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## *First Christian Church is now a designated Green Chalice Ministry!*

“On behalf of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we extend congratulations to First Christian Church, Ames for becoming a Green Chalice Ministry. Green Chalice celebrates the fact that you are living out your faith by caring for God’s creation and leading the denomination and your community in authentic ways. Green Chalice applauds the fact that you have a green team, have affirmed and signed the Green Chalice Covenant, and have made changes that help your ministry walk more gently on the earth.” Rev. Carol Devine, Minister Green Chalice and Rev. Scott Hardin-Nieri, Associate Minister Green Chalice.

Here is some background on the Green Chalice program. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) passed a resolution concerning carbon neutrality at the 2017 General Assembly, in which the Christian Church (DOC) committed to reducing our carbon pollution with the goal to become carbon neutral by the year 2030 and climate positive by 2035. This was the beginning of the Green Chalice Ministry.

Our next step is to become a certified Green Chalice Ministry. This will take us 1.5 – 2 years to accomplish. To become certified, we must make changes in these four areas: Building/Facility, Grounds/Property, Worship and Office Practices, and Education/Outreach/Justice. We will need to be creative and work hard to reach this goal, but by working together we will reach our next step in caring for God’s beautiful creation. I hope that we are all making changes in our personal lives that address climate change.

The Green Team

Darla Ewalt, Deb Lewis, Mary Von Ah Gregory, Stacey Maifeld,  
Tristan Cook, Jean Perkins, Melissa Webb

# Green Team Report

June Challenge was submitting vegetarian recipes. The recipes have been collected and are currently being organized and will soon be available to those who want them. They will be in a pdf format. The winner of a gift certificate will be announced in August.

July Challenge is to start going single-use plastic free. Plastic Free July® is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities. Will you be part of Plastic Free July by choosing to refuse single-use plastics? Go to <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/> for more information and take the challenge.



## Climate Change Corner

**For the first time, researchers find microplastics deep in the lungs of living people.**

***(NPR April 6, 2022)***

“Researchers say they have found microplastics — tiny pieces of plastic debris that come as a result of the disposal of industrial waste — deep in the lungs of living humans for the first time.

The research, done at Hull York Medical School in England and published in the journal Science of the Total Environment, is the first robust study to identify the plastics in the lungs of living people. The plastics have previously been found in human blood, excrement and in the depths of the ocean.”

**Report from Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy (January 11, 2022)**

“Single-use plastics, such as plastic bags, wraps, and films, are incredibly energy-intensive to produce. In fact, plastic production accounts for more than 3% of total U.S. energy consumption. Despite their high embodied energy use, many of these materials end up in our landfills or our environment. Yet, less than 10% of plastics are currently recycled, most of which are “downcycled,” or repurposed into low-value products.”



The Ames Solid Waste burns our plastic but should we continue to encourage the production of single-use plastic by using it? Something to think about.

***Think Globally, Act Locally:***

On Sunday, August 7th, the Fareway supermarket across from our building will be hosting “**The Beautiful Land Market**” in their parking lot. The market features many vendors that offer Earth-friendly products, including many alternatives to single-use plastics. It’s a great opportunity to support our local economy and our planet.

# FCC Summer Gathering:

## Celebrating Our Oldest Members

Wednesday, July 27, 1:30-3pm

FCC Coffee House



*Join us* as a community in celebration of our members who are 90 years or more! Many of them celebrate their birthdays during these summer months, so we are having a

**PARTY!**

## Everyone's invited!

There will be punch, coffee, tea, cookies, and great conversation.

## August Calendar

- ♦ **Elder's Circle**  
Every Monday, 10:45 am via Zoon
- ♦ **Leadership Group Meeting**  
Monday, July 25, 5 pm
- ♦ **FCC Makes Lunch for Food at First**  
Saturday, August 6, 9:30 am—1pm
- ♦ **BOARD MEETING**  
**Monday, August 6, 7 pm, via Zoom**
- ♦ **Property Team Meeting**  
Tuesday, August 9, 7:15 pm
- ♦ **Faith Formation Team Meeting**  
Wednesday, August 10, 6 pm
- ♦ **Green Chalice Team Meeting**  
Sunday, August 14, after worship
- ♦ **Newsletter Deadline**  
Monday, August 15, by NOON.

- ♦ **Trustees Meeting**  
Monday, August 15, 7 pm
- ♦ **Council of Ministries Meeting**  
Wednesday, August 31, 7 pm

### Scheduled Events:



**August 4— DMF Offering Day.** Disciples Mission Fund (DMF) funds most of our shared regional and general ministries, including church camp, global missions, support for congregations seeking ministers, and much more. On DMF Day, you are invited to learn more

about some of these ministries and make a gift to support them. [Learn more here.](#)

# Message from the Trustees

## A Financial Snapshot: Figures Taken the from Profit/ Loss and Asset Statements

(The figures below will finish taking us through the second quarter of this calendar year, 2022)

Written Pledge receipts through the month of May, \$72,574.00, exceeded the projected amount through May of \$70,000.00.

Through June Written Pledge receipts totaled \$77,945.00 of the Budget by Month goal of \$85,000.00 meeting 91.7 percent of that goal and 45.8 percent of the calendar year budget of \$170,000.00. Good news! It appears that more congregants are pledging rather than *giving* without pledging. Congregants are honoring their pledge goals-*thank you!*

*In June (month six only) Total Income was reported at \$7,649.00 and Total Expenses was reported at \$19,989.00...this is a deficit of \$12,340.00. The six month (mid-calendar year figures) Total Income is reported at \$101,351.00 and Total Expenses \$124,002.00. A deficit of \$22,651.00.*

### *Utilities:*

Energy prices have increased nationally. Last year, in June 2021, FCC's year-to-date spending for gas and electricity was \$13,718. In June of 2022, year-to-date spending for these same utilities was \$17,643, an increase of 28.6%. (Gas accounted for the bulk of this increase, rising 55% over this time period.)

## Asset Report

Christian Church Foundation, Designated Funds and Edward Jones (Does Not Include FCC General Fund .)

Total Assets for the first quarter of 2022 (excluding the general fund) were \$318,801.60. In the second quarter this amount dropped to \$292,597.37, a decrease of \$26,204.23.

Market volatility has adversely affected the yield on our investments—which was expected, but unwelcome news. We will continue to monitor the markets and our Assets.

## First Christian Church Bank Funds

In June, the FCC/General Fund amount is \$57,700 (this includes \$3,359 from Local Aid and Love Fund). The amount was the same in May.

The Trustees are stewards of the Church's financial resources and will always shelter them and when necessary, use them to ensure our ministries continue to be of service to our Church family and community.

*The Trustees appreciate the monthly reports from Treasurer Amy Kuehl and Financial Secretaries, David and Jeannie Fitz.*

## FCC Internal Review Audit

*The Volunteers Audit Guide for Churches, and Non-Profits* by Edd Breeden was reviewed and adapted to provide a workable FCC audit document. The document is entitled the *Internal Review of Financial Records and Operations for*

*(Continued on page 5)*



*Calendar Year 2021.*

The *Internal Review Timeline* was initiated on June 23, 2022. The Internal Review for the Treasurer's records and interview has been completed. The Financial Secretary records have been audited, as well. However, a brief in-person interview (with the financial Secretaries) will be completed soon.

The Trustees appreciate the cooperation we received from the financial officers while conducting the internal reviews.

—Trustees  
DeLores Hawkins, David Gregory and Anjeanette Perkins



## *Summer Worship Schedule*

<p><b>July 24, 10 AM</b> With Friendship Baptist Church</p>	<p><b>Community Worship at Brookside (Bring a lawn chair and side dish to share)</b> Online link: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/FBCAMESIOWA/videos/?ref=page_internal">https://www.facebook.com/FBCAMESIOWA/videos/?ref=page_internal</a></p>
<p><b>July 31 10 AM</b> With First Baptist Church and Ames United Church of Christ</p>	<p><b>Worship at First Baptist Church, on their front lawn (Bring a lawn chair)</b> Online link: <a href="http://www.fbcames.org/">http://www.fbcames.org/</a></p>
<p><b>August 7, 14, &amp; 21, 10:30 AM</b></p>	<p><b>WORSHIP AT FCC AT 10:30 AM!!!</b> Online Link: <a href="http://www.fccames.org/SundayWorship">www.fccames.org/SundayWorship</a> Phone Connection: (312) 626-6799 ID: 83549778613#</p>
<p><b>August 28, 10 AM</b> With Friendship Baptist Church</p>	<p><b>Community Worship at Brookside Park (Bring a lawn chair and side dish to share)</b> Online link: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/FBCAMESIOWA/videos/?ref=page_internal">https://www.facebook.com/FBCAMESIOWA/videos/?ref=page_internal</a></p>



## *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.

## Zoom Weekly Activity Schedule

### Sunday\*

9:30 AM	—Zoom Room Opens Tech People Setup Musicians Practice	Online Link: <a href="http://www.fccames.org/SundayWorship">www.fccames.org/ SundayWorship</a>
10:00 AM	Clark Avenue and Ramp Doors Open for In-Person Worship	Phone Connection: (312) 626-6799
10:30 AM	Worship (through Zoom or In-Person)	ID: 83549778613#

### Wednesday

12:15 PM	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#
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### Thursday

10:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship Online Link: <a href="http://fccames.org/CoffeeFellowship">fccames.org/CoffeeFellowship</a> Phone Connection: 1-312-626-6788 ID: 86790917856#
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### Keep this Schedule Handy

Regular Sunday worship hours.  
Summer worship hours and locations will vary.

## 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.

## Opportunities to Serve

*“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)*

- **GIVE** generously to the mission and vision of the Church.
- **HELP** keep our building and grounds looking great by lending a hand when needed. See Jim Lester (515-203-5097) 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).
- **VOLUNTEER** your time with one of Ames’ wonderful community organizations, and partners in ministry. (See opp. below this box.)

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.

### Volunteer for Food at First during the Summer Months!

With college students and families taking off for vacation during the summer months, it is often a challenge for Food at First to find extra volunteers to help prepare, serve meals, and clean up afterwards.

Consider picking up an extra shift, or looking through the list of available times to see if it’s something that interests you to do during the summer months. Visit their website regularly for summer volunteer opportunities like corn gleaning, etc. <https://foodatfirst.com/volunteer/>



# Camp life from a counselor's perspective

In 2018 I began directing Junior Camp (3rd-5th grade) at the Christian Conference Center. My co-director and I felt we ran an engaging week, but neither of us had a great deal of experience in camp leadership. Since I work with youth from K-12th grade at FCC, I decided this summer might be a good time to experience camp life for youth ages 6-12th. I also wanted to gain more knowledge about how other directors run their programs to improve programs I direct down the road. I signed up to be a counselor at Adventure Camp (6-12th) and Chi Rho Camp (6-8th).

I remember a few years ago, I picked up one of my sons from camp and he literally broke down and cried the entire car ride home. This was unusual for him, so I was curious what was behind such strong feelings and emotions. It also never fails that the first thing all of our boys do when they arrive home is to pull out the camp picture and tell us all about the campers. After each week I was at camp this summer, I understood these two behaviors completely.

At Adventure Camp, I came home feeling so incredibly full and rich. For 6 days, I had the privilege to meet, play, laugh and worship with some of the most inspiring adults. I felt comfortable, valued, known, appreciated and supported. I had 6 middle school girls in my cabin and I loved observing their new and old friendships, cooperation, respect and acceptance for one another. I had been preparing myself for catty, dramatic behavior, but I never once saw this. It seems as if everyone arrived with a basic understanding that camp is supposed to be safe, loving and supportive for all...in essence, EVERYONE IS WELCOME!





## (Continued) Camp life from a counselor's perspective

After Chi Rho camp, I came home equally full and exhilarated from a week spent together where we depended on one another in order to eat and survive. If we didn't get up early to get the fire hot enough, we learned our dishes would not get done in time. If we didn't get dishes done, we would have nothing to use for lunch. If people forgot to take garbage up at 7pm, we learned we would have a big mess to tend to the next morning. It was inspiring to watch middle school students come together and make living in conditions like this seem easy. We were exhausted from the lack of sleep, playing hard and laughing uncontrollably, but we pushed through. During a storm, two boys braved the hard rain to close window shutters on their cabin at 4am, but they didn't stop there. They had the care and concern to come over and close up the girl's cabin as well!!!

"We are standing in God's presence on Holy Ground" is one of the lines from a popular camp song we sing. There is no doubt I felt God's presence continuously at camp. As I reflect on my experiences, I am filled with many emotions I am not used to feeling all at once. I pray we are all able to find Holy Ground...a welcoming place where love exists without conditions...anywhere we walk in life.

Thank you to the people at FCC and our region for providing our youth and adults the opportunities to experience God's presence and the beautiful emotions that flow after standing on Holy Ground.

Melissa Webb

Ministry Coordinator for  
Family, Youth and Children



# Pictures of Camp Life



Molly and Devin at Lake Red Rock.



Devin building a chair, which was the theme of the curriculum.



Molly and friends on Wolf Lake at the CCC.



The director giving a keynote at Chi Rho.



Easton having fun at Chi Rho.



Melissa and Molly at Ledges.



Chi Rho cooking facilities.





## In-Person Child Safety Training and Discussion

(Date and Time to be Announced)

**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).

## REGIONAL NEWS



**Rev. Dave Bell**

**SEPTEMBER 26 - 7 PM**

Minister of Indigenous Concerns,  
Center for Indigenous Ministries  
*Doctrine of Discovery*

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE  
INFORMATION](#)

*Save the Date!*

Christian Church of the  
Upper Midwest  
**Women's Fall Retreat**  
Sept. 30-October 2  
Lake Koronis,  
Paynesville, MN



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

Below, @CCC =  
held at the Christian  
Conference Center

- **August 4 DMF Day**
- August 6 Summer Camp  
Season Ends
- August 11-21 Hymn Sing  
and Children's Time @  
Iowa State Fair
- August 25 Regional  
Operations Council  
Online
- Sept 9-10 Committee on  
Ministry
- Sept 19-21 Senior Adult  
Retreat
- Sept 25-28 Pastor Camp
- **Sept 30-Oct 2 UMW Fall  
Women's Retreat**
- **Oct. 15 All  
Congregational  
Gathering**

[Regional Prayer Calendar](#)

[Disciples videos](#)

# Save the Date!

## What Now, Church?

*Navigating*

*Today's*

*Uncharted Waters*

Isaiah 43: 1b-2



**All Congregational Gathering**

**Oct. 15, 2022**

**Christian Conference Center  
Newton, Iowa**

# KINDOM OF GOD WITHIN US AMONG US

GENESIS 11:1-9 • LUKE 17:20-21 • 2 PETER 1:3

*July 29 - August 1, 2023 • Louisville*

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS



The Church building is  
**NOW OPEN.**

Our office hours are  
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

	June	2022 YTD
Income:	\$7,649	\$101,351
Expenses:	\$19,989	\$124,002
Difference:	\$(12,340)	\$(22,651)

## August Birthdays

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



## Save the Date!



## PRIDE WORSHIP

*#Ms. Penny Cost, the Dragavangelist*

SEPT. 4, 1:30 P.M.

COLLEGIATE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
LOVE OFFERING TO BENEFIT AMES PRIDE



**Good Neighbor's  
25 Years in the  
Neighborhood  
block party was  
a HUGE success  
and LOTS of fun.**

Thanks to our special guests, Christian Manahl, Tom Box, Susan Norris, Jerri Hyde, Raising Readers, Food at First, Ames Fire Department Ames Police Department, and Fareway. And Thank You to the Good Neighbor board and volunteers for all your hard work. But mostly, Thank You to our clients, donors, and Old Town neighbors for showing up. ❤️

## AUGUST 7 FAREWAY PARKING LOT UNAVAILABLE

ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, THE FAREWAY PARKING  
LOT WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR OUR USE. PLEASE  
USE THE WEST ENTRY PARKING LOT, OR ANY  
AVAILABLE STREET AREA PARKING.



# 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

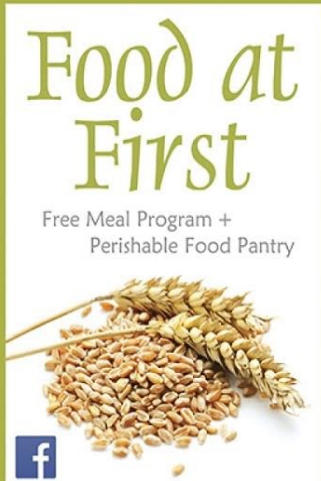
Contact [assistance@gnea.org](mailto:assistance@gnea.org) or call **515-296-1449** for more information.

# THE BRIDGE HOME

*Helping you navigate  
through life's hardships.*

**The Bridge Home** is devoted to bridging the gap between homelessness and housing by providing shelter, support, and inspiring a pathway forward to individuals and families experiencing or on the verge of homelessness. At The Bridge Home, we are not just dedicated to providing immediate relief. We provide a [continuum of care](#) from preventative services to housing programs. We offer the tools, resources, and education to empower and guide individuals and families facing the challenges of homelessness towards long-term solutions — free from judgment.

If you need assistance, please call us at [515.232.8075](tel:515.232.8075) or visit [www.thebridgehome.org/client-resources/](http://www.thebridgehome.org/client-resources/).



**April 2022**  
[Food at First](#)  
[Newsletter!](#)

## FOOD AT FIRST FREE MEAL AND MARKET PROGRAM

### Free Meal Times

**Sunday through Friday**  
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 Friday**  
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@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PATTY.FOODATFIRST@GMAIL.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.

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### **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 Schwartz
Building Custodian:	Sherri Khan
Nursery Attendants:	Karen LeCount
	Anleah Walker
	Levi Webb

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