

The Call

ISSUE NO. 09, SEPTEMBER 2021

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New This Fall

There are two new gatherings beginning this week. One on Sunday morning and one on Wednesday evening. Both gatherings are an opportunity to be with others in a spirit of learning and connecting in faith.

Sunday Adult Learning Time

Beginning Sunday, September 26, 9:30 - 10:15 AM

In person or via Zoom (www.fccames.org/SundayWorship)

Darla Ewalt and Abby Schwartz will lead a time of learning and discussion of the biblical text for each Sunday and you are invited to join in!

Wednesday Circle on the Lawn

September 22 - October 15, 6:30-7:30 PM

On the southeast lawn (corner of 6th and Clark)

You are invited to a weekly outdoor gathering for 4 Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 7:30 PM beginning **Wednesday, September 22nd with a sing-a-long**. Come sing a variety of songs and hymns with your FCC friends.

Bring a lawn chair or use one of FCC's. This is for people of all ages. There will be special activities for children and youth.



FCC has a CROP Walk Team!

This year, the Ames Area CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 10, and once again First Christian Church has assembled a crackerjack team of walkers to help raise money to alleviate hunger, both locally and around the world. Members of this year's FCC CROP Walk Team include: Pastor Mary Jane Button-Harrison; Cynthia Gaunt; Mary and David Gregory (Team Co-Chairs); Vern Hawkins; Stacey Maifeld; Anleah, Tiffany, and Scott Walker; Melissa Webb; and Don Withers. Melissa is also rounding up some FCC children and youth to join the team, and is planning some cool, CROP-related activities for them.

After last year's "virtual" event, this year's CROP Walk will be a *hybrid* event. Groups and individuals can choose to join the community walk on the afternoon of Sunday, October 10, or can plan their own walks as they did in 2020. Either way, the "walking" part of CROP Walk 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.

As always, *you* can support CROP Walk by sponsoring any one of these FCC walkers, or simply donating to the FCC Team. We have set a team goal of \$2,000 and are dedicated to meeting or surpassing that goal, as we did last year!

Money raised through 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*

How to donate to an individual walker or to the FCC Team!

There are several ways in which you can donate. Please choose from among the following...

- Make a check out to **CWS/CROP** and mail it to: First Christian Church, 611 Clark Ave., Ames, IA, 50010. If you want to sponsor an individual walker, note that on the memo line. Otherwise, your donation will go to the FCC Team.
- Use the DONATE button that appears in this article or in other CROP-related articles released by First Christian Church (in The Call or in Weekly News Updates).
- Go to the Ames CROP Hunger Walk website (www.crophungerwalk.org/amesia) and use the **DONATE** button to make an online donation. The process is very easy, and you can donate to either an individual walker or to our team, named "First Christian Church of Ames."
- If you can do so in a way that is safe, secure, and comfortable for you, you can still give cash or a check (made out to **CWS/CROP**) directly to anyone on the FCC CROP Walk Team.

If you need help making your donation, please feel free to contact anyone on the FCC CROP Walk Team, including co-chairs David Gregory (515-708-9004) and Mary VonAh-Gregory (515-520-5536), or call the church office.

food programs right here in our community.

Two years into the Covid pandemic, we are learning how public health crises can intensify the problem of hunger in our communities and around the world. Please consider prayerfully how your donation to the FCC CROP Walk Team could help to address this urgent need.

Stay tuned for progress reports, and thank you for your support. Go Team FCC!

--Mary and David Gregory (Co-Chairs, 2021 FCC CROP Walk Team)

Who Benefits from CROP Walk?

GLOBALLY...

75% of the money raised by the Ames Area CROP Walk goes to Church World Service (CWS), a cooperative ministry of 37 Christian denominations and communions, providing sustainable self-help, development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance around the world. The CWS mission is to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice at the national and international level through collaboration with partners abroad and in the US.

LOCALLY...

25% of the money raised by the Ames Area CROP Walk stays right here in our community, and is distributed to the following agencies assisting in hunger relief:

- Bethesda Food Shelf
- Calvary Food Shelf
- Food at First
- Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance
- Loaves and Fishes Food Shelf
- MICA
- SHOP Food Pantry (ISU Students Helping Our Peers)

Hey FCC Youth and Children...

We need your walking feet to help end hunger! On Sunday, October 10th at 1:30, we will be gathering for our annual Crop Walk to raise funds to fight hunger locally AND around the world. This year, FCC is adding a twist for youth and children, so you won't want to miss it. We will plan to walk the same route we have walked in the past, but this year, we are adding three stations between the beginning and the end. At each station, we will have a volunteer equipped to splatter you with colored chalk. By the end of your hunger hike, you will be a chalky, colorful mess! (**Please note:** You certainly don't *have* to get chalked, or you can request *moderate* chalking.)

The good news doesn't stop there! We will be preparing for the Crop walk during our Wednesday evening gatherings at 6:30. Starting September 22nd and continuing for the next two Wednesdays, we will tell you more about who benefits from you doing this walk, create posters for our three stations, get you registered for the walk and personalize your very own white t-shirt to be worn on October 10th!

This is such a fun way for us to get together again, have a blast and also raise money to help people. We hope to see you



in the upcoming weeks as we prepare for a fun, meaningful event. If you are unable to attend on the 10th, but you want to participate, please talk to Melissa about other options that are available to you.

Melissa Webb
Ministry Coordinator for
Families, Youth and Children

October Calendar

Pastor Mary Jane will be on vacation from Thursday, October 21, through, Friday, October 29.

- ♦ **Elder's Circle**
Every Monday, 10:45 am via Zoon
- ♦ **FCC Makes Lunch for Food at First**
Saturday, October 2, 9:30 am—1pm
- ♦ **Faith Formation Team Meeting**
- ♦ **Meeting of the General Board**
Monday, October 11, 6 pm
- ♦ **Property Team Meeting**
Tuesday, October 12, 7:15 pm
- ♦ **Newsletter Deadline**
Monday, October 18, by NOON.
- ♦ **Trustees Meeting**
Monday, October 18, 7 pm
- ♦ **Council of Ministries Meetings**
Tuesday, October 26, at 7:00 pm

Scheduled Events:

- ⇒ **Reconciliation Offering Received**, September 26 and October 3.
- ⇒ **FCC participates in the Ames 2021 CROP Hunger Walk**, October 10 (see page 2, for more details and how you can sponsor a walker.)

Wednesday Circle on the Lawn

September 22 - October 15, 6:30-7:30 PM

On the southeast lawn (corner of 6th and Clark)



You are invited to a weekly outdoor gathering for 4 Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 7:30 PM beginning Wednesday,

September 22nd with a sing-a-long. Come sing a variety of songs and hymns with your FCC friends.

Bring a lawn chair or use one of FCC's. This is for people of all ages. There will be special activities for children and youth.

Keeping Connected...

Zoom Weekly Activity Schedule

UPDATED



Sunday

9:30 AM	— Zoom Room Opens	Online Link: www.fccames.org/SundayWorship Phone Connection: (312) 626-6799 ID: 83549778613#
	Tech People Setup Musicians Practice — Adult Learning Time	
10:20 AM	Doors Open for In-Person Worship	
10:30 AM	Worship (through Zoom or In-Person)	

Wednesday

12:15 PM	Midweek Intercessory Prayers	Online Link: fccames.org/WednesdayPrayers Meeting ID: 826 9816 5415 Passcode: 645905 Phone Connection: (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 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.

TAKING THE LEAD 2021

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
6 PM CST | SERIES 3

"Incarceration to Community Reintegration"

JOIN US **LIVE ONLINE** FOR THE AMES/STORY COUNTY CONVERSATION

LIVE @AMESIOWABRANCHOFTHENAACP
 @AMES-IOWA NAACP

Program Sponsors:

Fall 2021 Worship Schedule



*Rooted and
Grounded
in Love:*

Beginning with God

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



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.

*Greetings from the
Hansons and the people
of the Evangelical and
Reformed Church of
Honduras!*

*Greetings from the
local church in
Río Chiquito!*

We previously served as mission co-workers in Honduras from 2004-2009, and now we have been invited to return following two devastating hurricanes hitting Honduras in November of 2020. We are excited and humbled to be invited to return to Honduras to serve a nation and people we had come to love, a country struggling with abject poverty, government corruption, gang violence and the effects of the COVID pandemic.

This time our placement is in the department of Omoa, on the northwest part of Honduras. Río Chiquito is a small *pueblo* of around 4000 people, only 15 kilometers from the Guatemalan border. In some ways it reminds of us of small town Iowa, with friendly neighbors, and a small grocery that sells primarily beans and rice, chicken, oil, chips, and really good ice cream bars! Neighbors drop by to give us plantains, avocados, and tripe soup. We live a few miles from beautiful beaches and mountains, eat delicious fresh seafood, and have the blessing of air conditioning in our bedroom for days when the heat is overwhelming.

We were called to health care ministry, and have provided some “mini-brigades” of simple health care advice and over-the-counter medications to members of the local church and to people still living in temporary shelter following the hurricanes. This usually consists of giving people Tylenol, antibiotic ointment, anti-fungal creams, or medicines for stomach upset. But, we always encounter a few people with more complicated medical problems, needing more advanced care. We’ve also provided



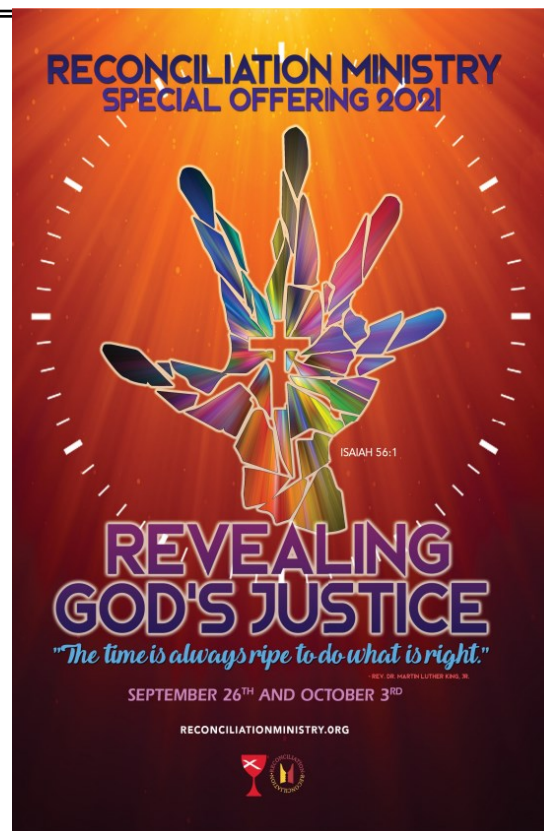
(Continued on page 7)

health information classes to members of the church including information on COVID and the importance of vaccination, social distancing and masks. Due to a generous gift we also were able to provide masks to all the members of the church.

We are also working with local elementary school children who are behind in reading and math as the result of the pandemic and teaching an English class to junior high youth. Schools have been closed for over a year, and there is no opportunity for Zoom classes here; even the schools don't have computers.

We're also working with the local church on a project to begin recycling in the community. When we arrived we learned there was no service for garbage pick-up in Río Chiquito. Many people burn their garbage, including plastics which create toxic smoke in their back yards. We have visited Invema, a large recycling center in the metropolitan San Pedro Sula. We are working with the local pastor on a more coordinated response to managing garbage in the community, working with Invema on recycling, planning community education and networking with existing small scale recyclers.

—Bruce & Linda Hanson, Global Service Workers



The Reconciliation Ministry will be received on Sundays, September 26 and October 3.

You may give in person on those designated Sundays, you may give [ONLINE](#), or you may mail your gift to
First Christian Church,
611 Clark Avenue,
Ames, IA 50010.
Your gifts help support pro-reconciliation / anti-racism programs through education, camp and conference, relationship-building in each expression of our Church.
Thank you for your support.



For more information on our ministry please subscribe to our blog:

<https://hondurashansons.wordpress.com/>

We appreciate prayers for our ministry and for the people of Honduras, still struggling to recover from the hurricanes of last year.

If you are interested in donating to our ministry, please see this link. [Donate](#)

The Special Offering

The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering is received each year in congregations on the last Sunday in September and the first Sunday in October (in solidarity with World Communion Sunday). Funds generated by this special emphasis are used throughout the year to provide grants to ministries and congregations actively developing and implementing programs that promote our Church's Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racist identity. These programs and efforts seek to reveal, re-educate, and remove systemic and structural barriers in our communities that serve to deny the image of God and human thriving based on race.

In Isaiah 56:1 God says "Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed."

Your gifts to Reconciliation Ministry empowers our Church's witness to God's unfathomable love for all of humanity. With your generosity, leaders, communities, and our congregations are equipped to witness to God's love and justice in all times and in every season. The time is always ripe to stand up for justice to ensure that all of God's children are treated equitably. Thank you for joining us on this journey through your generosity.

Moment of Mission

Years ago, while walking to my predominately white middle school, I witnessed something that has been preserved in my memory for decades. Several yards ahead of me was Josette; a girl I barely knew. Although her skin color was the same as the majority of the students, her appearance was drastically different from other female classmates. She wore long dark skirts, sweaters, heavy black brogans, and often kept a scarf tied around her head (not a burka or hijab). As we approached the schoolyard, I could hear a few boys yelling at her.

As I got closer, I heard these words: "Go back to where you came from you nasty Jew!", "You're ugly!", "Nobody wants you here!" There were other unkind statements. Even though I didn't know what a Jew was, I knew that their actions were wrong. I looked ahead, pretending to not hear or see anything, and went straight to my class.

The prophet Isaiah admonishes God's beloved in Isaiah 56:1 to, "Maintain justice and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed." Frequently, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminds us that "The time is always ripe to do what is right". The message is clear: We are to do what is right with the time God has given us.

It is a precious gift like the gift of reconciliation through Christ Jesus. How I wish I had the courage to take time to do what was right on Josette's behalf. The Ministry of Reconciliation offers each of us the opportunity to "do what is right". Your giving supports diversity & inclusion through leadership development in our colleges, provides grants to ministry partners to further the work of anti-racism. It creates opportunities to heal our brokenness by promoting relationship-building through our One Bag of Tea program, and by equipping congregations to be advocates for racial justice in their communities.

Yes! The time is always ripe to reveal God's justice. Thank you in advance for your generosity to Reconciliation Ministry!

Gracefully Submitted by Karon Alexander

[Learn more about the work of the Anti-Racism Team here in the Upper Midwest and the work of Reconciliation.](#)



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. 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



All Congregational Gathering

October 2, 2021

Gathering in Jesus' Name

Matthew 18: 20



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 formal commissioning of our Associate Regional Minister, Tiff Williams, on her sabbatical. For details about the day, visit our [ACG webpage](#).

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](#)

Upper Midwest Anti-Racism Team

Learn more about the work of the Anti-Racism Team here in the Upper Midwest and the work of Reconciliation here through this video.



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.



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

			August	YTD
Income:			\$14,428	\$137,132
Expenses:			\$12,394	\$146,349
Difference:			\$2,034	(\$9,217)

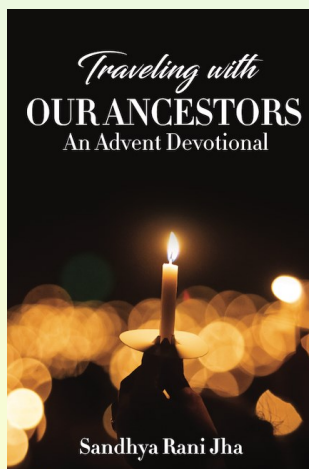
October Birthdays

04 Chris Haley
04 Sue Button
04 Molly Schwartz
10 Janet Lott
13 Kay Scott
19 Doan Schmitz
20 Deb Lewis



Food at First volunteers preparing a Saturday lunch for “to go.” From left to right, Mary Von Ah Gregory, Tiffany Walker, and Cynthia Gaunt. September 4, 2021.

An Advent Devotional Preview...



Traveling with our Ancestors Advent Devotional

In this new Advent devotional, popular author, pastor, and teacher Sandhya Rani Jha ([Liberating Love Daily Devotional: 365 Love Notes from God](#)) calls on our spiritual ancestors—biblical and modern day—to help guide us on our Christmas journey.

In these daily devotions, Jha calls upon biblical guides – from Zechariah, to Elizabeth, to Mary –to offer wisdom and direction for the weeks leading up to Jesus’ birth. On Saturdays, Jha invites a contemporary “ancestor” such as Rosa Parks, Cesar Chavez, and Father Greg Boyle to help us reflect on how we can be better ancestors for those come after us. Each entry includes an Advent scripture, reflection, and prayer.

Advent devotionals will be available by November 21st. If you are interested in a copy, please let the Church Office know so we may have an idea how many to order. We provide them at NO cost to you. Thank you! fccames@fccames.org, 515-232-5766

Opportunities to Serve



Solidarity
WE ALL ARE EARTH CITIZENS

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)

- **WALK** to help fight hunger within our communities, and struggling communities worldwide. (See page 2.)
- **VOLUNTER** your time with one of Ames’ wonderful community organizations, and partners in ministry. (See page 13.)
- **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) for more information.
- **SHARE** your talents in worship by singing, reading, helping with audio/visuals, etc. Contact Janet Lott at 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.

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

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:	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