The Call ISSUE NO. 05, MAY 2021

Inside This Issue

Pentecost 2021	I
Worship Schedule & Hybrid Worship Sign-Up	2
Welcome New Staff!	3
Pentecost Offering	4
Can't Give in Person?	5
June Calendar	6
Regional News	8
News from the Pews	9
Opportunities to Serve & Stay Connected	10
Our Ministry Partners	11



O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us, *Revive your church with life and power.* O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us, And fit your church to meet this hour.

-Chalice Hymnal #250

n the day of Pentecost Jesus' followers were gathered together in Jerusalem when suddenly there came a sound like a rush of wind that filled the entire house and tongues, as of fire, rested on each of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, yet everyone understood in their own language. On Pentecost we celebrate the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' followers creating a community in the Spirit.

His whole ministry Jesus taught and modeled that being a follower is done not alone, but in community – "where two or three are gathered in my name, I am among them." (Mt. 18:20) Jesus called disciples, followers, and taught them how to relate to one another differently than society taught. Jesus sent the disciples out in pairs and

gathered them back for more instruction and table fellowship. And here at Pentecost, after Jesus ascended, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon Jesus' followers to give them the power to continue Jesus' way of living and being – in community.

Between May 23 (Pentecost Sunday) and June 27 we will be reading passages from the Book of Acts (aka The Acts of the Apostles) to learn more about the characteristics of community in the Spirit and consider how we can renew our life together as a community in the Spirit in these times. As we move through Acts, we will discover that bearing fruit, sharing, boldness, new sight, inclusion, and welcome are all there at the beginning of the church because they are in the DNA of life with Jesus. If you'd like, you could read the entire book of Acts (28 Chapters) between now and June

(Continued on page 2)

27th. Or, you can simply follow along reading the particular passages listed in the schedule that follows.

As we move forward together, we will need to spend some time grieving what has been lost in this last year. And, we can imagine anew how God is guiding us into the future. Understanding the character and importance of being Christ's Community in the Spirit will ensure we have a solid foundation on which to build, and that we bear fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, and selfcontrol.



THIS Sunday, May 23, 2021

-Pastor Mary Jane

Worship Schedule



Welcome to Hybrid Worship! If you would like to worship in person,

SIGN UP HERE!

- **Please RSVP** with the sign-up link above **OR** call Liz Collazo at the Church office at 515-232-5766 by Thursday, 1:45 PM.
- Watch this short <u>Introduction Video</u> on what to expect, and review the list of guidelines before Sunday.
- Plan to park in the Fareway Supermarket lot and enter and exit the church using the southeast "bell-tower" door (where the ramp is).
- Masks are required for all attendees except children under two years old. (Disposable masks are available if you forget.)
- Feel free to bring your own Bible, or books/ activities for your children. You're also welcome to bring your own communion if you prefer.

Please stay home if you are feeling unwell.

The Hybrid Worship Sign-Up sheet will be updated every Monday morning, by 9 AM. The link above for RSVP'ing, will stay the same from Sunday to Sunday. <u>http://bit.ly/FCCWorshipSignUp</u>

New Ministry Coordinator for Children, Youth, and Families



By Pastor Mary Jane

t their May 10th meeting the FCC General Board approved hiring Melissa Webb as a quarter time Ministry Coordinator for Children, Youth, and Families starting June 1, 2021. This new position will be funded with designated funds for 2 years with the hope that this ministry will thrive and become part of the budget thereafter. In this position Melissa will work with the Faith Formation Team and Council of Ministries, along with other church leaders to plan and execute a balanced ministry with children, youth, and families that will include faith focused learning and gatherings, worship leadership, fellowship trips, service projects, etc. with an emphasis on connecting children, youth, and families to each other, to other adults in the church, and to the church as a whole.

Children and families were hit especially hard by all the changes due to the pandemic. So we at First Christian Church want to make an intentional effort to attend to the faith formation of our young people and help them transition "back" as things move forward beyond the pandemic. Please join me in welcoming Melissa Webb in this role. So that you can get to know a bit more about her, I asked her to respond to some questions/ statements. Here's what she said. Terry & Melissa Webb

Tell us about yourself (family, education, hobbies, where you live, your other employment, etc.)

My husband, Terry, and I are raising our three boys, Levi (16), Devin (14) and Easton (11). Our dog, Bison, and our two cats, Smoketail and Miss Hiss, are also an active part of our family. Terry's mom and one of his brothers live in Roland and my father lives in Marshalltown.

My background and formal education are rooted in Elementary Education. I taught for nearly 20 years, with the majority of my teaching career at Montessori schools in the Des Moines metro. I have two certificates in Montessori Education for curriculum, development and philosophy for ages 6-9 and 9-12.

I loved my career as a teacher, but in 2018, we relocated to Roland from Norwalk for my husband's job. I decided to try on some new experiences and took a position at Ankeny Christian Church as their Office Manager. I love everything about working with Pastors Owen and Alison. I also took a job at Roland Library and I had so much fun planning programs and introducing books to children of all ages.

My hobbies include anything that can be done outside! I love hiking, biking, kayaking, swimming, gardening, relaxing, frolicking, playing, singing...you

(Continued on page 4)

get the idea. :) I also love live outdoor music venues as well as strumming chords on the guitar or ukulele around a campfire.

What do you appreciate about Ames First Christian Church?

Since the day we walked through the doors at FCC, the people have been so welcoming. Believe it or not, this was not always our experience at many of the churches we visited in the area. Even during COVID, the church people found ways to remind our family that we are thought about, cared for and supported.

I appreciate that FCC, as well as most of the DOC churches, are open and welcoming to everyone. I appreciate being part of a church and denomination that don't believe they necessarily have it all figured out and are continuously striving to be better, learn more, listen harder and not afraid to fail.

What excites you about being FCC's Ministry Coordinator for Children, Youth, and Families?

I am naturally an organizer. I like to build programs and create new opportunities and adventures. I thrive in environments that are engaging, fun, carefree and loving, so I will build those types of programs. It is exciting to think about all of the possibilities that lie ahead for Children, Youth and Families in the FCC congregation. My childhood background in churches, as a daughter of two ministers, contains a treasure chest of church related activities which I am eager to give a new and improved twist! My more recent experiences with camp leadership and youth groups at former churches will also come in handy when generating ideas.

What message would you like to share with FCC members and friends?

I feel the need to start by saying when I share a message, it is most likely a message I have shared with myself time and time again. Maybe others can receive some insight from this message to myself.

Care enough about the world to wrap YOURSELF in a loving blanket of grace and compassion. By caring for OURSELVES, we become pollinators of God's kindness, companionship, joy and compassion to the world around us. Allow God to nourish you as you sprinkle and spread God's message of love and grace to others!



Be the New Church

For the past thirteen months, many of us have stayed away from our places of worship to keep ourselves and our faith communities safe.

How have new church leaders responded? By spreading the word about Disciples through DoorDash, meeting with folks struggling with anxiety on Zoom, and addressing returning citizens' needs.

Chaplains, pastors, and others have answered the call to **be the new church.** To support them, contribute to the Pentecost Offering on May 16 and 23. Half of the gifts go to regions to support new church development. The other half goes to <u>New Church Ministry</u>, which trains, equips, assists, and multiplies new church leaders.

Let's all be the new church, together. <u>Please give generously to this year's</u> <u>Pentecost offering</u>.

You may give online (link above), or send your check by mail to First Christian Church, 611 Clark Avenue, Ames, IA 50010.

🛛 First Christian Church 🙀

Alternatives to the Offering Plate

- You can always send a <u>check</u> 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 <u>direct</u> <u>deposit</u> (in which funds are transferred electronically), or as <u>online bill pay</u> (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 <u>debit card</u>, <u>credit card</u> or <u>PayPal</u>, 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.



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.

Prayers Of the People

You can now submit prayer requests using a new "Prayer Request Form" using this link: <u>bit.ly/</u> <u>FCCPrayers</u>. 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: "<u>Prayers of the People</u>."

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



June Calendar

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day.

Pastor Mary Jane will be on vacation in June, from June 18—26th.

- Elder's Circle Every Monday, 10:45 am via Zoon
- Intercessory Prayers
 Every Wednesday, at 12:15 pm, Zoom
- FCC Makes Lunch for Food at First Saturday, June 5, 9:30 am—1pm
- Faith Formation Team Meeting Tuesday, June 8, 6 pm
- Property Team Meeting Tuesday, June 8, 7:15 pm
- Newsletter Deadline Monday, June 21, by NOON.
- Trustees Meeting Monday, June 21, 7 pm
- Council of Ministries Meetings Tuesday, June 22 at 7:00 pm

Scheduled Events:

⇒ Disciples AllianceQ Pentecost Sunday Virtual Celebration Honoring the 30th Ordination Anniversary of the Rev. Allen V. Harris.

Sunday, May 23, at 6:30 PM.

RSVP is required: <u>disciplesallianceq.org/</u> <u>allenvharris/</u>

⇒ NAACP 2021 Taking the Lead Event, Session 2: "The Color of Injustice."

Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 6 pm

This session will focus on criminal justice reform that addresses disparities. For more information, contact <u>amesnaacp@gmail.com</u>.

⇒ Spring Garden Tour, Presented by Altrusa and Reiman Gardens, and in benefit of local organizations: Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, The Bridge Home, the National Alliance On Mental Illness of Central Iowa (NAMI), and Martha's House of Hope.

Saturday, June 5, 2021, from 10 am-5pm.

Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased at Reiman Gardens and other locations. See page 7.

Keeping Connected...

UPDATED

Loom Weekly Activity Schedule

Sunday

	Zoom Room Open	
9:30	Tech People Setup/	
AM	Check	Online Link:
	Musicians Practice	fccames.org/
		SundayWorship
10:20	Doors Open for	
AM	Hybrid Worship	
		Phone Connection:
		1 312 626 6799
10:30		ID: 83549778613#
AM	Hybrid Worship	

Wednesday

		Meeting ID:
	Midweek Prayers	826 9816 5415
12:15	Online Link:	Passcode: 645905
PM	fccames.org/	Phone Connection:
	WednesdayPrayers	1 312 626 6799
		ID: 82698165415#

Thursday

	Coffee Fellowship	
10:00	Online Link:	
AM	fccames.org/	
	CoffeeFellowship	

Phone Connection: 1-312-626-6788 ID: 86790917856#

- <u>11</u>... - 10.

Keep this Schedule Handy

Updated Tuesday, September 1, 2020

ALTRUSA OF AMES AND REIMAN GARDENS proudly present

an Outdoor Community Fundraising Event

GARDEN TOUR

Saturday **June 5, 2021** 10AM - 5:00PM Bain date: Sunday, June 6, 2021

TOUR THE HOME GARDENS OF THESE COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS:

DEE AND DON DRAPER VERONICA LORSON FOWLER RUSS HOFFMAN AND MARTHA STEWART KRIS AND TOM JURIK ED LYON AND DYLAN HART REIMAN GARDENS (Reiman Gardens will remain open until 8:00 PM)

TICKETS \$20 ADULTS

\$10 CHILDREN (3-12 YEARS) 2 years and under admitted FREE

2 years and under admitted the

The Reiman Gardens entry fee is included in the tour ticket price

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT:

COE'S FLORAL GIFTS & DECOR North Grand Mail, Ames EVERTS FLOWERS HOME & GIFTS 329 Main Street, Ames REIMAN GARDENS GIFT SHOP 1407 University Boulevard, Ames ALTRUSA MEMBERS

AT TOUR LOCATIONS THE DAY OF THE EVENT

PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT LOCAL AGENCIES:

MARTHA'S HOUSE OF HOPE NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS OF CENTRAL IOWA (NAMI) THE BRIDGE HOME

GOOD NEIGHBOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Please note : Even though this is an outdoor event Altrusa will be following the latest CDC mitigation strategies and City of Ames guidelines for COVID-19 including social distancing, staggering of guests and requiring facemasks. Please plan accordingly for comfort and outdoor weather on this walking tour. We strive to be inclusive but all gardens may not be accessible to all people. Use caution walking on grass and uneven ground. No pets please.

PRESENTED BY:

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THIS EVENT:

ames-altrusa.org Altrusaofames1300gmail.com

AltrusalnternationalAmes



The Christian Church in the Upper Midwest

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

May 26 Clergy Chat with Josh

May 27 Regional Operations Council

June 5 Camping Season Begins!

Oct. 2 All Congregational Gathering and Regional Minister Installation

Current Summer Camp Volunteer Needs

We love volunteers!!! Current needs are below. We try to update this list quarterly.

- Single volunteer or group to replace siding on the back of the Main Lodge
- Single volunteer or group to finish the sand volleyball court in Chi Rho Country
- Chain Saw Volunteers to help clean up Derecho Storm Damage
- Someone with Plumbing Experience to help install a triple sink in the CCC kitchen
- Fix it Skills Volunteer to help repair CCC sign in front of the Main Lodge
- Summer Camp Counselors for children's ministry and youth ministry camps. Counselors volunteer for one week at a time.
- **Camp Nurses** to assist with medications, offer first-aid, and communicate with parents as needed.
- **Mowing help** is needed all spring and summer. Experience on a zero turn mower is preferred but not required
- Office workers to help answer phones, make copies, help with curriculum during summer camp.

- Gardeners to keep our flower beds spruced up
- Basic Carpentry skills as we begin work on the Boatwright Boathouse and the BSD Treehouse in the fall. Plans are being drawn up now.
- Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts we love working with Eagle Scout and Gold Award candidates. Each project can be personalized for the gifts and talents of the scout. We have lots of projects for service days for the whole troop as well. Call the camp office to talk about possibilities.
- Church service outings we love to work with church leaders who are looking for volunteer opportunities for their congregation, men's group, women's group, youth group, etc. We can work with you to find a project that fits the skill level of your church.

Call Tiff at the Camp Office at 641-792-1266 to volunteer!

(Updated March 2021)



SAVE THE DATE!

Nothing Can Separate Us from the Love of God Romans 8:31-39

> Disciples Virtual Gathering Saturday, August 7, 2021 #DISCIPLESCONNECT2021

News from the Pews

Stewardship Report

	March	April	YTD
Income:	\$23,041	\$19,242	\$72,809
Expenses:	\$20,049	\$18,285	\$80,886
Difference:	\$2,992	\$957	(\$8 <i>,</i> 077)

In and Out of the Hospital:

Sue Button, Darla Ewalt

In Deep Sympathy:

Our deepest sympathies go out to the family of ...

Liz Collazo & Guillermo Vélez, on the passing of Liz' mother, **Milagros Espina Berríos de Collazo**, who passed away on Sunday, March 28. Liz is the Administrative Assistant for FCC.

Eric Wierson, long-time regular participant and friend of FCC, who passed away on Wednesday, March 31. Eric was the brother of Matt Wierson; nephew of Meg Knol-Digby & David Digby, Ruth Johnson, and Sally Heer; and uncle to Ella and Emily Harris, and Everett and Shane Wierson. A private graveside service will be held at a later date.

Ray Lawson, member of FCC, who passed away on Thursday, April 22. Ray is survived by his wife of 67 years, Lillian Lawson; his sons, Steve Lawson and Ralph Lawson; daughters, Gloria (George) Meiborg and Donna Lawson; and his many grandchildren.

Mark and Jane Love and extended family, on the passing of **Mark's sister Rebecca**, who passed away on Saturday, May 1.

Bob Fitz, long-time member of FCC, who passed away on Sunday, May 2. Bob was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years, Mary Fitz, who was also a long-time member of FCC. He is survived by all four of his children, Diane (George) Lozovoy, David (Jeannie) Fitz, Roger (Judy) Fitz, and Suzanne (Doug) Clark; seven grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

Bonnie Smith, on the recent passing of her daughter, **Sandy Garner**.

May the love and deep peace of God surround these families and provide them comfort and strength as they grieve. And may the prayers and expressions of care from church family, friends and neighbors sustain them in the days ahead.



Church Work Day! On Saturday, May 8th, 2021, church folk gathered to lift up their sleeves and beautify our church outdoors, and landscaping. (Click photo to enlarge.)

Looking Ahead to Ecumenical Worship in July

During the month of July we will be joined "virtually" by the Ames United Church of Christ for joint worship as has been our tradition for many years, that we may "come together as one." The first two Sundays in July (4 & 11) we will hold Hybrid Worship in our sanctuary and Ames UCC will join us virtually. The last two Sundays in July (18 & 25), we will join Ames UCC virtually — but we will not worship in their sanctuary, as they have not yet started in-person worship. On Sunday, August 1, will be our traditional "Worship in the Park," and it will be different than usual, with be more details forthcoming.

June Birthdays

- 01 Jake Clark
- 01 Sue Prins
- 08 Isaac Brenden
- 11 Lyly Pendry
- 14 John Lott



- 21 Walter Pogwizd
- 23 Sherri Khan
- 30 Derek Krebs

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: <u>fccames@fccames.org</u>

Opportunities to Serve

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.**

> — Liz Collazo FCC Administrative Assistant

Stay Connected with FCC!

- <u>The Call Newsletter</u> Dive deeper into FCC happenings! Published and emailed every 3rd week of the month. Want it mailed? Call the Church Office at 232-5766.
- <u>Weekly News Update</u> The latest Church News, sent out every week on Thursdays.
- <u>Prayers of the People</u> Intercessory prayer requests sent out as needed. <u>Request prayers.</u>
- Follow us on Facebook First Christian Church (Disciples) Ames
- Missed worship on Sunday? Check out <u>Our YouTube Channel</u> Updated every following Monday.



"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)

- **SUPPORT** the Pentecost Offering. See Page 3 for more details
- 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.
- **PARTICIPATE** in a scheduled or community event from page 8.
- 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.

our Partners in Ministry



CLICK HERE TO APPLY

Raising Readers

Raising Readers in Story County is committed to a future in which generations of young children get a solid foundation in reading, communicating, and learning. This will help prepare them to become successful students, citizens, and workers. <u>Make an Impact! Here's How.</u> Email: director@raising-readers.org Phone: 515-520-8686

Join our e-mail list here!

Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, Inc. provides Story County households with Emergency Food Vouchers that allow for the purchase of food in local grocery stores.

What You Need to Apply:

- 1. A photo ID
- 2. Income information/verification for the entire household for the past 30 days
- 3. Listing of household expenses
- 4. Proof of Story County residency

Contact <u>assistance@gnea.org</u> or call **515-296-1449** for more information.



Domestic Abuse Services 24 Hour Toll Free Domestic Abuse Crisis Line 1-855-983-4641, <u>assaultcarecenter.org</u>

Our Mission

"To address the roots and impact of domestic and sexual violence through services that enhance safety, empower survivors, and promote our understanding of social justice within our community."

Volunteer: volunteer@assaultcarecenter.org; 515-292-0500





NEW! Food at First Newsletter!

FOOD AT FIRST FREE MEAL AND MARKET PROGRAM

Free Meal Times

Sunday through Thursday 5:45 pm – 6:15 pm

Saturday 11:30 am – 12:15 am

Free Market Times

Monday 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Thursday 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Saturday 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Donation Drop-Off

Donations can be dropped of at other times when arranged. Thank you for your support!

Monday through Thursday 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

Saturday 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Sunday 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

PATTY YODER, DIRECTOR, 515-344-4357, PATTY@FOODATFIRST.COM

Website: http://www.fccames.org/ Phone: (515) 232-5766 Ames, Iowa 50010-6137 611 Clark Avenue (Disciples of Christ) First Christian Church

Return Service Requested

Minister: Minister of Worship & Discipleship: Minister of Worship Arts: Ministry Coordinator for Children, Youth, and Families: Administrative Assistant: Worship Musician: **Building Custodian:** Nursery Attendant:

Mary Jane Button-Harrison **Tim Button-Harrison** Janet Lott

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.

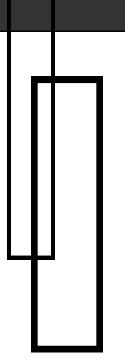
Melissa Webb

Liz Collazo

Ty Schwartz Sherri Khan

Karen LeCount

Staff at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Ames, IA:



The people of First Christian Church accept these values as core...

Genuinely accept, welcome and love everyone as Jesus did.