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# The Call Issue No. 10, October 2021

### **GROWING IN GENEROSITY**



### Rooted and Grounded in Love

### Manifesting Generosity through generous actions

rom Genesis we read, "God created huhumankind in his image and likeness."

The Apostle Paul sees it manifesting in us as:

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." And . . . generosity.

We have no say-so: how about that! The 'Image of God' manifests in us through actions: love—we are loving; peace—we are peaceful; . . . and generosity—we are generous.

Not *if* we are generous - just what, how much, where, when, to whom to be generous.

### Come share our story: a Church Rooted and Grounded in Love; Growing in Generosity

For First Christian Church this year's worship theme is "Rooted and Grounded in Love." Our sub-theme of 'Growing in Generosity' fits quite well. Disciples headquarters suggests:

Stewardship is the celebration of sharing in the life of a generous faith community: an invitation to a life of growing generosity for everyone.

We joyfully invite you, members and others - come share in the life of growing generous faith community "Rooted and Grounded in Love; Growing in Generosity." Be a part of our story.

(Continued from page 1)

We seek to grow with you in generosity through First Christian Church.

Our gifts: times of prayer, volunteering for committees, being part of the life of the church.

And, we seek to grow with you in generosity to others outside the church.

Our gifts: times of volunteering, talents where needed, treasure to help out as needed.

No choice to be generous - - just what, how much, where, when, and to whom.

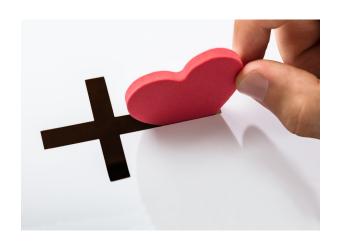
### A letter is coming to you soon- look for it!

The Stewardship Team 2022 is again lovingly assembling our annual mailing: cover letter, narrative budget (the story of the church), pledge card, bookmark. You should have it by the end of the month. We will share brief Sunday moments Oct. 31; Nov. 7 & 14.

November 21 is Dedication Sunday, which blesses the offerings received by mail, in person, on-line, and bank draft. Each monthly issue of The CALL has a Trustees page with details.

Please read the story of our church (narrative budget), realizing all that the church is able to offer us through your generosity. Prayerfully consider what your 2022 pledge might be and let the church know before Nov. 21 so we can dedicate those received and in the future.

—The Stewardship Team Cynthia Gaunt, Vern Hawkins, Stacey Maifeld, Sue Prins, Don Withers



### 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 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 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.

### Fall 2021 Worship Schedule



Waiting, Hoping, Praying, and Living in God's Promises Oct. 24 Dr. Judy Alston, Preaching Psalm 130 **God Lives Among Us** Oct. 31 1 Kings 8:1-13 **God Revives the Desolate** Nov. 7 1 Kings 19:1-18 **God Demands Justice Nov. 14** Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24 **Stewardship Dedication** Sunday Nov. 21 **Growing in Generosity** 

2 Corinthians 9:6-8



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.





### Thank you, CROP Walk Donors & Participants!

n Sunday October 10th, the annual CROP Walk was celebrated once again in the greater Ames area, year #52 for this remarkable event which began in just two communities in 1969 (Bismarck, North Dakota and York County, Pennsylvania) but has gradually spread to over 2,000 communities across the entire country. Sponsored by Church World Service, a cooperative ministry of 37 Christian denominations and communions, this major fund-raising event supports food security, sustainable self-help, development, and emergency relief around the world.

Some of those participating on FCC's 2021 CROP Walk team did "solo" walks on their own schedules, while others joined in the community walk, but all of them worked hard to raise money through sponsorships—encouraging family and friends to open their hearts and dig into their pockets. Our team goal this year had been to raise \$2,000, but thanks to the amazing generosity of our donors, we raised \$3,510, a record high for our church!

As in years past, 25% of the funds raised in the Ames -area CROP Walk will be distributed to local agencies



involved in food security, including our own ministry partner, Food at First. The remaining funds are used by Church World Service in a variety of food security programs across the globe.

A big round of thanks to the following people, who participated in the annual CROP Walk by walking, fund-raising, or helping with CROP-related youth activities: Roger Bertelsen, Pastor Mary Jane Button-Harrison; Aubrey, Jack & Nathan Ewalt; Cynthia Gaunt; Mary & David Gregory; Vern Hawkins; Deb Lewis; Stacey Maifeld; Amanda, Angela, and Natalia Mokaya; Adam, Olivia, & Lily Pendry; Sue & Marv

(Continued on page 5)



# **CROP HUNGER WALK**



Prins; Eileen Sambos; Tiffany, Scott & Anleah Walker; Melissa, Terry, Devin, Levi, & Easton Webb; and Heather & Don Withers.

And of course, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the many donors who supported this very worthy cause! Thanks for working with us to achieve the CROP Walk goal: Ending Hunger, One Step at a Time.

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





he end of September and beginning of October have been a busy time for our youth. We had the opportunity to gather on four Wednesday evenings. Three of those were spent learning about Crop Walk by creating posters and preparing for the walk itself. On the final Wednesday, we painted pumpkins and had a "snowball" fight. It was nice to have some time each week set aside to be together.

Crop Walk 2021....what a success! It was thrilling to have so many youth join us this year. The youth (and adults) were able to enjoy a colorful twist to the event this year as they walked by stations equipped to "shower" them with color. The posters we made on Wednesday nights were displayed at each station as a way to remind us why we were walking. It was such a successful day and a great opportunity for youth and adults to have fun together while raising money for those in need of things we often take for granted.

We are so grateful to all of the people who made the Wednesday night gatherings and the Crop Walk possible. A big thanks to all of our volunteers, team captains and adults who were able to bring youth and children out to join us. We also need to send a huge shout out to all of those who contributed financially to our efforts; making this one of the most successful years we have had!!! We created a lot of wonderful memories alongside one another.

With all of that said, we are happy to announce that there will be exciting things happening in November and December as well.

Our gatherings in November will be like mini "hanging of the greens" events. For the younger ones, we will make decorations for the tree in the sanctuary, decorate and eat a fun holiday treat and do some recording for our pageant in December. The older youth will do something similar, but a bit more intricate. The dates and times are as follows.

### **November 7th:**

K-5th grade Children's gathering at FCC from 1:30-3 pm

### November 14th:

6-12th grade Youth gathering at FCC from 1:30-3 pm

### November 21st:

Hanging of the Greens via zoom

The gatherings in December will function in a similar fashion, but I haven't settled on the details yet. I will keep you posted, but here are the dates so you can get them on the calendar.

### December 5th:

K-5th grade Children's gathering at FCC from 1:30-3 pm

### December 12th:

6-12th grade Youth gathering at FCC from 1:30-3 pm

### December 19th:

Christmas Pageant (Pre Recorded and presented during worship)

We look forward to more fellowship! Hope to see you soon!

—Melissa Webb Ministry Coordinator of families, youth and children





# 'HOLY BURDENS'

### By Janis Pyle

n a taped sermon on Sunday, Sept. 26, Rev. April G. Johnson, Minister of Reconciliation for the Disciples of Christ, empowered us as a congregation to be leaders and implored us to name our individual "holy burdens" from God to address these tumultuous times.

Because my attention has been focused recently on the lingering damage from the derecho of Aug. 10, 2020, my "holy burden" has become the planting of trees. I figure that each of us Iowans, all 3.2 million of us, will have to plant at least two trees just to replace the trees destroyed by what has been deemed "the costliest thunderstorm in U.S. history" according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The destruction is immense. In a Des Moines Register article on Sept. 17, reporter Donnelle Eller detailed an **Iowa Natural Resources** report on the extent of the derecho damage. "Iowa lost an estimated 7.2 million trees in cities and farms when last year's hurricane-force derecho swept across the state," she wrote. Daniel Perrault of TV station KWWL in Cedar Rapids interviewed Iowa DNR Disaster Recovery Coordinator Nick McGrath on

Sept. 15 about recovery from the effects of the derecho. McGrath estimated that "it will take 30 to 60 years to get the ecosystem back to something close to what it was before the storm."

McGrath gave some direction to those of us who wish to plant trees. He said the DNR encourages all lowans to plant new native trees to help the ecosystem recover. (The DNR state forest nursery gives out seedlings.) He also said that "utility companies Alliant, Black Hills Energy, and Mid-American are funding some grants, and Trees Forever has held several tree adoption events." In my research, I read that the Iowa Arboretum and Gardens in Madrid lost about 40 per cent of its collection and launched a "ReLeaf campaign this year. Ames homeowners can contact Paul Tauke, city forester, for guidance about planting and maintaining trees, especially ones in the city right-of-way, the area between the curb and the sidewalk. He can be reached at (515) 239-5342.

These are some starting points for those who also feel called to replace the trees that the winds destroyed. (Let me know about your tree-planting efforts!) If your "holy burden" focus is elsewhere, what is your call to action?



Janis Pyle is a member of First Christian Church and Delegate to the Good Neighbor General Board



Sunday, November 21

### Save the Date!

Hanging of the Greens Party (via ZOOM) at 2 PM

Let us prepare ourselves and the Sanctuary for the coming Advent season, as we gather for...

- 🗯 Fun
- Fellowship with your FCC friends
- ★ Treats
- Making paper chain and Christmas ornaments
- Singing songs of the season
- Seeing the chancel transform for Advent

There will be party "kits" available for pick-up ahead of the party.

Zoom information to be announced.

### November Calendar

Pastor Mary Jane is on vacation through, Friday, October 29.

Liz Collazo will be on vacation
Thursday, November 11, and the week of
November 22—26th.

- Elder's Circle
   Every Monday, 10:45 am via Zoon
- FCC Makes Lunch for Food at First
   Saturday, November 6, 9:30 am—1pm
- Property Team Meeting Tuesday, November 9, 7:15 pm
- Newsletter Deadline Monday, November 15, by NOON.
- Trustees Meeting Monday, November 15, 7 pm
- Faith Formation Team Meeting Sunday, November 21, 11:45 am
- Council of Ministries Meetings
   Tuesday, November 23, at 7:00 pm

### **Scheduled Events:**

- ⇒ Daylight Saving Ends Turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday, November 6th, before going to bed.
- ⇒ K-5th grade Children's gathering at FCC November 7th, from 1:30-3 pm
- ⇒ 6-12th grade Youth gathering at FCC November 14th from 1:30-3
- ⇒ Thanksgiving Offering Received, Sundays, November 14 and 21.
- ⇒ Stewardship Dedication Sunday
   Sunday, November 21, during worship.
   Pledge cards will be dedicated during the service.
- ⇒ FCC's Hanging of the Greens Party, via Zoom Sunday, November 21, 2 pm.
- ⇒ **Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed**Thursday, November 25
- ⇒ Food at First Thanksgiving *To-Go* Meal Thursday, November 25, 11:30—1pm

### **Keeping Connected...**

## Zoom Weekly Activity Schedule

# Ship of the same o

### Sunday

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

### Wednesday

Midweek Intercessory Prayers

Online Link: <a href="fccames.org/WednesdayPrayers">fccames.org/WednesdayPrayers</a>
Meeting ID: 826 9816 5415 | Passcode: 645905

Phase Connections (212) 626 6700

Phone Connection: (312) 626-6799

ID: 82698165415#

AM

12:15

PM

In-Person)

### **Thursday**

Coffee Fellowship

10:00 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.



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

Oct. 28
Regional Operations Council
Online

Nov. 5-6

Committee on Ministry

Nov. 14

Angelo Luis Ordination

Nov. 14

Thanksgiving Special

Offering

Nov. 19-20 CMEP Retreat

Nov. 21

Mike Kindred Ordination

Nov. 21

Thanksgiving Special

Offering

**Dec. 12** 

**Christmas Special Offering** 

Dec. 19

**Christmas Special Offering** 

Dec. 26

All-Region Worship Service

Jan. 6

Tiff Returns from Sabbatical

Jan. 24-25

Ministers Institute

Regional Prayer Calendar

<u>Disciples videos</u>

# Gathering Together

By Rev. Joshua Patty Regional Minister and President



On October 1-2, many people gathered, in person and online, for the 2021 All Congregational Gathering. Like many things this year, the event was different than in previous years. However, the spirit of the event remains the same -- celebrating and finding ways to live out our vision to be Disciples Together.

The heart of the gathering was worship, which offered ways for us to name and honor some of what we've

faced in the past couple of years, where we are now, and imagine some paths we might travel into the future. There were workshops and opportunities for conversation. And we had a short regional business session, where those elected to Operations Council were announced and the 2022 regional budget was approved.

If you missed the Gathering, you can still share the experience through recordings of many events, including:

Opening Worship
Closing Worship

Workshop, "Anti-racism/Pro-reconciling Ministry in the Local Congregation"

Workshop, "Praying in Color"

**Presentation of the 2022 Regional Budget** 

For a slide-show and recap of the day, visit the **ACG webpage**.

### **Associate Regional Minister Begins Sabbatical**



Associate Regional Minister and Christian Conference Center Camp Director, Tiff Williams, began a sabbatical on Oct. 5, 2021. There was a formal commissioning service during the All Congregational Gathering on Saturday, Oct. 2. Please keep Tiff in your prayers, and ask for God's blessing during this time of renewal.

# 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)

### November Birthdays

- 01 Terrisa Clark
- 02 Amanda Mokaya
- 05 Tim Button-Harrison
- 09 Olivia Pendry
- 11 Lizmari M. Collazo
- 13 Jeanne Hagan
- 16 Matt Spitzli
- 17 Hope Pogwizd
- 17 John Pendry
- 19 Scott Waker
- 25 Dale Woodward
- 26 Doug Clark
- 29 David Gregory
- 29 Anleah Walker

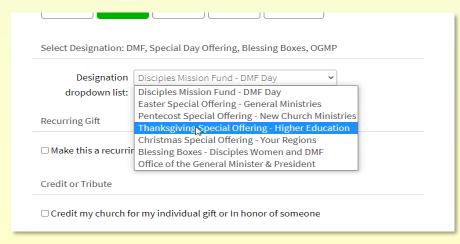




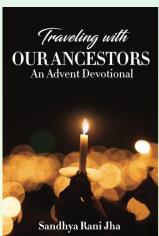
### Thanksgiving Offering

Received from Sunday Nov. 14, through Nov. 21

The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). You may give on those Sundays in the designated envelopes, or mail your offering to: First Christian Church, 611 Clark Avenue, Ames, IA 50010, or you may give generously ONLINE. Make sure to designate your offering as "Thanksgiving Offering – Higher Education," from the Designation Dropdown List. (See image below.)







# 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—bibilcal 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 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! <a href="mailto:fccames@fccames.org">fccames@fccames.org</a>, 515-232-5766

# Thank you!

Dear FCC Family,

I want to thank the church for all the beautiful birthday cards I got and the telephone calls. The church is very, very good, and I thank all my church members. All the calls and cards, they are just beautiful. Thank you so much. Thank you, thank you!

— Gloria Carpenter

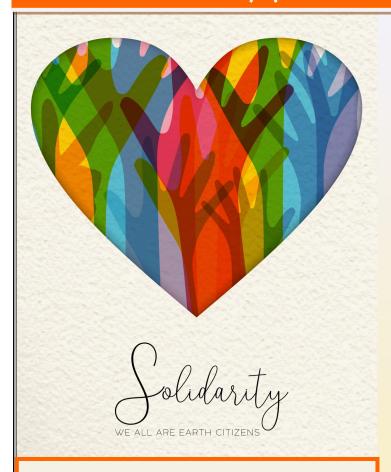
### Our deepest sympathies

to the family of Jerad Hale, spouse of Cassi Hale, and father to Kymberli Marcomb, Maleigha Hale, Madox Kilgore – Reed, Kaiden Hale and Makaylynn "Mikki" Hale. Jerad passed away at his home, on Thursday, September 30th. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to the Jerad Hale Family, C/O Schroeder-Reimers Memorial Chapel, P.O. Box 15, Boone, IA, 50036, or to the family's GoFund Me at <a href="https://gofund.me/alddd077">https://gofund.me/alddd077</a>.

### **Congratulations**

to Melissa & Terry Webb, Devin & Levi Webb, who came forth and joined the church by transfer of membership, on Sunday, October 10th. We are happy to welcome you aboard!

### opportunities to serve



### 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.
- <u>Prayers of the People</u> Intercessory prayer requests sent out as needed. Request prayers.
- <u>Follow us on Facebook First</u>
   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)

- 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 (<u>blogston55@gmail.com</u>) for more information.
- SHARE your talents in worship by singing, reading, helping with audio/visuals, etc.
   Contact Janet Lott at <u>jalott@isunet.net</u> 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.
- VOLUNTER your time with one of Ames' wonderful community organizations, and partners in ministry. (See page 13.)

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 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.

Email: director@raising-readers.org Phone: 515-520-8686

Join our e-mail list here!

Make an Impact! Here's How.



### **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

# 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

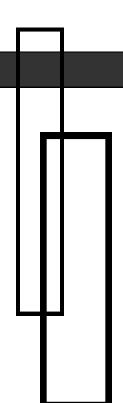
Sunday

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

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