

The Call

ISSUE No. 07,
JULY 2021



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Can you believe summer break is already halfway over?! I pray that you are experiencing the joy of warm weather, sweet corn, garden produce, and maybe even more time with your family. At First Christian Church, since May, we have been holding “hybrid” worship – both in-person and online via Zoom. As we know, circumstances make it less safe or possible for some people to worship in person on Sunday morning. So even as we may, as safety allows, loosen up some of the restrictions for in-person worship, we will continue to offer Zoom as an option. (One of the biggest gifts we’ve received during the pandemic is learning how to worship via Zoom so people can still come to worship even when they are not feeling well or move away from Ames or during a snow storm, etc.) The Leadership Group will continue to monitor the situation and will take the thoughts and experiences of FCC members and friends into account

as they make decisions. Thanks to the Elders for their diligence in calling people. And thanks for your willingness to share!

John’s gospel recorded Jesus praying that as he and God are one, so might those who follow him be one. We talk of the one body of Jesus Christ that includes **all** who follow Christ. Disciples of Christ have taken those words to heart and endeavor to be an answer to Jesus’ prayer for unity. One way we do this is by worshipping together with Ames United Church of Christ, and First Baptist Church. This coming Sunday will be the 3rd in a series of 4 Sundays worshipping with Ames UCC. Details will follow this article. We have been sharing worship with UCC in July for longer than anyone remembers! What a wonderful way to live our unity as the body of Christ. Then, on Sunday, August 1st, the three congregations – FCC, UCC, and FBC (First Baptist Church) will share hybrid worship. Below you’ll find the Zoom link for that worship which will start at 10:00 AM. If you’d like to come in person, we will gather on the front lawn of First Baptist Church (bring your lawn chair).

On August 8th, we will return to hybrid worship (Zoom and in-person) at First Christian Church. Stay tuned for more details from the

(Continued on page 2)

Leadership Group regarding changes in protocols that will be made sometime in August. As the Apostle Paul says, we “are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” May we work together so that the body may be filled with health and joy and love!

—Pastor Mary Jane

Worship Schedule



**July 25
10:30 Am**

Ecumenical worship hosted by Ames United Church of Christ. Ames UCC will share their pre-recorded worship service with us, and we will watch it together in a Facebook Live “Watch Party” on [their Facebook page](#).

**August 1
10 AM**

Ecumenical Worship Outdoors! Join us for worship on the grounds of the First Baptist Church building, along with Ames United Church of Christ. Bring your own lawn chair. For those preferring virtual worship, there will be a [Zoom connection](#) available: Meeting ID: 302 054 4990 Passcode: 381038

**August 8
10:30 AM**

Return to Hybrid Worship, with more details to come.

Greetings all and shalom from all your Elders.

As much as this year and a half has been difficult, I believe that I speak for all the elders when I say that it has been a real joy getting to know you all better through our conversations. At least that part of this pandemic has been a blessing.

We are starting to feel safer now and the Leadership Group, formed to lead us through these dangerous times and back out again, is now talking about lessening the restrictions we have needed to keep us safe. Most of you have probably spoken to an Elder asking for your thoughts and experiences, and sharing a possible scenario we may use to start opening back up.

Thank you all for your willingness to be open with us and for sharing your doubts as well as your ideas. We are reading all your thoughts and suggestions and continue to monitor the pandemic situation, looking for trends and praying for a safe return to a more normal Sunday gathering of our people.

So many factors feed into what we need to do and these factors can change with hardly any notice. We are determined to find a balance between our yearning to get back together and our need to hold you all as safely as possible. This means there is a possibility we may take two steps forward and one step back, even more than once, before this is all over. But it will end.

Remember, lean on your Elders and share your fears and difficulties. We really want to help.

Blessings,

Sue Prins
Elder Chair

August Calendar

Pastor Mary Jane will be on vacation from Friday, July 23 to Fri., July 30.

Should you have a pastoral care need, you may contact these elders on call: Dawn Heaberlin at (515) 451-9618 and Deb Lewis at (515) 290-6736.

Liz Collazo will be on vacation from Monday, August 2 through Friday, August 6.

Melissa Webb will be on vacation from Thursday, August 5 through Friday, August 13.

- ♦ **Elder's Circle**
Every Monday, 10:45 am via Zoon
- ♦ **FCC Makes Lunch for Food at First**
Saturday, August 7, 9:30 am—1pm
- ♦ **Faith Formation Team Meeting**
Tuesday, August 10, 6 pm
- ♦ **Property Team Meeting**
Tuesday, August 10, 7:15 pm
- ♦ **BOARD MEETING**
Monday, August 9, 7 PM
- ♦ **Newsletter Deadline**
Monday, August 16, by NOON.
- ♦ **Trustees Meeting**
Monday, August 16, 7 pm
- ♦ **Council of Ministries Meetings**
Tuesday, August 24 at 7:00 pm

Scheduled Events:

- ⇒ **August 29, Outdoor Gathering for Families Youth, and Children. (See page 5.)**



Keeping Connected...

Zoom Weekly Activity Schedule

UPDATED



Sunday

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, July 22, 2021

If you need help with Zoom, you may contact David Gregory at 708-9004, or Amy Kuehl at 520-1896, and they would be glad to help you.



Poor People's Campaign announces series of Moral Monday actions now—Aug. 2

[Go to Poot People's Campaign Website.](#)

News from Camp:

“We won’t know how it’s going to end at the beginning. Keep going. Uncertainty is God’s invitation to join him.”

Live in Grace. Walk in Love
by Bob Goff

Leading up to camp, there is a great deal of excitement and energy that goes into packing, preparing and imagining what the week will hold for a camper, especially in 2021. There are often feelings of anxiousness and uncertainty as kids pack bug spray, sunscreen, clothes and...masks. Will the other kids like me? Will I fit in? Who will I know or remember from years before?

As family and friends of campers, we also experience feelings of nervousness. Will they have a great time and soak up all of the beauty camp life offers? Will they make new friends and enjoy the adults? Will they come home feeling energized?

There is always uncertainty that goes into planning to be away for a week, but when we accept God’s invitation to spend time on Holy Ground, we allow an ending to be written. Here are some of the endings our FCC youth experienced.

- Friendships that move beyond camp life
- Conversations we don’t take time to have in everyday life
- A feeling of REALLY connecting with people
- A sense of safety knowing we can be ourselves
- New relationships with adults who support our evolving faith
- A feeling of wanting the week to last longer
- Memories that will be carried for years to come
- A feeling of community as time is spent working and playing side by side

We are thankful for the churches and church people who make all of these endings possible for our

young people. May we find inspiration in their willingness and bravery to move beyond the uncertainty and accept the invitation to meet Jesus on Holy Ground.

Melissa Webb

Ministry Coordinator for Family, Youth and Children



Melissa (on the right) with co-directors at Junior Camp.



Nevan by Wolf Lake at Junior Camp.



Nevan swimming during pool time at Junior camp.



Devin at Chi Rho Country and not wanting to pose for a picture.

Youth News:

The youth and children met in person for the first time since March 2020! Each group gathered on different Sunday afternoons for hiking, smores, games, singing and socializing. We look forward to more opportunities to connect our youth in the near future. A big thank you to our volunteers: Marv, Sue, Deb and Darla.

Levi Webb will be at CYF camp from July 20-24. If you would like to email him, please put his name in the subject line and send it to campermail@newtonccc.org.

Save the date:

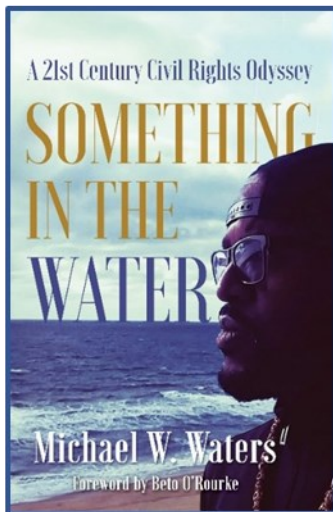
August 29th FYC (family, youth and children) Event



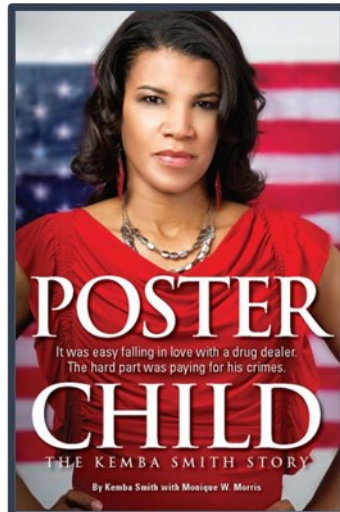
New Additions to the FCC Library

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.



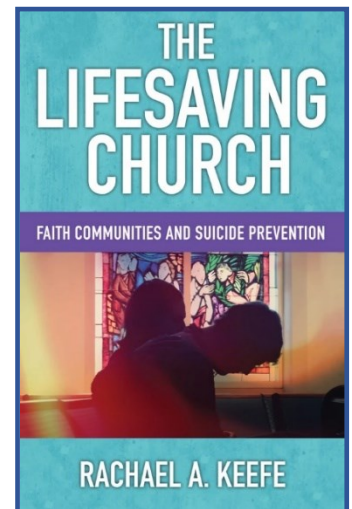
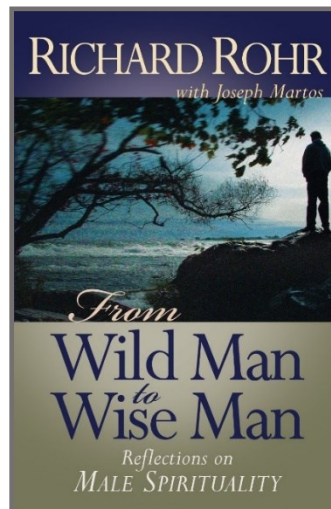
Waters, Michael W. *Something in the Water: A 21st Century Civil Rights Odyssey* (Chalice Press, 2020)



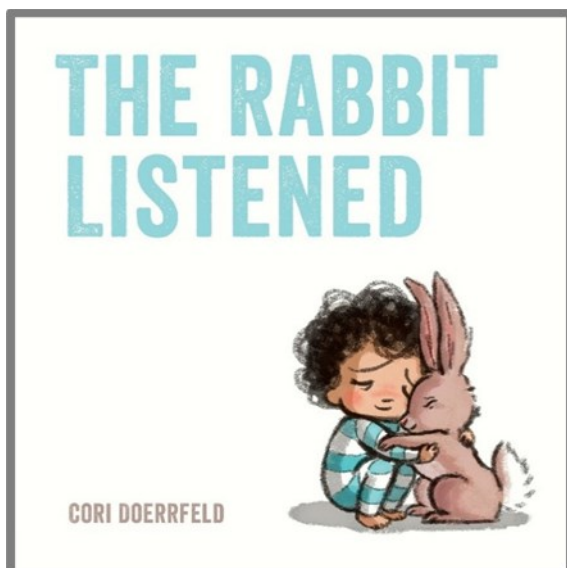
Smith, Kemba (with Monique W. Morris). *Poster Child: The Kemba Smith Story* (IBJ Book Publishing, 2011)

Note: The author was the keynote speaker at the 2021 NAACP Freedom Fund Event, which many of FCC's members and friends attended.

Rohr, Richard (with Joseph Martos). *From Wild Man to Wise Man: Reflections on Male Spirituality* (St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2005)



Keefe, Rachael A. *The Lifesaving Church: Faith Communities and Suicide Prevention* (Chalice Press, 2018)



Doerrfeld, Cori. *The Rabbit Listened* (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2018)

A highly recommended children's book about "healing heartaches, big and small, and taking the time to listen..."



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.



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.





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

Aug. 7
Disciples
Virtual Gathering

Aug 26
Regional Operations
Council Online

Sept 10-11
Committee on Ministry

Oct. 2 2021
All Congregational
Gathering and Regional
Minister Installation

[Regional Prayer Calendar](#)

Disciples Videos:

[About Virtual Gathering](#), info about the Aug 7 online church gathering

[Energy of Pentecost](#), message from General Minister

[More Disciples videos](#)



Dear Disciples,

You are invited to participate in the 2021 Disciples Virtual Gathering, on **Saturday, August 7, 2021!**

What is the Disciples Virtual Gathering? We are glad you asked! It's a one day event on August 7 where Disciples from across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in United States and Canada will gather virtually to:

- Hear Bible lectures with dynamic teachers
- Worship together, celebrating that **NOTHING** can separate us from the love of God
- Attend interactive and engaging workshops on relevant leadership and ministry topics
- Engage in a virtual exhibit hall that is informative and interactive
- **PLUS** a virtual lounge where participants can connect and chat with each other

You can see the full line up of speakers and a schedule [on our website](#).

It's all happening live on August 7, but you will have access to the exhibit hall and platform a few days early so you can browse, get a feel for the experience and prepare for a day of reflection, study, worship and learning.

We can't wait to see you there and celebrate that **NOTHING** can separate us from the love of God!

[Register Now](#)

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



The Church building 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

			June	YTD
Income:			\$12,578	\$103,187
Expenses:			\$16,465	\$114,448
Difference:			(\$3,887)	(\$11,261)

August Birthdays

- 04 Jim Lester
- 09 Shirley Malaby
- 10 Jo Lee
- 12 Abby Schwartz
- 13 Emma Mesenbrink
- 22 David Digby
- 23 Amy Kuehl
- 23 Harrison Walker
- 27 Jean Watson
- 30 Adelheid Spitzli



Congratulations Graduates!



We proudly recognize Nathan Schmitz, son of FCC member Doan Schmitz, who recently graduated from Des Moines Area Community College with an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts. Nathan is excited to pursue his next step, which is to complete a degree in Environmental Science from Iowa State University.

Congratulations, Nathan!



We would also like to proudly recognize Faith Pogwizd, daughter of Laura & Nic Pogwizd. Faith graduated from Ames High in 2020. She took a gap year and will be attending Hutchinson Community College in Hutchinson, Kansas in the Fall, to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science. Faith's family will be hosting a Graduation/Goodbye Party for her on Saturday, August 7th, at 5 PM.

Congratulations, Faith!

YOU'RE INVITED



First United
Methodist Church
First Christian Church
Ames United
Church of Christ

AMES ECUMENICAL VBS
AT AMES FIRST UMC
OR VIRTUAL
JULY 26-29, 2021
8:30AM-11:30AM
REGISTER AT

<https://www.fumcamesevents.com/>

PASSPORT TO IMAGINATION
SUMMER STORY TIME WITH NICOLE
COMING TO A PARK NEAR YOU!
WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00P.M.
FOR LIST OF LOCATIONS GO TO
FUMCAMESEVENTS.COM OR FOLLOW US
@AMESFIRSTUMC

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter icons

June 30 - **Christofferson Park** - 2130 Oakwood Rd, Ames
July 14 - **Miracle League/Inis Grove Park** - 2500 Duff, Ames
July 21 - **River Valley Park** - 725 E. 13th St, Ames
August 4 - **Moore Memorial Park** - 3050 Northridge, Ames
August 11 - **Country Gables Park** - 500 Crystal St, Ames
August 18 - **Banford Park** - 301 Prairie View Dr, Gilbert*

**Kona Ice will be served to celebrate and close out summer*



AMES ECUMENICAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021

JULY 26-29

8:30AM-11:30AM IN PERSON
VIRTUAL AVAILABLE ANYTIME

COVID GUIDELINES FOR IN PERSON

OUR GOAL IS TO CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL
TO LEARN ABOUT GOD'S LOVE



MASK USE

MASKS WILL BE WORN BY ALL LEADERS AND PARTICIPANTS.
SAFE TIMES FOR MASK BREAKS WILL BE A PART OF THE
SCHEDULE



SPACING & SOCIAL DISTANCING

WE WILL UTILIZE INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPACES FOR
GATHERING. INDOOR GROUPS WILL BE IN LARGE GATHERING
SPACES WITH GOOD VENTILATION.



FREQUENT HAND WASHING & HAND SANITIZING

LEADERS WILL HAVE HAND SANITIZER FOR ALL TO USE GOING
IN & OUT OF ROTATIONS. HAND WASHING OPPORTUNITIES WILL
BE WORKED INTO THE SCHEDULE



SANITIZING SURFACES

LEADERS WILL UTILIZE APPROVED CLEANING PRODUCTS IN THE
ROTATION ROOMS AND ON ANY SHARED EQUIPMENT BETWEEN
USES.



FOOD AND DRINK

SNACK TIME WILL BE THE ONLY TIME SET ASIDE FOR EATING.
PROPER DISTANCING WILL BE ENFORCED WITH NO FOOD
SHARING. ALL STUDENTS WILL BE GIVEN A WATER BOTTLE
THAT WILL BE REFILLED BY LEADERS AT BREAK TIMES

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.

— Liz Collazo
FCC Administrative Assistant

Stay Connected with FCC!

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

- **VOLUNTER** your summer with one of Ames’ wonderful community organizations, and partners in ministry. (Beginning page 4.)
- **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.

Our Partners in Ministry



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 assistance@gnea.org or call 515-296-1449 for more information.



Raising Readers
in Story County

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.

[Make an Impact! Here's How.](#)

Email: director@raising-readers.org

Phone: 515-520-8686

Join our e-mail list [here!](#)



ACCESS
Assault Care Center Extending Shelter & Support

Domestic Abuse Services

24 Hour Toll Free Domestic Abuse Crisis Line

1-855-983-4641, assaultcarecenter.org

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

Food at First

Free Meal Program +
Perishable Food Pantry



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 off 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

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
Ministry Coordinator for Children, Youth, and Families:	Melissa Webb
Administrative Assistant:	Liz Collazo
Worship Musician:	Ty Schwartz
Building Custodian:	Sherri Khan
Nursery Attendant:	Karen LeCount

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