

The Call

ISSUE No. 03,
MARCH 2021



Easter Offering

a special day offering of Disciples Mission Fund
March 28 and April 4, 2021

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Imagine what God can do when we share our gifts. The Easter offering reaches *deep and wide* with the limitless power of the risen Christ by

- developing Disciples,
- forming new faith communities,
- connecting with ministry partners around the world,
- serving God's people in need.

Deep....

- leadership development programs for college and seminary students
- Bible studies that challenge and inspire
- opportunities for clergy to gather in prayer
- spiritual care for those in prison
- resources for mental health and trauma care
- visionary leadership that calls the church to imagine new ways to witness to God's love

and wide ...

- global ministry partners who work for justice, reconciliation, and peace
- colleges, universities, and theological institutions that nurture Christian leaders who are transforming church, society, and world
- volunteers who help in the aftermath of disasters
- new congregations who worship in a variety of languages and worship styles
- ministry grants for congregational service ministries that serve hungry neighbors

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

Lenten & Easter Happenings at FCC

DECISION 2021:



		April 11	Proof of Life Matthew 28:11-15
		April 18	Blessing in Abundance 2 Corinthians 9:6-8
		April 25	From Fear to Peace John 20:19-23
March 21			May 2
		Keeping Watch Mark 13:32-37	Show Me John 20:19-23
March 28 Palm/Passion Sunday		Entering Jerusalem Mark 11:1-11	May 9
			Breakfast with Jesus John 21:1-14
Thurs., April 1	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Service via Zoom	May 16
			Do You Love Me? John 21:15-19
Fri., April 2	Noon	Pre-Recorded Ecumenical Good Friday Service via Zoom	Pentecost May 23
	1:00 PM	Easter Prayer Vigil Begins — Sign up HERE.	
Easter Sunday April 4	6:00 AM	Easter Prayer Vigil Ends	<p>2021 Easter Prayer Vigil</p> <p>Sign up for our Easter Prayer Vigil, which will begin Friday, April 2, from 1 pm - through early Easter Sunday morning, April 4, at 6 am.</p> <p>* You may choose one or more half-hour time slots in which you will be in prayer or devotional time as we “hold vigil,” remembering the time between the death of Jesus on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter morning.</p> <p>* Due to lingering COVID-19 concerns, this year's prayer vigil is entirely from home, as the church building is still closed to the general public.</p> <p>If you have any questions, contact: FCC Elder Chair, Sue Prins at 515-460-2628 or FCC Administrative Assistant, Liz Collazo at 232-5766</p>
	9:00 AM	Zoom Showing of Youth-Lead Early Easter Service	
	10:30 AM	Easter Service Rock and Roll Mark 16:1-8	

Calendar

Scheduled Meetings:

- ◆ **Elder's Circle**
Every Monday, 10:45 am via Zoon
- ◆ **Intercessory Prayers**
Every Wednesday, at 12:15 pm,
Coffee House
- ◆ **FCC Makes Lunch for Food at First**
Saturday, April 3, 9:30 am—1pm
- ◆ **Leadership Group**
Monday, April 5, 5:30 pm
- ◆ **Faith Formation Team Meeting**
Tuesday, April 13, 6 pm
- ◆ **Property Meeting**
Tuesday, April 13, 7:15 pm
- ◆ **Newsletter Deadline**
Monday, April 19, by NOON.
- ◆ **Trustees Meeting**
Monday, April 19, 7 pm
- ◆ **Council of Ministries**
Tuesday, April 27, 7 pm

Scheduled Events:

Rev. Joshua Patty will lead an intimate **online Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 3 at 10 pm**. The service will be broadcast using Facebook Live through the Disciples in the Upper Midwest group.

The Great Vigil of Easter is probably the oldest ongoing worship service of the church, celebrated each year since the 3rd Century. This service at the climax of the Lenten season and Holy Week invites us to recognize God's powerful and saving hand throughout history and in our own lives, including through the sacraments of baptism and Communion.

The direct link for the Easter Vigil is: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1744761232350162/>

You do not need to be a member of Facebook to access and participate in this online worship service.

Keeping Connected...

UPDATED

Zoom Weekly Activity Schedule



Sunday		
9:30 AM	Zoom Room Open Tech People Setup/ Check	Online Link: fccames.org/ SundayWorship
	Musicians Practice	
9:30-10:15 AM	Adult Learning Time	Meeting ID: 835 4977 8613 Passcode: 789716
10:00 AM	Fellowship Time Before Worship	Phone Connection: 1 312 626 6799 ID: 83549778613#
10:25 AM	Greetings Video	
10:30 AM	Worship	
Wednesday		
12:15 PM	Midweek Prayers Online Link: fccames.org/ WednesdayPrayers	Meeting ID: 826 9816 5415 Passcode: 645905 Phone Connection: 1 312 626 6799 ID: 82698165415#
Thursday		
10:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship Online Link: fccames.org/ CoffeeFellowship	Phone Connection: 1-312-626-6788 ID: 86790917856#
Keep this Schedule Handy Updated Tuesday, September 1, 2020		



Easter Spring Bouquets

This year for Easter, we want to bring some joy into the homes of our FCC homebound members.

In lieu of Easter lilies, First Christian Church is partnering with Everts Flowers Home & Gifts, to offer you the chance to purchase a spring bouquet "In Honor" or "In Memory" of your loved one, to be on display in the sanctuary for Easter Zoom worship. Following worship, FCC Elders will deliver these bouquets to our homebound members on your behalf. A list of those honored and remembered will appear in the April edition of the *The Call*.

Each bouquet will have several flowers in a variety of colors with greenery for \$25 each.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up and let us know how many bouquets you'd like, if they are in Memory or in Honor, and the names of your loved ones, separated by a comma.

DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, MARCH 26TH.

You may pay for your order securely using [PayPal](#) (just make sure to designate your "donation" as "Spring Bouquet" under Notes), or you may mail your check in payment to First Christian Church, 611 Clark Avenue, Ames, IA, 50010.

If you have any questions, or need help, please contact Liz Collazo at the FCC Church office, at 515-232-5766, and she'd be happy to take your order.

Stewardship Appeal to the FCC Congregation

In the fall of 2020, the Trustees submitted a 2021 budget proposal that called for pledges totaling \$185,000 from the congregation. At that time, no one could predict how long we might continue to social distance and to conduct our worship services via ZOOM. When the 2021 budget was approved during the Annual Congregational Meeting on December 13, 2020, pledges totaling \$137,800 had been received. The approved budget also includes, as usual, a line item for "faith factor," which represents non-pledged offerings.



Since most of our active church members haven't been present in the sanctuary since March 2020, we don't have the opportunity to place our pledge money or other monetary gifts into the collection plates that the deacons would ordinarily pass around. Those extra cash or check donations we typically receive when the sanctuary is full (especially at times like Easter) have always contributed to faith factor income, but these have largely disappeared—at least for the present time.

Living by faith is not always easy. One of the challenges of living by faith is believing that God's generosity and wisdom will provide First Christian with what we need to maintain our beautiful church building, to pay the salaries, and to support our ongoing ministries and expenses, even during the pandemic.

That is why it's important that income from pledges is maintained. The Stewardship Committee is reaching out to you, the First Christian Church family, to help us reach our 2021 pledge goal. Life may have forced us to change our usual life

(Continued on page 5)

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patterns in the past year, but we have also learned to adapt, to be creative, to continue giving by using the church website, by mailing in our monetary gifts, by dropping them off at the church office, or by setting up an automatic withdrawal through your bank account.

If you have made a pledge for 2021, we ask that you consider increasing it if your circumstances allow. Even a small pledge increase from a substantial number of members can go a long way towards bringing us to our goal of \$185,000 in pledges for the year.

If you did not submit a pledge for 2021, the Stewardship Committee encourages you to do so now. Whether you simply forgot to submit your pledge last fall, or you weren't sure then if you could commit to a pledge, by making a pledge now you can be instrumental in helping First Christian Church to meet its budget for 2021.

We can't see what lies ahead of us in our Christian journey, but we put our trust and our hope in Jesus in fulfilling our church budget. Let us continue being cheerful givers so that we may share abundantly in all the good works that God and our church provide. Let us give out of the knowledge that God rewards us when we sow the seeds of generosity and provides us the means to donate our time and our money.

To increase your pledge or to make a pledge for 2021, please send a letter to First Christian Church, 611 Clark Avenue, Ames, IA 50010, giving the amount of your increased or new pledge. On behalf of the entire First Christian Church family, the Stewardship Committee appreciates your support!

—Vern Hawkins and Cynthia Gaunt
FCC Stewardship Team

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.



Lenten Spiritual Practices...

Monday

Walking Meditation –

Jesus says to love God with heart, soul, strength, and mind. Yet when we think of spiritual practices we don't necessarily think about our bodies as part of the practice. Walking meditation is walking in a spirit of prayer, mindful of God's presence, grateful for each step, finding joy in what we see and experience as we walk. This Lent, I invite you to be part of the Walking Meditation group of First Christian Church.

Here's how it works. First, let me know you want to be in the group. Then download the "Marco Polo" app to your smartphone. If you'd like to participate but do not have a smartphone, let me know. Each Monday I will video tape a short message to the group as I walk. Each participant will also share a short video from their walk. Doing this we can walk at different times and places yet still share our experience with one another and encourage one another in our practice.

Please email me if you have questions, if you'd like more information, or if you'd like to join the group. (maryjane@fccames.org) We will do this every Monday during Lent.

March 22, and 29.



Wednesday

Dwelling in the Word (Lectio Divina) -



Each Wednesday during Lent you are invited to join in the ancient spiritual practice of Lectio Divina (which means divine reading) at 6:00 PM via Zoom.

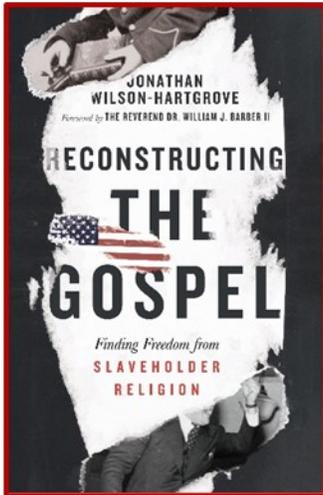
In more recent times it may also be called Dwelling in the Word. This practice is different from studying scripture. Here, in an attitude of prayer and meditation we listen to a passage of scripture and allow it to speak to us; to sit within us; and to find wisdom and guidance in the process.

This group will meet
March 24, and 31.

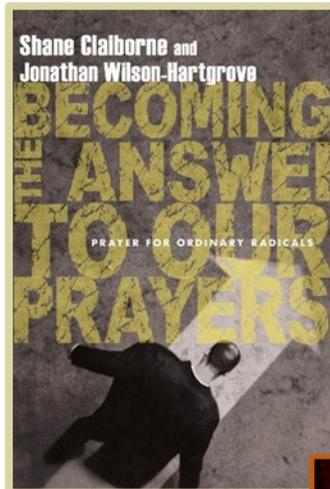
New Additions to the FCC Library

Several new titles have been added to the FCC Library over the past few months. Although the church building remains closed, these and other items from the library can be delivered to your home.

For book delivery or to request a PDF copy of the complete library book list, contact David Gregory, FCC Librarian, at 515-708-9004, or dgregory@iastate.edu. You can also contact Liz in the church office.

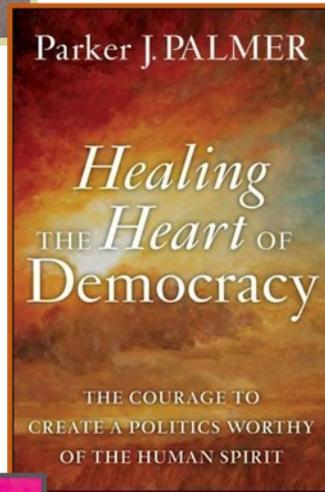


Wilson-Hartgrove, Jonathan. *Reconstructing the Gospel: Finding Freedom from Slaveholder Religion* (IVP Books, 2018)

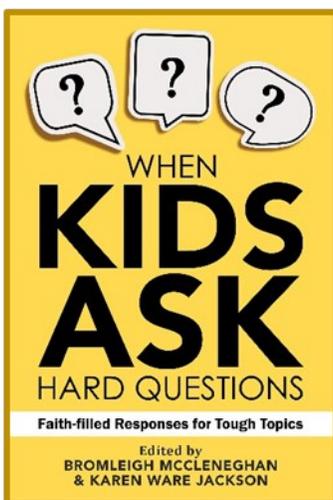
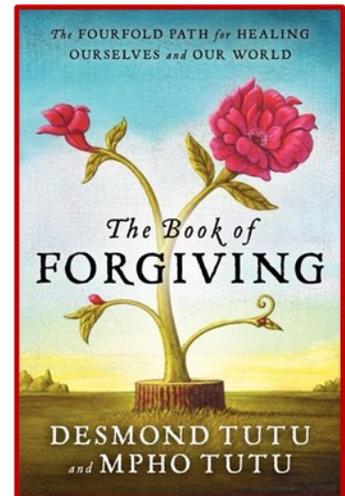


Claiborne, Shane & Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. *Becoming the Answer to Our Prayers: Prayer for Ordinary Radicals* (IVP Books, 2008)

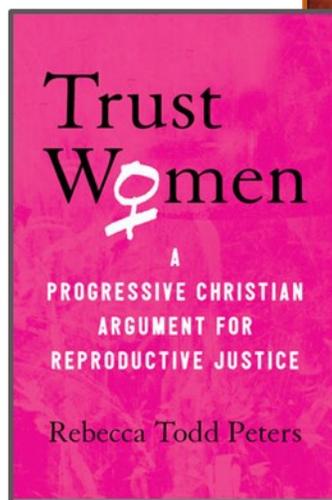
Palmer, Parker J. *Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit* (Jossey-Bass, 2011)



Tutu, Desmond & Mpho Tutu. *The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World* (HarperOne, 2014)



McCleneghan, Bromleigh & Karen Ware Jackson (Editors). *When Kids Ask Hard Questions: Faith-Filled Responses for Tough Topics* (Chalice Press, 2019)



Peters, Rebecca Todd. *Trust Women: A Progressive Christian Argument for Reproductive Justice* (Beacon Press, 2018)



Around the Region — Things We Do Together

For more info or to register for events:

www.uppermidwestcc.org

Below, @CCC =
held at the Christian Conference
Center

Mar. 25
Regional Operations Council

Mar. 28
Easter Offering collected

Mar. 31
Clergy Chat with Josh

Apr. 3
Easter Vigil

Apr. 4
Easter Offering collected

Apr. 14
Clergy Chat with Josh

Apr. 22
Regional Operations Council

Apr. 28
Clergy Chat with Josh

May 1
Last day for Early Bird Camp
Registration!

Supporting Each Other

*Rev. Joshua Patty
Regional Minister and President*



Recently, I was speaking with several Disciples ministers who serve as chaplains in our region. In the past year, as the demands and needs have expanded in their ministry, they shared how they now spend more time providing support and care for other staff members.

This reminded me of the increased demands and challenges our leaders face throughout the church. Pastors providing multiple avenues to offer worship services, Bible studies, coffee hours, and other experiences. Musicians navigating the challenges of sharing music in ways that are effective, safe, and legal. Elders and Stephen ministers exploring new ways to offer spiritual care. And tech people -- almost always volunteers -- whose responsibilities and time commitments have exploded in the past year. Not to mention the stress of making decisions when there is little consensus on what is best.

Now we are in the busiest part of the calendar for most congregations, meaning many people are working even harder and striving to find the best ways to join together for Holy Week and Easter activities.

How can we better support our pastors and leaders now and after Easter? In the coming weeks, I hope you'll participate in the various activities our church leaders and volunteers are working so hard to prepare and offer -- sometimes in creative adaptive ways. And I hope you'll be creative in finding ways to share appreciation and love for leaders.

Perhaps you can organize a card shower or put together a video tribute. Maybe you could treat faithful workers to a special dinner (gift cards are nice, but you might even arrange to drop the full meal off at their door). Our regional Operations Council, recognizing the challenges of these past months, gave all employees extra vacation days for this year in both support and appreciation.

Please find a meaningful way in the coming weeks to support and care for some of the people who have spent extra time and energy this year supporting and caring for you and yours.

Continue reading the Upper Midwest Regional Reading Newsletter [HERE](#).

Christian Conference Center



SAVE THE DATES!

It's FREEZING cold but it's time to register for Summer Camp!

[Visit the CAMP registration site for more information.](#)

First Christian Church will pay for **HALF** the registration costs each camp participant, for **ONE** camp. You must identify First Christian Church of Ames as your home church in your application, and you must let First Christian Church know (fccames@fccames.org) that you have registered so that we may know we need to pay for you.

Summer Camp 2021

Grand Camp

(Kids age 4 to Grade 2 who attend with one or more grandparents)
Session 1: June 26-27
Session 2: July 17-18

Family Camp

(Kids ages 0-18 who attend with one or more adult family members)
Session 1: June 11-13

Beginner Camp

(Grades 2-3)
Session 1: June 13-15

Junior Camp

(Grades 3-5)
Session 1: June 28-July 3
Session 2: July 12-17
Session 3: August 9-14

Middle School

(Grades 6-8)
Chi Rho 1: June 21-26
Chi Rho 2: June 28 - July 3
Chi Rho 3: July 12-17
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 26-31
Adventure Camp: August 2-7
Standing Rock Travel Camp: June 5-12

Senior Adult Retreat

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

**SEE PAGE 10
FOR IMPORTANT
CAMP CHANGES
FOR 2021.**

Registration opens February 1!



Christian Conference Center website: www.newtonccc.org
Regional website: www.uppermidwestcc.org
Mailing Address: 5064 Lincoln Street, Newton, Iowa 50208
Office Phone: 641-792-1266 Email: office@newtonccc.org



(All grades indicate grade to be completed in the 2020-2021 school year. Age indicates age of the participant at the time of the event.)

2021 Church Camp Changes

After a lot of prayer and discussion with our camp leadership, we have some updates for the 2021 camping season. We have been working hard to make camp a safe experience for campers, volunteers and staff. We are still developing our final Covid-19 protocols, but here are the things we know for sure right now. **Please read carefully!**

- This one is a big change... **weeklong camps will be shortened by one day** to allow for more training for volunteers. Volunteers will report on Sunday and training will be mandatory. Campers will report on **Tuesday and be at camp until Saturday**. Written information about these changes, as well as summer camp publicity packets, will be going out to churches this week. (Standing Rock Camp will not change due to the need for extra travel time.)
- Weeklong camp price will be reduced by \$30. Refunds will be issued for kids who have already registered for weeklong camps. Adjusted dates and prices will be reflected on camp publicity that will be mailed out. Shorter events are not affected.
- All camps will operate at a **50% capacity** this summer.
- Masks and social distancing will be **required** indoors for everyone except while eating or sleeping.
- Mask breaks will be possible outdoors, in the right circumstances, throughout the day.
- **Camp is moving outside!** All activities that can possibly be led outside will be, including moving the Dining Hall outside on nice days.
- **Air filtration units** are being built for spaces where programming will take place indoors (in case of inclement weather) and for when masks can't be used (dining hall if it's raining, and cabins at night).
- For activities when kids need to be unmasked, they will be in "activity pods", meaning the same pod will be together for all those unmasked activities. For example, campers will be grouped in a cabin group that will also be their table group.

The biggest reason for #1 is to give more adequate time to train volunteers for how to live out our weeks at camp with the Covid protocols in place. We want to make sure everyone is 100% sure of their role and the do's and don'ts before campers arrive. This will ensure a better camp experience for everyone. **This change in camp length is only in effect for 2021.**

Please pray for our decision makers as we try to do the best for everyone.



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.





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

	FEB	YTD
Income:	\$19,817	\$30,526
Expenses:	\$21,605	\$42,552
Difference:	(\$1,788)	\$(12,026)

In and out of the hospital:
Randy Allman, John Lott

April Birthdays

- 06 Laura Pogwizd
- 08 Michael Ewalt
- 13 Gwen Mitzel
- 18 Faith Pogwizd
- 20 Colleen Ryan
- 25 Killian Schwartz
- 26 James Brenden
- 26 Marv Prins
- 27 Hannah Button-Harrison
- 29 Dee Matthews
- 29 Jeff Sobotka



First Christian Church High School Senior Scholarship Fund

First Christian Church has the practice of giving a \$500 scholarship to high school seniors who are active members of our congregation, and who seek to further their studies. The ability to grant these scholarships depends on your generous contributions.



Please help us replenish the Scholarship Fund by mailing a check to the church marked "Scholarship Fund" in the memo line, or by donating through [PayPal](#) and designating your donation as "Scholarship Fund" in the Note section.

Congratulations to Cathy Krebs on her retirement from Greater Iowa Community Credit Union, on March 1, 2021.



Opportunities to Serve

We are the Church...

You are the Church

In his many letters to churches, the Apostle Paul reminds believers that **WE are the church** — **We, the Body of Christ**. (Not a building.) With our talents and our gifts, we can serve one another, meet one another's needs, uplift one another, and BE Christ to one another. While for some, "church" has come to mean "building," Christians haven't always had a building in which they could worship. Instead, they had one another — the *true* Church.

While we may not be able to meet in our *building* right now, we CAN meet as the Church! Through Zoom worship, Zoom Coffee Fellowship, prayers, book studies, phone calls and letters, we can stay connected. We can BE the body.

We are here for you. Do you need...?

- Help with Zoom or other technology
— **never miss a Zoom gathering again!**
- Pre-stamped offering envelopes
- Church directories
- Church library books
- Fall Devotionals (small or large)
- Groceries
- Errands
- Someone to talk to



BUG ME! Email me at 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 help with Zoom, you may contact David Gregory at 708-9004, or Amy Kuehl at 520-1896, and they would be THRILLED to help you.**

We love and miss you, but we know we'll be together again soon.

— Liz Collazo
FCC Administrative Assistant



"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)

- **FOLLOW JESUS** by becoming involved in Lenten activities beginning February 16, 2021. See pages 1-3.
- **PLEDGE your financial support to the Church.** The "Church" is a community — the Body of Christ — and not a building. Giving to support the mission and vision of our community is a discipline. Even while we are not gathering in our building, the work of the church continues, and expenses keep coming in. Please keep supporting your Church during these challenging times.
- **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.

Ways to Know What's Happening at FCC

- The Call Newsletter – 3rd week of the month
- Weekly News Update – an email sent every Thursday
- Prayers of the People – an email sent as needed
- Announcements during Sunday worship – every Sunday
- Word of mouth - ongoing
- Facebook – First Christian Church (Disciples) Ames

- Website - www.fccames.org

- **Our YouTube Channel**

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



Prayers
Of
The
People



Food at
First

Free Meal Program +
Perishable Food Pantry



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Food at First currently needs a dedicated volunteer for Friday afternoons from Noon to 3 pm, to help prepare "to go" meals and market offerings. They also need a person to help as a "floater," who can fill in when a volunteer is not able to do their shift. If you are interested, please contact Patty Yoder at 515-451-6967, or email her at patty@foodatfirst.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 Schwartz
Building Custodian:	Sherri Khan
Nursery Attendants:	Karen LeCount
Nursery Helper:	

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