

The Call

ISSUE No. 06,
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Keep Your Eyes on the Prize, HOLD ON

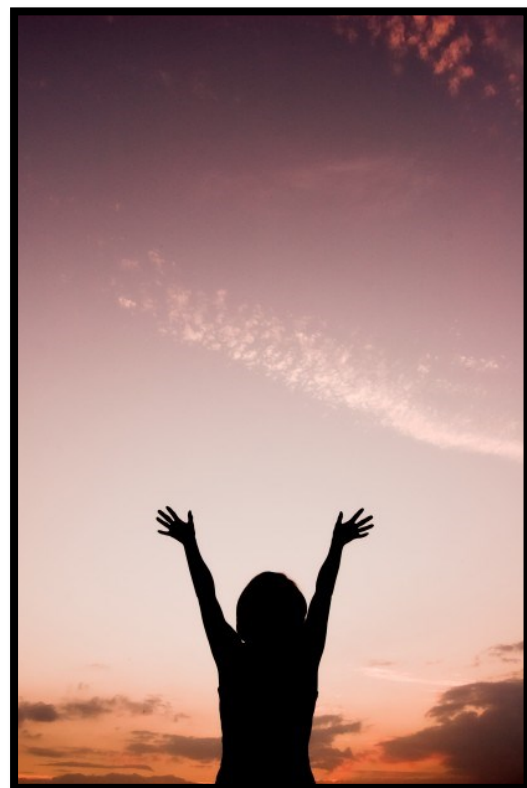
Paul and Silas bound in jail
Had no money for to go their bail
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on

Paul and Silas thought they was lost
Dungeon shook and the chains come off
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on

Freedom's name is mighty sweet
And soon we're gonna meet
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on

I got my hand on the gospel plow
Won't take nothing for my journey now
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on

Hold on, hold on
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on



This powerful song of faith sung during the Civil Rights Movement reminds us that freedom from oppression is part of the gospel message. In his inaugural sermon to his home synagogue, Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, and has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of

sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Then he rolled up the scroll and said, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus declared there, at the beginning of his ministry, that he has come to bring release, healing, and sight to those who are bound.

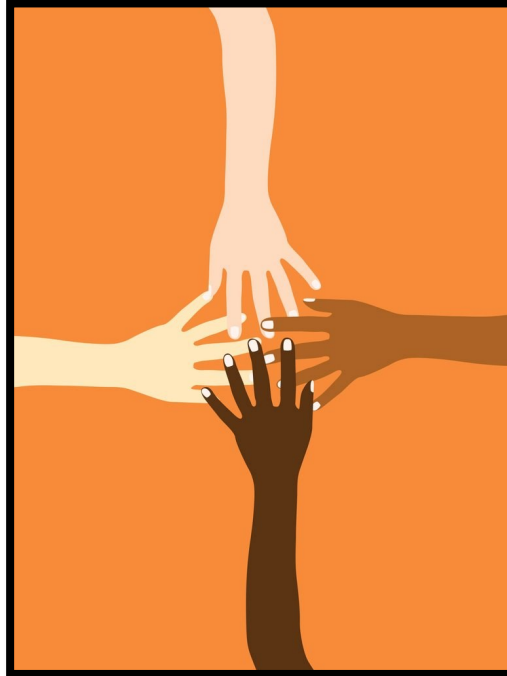
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This summer we are experiencing the effects of living during a pandemic, and, at the same time, the tension rising due to systemic racial injustice. We may not be in prison like Paul and Silas, but our movements and ways of doing things and thinking about things have certainly changed and will continue to change for some time. Our eyes have been opened in ways that are disturbing and unsettling. We see that the color of a person's skin can be a form of prison when racism and white supremacy are in play. The pandemic has disrupted our day to day lives. The racial injustice has disturbed our souls and we wonder how to achieve justice and healing in this nation. And so we must keep our eyes on the prize – hold on.

With our heightened attention on racism and the pandemic, life can seem daunting, and we may want to throw up our hands and wish we could just go back to the way things were a few months ago. That sentiment is certainly understandable. But as people of faith we must keep our eyes on the prize – hold on. Hold on to the need to do all the things those with hard-earned knowledge of infectious disease have told us: wash your hands, keep your distance, wear a mask, don't go out unnecessarily. Think not about just your own risk, but especially about those who are at high risk. Because we follow the one who taught us to love one another, we can abide by those rules as an act of loving our neighbor. Hold on. Those of us who are white need to hold on to our black brothers and sisters who are hurting because a deep, deep wound was opened when the world watched in horror as George Floyd was murdered in the street by an officer of the law sworn to serve and protect. And even though we want to say that was one bad police officer, we know that the system that trained him, that the department that overlooked the many

complaints against him, and the way in which we have all been trained to see a black person and assume they did something wrong have allowed these tragedies to continue to happen. And that is just the more visible way racism affects people of color every day. It makes those of us who are white uncomfortable to think about, but we must hold on. We must see and hear the voices crying out right now. We must pray for our own transformation so we can stand side by side as ambassadors of the Kingdom of God in this world, for all God's children, and especially right now, for those with black and brown skin.



At the Upper Midwest Disciples Minister's Institute in January, clergy went through an Anti-Racism Training where we worshipped, prayed, studied, listened, discussed, and did exercises to help raise our awareness and open our eyes to see what is so hard to see. It was uncomfortable. It was painful. It was heart-wrenching and heart-warming. It was humbling. It was God-infused! One of the speakers shared a

quote that has stuck with me ever since. Rabbi Tarfon, a Jewish sage who lived and taught after the fall of the Jewish Temple in 70 AD, in his reflection on Micah 6:8 wrote, "Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it." Those are powerful words for our time. Keep your eyes on the prize – hold on.

"You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it." These are times that call upon each of us to hold on. Hold on to the best practices to keep ourselves and others safe during this pandemic. Hold on to the love of Jesus in our heart that teaches us "they'll know we are Christians by our love." Hold on to the connection

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you have with the church even though we are not physically present in the building. Hold on to the hope that is within you rooted and grounded in faith, hope, and love. Hold on to seeing the world through the eyes of Christ who looks upon the vulnerable and is filled with both compassion and a passion for justice.

The way we will be able to begin opening up the building for in person worship is by taking seriously the need to keep each other safe. And even when some come back to the building, for a while, most will not. We'll need to learn to do things differently, to pay attention to those we cannot see, to defer to the needs of others as an expression of our worship, and love of God and neighbor.

The way we will be able to move forward as a nation is by taking seriously the pain and long-suffering of those who have not been treated equally by the design of our systems of government, law, commerce, and social contracts. We'll need to do things differently, to pay attention to those treated unjustly, and to believe them when they describe their experiences that may be different from our own. And to practice open-hearted listening and seeing as an expression of our worship, and love of God and neighbor.

I got my hand on the gospel plow
Won't take nothing for my journey now
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on

In the last 3 months we have learned so much! Most of us have learned how to worship via Zoom while we are unable to come to the sanctuary. We have remembered that we can make phone calls to stay in touch with one another. We go the extra mile and send notes and cards through the US mail to

brighten one another's day. So while we may be bound in some ways, like Paul and Silas, we are still able to sing and pray and offer ourselves to God in worship even, or especially in the midst of limitations. And because God is in the midst of it all, we are learning new ways of being together while being apart.

Here are some of the things going on in new ways:

- ⇒ Ecumenical Digital Vacation Bible School
- ⇒ DIY Camp Crates for the children who would have gone to Church Camp
- ⇒ Elders checking in with FCC members and friends
- ⇒ FCC Musicians recording music from their homes for worship
- ⇒ Mid-Week Prayers continue using Zoom
- ⇒ FCC Children's Story Videos with Mary Gregory
- ⇒ Pat (the no-elbow puppet) sharing a message with the children each Sunday
- ⇒ Drive by birthday party processions
- ⇒ Sharing pictures of our home worship centers
- ⇒ Video-taping messages to share greetings with one another
- ⇒ Shared worship with UCC during July online
- ⇒ Weekly Anti-Racism Study Group via Zoom



You see church continues, and has continued, for a couple of thousand years. While the pandemic has stopped us from doing many things, it cannot stop us from being church. God is doing a new thing among us. So we need to keep our eyes on the prize and hold on. Holding on does not mean being idle. There are many things happening behind the scenes right now to help prepare for the time when we can begin returning to the building, and to strengthen our ties even now. There are so many groups working behind the scenes right now. I want to mention a few.

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- The **Leadership Group** was formed and is meeting every other week to coordinate our creative process of staying connected now, and in working through the details of how and when we will return to the building. The members of the team are: Board Chair Vern Hawkins, Council of Ministries Moderator Randy Allman, Deacon Chair Larry Mesenbrink, Elder Chair Deb Lewis, Personnel Chair Amy Kuehl, Property Chair Derek Krebs, Trustee Chair David Gregory, and me, Pastor Mary Jane. Please continue to pray for this group.
- Even when some will be able to return to the building for worship, at first, most will not. So our worship will be a hybrid of Zoom and in-person. This week a **Tech Team** will meet to begin to figure out how to make sure both worship experiences are engaging, and can be seen and heard. The members of that team are Stacey Maifeld, Marv Prins, Scott Walker, Jake Ewalt, Janet Lott, Tim Button-Harrison, and myself.
- The **Council of Ministries** has also been hard at work, meeting every other week to make sure the essential ministries of the church continue and adapt in ways to renew our faith and commitment to being and sharing the Good News for and with one another and reaching out into our community and our world. Members of the COM include Randy Allman, Moderator, Stacey Maifeld, Janet Lott, and Tim Button-Harrison who have met with representatives of the Faith Formation Team and the Worship Team to think strategically and creatively about the challenges before us.
- The **Property Committee** (Derek Krebs, Jim Lester, Shirley Malaby, Marge Hartman, Denny Heaberlin, Dave Fitz, Doan Schmitz, and Jerry Powell) also continues to work

behind the scenes, and in the church yard making sure our church building continues to get the care and maintenance it needs.

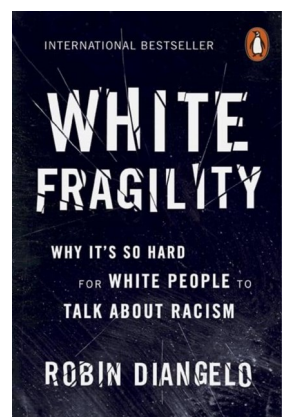
- The **Trustees** (David Gregory, Roger Bertelsen, and DeLores Hawkins) **and financial officers** (Amy Kuehl, and David and Jeannie Fitz) have been working hard behind the scenes to make sure our finances are in order and to keep you informed about our financial health and needs. And of course your continued generous giving during this time has made their work possible.

That is just the tip of the iceberg. I have named many people, but I could go on. It's hard to know where to stop. I hope the message you hear is that it takes all of us sharing who we are and what we have to give to live our call as the Body of Christ in this world. Together we keep our eyes on the prize and hold on, through joy and struggle; in faith, hope, and especially in love.

Grateful to be with you on the journey,
—Pastor Mary Jane

Anti-Racism Study Group Begins

When put out a call to form an anti-racism study group, 25 people responded. On Wednesday, June 17, we gathered via Zoom and began our journey. The group will be studying the book, "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism" by Robin DiAngelo. We will meet each Wednesday from 6:30-7:45 pm until August 12 (except no meeting July 15). Next Wednesday, June 24, we will cover the Introduction and Chapters 1 & 2. If you'd like to join the group, let me know.



—Pastor Mary Jane

Summer Worship

UPDATED Zoom Weekly Activity Schedule

In **June**, we are exploring First Christian Church's Key Ministry Areas and Core Values in our worship via Zoom at 10:30 am. We have two Sundays left in that series. Services are also recorded and uploaded to both FCC's [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

June	Worship Theme
21	Loving Neighbors Minister in the community with God's healing love
28	Building Faith Cultivate an environment where people grow in faith and discipleship.

July	Joint Worship with Ames United Church of Christ will explore The Lord's Prayer
5	UCC will share their online service with FCC. "Our Creator in heaven, hallowed by your name."
12	FCC will share our Zoom Worship with UCC. "Your Kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."
19	UCC will share their online service with FCC. "Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."
26	FCC will share our Zoom Worship with UCC. "And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one."
Aug 2	Worship will be with both First Baptist Church and Ames United Church of Christ. This service will include the 3 churches via Zoom.

Sunday		
10:30 AM	Worship Online Link: fccames.org/ SundayWorship	Phone connection: 1-312-626-6799 ID: 482716293#
Wednesday		
12:15 PM	Midweek Prayers Online Link: fccames.org/ WednesdayPrayers	Phone Connection: 1-312-626-6799 ID: 151979297#
6:30 PM	Anti-Racism Study Contact Pastor Mary Jane if interested maryjane@fccames.org	
Thursday		
10:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship Online Link: fccames.org/ CoffeeFellowship	Phone connection: 1-312-626-6799 ID: 86790917856#
Print this schedule and Keep it Handy		
Updated Thursday, June 18, 2020		



A Time for Reflection in the Sanctuary

Thursday, June 25, Noon-3 PM

Due to COVID-19, it has been 3 months since most people have been able to physically be in FCC's sanctuary, and we know you miss that healing, holy space. Therefore, the Elders and Pastor Mary Jane invite you to spend time in the sanctuary for silent reflection and prayer if that is

something you are missing. Time-slots of 25 minutes will be available on the hour and half hour from noon to 3 pm on **Thursday, June 25th** (sign-up will be much like that for the Easter Prayer Vigil). However, for this to be safely possible, these protocols must be followed:

- A maximum of two persons/family units per time-slot
- Seating in the sanctuary will be limited to the front pews, north or south, which you will choose when you sign up
- A mask or face-shield must be worn at all times while in the building (masks will be available, if needed, at the west entrance)
- Bibles, hymnals and devotional materials will not be available – bring your own if desired
- Times must be strictly observed, both when entering and leaving the building and sanctuary, and no other areas of the building may be visited (Elders will be present as guides to assist with safely entering and leaving)
- Youth are welcome, but any children must be old enough to sit quietly with their parent/grandparent the entire time
- Advance sign-up is required

To participate as individuals or couples, use this SignUpGenius link: <https://bit.ly/FCCPrayerTime>. For family units larger than two persons, or if you need assistance in signing up, call Liz Collazo at 515-232-5766 during her office hours (Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 2 pm). Sign-up will end when all time-slots have been filled. To allow for maximum participation, only one time-slot may be selected.

If there is interest and this first opportunity works well, the Elders will schedule additional times in the near future. For questions or comments, contact Deb Lewis, Chair of the Elders, at 515-290-6736, deb.g.lewis@gmail.com, or Pastor Mary Jane at 515-460-5363, maryjane@fccames.org.

—Deb Lewis, Elder Chair

Dear Friends at First Christian Church,

A Note from the FCC Trustees

We have asked that the following letter, which was distributed as a Special News Update in May, be reprinted in this issue of *The Call*, as a reminder of our ongoing appeal. To date, we have raised \$2,829 of the \$3,500 that is needed for our re-shingling project. We extend a heartfelt thanks to those who have responded so far! Please consider prayerfully if you can contribute to this special offering, which will be collected throughout June and July. As always, feel free to contact any one of us if you have questions, comments, or concerns.



--David Gregory (Chair), Roger Bertelsen, and DeLores Hawkins



Five years ago, we dug deep into our collective pockets and put a new roof on the church building at 611 Clark Avenue. What a joy it was to see that new roof take shape, and to anticipate the shelter it will provide for our many ministries, for many years to come.

Meanwhile, the roof on the building next door, at 613 Clark, has been patiently waiting its turn, and slowly showing its wear. As many of you know, this is our former parsonage and now houses two of our ministry partners: Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance (GNEA) and ACCESS, the Assault Care Center Extending Service and Support. Both groups provide crucial services to our sisters and brothers throughout Story County.

FCC's partnerships with these organizations began in 2013 and 2015 respectively, when we realized how closely aligned our missions were. We have been

greatly blessed by this arrangement, which—along with our partnership with Food at First—makes FCC a hub for resources of healing and wholeness.

Please consider prayerfully whether you might contribute to this effort, keeping in mind that gifts of all sizes are needed and appreciated. If you feel you can contribute, please make your donation through any of the “offering” channels that are now routine. These include:

- A check, payable to First Christian Church and sent by U.S. mail to the church office (611 Clark Ave., Ames IA 50014)
- Credit card, debit card, or PayPal payments, using the DONATE button on FCC's website, in *The Call*, and in the Weekly News Updates
- Electronic fund transfer or online bill pay, through your financial institution.

In all cases, please use the “Memo” line (or “Notes” feature) to clearly specify “Roof Repair.” If you have questions about any of these approaches, please contact FCC's

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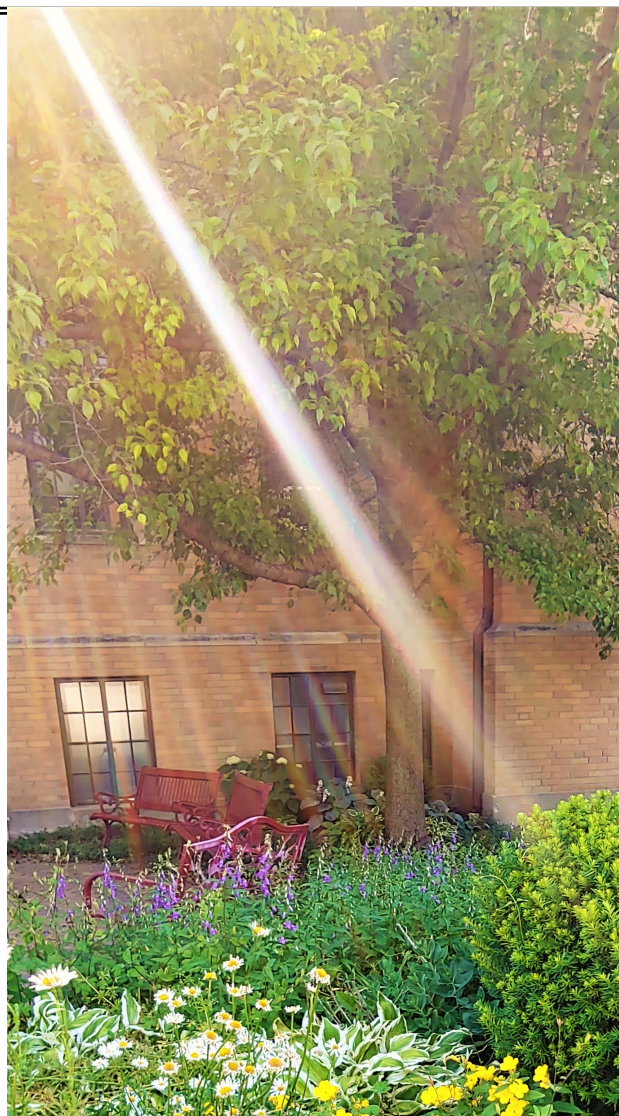
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Financial Secretaries, Dave and Jeanne Fitz (515-232-9306); they will be happy to assist.

Although the actual re-shingling project will begin in late June, you can make a special offering to the Roof Repair fund anytime between now and July 30.

If you have questions about this special offering, please contact any one of the FCC Trustees. We thank you in advance for your generosity, and for your help in maintaining the physical spaces where our ministries unfold.

*David Gregory, Roger Bertelsen,
and DeLores Hawkins
(FCC Trustees)*



Mass Poor People's Assembly & Moral March Digital Gathering

Saturday, June 20th at 9:00am CST and
5:00pm CST and again on Sunday, June
21st at 5:00pm CST.

This is a 2 hour event.

The Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington will be the largest digital gathering of poor, dispossessed and impacted people, faith leaders, and people of conscience on June 20, 2020.

We are marshalling our collective voices to demonstrate the power of our communities. We demand that both major political parties address the interlocking injustices of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism by implementing our [Moral Agenda](#).

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

Keeping Connected...

SUNDAY AFTERNOON BOOK & POETRY READING

(A ZOOM ROOM GATHERING)

WHEN:

SUNDAY, JULY 26, FROM 3 TO 4:30 P.M.

FOR: ALL FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF FCC

SPONSORED BY:

THE WOMEN'S GATHERING

We know them as Kenny and Charissa, but the couple—both professors at Iowa State University—is known in literary circles by their professional names. K.L. Cook, novelist and poet, and Charissa Menefee, poet and playwright, will read from their latest works at a Zoom Room event from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Sun., July 26. Note the date and watch for more details! For further information, contact co-leaders of the Women's Gathering, Janis Pyle at janispyle@yahoo.com or Deb Lewis at deb.q.lewis@gmail.com or (515) 290-6736.



**You are invited
to Coffee (or Tea)
with Pastor Mary Jane!**

Casual Conversation and Fellowship
Every Thursday, at 10:00 AM

Zoom Online Link:

fccames.org/CoffeeFellowship

Phone call: 1-312-626-6799

Enter ID: 86790917856#



**Attend a virtual training
on how to lead a
Consider-Connect-Create (CCC)
Workshop in your institution.**

This training will include workshop content (powerpoint and materials), leading a small group conversation, and moving towards action. Trainings are being held by cluster to foster regional collaboration and next steps. If you can't attend your cluster's training, you are encouraged to attend another of the training opportunities.

Registration link below:

Ames Cluster Meeting:

Thurs, July 2nd 5:00-6:30pm

<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJErcOypqzoiG9CJ8FffuMmmen-nuYLBVlxl>

Mark your calendars now!

CCC Campaign Monthly Check-in Meetings (Zoom)

- Wed. July 15th at 5:30pm
- Wed. Aug. 12th at 5:30pm

Wed. Sept. 2nd at 5:30pm

CCC Organizing Campaign Wrap-up and Delegate Assembly

Sunday, Sept. 13th 3:00pm (Zoom)

Ames Cluster Meeting:

Tuesday, August 4th at 5:30pm

...Keeping Connected



We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

First Christian Church



Prayers Of the People

One important way we can stay connected during this time of social distancing and shelter-in-place is to continue to pray with and for one another, our community, and the world.

You can now submit prayer requests using a new "Prayer Request Form" using this link: bit.ly/FCCPrayers. Using the form, you choose how extensive you'd like your prayer request shared.

One option is through our email prayer chain called "Prayers of the People." If you'd like to be part of that email prayer chain so you receive and can offer prayers, please sign up by clicking on this link: "[Prayers of the People](#)."

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Mary Jane, Administrative Assistant Liz Collazo, or ask an FCC Elder.

FCC Has a YouTube Channel!



Worship Service
Sunday, June 14, 2020

To view past services
and other content, subscribe to us on



[First Christian Church of Ames](#)
[on YouTube](#)

We have created a YouTube channel where we will upload past video of our Zoom services for those who may have missed a Sunday, or who may want to refresh during the week. There is also video content for kids — FCC Storytime, with Mary Gregory (and created by David Gregory) — where Mary reads a children's book selection from the FCC Library. It's so much fun!

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)

- **BE FAITHFUL** in your giving. Giving is a spiritual discipline. Even while we are not gathering in our building, the work of the church continues, and expenses keep coming in. Please keep supporting FCC during this health crisis.
- **RECONCILE** with those affected by the evils of systemic racism. Participate in the Anti-Racism Study Group, the Poor People's Campaign, and upcoming NAACP Zoom conversations with community leaders.
- **SUPPORT** our Ministry Partners by helping us fulfill our commitment to rebuild the Parsonage's roof. Give generously to the roofing campaign.
- **SHARE** your imaginative ideas for worship via Zoom and connecting with one another.
- **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. There are new guidelines in place to keep everyone safe, and ALL meals and markets will be *TO GO* now. Food at First also needs volunteers during the week. 515-344-4357.

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.



Alternatives to the Offering Plate

- You can always send a check through the mail to: First Christian Church, 611 Clark Ave., Ames IA 50010. If you add "Attention: Dave or Jeanne Fitz," the envelope will be delivered directly to our Financial Secretaries.
- Now might be a good time to set up, through your bank, 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). Contact FCC's Financial Secretaries, Dave or Jeanne Fitz (515-232-9306), for more information.
- You can also 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 electronic version of *The Call*, and in the online *Weekly Update*. It's safe, secure, and convenient! For more information, contact the church office.



Authors in Our Library

We Can Deliver These Items to You...

This month's profiled authors include a police officer-turned-pastor, an expert on vulnerability and shame, and a Disciples minister/writer/speaker who likes to ask provocative questions on taboo topics. Remember that these and other FCC Library books can be delivered to your home! Contact David Gregory (FCC Librarian) at 515-708-9004 or dgregory@iastate.edu.



Terrell Carter is an author, artist, pastor, professor, and former police officer specializing in addressing issues of race relations in the church and community. He is director of contextualized learning and assistant professor of practical theology at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Shawnee, Kansas, and is the pastor of Webster Groves Baptist Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

The FCC Library holds a copy of Carter's recent book *Healing Racial Divides: Finding Strength in Our Diversity* (Chalice Press, 2018), which asks the question: Can the church help America emerge from its racist shadows, empowered to heal racial divides? Carter's answer is a definitive "Yes."

Brené Brown is a writer, speaker, and research professor at the University of Houston who has spent the past two decades studying courage, vulnerability, shame and empathy. Brown is the author of five #1 New York Times bestsellers, including *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way we Live, Love, Parent, and Lead* (2012), which is held by the FCC Library.



Brown hosts the popular **Unlocking Us** podcast, which explores ideas, stories, books, films, and music that reflect the universal experiences of being human. Her 2010 TED Talk, "The power of vulnerability," is one of the most viewed talks in the world.



Christian Piatt is an author, editor, speaker, musician and spoken word artist. He co-founded Milagro Christian Church in Pueblo, Colorado with his wife, Rev. Amy Piatt, in 2004, and currently serves as Director of Growth and Development for First Christian Church (DOC) in Portland, OR. Piatt is the creator and editor of the "Banned Questions" book series (published by Chalice Press) two of which can be found in the FCC Library: *Banned Questions About the Bible* (2011), and *Banned Questions About Jesus* (2011).

'We need to be the Church we say we are'

Posted on June 3, 2020

"I consider the sufferings of this present time not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God."

Romans 8:18 – 19. NRSV

Dear beloved Disciples,

We are hurting.

We are haunted and outraged by the anguished cries of George Floyd, the gasp of "I can't breathe" as a police officer knelt on his neck until the breath was completely taken from him. Floyd's murder, like that of Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery in recent weeks, is just the latest in a long history of violence against Black and Brown people in our country. The protests that are happening in big cities and small towns across the nation are an outpouring of grief and anger born of centuries of pain and injustice.

As members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we condemn this injustice. We weep not only for George Floyd, but for the entire system of oppression that has kept us from seeing each other as beloved children of God.

Racism and the denial of human dignity is counter to the call of Jesus Christ. Racism is a sin that breaks the heart of God.

Disciples, we call ourselves a Pro-Reconciling, Anti-Racist church. We have named it as a mission priority, and we have worked hard – though often imperfectly – to live that out in every expression of our ministry. In this moment, when protests rage and our hearts are broken again and again, we need



L to R – Rev. April Johnson, Rev. Terri Hord Owens

to be the church we say we are.

We know that this moment calls for more than statements and prayers. In this moment, God is calling us to act.

We invite you to accept this call to action in one or more of these ways:

1. **Add your name to this statement** affirming your commitment to Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racism as a mission priority of our church. (form below)
2. Educate yourself about the history of systemic racism in this country and the ways racial injustice impacts every bit of our life together, from education and health care to jails and courtrooms and financial institutions. There are many good resources for learning; we've consolidated some of them [HERE](#) and will keep this page updated regularly.
3. [Sign up](#) to participate in the **Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington: A Digital Justice Gathering** on June 20, 2020. This event is part of an effort that seeks to address the interlocking injustices of systemic racism and poverty, and Disciples have been key leaders in this movement.
4. Join in town hall discussions hosted by Disciples leaders about how the church can do more to help dismantle systems of racism. These virtual

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gatherings will be held later this summer; be sure to [sign up](#) for **Disciples News Service email updates** for more information.

5. Get to work in your own community or church. Each context is different, so work where you are and with what you have. We want to hear from you about what you're doing. Send a photo, video, or short paragraph describing what you're doing to news@disciples.org, or tag us on social media (Facebook and Instagram: @christianchurchdoc; Twitter: @DisciplesNews) with #ccdnc. We'll share those stories [here](#) so we can support and inspire one another in this hard, holy calling.

Something is happening right now, Church, and the Spirit of God is moving in it. May we be bold enough to join the work.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Terri Hord Owens,
General Minister and President
Rev. April Johnson,
Minister of Reconciliation

What the world needs today



Posted on June 2, 2020

by Rev. Dr. Timothy James, associate general minister and administrative secretary of the National Convocation

“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.” 1 John 4: 7-8 NRSV

The consciousness of police brutality and violence on black men and women has always been in my awareness due to consecutive incidents reminding me through the years. It was deeply reinforced when our youngest son, Christopher, called home to tell Joyce and I that Tamir Rice, the middle school African American youth killed by a policeman in Cleveland, OH, was one of his students. His pain and grief became ours in a most profound way. Part of the American dream for African Americans is that our children will not have to face or endure the painful reality of America's sinful shame, racism. The death of George Floyd, so inhumane, has opened the wounds of old. We remember Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Sandra Bland, Eric Garner, Atatiana Jefferson, Freddie Gray and so many more. Dr. William Barber said, “Whether it's police abuse of power or policy abuse of power, these deaths serve as a collective knee on the neck of people of color.” The public death of George Floyd shocked the conscience of America to acknowledge its complicity in and exercise of systemic and institutional racism. The response of major denominations and ecumenical bodies has been to honestly admit or confess the church's role in perpetuating the myth of white supremacy and black inferiority. In the meantime, the world is facing the pandemic of COVID-19. Yet, protestors of the murder of George Floyd and the systemic racism that allows it, are willing to risk the coronavirus to have their voice heard and to seek justice. Protests are not in America only, they are taking place in Italy, Germany, London and other parts of the world.

This world filled with sickness and sin, heartbreak and sorrow, fear and anxiety, and jealousy and hatred; God loved enough to send His only begotten Son. This love was so amazing it proved that God was all in to go all out, holding nothing back, not even His own Son to save the world through Him. God loves

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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

June 25	Regional Operations Council Online
July 23	Regional Operations Council Online
Aug. 27	Regional Operations Council Online
Aug. 31	Church History Course begins Online

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everybody, the sinner, the racist, the rich, the poor, the oppressor, the oppressed, the weak, the strong and people like you and me. This love is so underserving. The love with which God loves this world is the love given to us to love one another. God gives us the Holy Spirit, imparting to us love, to live the life of love. This we cannot do without God. "By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit." 1 John 4: 13.

This is where the church comes in. We must work within the church to have honest dialogue, confession and deep conversation regarding the narrative that needs to be adjusted to bring about a change and the dismantling of racism. We must work with our government and political leaders to bring about transformational legislation that will change policies of discrimination and bring reform and/or overhaul to our judicial system and mass incarceration. There is a lot of work to be done. We are loved to do some loving. The myth of white supremacy is based on racial hatred. Violent and destructive protests are seeking to distract the nation and the world from the real issue, BLACK LIVES MATTER! Disciples of Christ let us take our Anti-Racist/Pro-Reconciling initiative to the next level by doing tangible and significant work to expose and root out the systemic and institutional racism in the church and society. The world does not deserve this love with so much inequity and disproportionate grief. But God wants us to love, actively love the unlovable, the unlovely and even those who despise us. This

is the true character of Christian love. We need to be agents of a love uprising through the church. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that." The power of love, the Spirit of Christ in each of us, can do much more than we think. Let the work begin with you and me.

Update from the Regional Minister Search Committee

The Regional Minister Search Committee is happy to report that we are continuing to move forward in the search for our next regional minister. The Coronavirus has limited our ability to meet in-person, but we fortunately have reached a point in the process where much of our work can be conducted virtually. We have not slowed down!

In mid-April we received the profiles of each applicant, as well as a report from an independent evaluator who assessed how closely the candidates met the expectations and qualifications outlined in our Regional Profile and Job Description. After each committee member evaluated the profiles and reviewed the independent evaluator's report, we agreed to narrow the pool of candidates at the end of April.

In May we began the "interview" stage of the process with this smaller group of candidates. We are contacting their references, listening to sermons, and conducting initial interviews via Zoom. As the Spirit leads and Covid-19 allows, we will meet for an in-person interview with one or two finalists in June. It is our hope that we will emerge from this stage in the process prepared to recommend a candidate to the Operations Council for interview and approval.

We feel the Holy Spirit at work in this process and pray for God's wisdom to guide our discernment and the candidates' discernment. As always, we appreciate your prayers and support.

News from the Pews



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

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

Stewardship Report

	April	2020 YTD
Income:	\$17,235	\$79,234
Expenses:	\$18,043	\$79,606
Difference:	\$(808)	\$(372)
May Numbers N/A		

In and Out of the Hospital:
Dorothy Hayes, Lee Hogle

[Mary Greeley Medical Center
COVID-19 Policies and Visitor
Restrictions](#)

Happy Birthday!!

July Birthdays

01	Morgan LeCount
08	Angela Mokaya
09	Lillian Lawson
10	Stacey Maifeld
11	Everett Wierson
12	Mark Schroeder
15	Karen LeCount
17	Linda Anderson
18	Wanda Button
21	Gloria Carpenter
24	Victoria Brenden
30	Del Woodward
31	Marge Hartman

Calendar

June:

- ♦ **Faith Formation Team Meeting**
Tuesday, June 23, 5:00 pm
- ♦ **Leadership Group**
Monday, June 29, 5:30-7 pm
- ♦ **Council of Ministries**
Tuesday, June 30, 5:00 pm
- ♦ **A Time for Reflection in the Sanctuary**
Thursday, June 25, Noon-3 pm

July:

- ♦ **AMOS CCC Workshop Training**
Thursday, July 2, 5-6:30 pm,
- ♦ **FCC Volunteers for Food at First**
Saturday, July 4, 9:30—1 pm
- ♦ **Council of Ministries**
Tuesday, July 7, 5:00 pm
- ♦ **Pastor Mary Jane on Vacation**
Monday, July 13—Monday, July 20
- ♦ **Leadership Group**
Monday, July 13, 5:30 pm
- ♦ **Property Meeting**
Tuesday, July 14, 7:15 pm
- ♦ **The Call Deadline**
Monday, July 20, Noon
- ♦ **Trustees Meeting**
Monday, July 20, 7:00 pm
- ♦ **Council of Ministries Meeting**
Tuesday, July 21, 5:00 pm
- ♦ **Faith Formation Meeting**



News from the Pews



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 below.**

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.

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:	Ty (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