

## Inside This Issue

Fall Kick-Off 2021	1
Worship Theme & Calendar	2
September Calendar	4
From the Trustees	5
Conversational Surveys	6
Nominations Update	7
Youth News	9
Child Safety Training/ Audio Visual Training	10
Regional News	11
News from the Pews	13
CROP Hunger Walk	14
Opportunities to Serve & Staying Connected	15
Our Ministry Partners	16

# Fall Kick-Off 2021

## The Call

ISSUE NO. 08, AUGUST 2021

### Fall Kick-Off Sunday, September 12, 2021

**A**t this time one year ago, when worship was online only, (except for the worship leaders and tech people in the sanctuary), we still declared, “Yes! We will have a Kick-Off Sunday.” And we did!! Do you remember the Fall Kick-Off Bags that we distributed to people as they drove through the parking lot? Inside was a hymnal, a bookmark, a coupon for ice cream, children’s washable tattoos and a variety of other things to make the best out of a difficult situation.

This year, once again, we declare, “Yes! We will have a Kick-Off Sunday.” But the how is a bit trickier because now we have hybrid worship. We have some people in-person in the sanctuary on Sunday morning and we have other people online via Zoom. We want to create an equivalent and meaningful worship and fellowship experience for all who come to worship no matter how you connect. So, this year Kick Off Sunday may remain a bit of a mystery until closer to the date.

Some possibilities for our 2021 Kick-Off may include:

- special music during worship
- small changes in the worship service
- learning time options
- digital pages based on the scripture for both children and adults
- fellowship opportunities

Stay tuned for more details as plans take shape. One way each of us can prepare for our Fall Kick-Off is to notice who you haven’t seen in worship recently and invite them to come to worship on September 12 (either online or in-person). We all have a part in encouraging one another! Together we can have an uplifting start to the program year, learning, growing, worshipping, praying, and serving God.

—Pastor Mary Jane



# *Rooted and Grounded in Love:*

## Beginning with God

### **Fall Worship 2021 Rooted and Grounded in Love: Beginning with God**

In August and the first Sunday in September, worship is centered on First Christian Church's Core Values:

- 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.

Last week we reflected on the second – Connect people to God and to one another. During Sunday's message I said, "People yearn for connection, and, if we didn't get that before the pandemic, hopefully we get it now. Hopefully we not only see the need for connection and relationship, we understand that the nature of that connection matters. People can connect based on hate. People can connect based on lies. People can connect in order to exclude others. People can connect in order to take more than their

share of resources. People can connect in all manner of ways that diminish life. And there are plenty of opportunities to denigrate God's vision and intention by connecting in those ways as we have seen so clearly in these last few years, and heightened by the isolation of the last year and a half. Yet, we, as church, continue to commit our lives and our connections to one another on the foundation of love; on God."

In Ephesians 3:17 we hear the prayer *"that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love."* That prayer continues, *"I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."* (Eph. 3:18-19) Then in the next chapter we read one of my favorite passages about how each are given gifts, and when each brings their gifts together to equip the saints for ministry, it builds up the body in Christ. *"We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must*

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

*grow up in every way... into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together...promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."* (Eph. 4:14-16)

No matter what happens in culture, or politics, or the marketplace, or in "other" groups who may bear the name "Christian," we gather to hold ourselves to that higher standard Jesus showed us in both word and deed. Being rooted and grounded in the love of God in Christ Jesus, we can be a people who speak truth, build up, strengthen, heal, restore, care, and connect to the source of life – to God, who, by the way, is love.

This year our theme will be "Rooted and Grounded in Love." We will be using the Narrative Lectionary scriptures and resources, and we will begin at the beginning – with God. Our Fall focus is, "Beginning With God" exploring many stories in the Hebrew Bible (aka Old Testament). Here, in these sacred scriptures (that were the foundation of Jesus' faith), God speaks, provides, promises, reveals, sustains, calls, sees, lives among us, revives, demands justice, and breaks chains. In order to stay rooted and grounded in love in these turbulent times, we remember who God is and who God calls us to be as God's people. May we share in this journey together!

—Pastor Mary Jane

## Summer Worship Schedule

<b>Aug. 22</b>	<b>Cultivate an Environment Where People Grow in Faith and Discipleship</b> Deuteronomy 6:4-9
<b>Aug. 29</b>	<b>Celebrate Everyone's Gifts</b> Deuteronomy 6:4-9
<b>Sept. 5</b>	<b>Minister in the Community with God's Healing Love</b> Deuteronomy 6:4-9

## Fall 2021 Worship Schedule



*Rooted and  
Grounded  
in Love:*

Beginning with God

<b>Sept. 12</b>	<b>God Speaks</b> Genesis 1:1-2:4a
<b>Sept. 19</b>	<b>God Provides</b> Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14
<b>Sept. 26</b>	<b>God Promises</b> Genesis 28:10-17
<b>Oct. 3</b>	<b>God Reveals</b> Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17
<b>Oct. 10</b>	<b>God Sustains</b> Exodus 16:1-18
<b>Oct. 17</b>	<b>God Calls</b> 1 Samuel 3:1-21
<b>Oct. 24</b>	<b>God Sees</b> 1 Samuel 16:1-13
<b>Oct. 31</b>	<b>God Lives Among Us</b> 1 Kings 8:1-13
<b>Nov. 7</b>	<b>God Revives the Desolate</b> 1 Kings 19:1-18
<b>Nov. 14</b>	<b>God Demands Justice</b> Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24
<b>Nov. 21</b>	<b>God Breaks Chains</b> Isaiah 9:1-7

# September Calendar

- ♦ **Elder's Circle**  
Every Monday, 10:45 am via Zoon
- ♦ **FCC Makes Lunch for Food at First**  
Saturday, September 4, 9:30 am—1pm
- ♦ **Faith Formation Team Meeting**  
Tuesday, September 14, 6 pm
- ♦ **Property Team Meeting**  
Tuesday, September 14, 7:15 pm
- ♦ **Newsletter Deadline**  
Monday, September 20, by NOON.
- ♦ **Trustees Meeting**  
Monday, September 20, 7 pm
- ♦ **Council of Ministries Meetings**  
Tuesday, September 28, at 7:00 pm

## Scheduled Events:

- ⇒ **August 29, 11:30 am -1:30 pm, Outdoor Gathering for Families Youth, and Children** (see page 9 for more information).
- ⇒ **September 1, 6:30 PM, Child Safety Training** via Zoom. Look for an email in the coming days.
- ⇒ **September 6, Church office closed** in observance of Labor Day.
- ⇒ **September 12, Fall Kick Off Sunday**
- ⇒ **September 18, Ames UCC Theologian in Residence** via Zoom, weekend →
- ⇒ **September 26 and October 3, Reconciliation Offering Received**

With all the changing CDC guidelines regarding COVID-19, a lot of things are up in the air right now. For updates regarding Fall Kick-Off Events and other related schedule changes, please keep an eye out for your weekly emails and special news updates.

## Keeping Connected...

### Zoom Weekly Activity Schedule

UPDATED



#### Sunday

<b>9:30 AM</b>	Zoom Room Opens Tech People Setup Musicians Practice	Online Link: <a href="http://www.fccames.org/SundayWorship">www.fccames.org/SundayWorship</a> Phone Connection: (312) 626-6799 ID: 83549778613#
<b>10:20 AM</b>	Doors Open for In-Person Worship	
<b>10:30 AM</b>	Worship (through Zoom or In-Person)	

#### Wednesday

<b>12:15 PM</b>	Midweek Intercessory Prayers Online Link: <a href="http://fccames.org/WednesdayPrayers">fccames.org/WednesdayPrayers</a> Meeting ID: 826 9816 5415   Passcode: 645905 Phone Connection: (312) 626-6799 ID: 82698165415#
-----------------	---

#### Thursday

<b>10:00 AM</b>	Coffee Fellowship Online Link: <a href="http://fccames.org/CoffeeFellowship">fccames.org/CoffeeFellowship</a> 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.

#### AMES UCC THEOLOGIAN IN RESIDENCE

Ames United Church of Christ invites you to attend the 36th Annual Theologian in Residence event featuring Dr. Karen L. King  
**Sept 18-19, 2021.**

Due to the pandemic, the event will be offered remotely via Zoom. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.





# An Update from the FCC Trustees

The Trustees of First Christian Church continue to be grateful for the financial support of church members and friends.



Our current budget numbers do warrant some attention and concern. We continue to operate with a year-to-date deficit—that is, the cumulative difference between income and expenses. Fortunately, the deficit declined slightly between July 1 (-\$11,261) and August 1 (-\$11,251). Hopefully, increased giving—both pledged and unpledged—will continue to close this gap.

Typically, in the month of September, a letter is mailed from the church office to all those who have made financial gifts to the church during the current year, providing donors with a record of what they have given to date (through August 30). In the hope that this information is helpful, we will continue the practice this year. Please watch for this update letter, and consider prayerfully how you can best continue to support FCC's mission and ministries in the remaining months of 2021.

## ***Designated Giving List***

In addition to overseeing the church's annual budget, the Trustees work with FCC's General Board to maintain a list of purposes for which "designated gifts" may be given to the church. Typically, items on this list represent projects or programs that cannot be funded through the operating budget. They may be short-term, or very long-term. Over the years, this list has included programs like the LifeTree Café, as well as renovation projects in the Sanctuary, the Coffee House, Second Floor, and Fellowship Hall.

At the August 9th meeting of the Board, the Trustees recommended (and the Board approved) that the current Designated Giving List be revised. The list now includes the following three items: (1)

Replacement of the doors at the West entrance; (2) Ongoing funding for the Ministry Coordinator for Children, Youth, and Families; and (3) Replacement and updating of external signage. By placing these projects/programs on the Designated Giving List, we signal that donations to support them are welcomed by the church. If you would like additional information about any of these initiatives, or would like to make a supplemental gift to help advance them, please contact one of the FCC Trustees.

Likewise, if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding our work, feel free to reach out to any of the Trustees of First Christian Church.

*--David Gregory, Roger Bertelsen,  
and DeLores Hawkins (2021 FCC Trustees)*

## ***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.

# July Conversational Surveys

So, how are people feeling about church these days?

In July, the Leadership Team and the Elders conducted a “conversational survey” of church members and friends, asking about their worship experiences and listening to their ideas about the future. An amazing 84 people responded, representing 57 households! The following is a quick summary of those responses.

Thirty-nine respondents attended worship in person this summer. All but four of them were comfortable with their experience. Of these, one person felt that Covid precautions were not strong enough, and three thought there were too many precautions. Seventy-two of us have worshipped by Zoom—many expressing a desire that the Zoom option continue.

When we asked people about barriers to worship, 52 respondents felt they had indeed experienced barriers. Half of them (26) were concerned about their risk of exposure to Covid. The other half had personal issues such as transportation, childcare, work schedules, and personal plans. Seven people saw the mask requirement as a barrier (believing masks to be unnecessary), and two expressed frustration with the RSVP process. Twenty-seven people stated they had not experienced barriers to worship.

The survey asked which safety precautions are important to our members and friends. Forty-five respondents believe that masks are important, 29 talked about the importance of distancing, and 15 mentioned vaccinations and/or boosters. Others mentioned pre-packaged communion, no hand shaking, and limiting time indoors.

When we asked about returning to in-person worship, 65 respondents felt positive about returning, despite concerns about seniors, children, and immune-compromised folks. Twelve people felt

negatively about returning to in-person worship. Ten of these folks do not feel safe with current precautions and two felt that precautions were excessive. Seven of us were undecided or did not respond to this question.

Finally, we asked people to respond to a proposed scenario for opening back up with fewer restrictions, but keeping masks. Seventy-five of us liked the scenario, with a variety of commentary. Six were generally negative toward the proposed scenario, four of them believing that the precautions were excessive, and two that the precautions were not strict enough.

True to form, our FCC community remains a diverse, but committed, bunch!

The Leadership Group is grateful to all who participated in this survey, and will take these findings to heart as we continue to plan the in-person worship experience at First Christian Church.

Leadership Group – Survey Task Team  
David Gregory, Amy Kuehl,  
Sue Prins, and Pastor Mary Jane

## Changes to In-Person Worship

Thanks to the Elders and everyone who shared their thoughts and experiences through a conversational survey recently. We were pleased to receive 84 responses representing 57 households. The Leadership Group is using this helpful information along with COVID-related data from Story County to make the best possible decisions regarding protocols for Sunday morning worship.

At this point the Leadership Group has decided to make changes to in-person worship that we hope

will enhance the in-person experience without compromising safety:

- **You will no longer need to RSVP.** Just grab your mask and show up!
- While seating will continue to be socially distanced, **you can choose to sit in any available seat with anyone in your household or "bubble."**
- Although masks will still be required during worship and while in the building, **you can enjoy outdoor fellowship after worship, where masks will be optional.** Fellowship will be on the shady north side of the building. Lawn chairs and cold water will be provided. (Feel free to bring your own coffee or other beverage.)

These were some of the most popular changes in the scenario that was discussed during the conversational survey. It is important for other safety precautions to remain in place until Story County numbers improve. These include:

- **Masks will still be required for all attendees** except children under two years old while indoors. (Disposable masks are available if you forget.) This is still the best way to protect one another.
- **Socially distanced seating will be maintained**, but with more choice regarding where and with whom you sit.
- **Continue to park in the Fareway Supermarket lot** and enter and the church using the southeast "bell-tower" door where the ramp is. (When exiting the building those staying for fellowship may exit through the north door opening into the playground area.)
- **We'll continue to provide a no-touch offering box and pre-packaged communion.**
- **We'll continue to limit the time spent indoors** to 40-50 minutes (including gathering and exiting).
- **ZOOM Worship will continue!**

As always, please stay home if you are feeling unwell.

# Nominations Update

As we head into fall, it will be time soon for the FCC Nominations Committee to prayerfully and carefully begin preparing nominations for 2022 leadership at First Christian Church.

These nominations will be submitted to the General Board for its consideration at the October meeting and then to the congregation during the annual December meeting.

This year, we have witnessed together the sharing of many gifts of leadership and service at FCC. These gifts have allowed us to support our local ministry partners, support our community here in Ames and beyond, care deeply for one another during times of ongoing challenge, and much more.

Your input, suggestions, and prayers during the nominations process are always gratefully invited and appreciated. A list of the FCC leadership positions is shared on the next page. If you would like to share your thoughts or if you have questions, please contact Stacey Maifeld at [staceymaifeld@gmail.com](mailto:staceymaifeld@gmail.com) or at 515-520-9844.

Thank you!

Stacey Maifeld  
Nominations chair

# LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AT FCC



**The Board Chair:** Presides at all meetings of the General Board and Congregation and performs other duties normally associated with the office of the Chair. *Thick skin, can stay on task, well grounded, internal strength, humor, spiritual maturity, enthusiasm, good at asking the right questions, diplomacy skills, available and responsive.*

**The Vice-Chair:** Supports the Chair, presides in the Chair's absence, and serves as Chair of the Personnel Committee. *Thick skin, can stay on task, well grounded, internal strength, humor, spiritual maturity, enthusiasm, good at asking the right questions, diplomacy skills, available and responsive.*

**The Secretary:** Keeps Minutes of all meetings of the General Board and Congregation and provides them for review and approval by the General Board. *Good listener, organized, detail oriented, focused.*

**The Treasurer:** Records expenses of the Congregation, provides written reports of income and expenses to the General Board and signs checks. *Detail oriented, comfortable with numbers, self-motivated, problem solvers.*

**The Financial Secretary:** Records and deposits all income, tracks individual pledges and reports to the General Board. *Detail oriented, comfortable with numbers, self-motivated, problem solvers.*

**The Property Committee Chair:** Recruits committee members, leads the Property Committee, coordinates its work with the Trustees, and reports to the General Board. *Mission-focused, works well with others.*

**The Nominations Committee Chair:** Leads the Nominations Committee and reports to the General Board. *Sees the big picture, empowers people, sees gifts of others, works well with a team.*

**Stewardship Committee Chair:** Recruits committee members, leads the Stewardship Committee, coordinates its work with the Trustees, and reports to the General Board. *Leads an intentional process, enthusiasm for Stewardship as it applies to the whole of life.*

**Elders:** Seek the greatest spiritual growth of all members, preside at communion, and share with the minister(s) in pastoral responsibilities. *Handles tough questions gracefully, leadership skills, ability to listen without judgement, calm during conflict or anxious situations, mature, respect for confidentiality, works well with others, open-hearted, compassionate, slow to anger, "has seen it all."*

**Deacons:** Are responsible for a ministry of service, most visibly known in communion and baptism. *Caring, serves with a sense of purpose, flexible.*

**Trustees:** Serve as legal agents for the Congregation and present an annual Congregational budget to the General Board in advance of the annual meeting of the Congregation. *Seasoned individuals, may have served in other positions previously, sees big picture, does due diligence.*

**Council of Ministries Moderator:** Leads the Council of Ministries and reports to the General Board. *Team-oriented, organized, skilled listener, spiritually mature, encouraging, understands FCC Core Values and Future Story.*

**Delegates (Ames Ecumenical Housing, Emergency Residence, Good Neighbor, and Food at First):** Represent the Congregation on Boards of these organizations. *Passionate about the organizations' programs and their impact in the community.*



**A**t church this past Sunday, we listened as Pastor Mary Jane and Darla spoke to us about being connected in life and to one another. It seems most living things have a basic need for connection. We long for human relationships where we feel welcomed, inspired, loved and safe. We thrive in relationships with animals as we love and care for them like family. We connect with plants in nature and all around us as we dance back and forth providing life to one another.

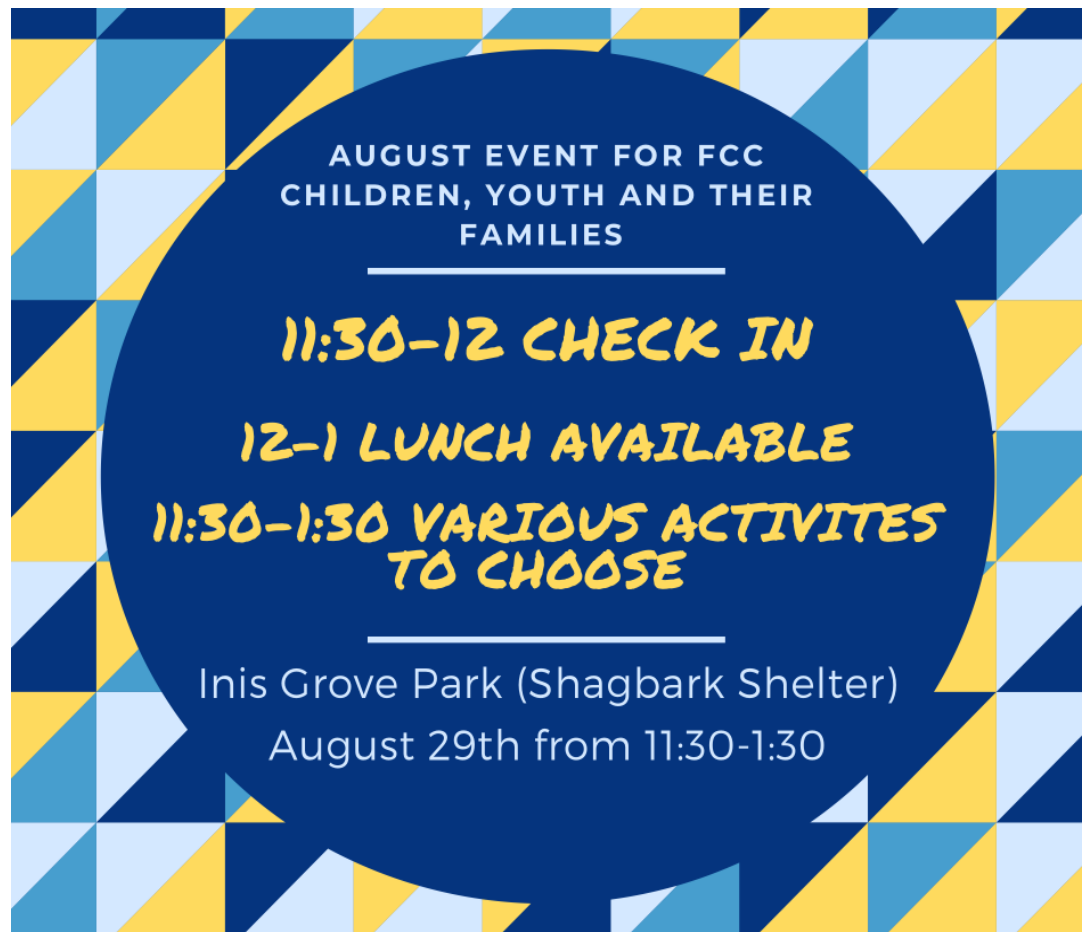
As part of my ministry at FCC, I have the privilege of dreaming up ways to bring our children, youth and their families together for connection. In July, we gathered our youth and children on two different occasions. It had been over a year since most of us had seen one another in person. We took time to get to know one another again and enjoyed a couple of lighthearted hours together in nature.

On August 29th from 11:30-1:30, we are hosting yet another opportunity for children, youth and their families to come together in outdoor fellowship. This is a great time to reconnect and remember the joy that comes from being together. We hope

many of you will join us for lunch, games and an opportunity to re-establish or create connections with one another.

If you are a family with children ranging in age from Kindergarten-12th grade and you did not receive an email with an invitation to RSVP, please contact me at [melissataylorwebb@gmail.com](mailto:melissataylorwebb@gmail.com). And if you haven't yet filled out the RSVP, please help us plan for food by doing this. I look forward to seeing many of you real soon!

Melissa Webb  
Ministry Coordinator  
for Families, Youth and Children



AUGUST EVENT FOR FCC  
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND THEIR  
FAMILIES

---

**11:30-12 CHECK IN**

**12-1 LUNCH AVAILABLE**

**11:30-1:30 VARIOUS ACTIVITIES  
TO CHOOSE**

---

Inis Grove Park (Shagbark Shelter)  
August 29th from 11:30-1:30



## Child Safety Training and Discussion

**Wednesday, September 1st  
at 6:30 pm, via Zoom**

**A**ttention parents and caring adults of FCC! Each year you are invited and encouraged to attend a training and discussion session on how we keep our children safe while they are in the care of the church.

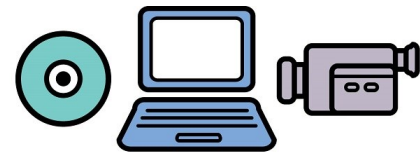
**Everyone who works with children** in any way is required to attend the session and to sign a statement indicating agreement with and willingness to follow our policies.

We do this because we love our children and want to make sure no harm ever comes to them while in our care. Please plan to come to this session.

We want to extend a **special invitation** to people who may not have taken this recently.

**We need to grow our pool of adults and youth who can help with childcare and who know how to make sure we keep our children safe.**

If you have questions, please contact  
Melissa Webb (515-249-3879,  
[melissataylorwebb@gmail.com](mailto:melissataylorwebb@gmail.com)),  
Nancy Schroeder (233-2338) or  
Mary Jane Button-Harrison (232-5766).



**AUDIO-VISUAL**  
---team---

*Do You Hear  
What I Hear...  
Do You See  
What I See?*

**W**e have been blessed with capable and devoted tech people (Stacey, Marv and Jake) who make our seeing and hearing of the worship services possible. Without them, we wouldn't have our worship services come alive the way they do for people both in the sanctuary and online. We thank them for this work. And we need more people like them to help out on Sunday mornings.

**Could you help people hear and see Sunday morning worship?**

We're looking for people to run sound, camera, and Zoom services on Sunday mornings. Yes, there will be training and mentoring along the way. Yes, covid safety protocols are followed with masking and social distancing in the balcony. Yes, this is important and meaningful work as we move into a long-term hybrid service. Yes, we need you! Contact Janet Lott, [jalott@isunet.net](mailto:jalott@isunet.net) or 515-520-7158, if you are willing to learn and become part of this essential team for First Christian worship.



## Around the Region — Things We Do Together

For more info or to register for events:

[www.uppermidwestcc.org](http://www.uppermidwestcc.org)

Below, @CCC = held at the Christian Conference Center

**Aug. 12-25**  
Regional Minister on Vacation

**Aug. 23-27**  
Associate Regional Minister on Vacation

**Aug 26**  
Regional Operations Council Online

**Sept 10-11**  
Committee on Ministry

**Sept. 23**  
Regional Operations Council Online

**Oct. 1-3**  
UMW Fall Women's Retreat, Koronis Assembly Grounds

**Oct. 2 2021**  
All Congregational Gathering and Regional Minister Installation

**Oct. 28**  
Regional Operations Council Online

[Regional Prayer Calendar](#)

[Disciples videos](#)

# Gathering Together

*Rev. Joshua Patty  
Regional Minister and President*



On October 2, our region will host our Upper Midwest All-Congregation Gathering. Our regional staff are optimistic that many will gather at the Christian Conference Center in person. Of course, we plan to offer ways for people to connect remotely.

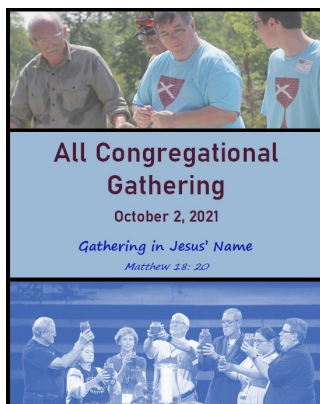
That same weekend, many women will gather for the annual Upper Midwest Fall Women's Retreat. After holding an online retreat in September 2020, the coordinators are optimistic that many will gather at Lake Koronis Assembly Grounds in person.

It is not intentional that both events are being held at the same time. When this was discovered by the two planning teams in late March, it was too late to easily reschedule either event. I think it's an unfortunate result of the COVID interruption, coupled with not enough communication.

One of the happy challenges in our region is that our Christian Conference Center is becoming a popular venue for a variety of events, especially on weekends. Many people are excited to host in person events this fall... and next fall. We are already scheduling events at the Christian Conference Center throughout 2022 -- including next year's All-Congregation Gathering, planned for October 14-15, 2022.

However and wherever it happens, it is always good to connect with one another. For the past 18 months, we've relied heavily on technology to accomplish this. Now, more and more, as it becomes safer (and remember, it's not safe yet for those too young to be vaccinated and those of all ages who are immuno-compromised), it is also good to share the same physical space and opportunities for fist bumps, hand shakes, and hugs. It is good to gather together in the sacred spaces where Jesus is in our midst.

[\(Read the August Regional Newsletter.\)](#)



Plan to join your fellow Upper Midwest Disciples at the 2021 All Congregational Gathering either in person at the Christian Conference Center or virtually! The day will be filled with worship, fun, inspiration, connection, and the Installation Service of our own Regional Minister and President, Rev. Joshua Patty.

**Register Today!**

For more information, visit: <https://www.uppermidwestcc.org/2020acg>



## Upper Midwest Christian Women's Retreat

### Spiritual Practices

October 1-3, 2021  
Lake Koronis Assembly Grounds  
Paynesville, MN

We get to be LIVE and IN PERSON this year! **We will also offer livestream events of the retreat for those who cannot attend in person.**

Plan to attend and learn ways to strengthen your spiritual relationship with God and with others.

[Register Today](#)



RECONCILIATION  
MINISTRY

## 2021 Special Day Offering Revealing God's Justice

**"The time is always ripe to do what is right." –  
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Special offering to support Reconciliation Ministries will be taken on September 26, 2021, and October 3, 2021. Your advocacy and financial support are much appreciated.



*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](https://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.





## 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](mailto:fccames@fccames.org)

## Stewardship Report

			July	YTD
Income:			\$19,517	\$122,704
Expenses:			\$19,507	\$133,955
Difference:			\$10	(\$11,251)

## September Birthdays

- 01 Bonnie Smith
- 06 Nancy Schroeder
- 07 Bob Watson
- 12 Terry Lewis
- 14 Cynthia Gaunt
- 15 Pastor Mary Jane
- 15 Diane Neal
- 25 Carolyn Gagnier
- 28 Jane Love
- 28 Nic Pogwizd



## Diane Neal - 90th birthday Open House Celebration in the Community room on

Sunday, Sept. 19 from 1:30 - 3:30pm



Friends from Green  
Hills are invited to  
attend or  
send a card to:  
Diane Neal  
2355 Hamilton Circle,  
Apt. 16  
Ames, IA 50014

Friends and family of Diane Neal are invited to attend an  
**Open House Celebration of her 90th Birthday**  
in the Community Room,  
at the Green Hills Retirement Community,  
on Sunday, September 19, from 1-:30 pm.

### Diane loves birthday cards!

If you are not able to attend,  
you are welcome to mail a birthday card to her at:

Diane Neal  
2355 Hamilton Circle, Apt. 16,  
Ames, IA 50014

## The Secret Place

### Fall 2021 Devotionals are in!

This quarterly devotional for September,  
October, and November is available in both  
small and large print editions. Stop by the  
church office during business hours (call or  
text from the parking lot) or call/email us to  
request your FREE copy at 515-232-5766,  
[fccames@fccames.org](mailto:fccames@fccames.org).







## Join the FCC Team for “Hybrid” CROP Walk 2021

As you may recall, last year’s annual CROP Walk was considered a virtual event. Participants in the Ames area, including many from First Christian Church, did their fund-raising collaboratively, but took their walks individually. It wasn’t quite as festive as our traditional “community walk,” but hey, we still raised money to help alleviate world hunger, and that’s our ultimate goal.

This year, the Ames Area CROP Walk will be—somewhat predictably—a *hybrid* event. Groups and individuals can choose to join a community walk on the afternoon of Sunday, October 10, or can plan their own walks as they did in 2020. Details on the community walk are forthcoming, but will include safety protocols appropriate to a well-spaced outdoor gathering.

Remember, there are lots of ways to support the annual CROP Walk! This month, we are sending out the call for team members. If you’d like to be a part of the FCC CROP Walk Team, you commit to both “talking the talk” (requesting donations from family and friends) and “walking the walk.” The walk itself has always been a symbolic gesture, to honor people around the world who *must* walk—every day, and often for great distances—to secure food and water.

We anticipate that some FCC team members may want to walk individually, and others may want to join the community walk on October 10. Either is fine! Our shared goal is to start raising funds. To sign up, contact one of our two FCC CROP Walk co-chairs:

David Gregory (515-708-9004;

[dgregory@iastate.edu](mailto:dgregory@iastate.edu))

Mary VonAh-Gregory (515-520-5536;

[mvonahgregory@yahoo.com](mailto:mvonahgregory@yahoo.com))

Money raised through the CROP Walk helps to fund food programs sponsored around the world by Church World Service. In addition, 25% of the total amount raised by Ames-area walkers is earmarked for *local* food programs right here in our community.

**Watch the September issue of The Call for details about the FCC CROP Walk Team, and how you can contribute to our fund-raising effort!**

*First Christian Church,*

*Thank you for your financial support of our regional and general ministries in the first six months of 2021. Your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund and Special Offerings invest in the vital work of almost all of our general ministries and the many ministries of our Upper Midwest Region. Your Generosity strengthens our mission to be Disciples Together.*

*Thank you!*  
Rev. Joshua J. Patty  
Regional Minister and President

# opportunities to serve



Solidarity  
WE ALL ARE EARTH CITIZENS

*"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. (See page 13.)
- **NOMINATE** new leadership for 2022. Help the Nominations Team find new leadership for 2022. (See pages 5-6.)
- **PARTICIPATE** in Child Safety training to help us keep our children safe. (See page 5)
- **PLEDGE** your financial support to the Church in 2021 and beyond, especially during these challenging times.
- **CONNECT** with those you haven't seen in a while by making phone calls or sending greeting cards to share our love and concern for one another.
- **HELP** keep our building and grounds looking great by lending a hand when needed. See Jim Lester (515-203-5097) or Bob Logston ([blogston55@gmail.com](mailto:blogston55@gmail.com)) for more information.
- **SHARE** your talents in worship by singing, reading, helping with audio/visuals, etc. Contact Janet Lott at [jalott@isunet.net](mailto:jalott@isunet.net) for more information.
- **WELCOME** and assist others on Sunday mornings as a Worship Assistant. Contact Vern Hawkins 515-291-0447 for more information.
- **FIGHT** hunger by joining FCC's core team of Food at First Volunteers. For more information, you may contact David Gregory at [dgregory@iastate.edu](mailto:dgregory@iastate.edu).

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.

## 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.

# Our Partners in Ministry



**CLICK HERE TO APPLY**

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:PATTY@FOODATFIRST.COM)



# WELCOME HOME STUDENTS!

*We're only a  
CyRide stop away!*

**First Christian Church**  
(Disciples of Christ)

*Come journey with us.*  
A movement for wholeness  
in a fragmented world.



*Proud member of the Ames Chamber of Commerce*

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:	Jenna (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