

# The Call

ISSUE NO. 03,  
MARCH 2020

## Inside This Issue

Lent 2020/ Worship Schedule	1
Weekly Zoom Room Activity Schedule	3
Easter Prayer Vigil/ Easter Offering	4
Giving Options During COVID-19/ A Message from General Ministries	5
Let Us Serve YOU	7
Women's History Month	8
Library News	9
Regional News & Opportunities to Serve	12
News from the Pews	14
Calendar and Servant Schedule	16
Stay Connected with FCC!	17

## *Revealing Love – Lent 2020*

In last month's Call I wrote, "Lent is an opportunity for us to go deeper. It is a season in the Christian year intended to be a wilderness experience like that of Jesus as he prepared for his ministry and mission after his baptism. There, in those 40 days and nights (the length of Lent plus the Sundays), Jesus prayed, fasted, and met that which would steer him away from God. It was preparation for continuing on the path of love; the path that leads to life in its fullest as God intends. Lent is an opportunity for us to follow Jesus on that path to deeper connection to God, ourselves, and others." At the time I wrote that I had no idea the kind of wilderness we would all be experiencing. Yet here we are. In some ways, Lent is the perfect time to shift our practices and right now we are being forced to do so because of COVID-19.



Our Lenten theme this year is "Revealing Love." And in a time of disruption, we have a unique opportunity to say and do things that are "Revealing Love." We can check up on one another more often. First Christian Church Elders have taken our church roster and will check in with folks to make sure you are well. We are here with and for one another, so if you need something, let us know in those conversations. And of course, please call, text, and send cards to church friends, neighbors, healthcare workers, and anyone else who needs encouragement right now.

We will continue to worship at 10:30 am, but rather than gather in our sanctuary, we will connect online or by phone using a service called Zoom. You'll be hearing that word a lot in the coming days and weeks. You can kind of think of a Zoom Room where we gather from wherever we are for worship, for prayer, and to check in. Last Sunday we had around 50 people in worship using this format and it worked very well! Please try it if you can. Both Amy Kuehl (515-520-1896) and David

(Continued from page 1)

Gregory (515-708-9004) are available to help you get connected. Don't hesitate to call one of them.

In addition to worship, there will be several weekly points of connection. All of the regular Wednesday activities will continue using a Zoom Room. In addition, there will be two weekly times for "Check In and Prayer" – Tuesday morning at 10:00 am, and Thursday evening at 7:00 pm. I, and/or an FCC Elder will be in a Zoom Room where we will share how we are, what is concerning us, and have prayer together. No one is alone! Please remember that and use these times to connect with one another.

In order to be able to comply with health and safety guidelines and continue to provide essential food service, as of 2:00 pm on March 18, the church has locked its doors and they will remain locked at all times until further notice. Liz will still be in the church office and keep her normal hours (M-Th, 9:00 -2:00), but you will need to reach her by phone or email since the building will be locked. During Office Hours she will be happy to assist you navigating all the changes.

Food at First (FAF) will continue providing free meals and fresh food groceries, however, it will be **carry-out only**. The only people in the building will be scheduled FAF volunteers who are preparing and packaging meals and groceries to give out at the designated times. (Meal: Sun-Fri 5:45 pm, Sat 11:30 am; Market Mon, Thurs 4:00 pm, Sat 10:00 am) Notice the change in time for the Monday and Thursday market. In order to make the necessary changes Food at First is asking for monetary donations so they can purchase needed items for carry out. Of course, they can also use volunteers to help prepare, package, distribute, and clean up. For more information, please go to their website: [foodatfirst.com](http://foodatfirst.com).

This can all feel overwhelming. Things are changing very fast. But please know that God is with us in each moment and gives us strength and guidance. May we find comfort and peace in that, and in our connection to one another.

"I sought my soul, but my soul I could not see.  
I sought my God, but my God eluded me.  
I sought my brother [sister], and I found all three"  
-William Blake

On the next page is a list of times you can check in with others via Zoom. There may also be Facebook live streaming of worship beginning March 29th. Make sure to check your email or contact the church for further updates.

—Pastor Mary Jane

## Online Worship Schedule

Revealing Love—Lent 2020	
Mar. 22	<b>The Importance of Today</b>  Rev. John Richardson Interim Regional Minister and President
Mar. 29	<b>When Jesus is in the House</b>  Luke 19:1-10
April 5	<b>Passion Narrative — Gospel of Mark</b>
Apr. 12	<b>Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?</b>  Luke 24:1-12
Apr. 19	<b>When Hearts are Burning</b>  Luke 24:13-35

**Maundy Thursday Worship Service  
will be at 7 PM on Thursday, April 9.  
The service will be online through  
Zoom. Watch the Weekly News  
Update for More Details.**

# First Christian Church Weekly Zoom Room Activity Schedule

Beginning Sunday, March 22, 2020

## SUNDAY

**10:30 am**

**First Christian Church Worship on Zoom**

Online Link: <http://bit.ly/FCCWorship>

Phone connection:

1-312-626-6799

ID: 482716293#

## WEDNESDAY

**12:15 pm**

**Mid-Day Prayers on Zoom**

Online Link: <http://bit.ly/MidPrayers>

Phone Connection:

1-312-626-6799

ID: 151979297#

## TUESDAY

**10:00 am**

**Check In and Prayer on Zoom**

Online Link: <http://bit.ly/TuesdayCheck-In>

Password: 54321 (if needed)

Phone connection:

1-312-626-6799

ID: 430905506#

**5:30 pm**

**Mid-Week Worship on Zoom**

Online Link: <http://bit.ly/MidweekWorship>

Password: 12345 (if needed)

Phone connection:

1-312-626-6799

ID: 663853487#

## THURSDAY

**7:00 pm**

**Check In and Prayer on Zoom**

Online Link: <http://bit.ly/ThursdayCheck-In>

Password: 54321 (if needed)

Phone connection:

1-312-626-6799

ID: 373174310#

**6:30 pm**

**Called To Community Book Group  
on Zoom**

Online Lin: <http://bit.ly/MidweekStudy>

Password: 12345 (if needed)

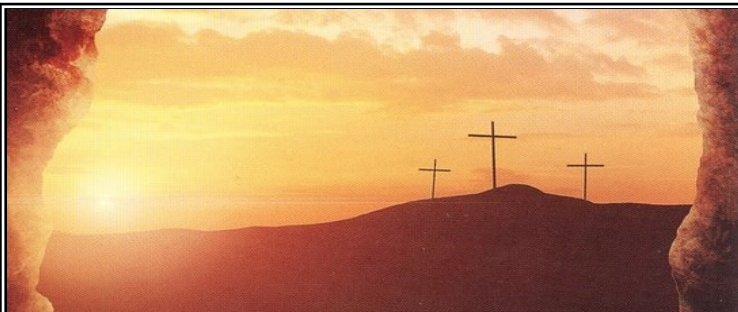
Phone connection:

1-312-626-6799

ID: 415539219#

**Please print this sheet  
and keep it handy.**





## ***Prayer Vigil – Journey from Good Friday to Easter***

For many decades, FCC has offered a Prayer Vigil as a time of prayer, quietness and peace on the journey from Good Friday to Easter. In vigil, we stand watch in our prayers and other devotional activities from the darkness of the crucifixion of Jesus on Friday to the shout of “Alleluia, Christ is risen!” at the empty tomb on Easter morning at sunrise. Sometimes the vigil time is a “rest for our soul” as we escape the day’s busyness, and sometimes there is a recognition that we are in the presence of God in a deeper way than we usually experience.

This year’s Prayer Vigil will begin at 1 pm on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and continue until 6 am on Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. The vigil “watch” is divided into ½-hour blocks of time, and we sign up for one or more of these blocks as a time of prayer, meditation, Bible or devotional reading or otherwise being present to the Holy in ways that we choose.

So far, this may sound familiar to many of you who have participated before, as you’ve chosen to pray either in FCC’s Coffee House or at home. However, this year, we will be doing the Prayer Vigil differently – with our praying taking place at home, or perhaps during a walk, but not at FCC.

**For signing up, multiple time-slots may be selected.**

**Signups may be made online at**

<http://bit.ly/2020EasterPrayerVigil>,

**or call Liz at the church office – 515-232-5766.**

If you have any questions, feel free to ask any of the Elders or contact Deb Lewis, Chair of the Elders, at [deb.q.lewis@gmail.com](mailto:deb.q.lewis@gmail.com) or 515-290-6736.

2020  Easter Offering

# REJOICE

A special day offering of  
Disciples Mission Fund

APRIL 5 AND 12, 2020

## **Easter Offering**

Received in most congregations on  
Sundays, April 5 & 12, 2020

***“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” – Psalm 118:24 NRSV***

Across the United States, Canada, and beyond, Disciples are rejoicing in all that the Lord has made.

This Easter, we rejoice together as one Church, as the One Body of Christ. We rejoice in all that we accomplish together, and the work God accomplishes through us.

**Let us rejoice that the Easter offering, through Disciples Mission Fund, makes ministry possible.** Through the general ministries of our Church, lives are changed and our world is transformed. **Will you rejoice with us and give to this special day offering?**

**This Easter season, let us rejoice in all the ways our wider Church embodies the Spirit of Resurrection, through life-giving ministry.**

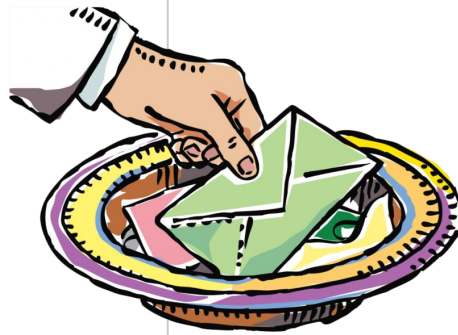
**Please give generously ONLINE to this year’s Easter Offering.** You may also mail a check — with

Easter Offering in the memo line to First Christian Church, 611 Clark Avenue, Ames, IA 50010.

# Alternatives to the Offering Plate

Even though we have temporarily suspended face-to-face worship services at First Christian Church, we know that our members and friends will want to continue their generous giving to support the church's ministries. As Trustees, we are cognizant of the fact that much of our giving is received directly via the offering plate that is passed on Sunday morning. While face-to-face services are suspended, would you please consider one of the following alternatives for sharing your offering with FCC?

- Certainly, you can always send a **check** through the mail to: First Christian Church, 611 Clark Ave., Ames IA 50010. If you would add "Attention: Dave or Jeanne Fitz," the envelope will be delivered directly to our financial secretaries. ***Something new:*** To facilitate this approach, you are welcome to call the church office (515-232-5766) and request a set of "Remote Offering Envelopes," which will be pre-addressed and pre-stamped for you. (These envelopes will either be mailed or hand-delivered to your home.)
- Now might be a good time to consider setting up, through your financial institution, some form of automatic payment to FCC. This can be done either as a **direct deposit** (in which funds are transferred electronically), or as **online bill pay** (in which your bank sends an actual check to the church). With either of these approaches, you also have the option to make a one-time payment or recurring payments (once a week, once a month, etc.) Several members use these bank-based approaches and find them both secure and convenient. Check with your financial institution to see if this a good solution for you. Also feel free to contact FCC's Financial Secretaries, Dave or Jeanne Fitz (515-232-9306), for more information.



- And finally, you are welcome to make your offering by **debit card**, **credit card** or **PayPal**, using the **DONATE** button on the FCC website. This button is also regularly included in the online version of *The Call*, and in the online *Weekly Update*. You can

use this button to donate to FCC, regardless of whether you have a personal PayPal account. Again, this is a secure and intuitive process that is used regularly by some of our members. If you'd like more information, feel free to contact the church office.

Thank you for your generosity, and for helping to ensure that the church can continue its ministries and meet its financial obligations during this time of challenge.

--David Gregory (Chair), Roger Bertelsen, and  
DeLores Hawkins  
First Christian Church Trustees



**General Minister and President offers pastoral word in response to COVID19 pandemic**

March 13, 2020

"Hello Disciples, this is your [General Minister and President](#) Terri Hord Owens.

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 5)

[Psalm 46](#) tells us that God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change and the mountains even crumble into the sea. there is a lot going on in our world today that causes us fear – rumors of wars, economic instability, clashes within our own society, anxiety over election results, and of course the COVID19 coronavirus.

Here at Disciples Center we are working across our [general ministries](#) to ensure that essential tasks are being carried out – but also that our staff are safe, and we’re encouraging as many people to work at home as can. We’ll be sure to keep you posted on any changes to our schedule here at Disciples Center.

After consultation with the moderators of the [General Assembly](#), I have decided to suspend my own travel and public appearances for the time being. One of the most important things that we can all do during this time is to follow the guidance and counsel of state and local authorities, as well as the recommendations from the [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) and the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO).

Please continue to visit our website, [disciples.org](#), where we have compiled a [list of resources and other valuable information](#) – everything from the most recent guidance from the CDC and the World Health Organization, to helpful suggestions and plans shared from other regions and congregations throughout the Church. I know you will find this [resource](#) helpful.

During these difficult and uncertain times, it’s so important that we stay connected as Church. I encourage you to follow us regularly on our social media outlets: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). In addition, please go to our website, [disciples.org](#), and [sign up](#) for our weekly e-newsletter [Disciples News Service](#). We’ll be communicating with you on a very regular basis through our social media and sending out weekly updates via email. You want to be sure to get the latest news and information from across the Church.

[Week of Compassion](#), the ministry that responds to natural disasters across our Church, will be, in fact, helping us to manage the Church’s response to outbreaks and cases of coronavirus. if you have a case in your congregation or in your region, please [contact Week of Compassion](#), just as you would during any difficult situation, and they are prepared to help coordinate resources to ensure that whatever we can do for churches, families, and congregations, we are in a position to do. Week of Compassion will still be there.

Church, it’s hard to stay faithful during times of difficulty and uncertainty, in times when we’re simply fearful. But our scripture for the General Assembly in 2021, [Romans 8:38-39](#), reminds us of Paul’s own confidence in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul says, ‘I am convinced’ that neither death, nor life, nor height, nor depth, nor powers, nor principalities, nor anything in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

During these times, I hope that you will continue to practice your own spiritual disciplines of prayer and Bible study, to remind yourself that God is still with us. We pray for you daily and we’ll continue to pray for you. I am convinced that God will take care of us, that God will lead us through these difficult moments.

Be sure to follow the good advice that’s being given to you by health officials, take care of yourselves, be conservative with your own exposure to public events, and know that we are praying for you, that God loves you.

Disciples, I am convinced that nothing in all of creation will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Jesus. Let’s stay connected, and together we’ll get through this. God bless you. We’ll be praying for you.”



## Opportunities to Serve

*You*

### during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Things are REALLY challenging right now. You may ask yourself “what is there to do?!”, “how can I get the things I need from the church?” or “can I still check books out from the library?” Those are all good questions.

We, at First Christian Church, are happy to help get you the things you need:

- Pre-stamped offering envelopes
- Church directories
- Church library books
- Lenten devotionals
- Etc.

We can get you these items during the week, during office hours. Just email us at [fccames@fccames.org](mailto:fccames@fccames.org) or give the church a call at 515-232-5766. We are happy to place any items in the mail, or deliver them to you.

If you need further assistance, please do NOT hesitate to call us. If you are home bound, immunocompromised, or otherwise part of the at-risk demographic, and need help acquiring groceries or essentials, please call Liz Collazo at 515-451-7635, David Gregory, at 515-708-9004, or Mary Von Ah Gregory, at 515-520-5536. We will help in any manner that we can. We are your church family, and we are here for you.

Thank you, and stay healthy!!



## Consider getting SunSmart!

The City of Ames is currently building a 2-megawatt community solar farm and selling shares in this project through a program known as SunSmart Ames. The farm is expected to be operational by the end of summer 2020, and will make clean, solar energy more accessible to customers of Ames Electric Services who choose to buy shares in the 20-year program. Each share, called a “Power Pack,” is a one-time investment of \$300.

Owners of Power Packs will receive monthly credits on their utility bill. Credits are expected to average around \$1 per month and are based on the actual production of the solar farm throughout the 20-year contract. Achieving a payback is possible, but not guaranteed, depending on how much the sun shines. People typically are *not* going to sign up for SunSmart to make money, but they do sign up to participate in a green, renewable, sustainable energy resource.

Power Packs are fully transferable and can be donated or sold to another Ames Electric customer. Recently, we were fortunate to have some Power Packs donated to First Christian Church by one of our members. The monthly credit associated with each of these donated Power Packs will be applied to the church’s utility bill. If you’d like more details about this program, see the [SunSmart Ames](#) website, or contact Ames Electric Services at (515) 239-5177. If you’d like more information about donating a Power Pack to First Christian Church, please chat with one of the FCC Trustees: David Gregory, Roger Bertelsen, or DeLores Hawkins.

—David Gregory, Chair of Trustees





**March 2020**

Since 1995 U. S. Presidents have issued annual proclamations designating March as “Women’s History Month” to celebrate the achievements of women throughout the entire fabric of history in the United States.

Women have been active in the ministries of the Disciples of Christ since the 1800s. In the 1800s the first women were ordained as Disciples ministers. In 2005 Sharon Watkins was selected as the first woman to serve as General Minister and President of the Disciples of Christ of the United States and Canada. And these two examples are just the tip of the iceberg of women’s contributions to our denomination. (For an overview of the role of women in the New Testament and the early Disciples of Christ church, view the text of a speech given by Sharon Watkins at the Cincinnati Bible College in November 2000 titled “Women and Leadership in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)” at the following site... <https://councilonchristianunity.org/women-and-leadership-in-the-christian-church-disciples-of-christ/> )

At First Christian Church of Ames women have served in virtually every leadership capacity – Head Minister, General Board Chair, Elders, Deacons, Trustees, Property Committee... and the list goes on! So a sincere “Thank You!” to the women of First Christian Church for all you are doing in so many ways to lead and support the ministries of the church. Happy 2020 Women’s History Month to you!

—Vern Hawkins, President of the General Board

## THE WOMEN’S GATHERING



### How to Be an Even Better Good Neighbor

**Luncheon & Dialogue  
with Lori Allen,  
Director of Good Neighbor  
Emergency Assistance, Inc.**

**Sunday, May 3rd  
after Coffee Fellowship  
in the Coffee House**

### *Help us plan a ‘Last Things First’ workshop!*

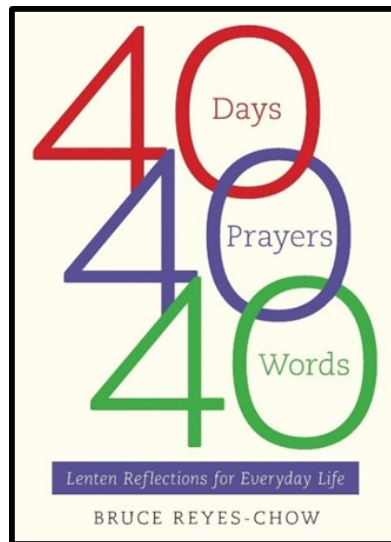
Living wills? Powers of attorney? Emotional readiness for death? We all have questions about being prepared for the end stages of life, our own and those of our loved ones. The Women’s Gathering is pulling together a planning committee now for a ‘Last Things First’ workshop, tentatively scheduled for October. If you would like to brainstorm with us to explore these and other topics related to preparedness for death, we would welcome you to join us or just offer input. For further information, contact co-leaders of the Women’s Gathering, Janis Pyle at [janispyle@yahoo.com](mailto:janispyle@yahoo.com) or Deb Lewis at [deb.g.lewis@gmail.com](mailto:deb.g.lewis@gmail.com) or 515-290-6736.



# Books for Lent and Easter in the FCC Library

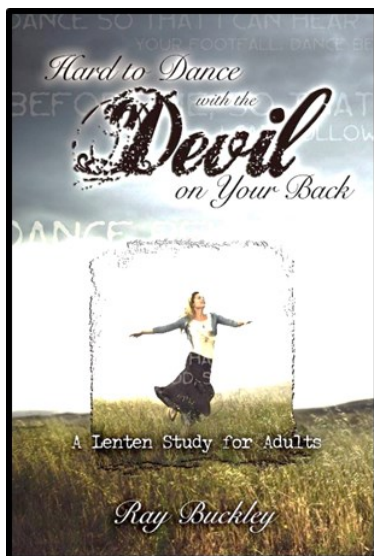
*These books, along with other seasonal books and new acquisitions, can be found on the FCC Bookmobile cart.*

*Remember — we can deliver these books to you. See page 7.*



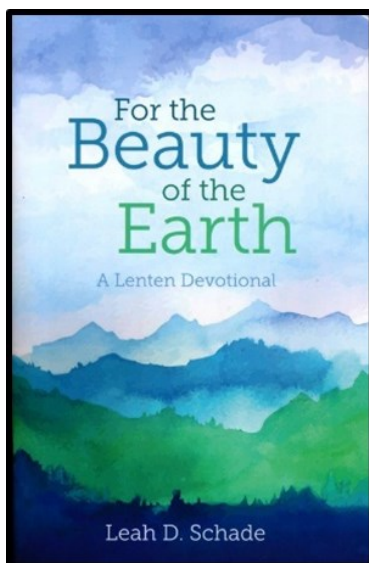
***40 Days, 40 Prayers, 40 Words:  
Lenten Reflections for Everyday Life***  
by Bruce Reyes-Chow (2015)

In this book, pastor and writer Bruce Reyes-Chow encourages readers to pause in the bustle of their daily lives to reflect, engage, and share during the Lenten season. Each of the 40 devotions is framed around a single word—like Community, Courage, Laughter, or Gratitude—and includes a short scriptural passage, inspirational prayer, and reflection.



***Hard to Dance with the Devil on Your Back: A Lenten Study for Adults***  
by Ray Buckley (2010)

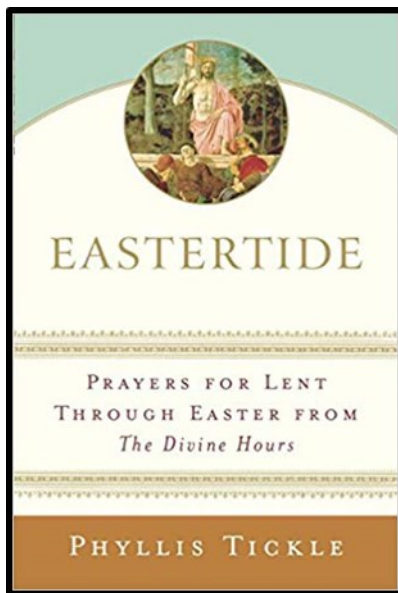
This short book celebrates all those persons of faith who have found the strength and endurance to “dance” with the weight of the world upon their shoulders—sustained by God and by others dancing with them. The book provides one study lesson for each week of Lent. Each lesson, in turn, includes a Scripture reference, a brief reflection, questions for contemplation or discussion, and a short prayer. Buckley, a Native American of Lakota/Tlingit/Scots descent, is the interim Director of the Center for Native American Spirituality and Christian Study.



***For the Beauty of the Earth: A Lenten Devotional***  
by Leah D. Schade (2019)

Drawing on the beloved hymn “For the Beauty of the Earth,” each week of this daily devotional focuses on a different aspect of nature’s splendor, how God nurtures our spirit through creation, and how we must protect our precious home. The book includes a special section on “50 Ways to Celebrate Earth Day During the 50 Days of Easter.” The author is a minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and is also the “EcoPreacher” blogger for the *Patheos* website.

Several copies of this devotional have been purchased and placed in the Sanctuary and you are welcome to take one. A permanent, cataloged copy is also available in the FCC Library.



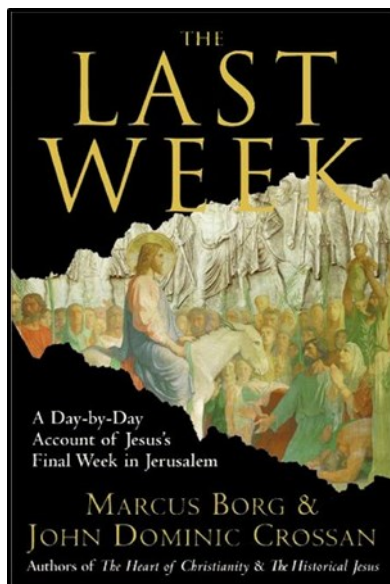
***Easter Tide: Prayers for Lent through Easter from The Divine Hours***

Compiled and with a Preface by Phyllis Tickle (2001)

Beginning with Ash Wednesday and moving through Lent and Easter Sunday, this book provides daily prayers that bring readers into the full spirit of this season. Each day is filled with psalms, readings from the Bible, and hymns of praise and worship, just as they appear in Tickle's trilogy, *The Divine Hours*. Newcomers to this tradition will find that *Easter Tide* is an excellent introduction to the ancient practice of fixed-hour prayer.

***The Last Eyewitness: The Final Week*** by Chris Seay and David Capes (2006)

Here is a retelling of the last week in the life of Jesus, based primarily on the Gospel of John 13-21. Related in the first person in John's voice, the book captures the urgency of the last living disciple telling his students about the most significant event in history. This is one of several books to have emerged from The **Voice Scripture Project**, a collaborative publishing venture to help readers rediscover the story of the Bible. The creative team behind this project includes scholars, writers, poets, pastors, storytellers, musicians, and visual artists.



***The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus's Final Week in Jerusalem***

by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan (2006)

Two contemporary scholars, Marcus J. Borg (1942-2015) and John Dominic Crossan (b.1934) join together to reveal a radical and little-known Jesus. As both authors reacted to and responded to questions about Mel Gibson's controversial film *The Passion of the Christ*, they discovered that many Christians are unclear on the details of events leading up to Jesus's crucifixion. Using the gospel of Mark as their guide, Borg and Crossan present a day-by-day account of Jesus's final week of life.

-David Gregory (FCC Librarian)



# It's Safe. It's Easy. It's Important.

Once a decade, every person in the United States is counted in the census. Your invitation to participate may have already arrived in the mail. Once received, please take a few minutes to answer a series of simple questions online, by phone, or by mail. Please help us make sure Ames has a complete and accurate count!

Completing your census is important because census numbers are used to determine political representation and to distribute more than \$675 billion in federal funds. This money supports state, county, and city programs including housing, education, transportation, public safety, and health care.

Every person fills out a census form. Iowa State University students, international students and their families, and non-citizens should all complete the census form listing Ames as their residence. This information is safe. It is not shared with any other local, state, or federal agency.

Completing the U.S. Census is safe, easy, and important.

Please spread the word so Ames has the funding and representation we deserve!  
If you have more questions about the U.S. Census, visit [www.2020Census.gov](http://www.2020Census.gov)

United States®  
**Census**  
**2020**



[WWW.2020CENSUS.GOV](http://WWW.2020CENSUS.GOV)

## 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

Apr. 23	Regional Operations Council Online
May 1-3	CCC Work Retreat @ CCC
May 1-2	Regional Committee on Ministry
May 28	Regional Operations Council Online
June 5	Camp Season Begins!

## SUMMER CAMP 2020

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 ...



### 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)***

- **CONNECT** with one another through Zoom. Check out page 3 for all the opportunities and instructions.
- **PRAY** during the Easter Prayer Vigil, which you may do from home. Sign-up on page 4.
- **FIGHT HUNGER** by joining FCC's core team 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](mailto:cygaunt@hotmail.com). There are new guidelines in place to keep everyone safe, and ALL meals and markets will be *TO GO* now.

**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.**

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. Just fill out a [paper application](#) and return it to the Church office with your payment — cash, or a check made out to First Christian Church.

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

—Liz Collazo,  
FCC Administrative Assistant

#### June 7-12 Junior camp 1

- Let's set the tone for fun, fellowship and Christian growth this first week of camp.
- Melissa Webb (and Travis Stanley) will be directing this camp and Melissa would love to have support from the Ames FCC. Would you be willing to help as a counselor, nurse or in another way, like leading craft time?



# Christian Conference Center



## Summer Camp 2020

### Grand Camp

(Kids age 4 to Grade 2 who attend with one or more grandparents)  
Session 1: June 12-13  
Session 2: July 10-11

### Family Camp

(Kids ages 0-18 who attend with one or more adult family members)  
Session 1: June 26-28  
Session 2: August 14-16

### Beginner Camp

(Grade 2)  
Session 1: June 29-July 1

### Junior Camp

(Grades 3-5)  
Session 1: June 7-12  
Session 2: June 21-26  
Session 3: July 5-10  
Session 4: August 2-7

### Middle School

(Grades 6-8)  
Rustic Chi Rho 1: June 7-12  
Rustic Chi Rho 2: June 14-19  
Rustic Chi Rho 3: June 21-26  
Rustic Chi Rho 4: July 5-10  
Cabin Chi Rho: August 2-7  
Art, Drama, and Music Camp: July 19-24  
Adventure Camp: July 26-31

### High School

(Grades 9-12)  
CYF 1: June 14-19  
CYF 2: July 12-17  
Art, Drama, and Music Camp: July 19-24  
Adventure Camp: July 26-31  
Standing Rock Travel Camp: June 6-13

### Senior Adult Retreat

(Ages 55+)  
Session 1: June 29 - July 1

## Early Bird Registration Ends May 1st!



Mailing Address: 5064 Lincoln Street, Newton, Iowa 50208  
Phone: 641-792-1266 Email: christianconferencecenter@gmail.com  
[www.uppermidwestcc.org](http://www.uppermidwestcc.org)



# News from the Pews



The Church office is currently closed to the public. But our church hours remain  
9 am—2 pm , Monday-Thursday

Need anything? CALL US! 515-232-5766  
Email Liz Collazo at: fccames@fccames.org

## Stewardship Report

	February	2020 YTD
<b>Income:</b>	\$15,709	\$47,946
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$23,452	\$41,285
<b>Difference:</b>	\$(7,743)	\$6,661

*Our Deepest Sympathies* to the family of Thelma Miller, one of our long time members, who passed away on Friday, February 21st, 2020. Thelma passed away at home, with her son Don by her side. Please keep the family in your prayers.

## Mary Greeley Medical Center COVID-19 Policies and Visitor Restrictions

**The Easter Offering will be received  
ONLINE and through the mail  
through Sunday, April 12.**

Food at First will STILL be operating through the COVID-19 pandemic. All meals and market will be *TO GO*. Market hours have moved to 4 PM on Mondays and Thursdays. All other hours remain the same.

**Maundy Thursday Service**  
will be at 7 PM on Thursday,  
April 9. It will be **ONLINE**, with details  
to be announced.



## Ash Wednesday Service, February 26, 2020

We started Lent 2020 with an Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service with [Ames First United Methodist Church](#) and [Ames United Church of Christ](#). The Combined Choir sounded amazing, and enjoyed joining their voices in song.



## Benefit Concert for Food at First

The Ames Children's Choir, Ames Chamber Musicians, and FCC Bell Quartet Concert in Benefit of Food at First, which was held on Thursday, February 27th, was a great success. There were 164 people in attendance, and \$3,477.05 was raised. Thank you for supporting this important ministry.





The FCC Youth Group went  
Snow Tubing on February 23rd  
and had a blast!



Due to COVID-19 concerns, all Youth Group activities are currently on hold. We will inform you in the near future when or if we resume any activities during the spring. There will be NO Early Easter breakfast, or worship service.



**Congrats!**

to Abby and Ty Schwartz, and siblings Molly, Nevan, and Killian, who welcomed baby Rowan Omega Uriya Schwartz, on Friday, February 21st at 8:25pm. Rowan weighed in at 7lb 5oz and measured 20" long.

**Thank You!**

Dear First Christian Church Congregation,

You have changed the future for people in your community who are desperately searching for hope and another chance at a safe and secure future. Because of you, people in need of a helping hand have reached out and found that hope and security. Thank you. Your support provides emergency shelter for those who have none; meals for those who are hungry; and an opportunity for families to get back on their feet and in a home of their own. We are grateful for your partnership as we work to shelter our neighbors and uplift our community.

Sincerely,  
Jodi Stumbo  
Executive Director  
Emergency Residence Project

## Calendar and Servant Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>April 2020</b> 				* 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 <sup>nd</sup> Floor S = Sanctuary B = Balcony	
29 March 10:30 am Worship through Zoom *Bob Logston *Adam Pendry *Eileen Sambos	30 11:30 am Elder's Circle through Zoom	31 10 am Check-In and Prayer via Zoom *Zach Brown	1 12:15 pm Prayers through Zoom <b>Wed. Church Night</b> through Zoom 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Meeting Jesus Midweek	2 7 pm Check-In and Prayer via Zoom	3 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service (FCC Sanctuary) through Zoom	4 9:30 am – 1 pm FCC volunteers for Food at First (FH)
5 <b>Easter Offering Received</b> 10:30 am Worship through Zoom	6 11:30 am Elder's Circle through Zoom *Laura Pogwizd	7 10 am Check-In and Prayer via Zoom 5:00 pm Council of Ministries Mtg. through Zoom	8 12:15 pm Prayers through Zoom <b>Wed. Church Night</b> through Zoom 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Meeting Jesus Midweek *Michael Ewalt	9 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service (FCC Sanctuary) through Zoom	10 <b>Good Friday</b> 1 pm Easter Prayer Vigil begins and goes through 6 am, Easter Sunday. – All prayers from HOME	11
12 <b>Easter Sunday Easter Offering Received</b> 10:30 am Worship through Zoom	13 11:30 am Elder's Circle through Zoom *Gwen Mitzel	14 10 am Check-In and Prayer via Zoom 7:15 pm Property Mtg. through Zoom	15 12:15 pm Prayers through Zoom <b>Wed. Church Night</b> through Zoom 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Meeting Jesus Midweek	16 7 pm Check-In and Prayer via Zoom	17	18 *Faith Pogwizd
19 10:30 am Worship through Zoom	20 11:30 am Elder's Circle through Zoom NOON – Call Deadline *Colleen Ryan 7:00 pm Trustees mtg through Zoom	21 10 am Check-In and Prayer via Zoom	22 12:15 pm Prayers through Zoom <b>Wed. Church Night</b> through Zoom 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Meeting Jesus Midweek	23 7 pm Check-In and Prayer via Zoom	24	25 *Killian Schwartz
26 10:30 am Worship through Zoom *James Brenden *Marv Prins	27 11:30 am Elder's Circle through Zoom *Hannah Button-Harrison	28 10 am Check-In and Prayer via Zoom	29 12:15 pm Prayers through Zoom <b>Wed. Church Night</b> through Zoom 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Meeting Jesus Midweek *Dee Matthews *Jeff Sobotka	30 7 pm Check-In and Prayer via Zoom	1 May	2 9:30 am – 1 pm FCC volunteers for Food at First (FH)

### Tentative April Servant Schedule

	Narthex Greeter	West Entry Greeter	Ushers
<b>April 5</b>	Molly Schwartz	Deb Lewis	Bob & Jean Watson
<b>April 12 (Easter)</b>	Eileen Sambos	Shirley Malaby	Kris & Larry Mesenbrink
<b>April 19</b>	Eileen Sambos	Shirley Malaby	Kris & Larry Mesenbrink
<b>April 26</b>	Deb Lewis	Melissa Webb	Stacey Maifeld and Corry Bertelsen
<b>March 29</b>	Molly Schwartz	Deb Lewis	Bob & Jean Watson

#### April Deacons

**Captain:** Chris & Jackie Haley. Captains count attendance and the offering.

1. Michael Ewalt. 2. Eileen Sambos 3. Abby Schwartz 4. Jean Watson

#### March Elders:

**Offering:** Deb Lewis    **Communion:** Amy Kuehl    **Alternate:** Gwen Mitzel    **Chaplain:** Cynthia Gaunt



# 10 Ways to Know What's Happening at FCC

- The Call Newsletter – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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



The  
Call



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](mailto: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