovitz, and *I Am Mary* by Carol Howard Merritt.

LOW: An Honest Advent Devotional,
by John Pavlovitz



I Am Mary, by
Carol Howard Merritt





The FCC Youth Group is for 4th Grade through 8th Grade. The leaders are Jocelyn Digby, Darla Ewalt, Vern Hawkins, Deb Lewis, and Mark Schroeder. The Bell Tower Room is the Youth Group Room and is their space. Two of our youth attended the Chi Rho (6th – 8th Grade) Retreat in November. During the Youth Group’s first meeting they got to know each other and played Bible Jeopardy. The next planned activities are:

- **November 24, 2019 (4:00 – 6:30)** – Stuff stockings for the Bethesda Food Shelf. The stockings will be given to children whose families need food assistance. Following the stocking stuffing they will help with the Hanging of the Greens. Meal provided. Families are invited to Hanging of the Greens.
- **December 8, 2019 (following the Annual Congregational Meeting, which will be after worship)** – Caroling to the FCC home bound. FCC Singers, families and church members will be joining the youth. Soup lunch will be provided.
- **December 15, 2019** – The Christmas Pageant. The FCC Youth and children will bring the story of Christmas to the congregation through scripture and music during the worship service.
- **January 5, 2020** – The activity has yet to be planned. Possible activity may be bowling and pizza.
- **February 7 – 9, 2020** – Junior (4th and 5th Grades) Retreat. More information to follow.

As parents what can you do? First get your youth to the meetings. You can also provide meals for the meetings or transportation. If you want to help, please contact Darla Ewalt (515-290-1914 or gsioey69@hotmail.com).

—FCC Youth Leaders

Christmas Pageant

The Christmas pageant will be **December 15, during the worship service**. The youth and children will bring the story of Christmas to the congregation through scripture, performance, and music. They are currently practicing during the Learning Time. Hope everyone can come to worship on December 15, and witness the joy of Christmas through the eyes of children.



Hanging of the Greens



November 24 is the Hanging of the Greens beginning at 4:00 pm. There will be a light meal provided. We will decorate the Church for the Christmas Season. There will be cookies to decorate (1 cookie per person). We will make paper chains, make bead ornaments, and decorate cards for the home bound. We will put up wreaths, Christmas trees and banners. All ages are needed and are invited to join the fun as we prepare the building for the joyous season.

—The Faith Formation Team

**“AND YOU
WILL
FIND REST
FOR
YOUR
SOUL...”**

Advent is a sacred season, one where its essence can easily get lost in the demands, busyness, and perceived expectations of the coming Christmas holidays. In our times and culture, giving ourselves permission to take time to enter the quiet of our inmost beings can be a challenging task. However, ready or not, Advent and Christmas will come. So let's bring our most soul-filled selves to them.

To reconnect with a sense of spiritual rest, consider giving yourself the gift of a quiet morning for renewal of weariness of mind, body, spirit. Be nourished by time and space for intentional silence; solitude in the community of fellow journeyers; and the practice of Centering Prayer.



Silent Saturday **DECEMBER 7**

First Saturday in Advent

First Christian Church

611 Clark Ave. 2nd Floor, Ames, Iowa

8:30 AM Registration | 9—Noon Retreat
Suggested Donation \$15

Facilitator:

Kathy Reardon, Spiritual Director, Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center



**Contemplative Outreach
of Central Iowa**

Silence Solitude Solidarity Service

www.CenterIowa.org

Register online at centeriowa.org/events.

For more information call:
Mary Jo Pfeifer Wulf 515-441-6446



Join us for an FCC

Christmas Party!

Wednesday, December 11th
Great Room 5:30-7:30 PM

**There will be food, merriment,
and entertainment!**

- If you want to be in the program,
- contact Scott Walker (515-708-6955).
- If you are willing to help in the kitchen for a half hour shift,
contact Corry Bertelsen (232-3312).

FCC Children's Christmas Pageant

Joy Sunday, December 15th, 10:30 am



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Come as you are, you belong!

Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 7PM



First Christian Church
611 Clark Avenue

FOOD AT FIRST PASS ALONG PARTY!

When: Saturday, December 14, 4-5:30 PM

Donation Drop-Off Times:

- Friday December 6,
- 2019 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
- Tuesday December 10,
- 2019 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Where: Fellowship Hall, First Christian Church



Food At First hosts the annual Christmas **PASS ALONG PARTY** gifting or re-gifting event every December just before Christmas to help special families in our community. Children and adults are given the opportunity to Christmas shop from donations. The best part, FAF gathers gently used or new items you no longer need or that your kids have outgrown. It is a great way to help make the holidays extra special for many families in our community that often struggle to put food on the table, let alone gifts under the tree. It is also a great life lesson for your kids as well, especially this time of year. I am confident we can all find a toy around

home that our children would never even miss. We accept new or gently used items, including household items because, keep in mind, kids shop for their parents too. We will even have a gift wrap station, so gift-wrapping supplies are greatly appreciated as well. Sorry, due to space limitations, we will not be accepting clothing or furniture or large items. **Please store gently used or new items until the donation day arrives, FAF does not have storage space, then cheerfully bring to FAF only at the listed donation day and times.**

—Patty Yoder

Free Community-WIDE Christmas Meal

First Christian Church, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 25

11:30-1:30 PM

[Sign Up to Volunteer!](#)

Spots go fast!



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

Nov. 22-24	CYF Midwinter Retreat
Nov. TBD	Regional Operations Council Online
Dec. TBD	Regional Operations Council Online
Jan. 23	Regional Operations Council Online
Jan. 26-29	Minister's Institute @ CCC
Feb. 7-8	Committee on Ministry
Feb. 7-9	Junior Retreat @ CCC



This year's event will be facilitated by a phenomenal teaching core with Rev. April Johnson from Reconciliation Ministry and Rev. Sandhya Jha, founder and director of the Oakland Peace Center, at the lead. The event will include the usual opportunities for rest and renewal, good food, fellowship, and meaningful worship.

Attending the event in full will meet the Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation requirement included on the 2020 standing form (due January of 2021).

[Register today!](#)

Love God. Love people.

Fall and Winter Youth Retreats

Chi Rho (grades 6-8): November 1-3
 CYF (grades 9-12): November 22-24
 Junior (grades 3-5): February 7-9

Cost: \$40 per camper

VISIT WWW.UPPERMIDWESTCC.ORG FOR MORE INFO.

Raising Readers in Story County would like to provide 1000 books to Salvation Army Families of Story County area this holiday season. You can help! You can gift new children's books by dropping them off in the Narthex **through December 12th**. Your gift will help 100's of children of Story County discover new worlds, learn new things, and experience amazing adventures through books.



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)

- **COMMIT** to the mission and vision of First Christian Church with your gifts and talents, and prayerfully consider pledging your financial support for the 2020 Stewardship Campaign.
- **VOLUNTEER** to help with the Christmas Party: to help in the kitchen for a one hour slot, contact Corry Bertelsen at 515-232-3312; to be a part of the Christmas Party Program, contact Scott Walker at 515-708-6955.
- **BLESS** those in need this holiday season, by donating much needed items to individuals through the list that is on display in the Narthex. The deadline to sign up is Dec. 1st.
- **GIFT** a smile to families and children through Food at First’s Pass-Along Party. See page 11 for more details.
- **SUPPORT** the mission and vision of the Upper Midwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) by giving generously to the Christmas Offering.
- **WELCOME** folks on Sunday mornings, by volunteering to be an Usher or a Greeter. Contact Stacey Maifeld at 515-520-9844.
- **GET INVOLVED** in 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 team of Food

Help with Fellowship Dinner

Become a part of the regular team of volunteers who prep, cook, serve, and clean up after the meal, in Fellowship Hall. **They NEED YOUR HELP! YES, YOU!** Please contact Jeannie Fitz at 232-9306, or Jake Clark, at 460-8822, **TODAY.**

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.

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.



The Annual Community Wide Free Christmas Dinner

Wednesday, December 25th
sponsored by
First Christian Church and
Food at First, is fast approaching!

If you would like to volunteer to help, you may contact Food at First, at 515-344-4357, or sign up on their website. If you do not already have an account with them (a LOGIN) you will need to create one at <https://foodatfirst.wordpress.com/>.

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

	October	2019 YTD
Income:	\$21,201	\$201,498
Expenses:	\$16,168	\$203,737
Difference:	\$5,033	\$(2,239)
Women at the Well	\$416	

In and Out of the Hospital
Thelma Miller

Our Deepest Sympathies with the family of Doan and Nathan Schmitz, on the passing of Doan's father, Joseph Schmitz. Joseph passed away on Friday, November 1st, 2019 at Regency Park Nursing Home in Carroll.



November 24 is Stewardship Dedication Sunday —
We will be dedicating our pledge commitments for 2020. **Don't forget to bring your pledge card!**

Hanging of the Greens Party
November 24, 4-6 PM
Come help us prepare the church building for Advent!

 **The Christmas Offering will be received on Sundays, December 15 and 22nd.**

Liz Collazo will be on vacation from Monday, December 23rd through Monday, January 6th.



Good Neighbor Fall Choral Concert, November 10, 2019

The FCC Singers had a wonderful time singing with our friends from [Ames United Church of Christ](#) at the [Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance](#) fall choral concert last Sunday! The free will offering at the concert raised more than \$11,000 to further the mission of Good Neighbor.



Baby Bump and Waaay Beyond!

During the month of October, FCC collected much needed items for expecting mothers through the Youth and Shelter Services (YSS) program, Baby Bump and Beyond. The goal

was to purchase items from a "wish list" to fill the play pen. As you can see by the picture, FCC folks went above and beyond the call and got the play pen overflowing! YSS staff were elated and blown away.

What we do as Disciples, Together!



Wednesdays, 5:15 pm to 5:50 pm, Great Room

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.

- 12:15 pm Wednesday Prayers (Coffee House)
- 5:15 pm Spiritual Practices (Great Room):
Labyrinth Walking, Posting Prayers,
and other Spiritual Practices –
Great Room.
- 5:30 pm Worship – Great Room
- 6:30 pm Meeting Jesus Midweek, The Hub (just off
the elevator, on 2nd Floor)



Thursdays, 5:30—7pm, 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 (gsjoey69@hotmail.com).

Sundays at FCC:

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

Coffee Fellowship:
First Sunday of the month,
following worship

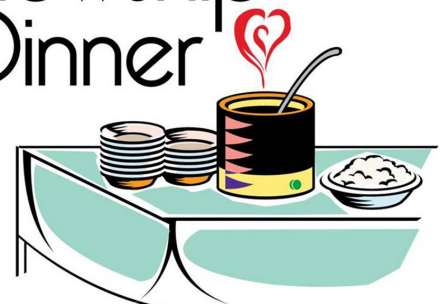
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE
Make yourself at home!

Fellowship Dinner:
Third Sunday of the month,
following worship

Fellowship Dinner



Calendar and Servant Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursd	Friday	Saturday		
<h2 style="font-size: 2em; color: #800040;">December 2019</h2> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 20px;"> </div>				* Denotes birthday Chapel – 2nd Floor BT = Bell Tower CH = Coffee House FH = Fellowship Hall		LIB = Library CR = Conf. Room GR = Great Room H = Hub, 2 nd Floor S = Sanctuary B = Balcony		
1 HOPE Sunday 9:15 am Learning Time 10:30 am Worship followed by Coffee Fellowship (CH)	2 10-11:30 am Ukuleile's Play (CH) 11:00 am Elder's Circle, (LIB)	3 6:00 pm Bells Practice (B) 7:10 pm Singers Practice (S)	4 9:30 am Welcome Group Meeting (LIB) 12:15 Prayers (CH) Wed. Church Night 5:15 pm Spiritual Practices 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Meeting Jesus Midweek (H)	5 5:30-7pm Listening to God (GR)	6 9:30 am – 11:30 am Pass Along Party Donation Drop Off Times *Terrisa Clark	7 9 am – Noon Advent Silent Saturday, 2nd Floor 9:30 – 1 pm FCC Volunteers for Food at First (FH)		
8 PEACE Sunday 9:15 am Learning Time 10:30 am Worship and Annual Congregational Meeting, followed by Christmas Caroling (light lunch provided for carolers)	9 10-11:30 am Ukuleile's Play (CH) 11:00 am Elder's Circle, (LIB) *Carol Baker *Jaleel Khan	10 10:00 AM – Communications Team Mtg. (LIB) 3:30-5:30 PM Pass Along Party Donation Drop Off Times 6:00 pm Bells Practice (B) 7:10 pm Singers Practice (S) 7:15 pm Property Mtg. (LIB)	11 12:15 Prayers (CH) 5:30 – 7:30 pm FCC Christmas Party (GR, 2 nd Floor)	12 5:30-7pm Listening to God (GR)	13 *Jake Ewalt *Jeannie Fitz	14 4-5:30 PM Food at First Pass Along Party (FH)		
15 JOY Sunday Christmas Off. Received Poinsettia Ordering Deadline 9:15 am Learning Time 10:30 am Worship and Children's Christmas Pageant followed by Fellowship Dinner (FH) 12:45 pm Elder's Meeting (CH)	16 10-11:30 am Ukuleile's Play (CH) 11:00 am Elder's Circle, (LIB) Noon – Call Deadline 7 pm Trustees (CR)	17 6:00 pm Bells Practice (B) 7:10 pm Singers Practice (S)	18 12:15 Prayers (CH) Wed. Church Night 5:15 pm Spiritual Practices 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Meeting Jesus Midweek (H) *Dawn Heaberlin *Ron Matthews	19 5:30-7pm Listening to God (GR)	20 *Vern Hawkins	21		
22 LOVE Sunday Christmas Off. Received 9:15 am Learning Time 10:30 am Worship *Dianne Brown	Liz Collazo on vacation through January 6		23	24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	25 Christmas Day – Office Closed Food at First's Community-Wide Christmas Dinner 11:30-1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall 	26 *Natalia Mokaya *Ruth Johnson	27 *Dennis Heaberlin	28 *Darla Ewalt
29 9:15 am Learning Time 10:30 am Worship *Kyle LeCount	30	31 *Jackie Haley <div style="text-align: center; color: #ff69b4; font-size: 1.2em;"> Happy New Year! </div>	1 New Year's Day – Office Closed *Ginny Khan	2	3	4 *Keith Sambos		

Servant Schedule

	Ushers	Narthex	West Entry
December 1	Sam Brown and Larry Mesenbrink	Kris Mesenbrink	Meg Knol-Digby
December 8	Bob & Jean Watson	Eileen Sambos	Stacey Maifeld
December 15	Bob & Jean Watson	Eileen Sambos	Stacey Maifeld
December 22	Opportunity to Serve		
December 24	Opportunity to Serve		
December 29	Opportunity to Serve		

Deacons Serving in December

Captain*: Meg Knol-Digby

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Corry Bertelsen | 3. Eileen Sambos |
| 2. Amanda Mokaya | 4. Doug Clark |

*counts attendance and offering

Elder's Serving in December:

Offering: Gwen Mitzel
 Communion: Amy Kuehl
 Alternate: Cynthia Gaunt
 Chaplain: Amy Kuehl

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