

The Call

ISSUE NO. 11,
NOVEMBER, 2022

Advent 2022

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Woven Into a Tapestry of Love

Advent is the season that prepares us for Christmas. It is the waiting, watching, anticipating, reflecting time that is meant to give space to empty ourselves and open our heart and lives to receive “a Savior who is Christ the Lord.” (Mt. 2:11) We are reminded how there was “no place in the inn” and we want to make sure there is a place for the Christ-child in us. Each Sunday of Advent we will light the Advent candles as we go from Hope to Peace to Joy to Love. Once again, Love is the crown; the greatest gift; that which makes us known as disciples; the greatest commandment; God in the flesh – with us – Emmanuel.

In 1885 a Christmas poem by Christina Rossetti was first published. That poem has since been made into a Christmas Carol:

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine.
Love was born at Christmas – star and angels gave the sign
Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and neighbor, love for pray’r and gift and sign.

In the fall we went back to the basics of Christian living as we explored “one another” passages in the New Testament letters (see article on “One Another-ing” below). This Advent we will go back to the basics as we explore several of the stories of the first Christmas. These birth stories are only found in two places in the New Testament – the gospels of Matthew and Luke. And those stories are quite different from one another. This Advent we will hear the story of Joseph and his dream; of Zechariah and his prophecy; Mary and her song; and, of course, the angels, the manger, and the shepherds will have their part. And each Sunday during the prayer time we will sing, “While we are waiting, come.” While we are waiting for Christmas, come, share in worship as we prepare room for Christ to be born in us and so we can sing, “Joy to the World, the Lord is come!”

Pastor Mary Jane

Woven Into a Tapestry of Love: One Another-ing

In the August issue of *The Call*, I wrote an introduction to this year's theme, "Woven Into a Tapestry of Love," and our fall sermon series on the "One Another" passages in the New Testament letters. There I wrote: "From the beginning, Christians were called to grow in and live out their faith in community. That is why Paul used the image of the body. A foot separated from the body cannot live. With one another, however, we learn and practice living our faith in our day to day lives. The letters were written to those first churches who had to navigate what it meant to be followers of Jesus amid the rules and norms of the Roman Empire and Caesar. One of the unique marks of the Christian churches as distinct from society is the radical equality of all members. Those with more money and prestige were not considered more worthy in the church, yet the habits and customs people learn outside the church can have an influence on behavior. The "one another" sayings are a corrective. The one another passages help us, as Paul says, "have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God's great mystery.""

On Kick-Off Sunday, September 11, we started in *Romans* with "**Welcome One Another.**" Though we may think we don't need others, in fact, we do. And staying true to the teachings and call of Jesus requires the strength and focus we get when we welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us. September 18, we moved to *Galatians* with "**Serve One Another.**" Christ came to set us free, so we reflected on just what freedom from a faith standpoint is. Freedom is not an opportunity for self-indulgence, rather, in freedom in Christ is freedom from being bound to our own selfish desires or fears, and instead, being bound to others in love.

September 25, we moved to *Ephesians* with "**Forgive One Another.**" On that day we remembered those saints of the church, mentors in the faith, who taught us to tell the truth, to deal with our anger in healthy ways, to work and be honest, to share with those in need, to speak in ways that build others up, and to be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. On World Communion Sunday, October 2, we moved to *1 Corinthians* with "**Wait for One Another.**" When we gather together, we must realize that we come from different experiences, different economic and social status, different stations in life, and so we wait for one

another, having patience, generosity, compassion, and unity in the midst of those differences.

October 9, we moved to *Philippians* with "**Look Out for One Another.**" Living "Christianly" as one commentator puts it, we don't just look out for number one. Rather, we take our cue from Jesus who was humble and understood that he was called to do that which would serve God's purposes and the good of all. October 16, we moved to *Colossians* with "**Teach and Admonish One Another.**" Deb Lewis shared how all of us in the faith community are teachers to and learners from one another, and to admonish one another – meaning to advise or warn one another in all wisdom – to help one another on our faith journey. October 23 moved to *1 Thessalonians* with "**Encourage and Build Up One Another.**" Regional Minister, Rev. Josh Patty shared from his experience about how it is that those in church provide encouragement, and, how that encouragement can come to us in a variety of ways, sometimes unexpectedly.

October 30, we moved to *Hebrews* with "**Provoke One Another.**" We live in times when we know and experience what it means to be provoked, but usually in a bad way, and in those instances, we may regret our actions. In *Hebrews* we are commended to provoke one another to love and good deeds instead. November 6, we moved to *James* with "**Confess to and Pray for One Another.**" Confession is good for the soul. However, it needs to be done and received in a manner that is surrounded by prayer and allows God's grace to flow bringing healing and wholeness of body, mind, and spirit. November 13, we moved to *1 Peter* with "**Be Hospitable to One Another.**" In the community of faith, hospitality is a two-way street. We offer one another hospitality. We are both guests and hosts at the same time and share the responsibility for hospitality. November 20, we moved to *1 John* with the crown on this series – "**Love One Another.**" Jesus says his disciples will be known by their love for one another. Stewardship Team chair, Don Withers shared a message on Stewardship Dedication Sunday about how, in Christ, it is our nature to be generous; it is our nature to give cheerfully. And as we give; as we love; we have faith that love grows and spreads just as God intended.

—Pastor Mary Jane



Woven Into a Tapestry of Love

Advent and Christmas 2022

Nov. 27	HOPE Joseph's Dream	Matthew 1:18-25
Dec. 4	PEACE Guide Our Feet	Luke 1:67-80
Dec. 11	JOY Mary's Song	Luke 1:39-56
Dec. 18	LOVE Christmas Pageant	
Dec. 24	CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE	
Dec. 25	CHRISTMAS	Luke 2:15-20
Jan. 1	New Year's Day Worship	

Epiphany 2023

Jan. 8	Jesus' Baptism	Matthew 3:1-17
Jan. 15	Tempted in the Wilderness	Matthew 4:1-17
Jan. 22	Beautitudes	Matthew 5:1-20
Jan. 29	Treasure in Heaven	Matthew 6:7-21
Feb. 5	The Golden Rule	Matthew 7:1-14; 24-29
Feb. 12	Parables of the Kingdom	Matthew 13:24-43
Feb. 19	Transfiguration	Matthew 16:24-17:8



The Christmas Special Offering

will be received in on
Sunday, Dec. 11 and 18.

You may give on those Sundays in the designated envelopes, send your offering in the mail to First Christian Church, 611 Clark Avenue, Ames, IA 50010, or give [ONLINE](#).

Please remember to designate your offering as "Christmas."

The Christmas Offering supports regional ministries. This includes church camp and other youth programs, the training and support of pastors, walking with congregations in search and call and other pastoral needs, congregational ministry grants and more!

100% of all Christmas Offering gifts received remain here for Upper Midwest ministries and needs.

Thank you for generously supporting the Christmas Offering.



FCC Support for Two Teens Through YSS

Each year, YSS organizes the Holiday Giving Adopt-a-Family program for local youth and families in need. We have generously supported this program in the past. This year, we have selected a young woman and young man, both 18 years old, who are transitioning from YSS housing to homes of their own. These two teens each desire a Walmart gift card to use for food and necessary items to set up housekeeping in their new home. The Women's Gathering invites your contributions for these gift cards.

If you wish to donate to purchase the gift cards, please provide your support by **December 8th**. Checks may be made out to FCC with **YSS Giving** in the memo line, or monetary donations may go in an envelope marked with **YSS Giving** and your name (unless you wish to give anonymously). Your contributions may be received in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, or dropped off or mailed to Liz in the FCC office. If you prefer to give online using a credit card, you may use the FCC donation "Tithe Online button" on the FCC website. Be sure to note your gift as **YSS Giving**.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to support these teens! For further information, contact co-leaders of the Women's Gathering, Deb Lewis at deb.q.lewis@gmail.com or 515-290-6736 or Janis Pyle at janispyle@yahoo.com.

—Deb Lewis and Janis Pyle,
for the FCC Women's Gathering

Merry Christmas MICA!

We're trying to make the Christmas season just a little bit brighter for the folks who visit MICA. To do this we are asking for donations which will be delivered by us before Christmas.

Donations might include...

peanut butter, ramen noodles, soups, crackers, boxed meals for skillet dinners, rice, cereal, oatmeal, dry packaged noodles, canned vegetables, tuna, salmon or chicken, Ziplock bags, Baggies, Glad Wrap, foil, etc. Also used grocery bags, toilet paper, paper towels, household cleaners, personal care items, feminine hygiene items, greeting cards other than Christmas cards, and calendars.

There will be a labeled container for your donations in the narthex.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

—Corry Bertelsen and the Elders

Mitten and Scarf Tree!

This season, as in season's past, we will be collecting scarves, mittens, hats and gloves for those who are most in need. Bring your purchased or gently used items, and hang them on the tree in the Sanctuary.





Annual Christmas Stocking Stuffing Event

Please join us for a light breakfast and stuffing of Christmas stockings for First Christian Church children and to be given away at the Food at First Pass Along Party. We will be stuffing more than 120 stockings!

When:

**Saturday November 26th at 9:30
Great Room 2nd floor**

Everyone Welcome! Catch up with friends and have fun filling up those stockings!

Questions?

Call Dawn Heaberlin 515-451-9618

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH AND GAMES!

This year, since Christmas lands on a Sunday, we thought it might be fun for those of us who are interested and don't have other plans, to gather after the Sunday service. The plan would be to meet in the Coffee House for soup, bread, veggies and dessert... that sort of thing, and then play some games afterward. We think it will be great fun!

To get some idea of how much soup, etc. we might need, please let Sue Prins know if you might be there. Don't feel that you can't come if at the last minute you find yourself alone though.

All this is dependent on there being no large outbreak of disease at Christmas that would make it unsafe or unwise for us to gather.

Lets have a Merry Christmas!
Sue Prins (on behalf of the Elders)



December Calendar

- ♦ **Elder's Circle**
Every Monday, 10:45 am via Zoon
- ♦ **Council of Ministries Meeting**
Tuesday, December 6, 7 pm
- ♦ **Faith Formation Team**
Wednesday, December 7, 6 pm
- ♦ **FCC Makes Lunch for Food at First**
Saturday, December 3, 9:30 am—1pm
- ♦ **Property Team Meeting**
Tuesday, December 13, 7:15 pm
- ♦ **Green Chalice Team Meeting**
Will meet in January — to be announced
- ♦ **Newsletter Deadline**
Monday, December 19, by NOON
- ♦ **Trustees Meeting**
Monday, December 19, 7 pm

Scheduled Events:

- ⇒ **Annual Christmas Stocking Stuffing Event**,
November 26, 9:30 AM, FCC 2nd Floor.
- ⇒ **Advent Silent Saturday Retreat**, Saturday,
December 3rd, 9 am-Noon, FCC 2nd Floor (See
page 12.)
- ⇒ **Food at First's Pass Along Christmas Party**,
Saturday, December 10, 1-3 pm, at Collegiate
Methodist Church, 2622 Lincoln Way, Ames
— Last day to donate items is December 6,
4:30-6:30 pm, at Collegiate Methodist, east
door.
- ⇒ **Christmas Offering Received**, Sundays,
December 11, and 18th.
- ⇒ **Annual Congregational Meeting**, Sunday,
December 11, after worship, in the sanctuary.
- ⇒ **Christmas Caroling**, Saturday, December 11, 1
PM, meet at the church parking lot.
- ⇒ **Good Neighbor 25th Anniversary Celebration**,
Love Our Neighbor, at Stephens Auditorium, 7
PM doors open, 7:15 PM seating begins, \$25.
(See page 13.)
- ⇒ **Children's Christmas Pageant**, Sunday,
December 18, during worship
- ⇒ **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**, Saturday,
December 24, 7 PM
- ⇒ **Christmas Day Lunch and Games**, Sunday,
December 25, after worship

Calling all FCC Members
to join us for this year's

Annual Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, December 11

After worship
In the Sanctuary
and via Zoom

At this year's
Congregational Meeting, we will:

1. Elect new leadership, and
2. Adopt a budget for 2023

Following the Annual Meeting
We will go Christmas Caroling!



We will gather at 1 o'clock
in the parking lot.

*Advent at
First Christian
Church*



*Christmas
Caroling*

**Saturday,
December 11,
at 1 PM**



*Children's
Christmas
Pageant*

**Meet at the
Church
parking lot**

**Sunday,
December 18,
During worship
at 10:30 AM**



*Candlelight
Christmas
Eve
Hybrid
Service*

**Saturday,
December 24,
at 7 PM**

Merry Christmas

Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, December 25, at 10:30 AM

Message from the Trustees

Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful (Colossians 3:15). As the holiday season approaches there is much to be thankful for. We are thankful for your faithfulness.

At the end of October, the *Asset and Profit and Loss* statements reflected a favorable trend in the number of Written Pledge receipts. *Profit and Loss: The Year- to- Date (YTD) 2022 Actual* written pledge amount of \$142,608 exceeded the *Budget by Month* anticipated amount of \$141,667.00. We are trending in the right direction.

The *Net Income* for the month of October was \$7,106.00! In addition, the *YTD September Negative Income amount* was \$26,389.00. In October, the *YTD Net Income* decreased to the lesser negative amount of \$19,283.00. A decrease of \$7,106.00!

From September 30 to October 31, 2022, FCC's total *Christian Church Foundation* amounts have decreased from \$212,748.44 to \$196,986.27, a loss of \$15,762.17. The bear market persists.

FCC's Line-Item Budget for 2023

The Proposed 2023 Line-Item budget appear elsewhere in the *Call* and will be voted on after Sunday worship, on December 11, 2022.

Questions or concerns, contact DeLores Hawkins, David Gregory or Anjeanette Perkins

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.

Annual Congregational Meeting December 11

Each year, on the second Sunday of December, First Christian Church holds its Annual Congregational Meeting immediately after worship to approve the next year's budget and elect the next year's leaders. This year is no exception!

In late October you received a letter from the Stewardship Committee that included a narrative budget, and in this edition of The Call there is a summary of the proposed line item budget for 2023. Also in this edition of The Call you will find a slate of the proposed church leaders for 2023. These two items – the budget and the slate of church leaders – are the core of what we will discuss at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

On December 11, immediately after the conclusion of the hybrid worship service, we will remain in the Sanctuary and on Zoom to discuss and approve the budget and slate of church leaders. If you have any questions about either of those documents, feel free to contact Vern Hawkins at hawkinsis@icloud.com and I will respond to you before the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Details about how the vote will be taken and recorded will also be included in the December 8 Weekly Update.

We are doing things a little differently during

this time of COVID-19, but we are continuing our work to serve your individual needs, the needs of the collective congregation, and the needs of our neighbors in the wider community. Thank you for your continued involvement and support!

Vern Hawkins
General Board Chair

Proposed 2023 Budget	
INCOME	
Pledges (written)	\$ 181,000
Loose Offering	\$ 2,000
Faith Factor (17.1% of	\$ 31,000
Interest	\$ 25
Anticipated Shortfall (if necessary, transfer from savings or investments at year end.)	\$ 5,400
Total income	\$ 248,225
EXPENSES	
Administration	\$ 10,765
Personnel	\$ 155,322
Property	\$ 23,538
Utilities	\$ 31,000
Council of Ministries	\$ 6,200
Outreach (10% of cash receipts)	21,400
Total expenses	\$248,225
Total Income	\$ 248,225
Total Expenses	\$ 248,225
Difference	\$ -

FCC 2023 Nominations Slate

Following is the slate of nominees to leadership positions that was approved by the General Board on October 10 and will be voted on during the December 11, 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting.

One Year Positions	
Board Chair	Roger Bertelsen
Vice Chair	Vern Hawkins
Secretary	Max McElwain
Treasurer	Amy Kuehl
Financial Secretary	Marv Prins
Property Chair	Jim Lester
Delegate to the Bridge Home (formerly ERP)	Marv Prins
Delegate to the Ames Ecumenical Housing	Vern Hawkins
Delegate to Good Neighbor	Janis Pyle
Delegates to Food at First	Alice May and Dawn Heaberlin
Nominations Chair	Stacey Mayfeld
Stewardship Chair	Cynthia Gaunt
Council of Ministries	Deb Lewis
Three Year Positions	
Deacon	Three years: Doug Clark, Jaleel Khan, Abby Schwartz, Karen McElwain, Max McElwain Two Years: Christian Haley, Amanda Mokaya, Cindy Ratliff One Year: Vern Hawkins
Elders	Sue Prins, Darla Ewalt
Trustee	Derek Krebs

Green Team Report

A reminder that the vegetarian cookbook is now available. Please contact Darla Ewalt (gsioey69@hotmail.com) for a pdf copy.

Green Team Challenge: Choose a room in your home and make one change to help reduce your carbon footprint. Report what change you made to the Green Team. Besides helping our beautiful planet, your name will be added to a drawing for a prize.

Need ideas for what you can change? The Green Team came up with 10 suggestions.

1. Do you use liquid hand soap? Instead of buying a new battle, buy refill bottles. Maybe use an attractive soap dispenser.
2. Try shampoo bars. Stacey does and she doesn't notice a difference.
3. Compost food scraps.
4. Reduce the amount of laundry soap you use. We use way too much! Here's a simple table of recommended amounts.

	Standard Washer	HE Washer
2X Liquid Detergent	2 tbsp	2 tsp
Soft Water	1 ½ tbsp	1 ½ tsp
Powder Detergent	¼ - 1/3 cup	2 tbsp
Premeasured Pack	1 pack	1 pack

5. Use Wool dryer balls in the clothes drier instead of drier sheets or hang up your clothes to dry.
6. Recycle clothes at one of the various second-hand stores.
7. Use only Green/Eco friendly cleaning products such as vinegar and water and baking soda. Don't mix vinegar and baking soda together.
8. Instead of turning up the thermostat in the winter, layer your clothes and use lap blankets.
9. Set up a recycling area in your home for food scraps, glass, and recyclable drink bottles and cans. Use the area!
10. Work with the sun by using your window coverings.

There are many different things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint. Share what you are doing. We all need to work together one step at a time. Our children and grandchildren are depending on us.

The Green Team has plans for activities and events in December, January and February. As plans are finalized, we'll get the word out. Stay Tuned!





Here I Am Lord

Advent Silent Saturday Retreat

Dec. 3, 2022, 9am-noon

This will be a hybrid retreat both Zoom and In Person

First Christian Church, 2nd Floor

611 Clark Ave. Ames Iowa

(Link will be sent to those requesting it 2 days prior to gathering.)

Contemplative Outreach of Central Iowa invites you to set aside 3 hours on the first Saturday of Advent to explore quiet reflection and Centering Prayer. The focus will be on allowing time to deepen our awareness to God's presence and participation in our advent experiences as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the gift of divine incarnation. Each participant will receive a reflection booklet and time to reflect in silence as well as opportunities to join in Centering Prayer with the group.

Please register at centeriowa.org. \$15 donation accepted at the event and can be made online for those attending by zoom. Send to COCI, % Tim Goldman, 709 22nd St. West Des Moines, IA. 50265 The zoom link will be sent to all those who registered.



Contemplative Outreach
of Central Iowa
Silence Solitude Solidarity Service

www.CenterIowa.org

JOIN US!

GOOD NEIGHBOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, INC. 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Please bring a non-perishable food item.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Story County door greeters will accept food donations at the Hy-Vee food carts by each entrance!

For Reservations/Information

Email: director@gnea.org

or

Phone: 818-262-8689

\$25 tickets are available!

\$100 LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR VOLUNTEER SPONSOR


***Provide 4 tickets for Story County volunteers helping at many HUNGER relief non-profit organizations and food pantries**

\$250 BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR SENIOR CITIZEN TICKET SPONSOR

***Provide 10 tickets for members of our senior citizen community to attend the program**

GOOD NEIGHBOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, INC., a non-profit organization, is proud to offer many services to our Story County residents in need. For the 25th Anniversary Celebration, we are partnering with several non-profit organizations to offer a musical program during the season of giving for all ages! Come celebrate and help our neighbors that need nutritional support all year long!



Please make checks payable to: Good Neighbor 613 Clark Ave, Ames, IA 50010
OR by Venmo  @gnea-org





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

**Nov. 20-30 Josh on
Vacation**

**Nov. 24-25 Office Closed
for Thanksgiving**

**Dec. 1 Regional
Operations Council Online**

**Dec. 11 Christmas
Offering Received**

**Dec. 18 Christmas
Offering Received**

**Dec. 23-26 Office Closed
for Christmas**

**Jan. 2 Office Closed for
New Year's Day**

**Jan. 20 Ministerial
Standing Applications Due**

**Jan. 26 Regional
Operations Council Online**

**Jan. 30-Feb. 1 Ministers
Institute**

[Regional Prayer Calendar](#)

[Disciples videos](#)



All Congregational Gathering Learning Session Recordings Now Available

The 2022 All Congregational Gathering Learning Sessions have all been uploaded to the region's You Tube channel and are available for viewing. Learning sessions took the form of TED Talk-style presentations and covered pertinent and innovative topics in 6 ministry areas: Christian Education, Worship, Resource Sharing, Mission, Church Finance, and Leadership/Innovation. View the playlist [HERE](#).



This Advent, FCC Keokuk & West Des Moines Christian Church (WDMCC) are collaborating to put on two musical worship events celebrating Jesus' birth! Join Revs. Brian Nixon, Mark Ehrhardt, & Luke Ehrhardt as well as Des Moines Symphony violinist Robert Espe at one of the following events for a lively & uplifting evening of praise to the newborn Christ!

- **WDMCC:** Friday, Dec. 2nd (doors open 6:30 pm)
- **FCC Keokuk:** Friday, Dec. 16th (doors open 6:30 pm)

With well-known classics, original songs, Andrew Peterson's *Behold the Lamb of God* album, & storytelling, you won't want to miss this exciting opportunity to enter the story of God-With-Us!

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

Stewardship Report

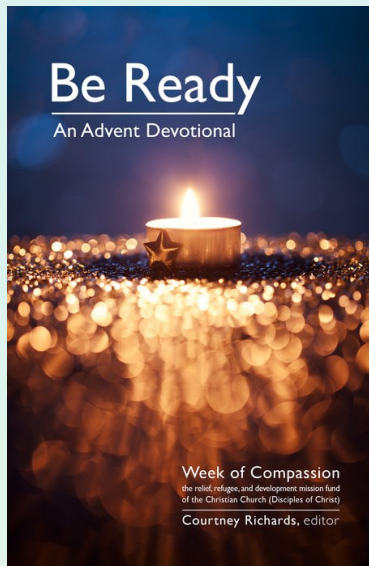
		Oct.	2022 YTD
Income:		\$27,621	\$181,044
Expenses:		\$20,515	\$200,328
Difference:		\$7,106	\$(19,283)

Our deepest condolences to the family of Mary Israel, who passed away on Monday, October 24; and to the family of Janet Lott, whose brother Dennis Dowell, died on Monday, October 31.

In and Out of the Hospital: Wanda Button, Donna Hogle.

December Birthdays

- 05 Anjeanette Perkins
- 09 Carol Baker
- 09 Jaleel Khan
- 13 Jake Ewalt
- 13 Jeannie Fitz
- 18 Dawn Heaberlin
- 18 Ron Matthews
- 20 Devin Webb
- 20 Vern Hawkins
- 22 Dianne Brown
- 26 Natalia Mokaya
- 26 Ruth Johnson
- 27 Denny Heaberlin
- 28 Darla Ewalt
- 29 Kyle LeCount
- 31 Jackie Haley



Be Ready: An Advent Devotional

Contributions organized by
Week of Compassion

Seasons of the year, of church, and of life can too easily flow right into the next. Taking time to mark occasions— stopping to look around— gives us the chance to breathe, see something new, and break the cycle of sameness. *Be Ready* takes the heart of Advent - waiting, preparation, readying - to

new places, engaging the spirit found within ministries of relief, refugees, preparedness, and recovery, alongside the sacred texts of the Advent season.

Beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, each day's devotion includes an Advent scripture, reflection, and prayer, engaging the traditional themes of Advent—hope, peace, joy, love—paired with stories from those responding to issues of welcome and hospitality, hunger and food justice, disaster and recovery, rebuilding and resilience. Candle-lighting moments for each Sunday and Christmas plus devotions including the 12 Days of Christmas until Epiphany make *Be Ready* an engaging Advent experience.

This Advent devotional is FREE and ready for you to be picked up in the Narthex, or by the ramp door entrance.

Poinsettias "In Honor" or "In Memory" of Loved Ones

As in years past, we have poinsettias decorating our Sanctuary for the season, and they are available for you to purchase for \$8, "In Honor" or "In Memory" of a loved one.

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, please contact the Church Office with the name of your loved ones and whether the poinsettia is to be "In Honor" or "In Memory" of them. Your loved ones names and message will appear in the upcoming December edition of *The Call*. You may retrieve your poinsettia following worship on Christmas Eve or on Sunday of Christmas morning.



Zoom Weekly Activity Schedule

Sunday*

9:30 AM	⇒ Zoom Room Opens ⇒ Tech People Setup ⇒ Musicians Practice ⇒ Adult Learning Time	Online Link: www.fccames.org/SundayWorship Phone Connection: (312) 626-6799 ID: 83549778613#
10:00 AM	Clark Avenue and Ramp 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#
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Thursday

10:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship Online Link: fccames.org/CoffeeFellowship 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.

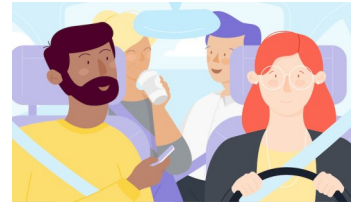
Stay Connected with FCC!

- [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

Rides to Church on Sunday Morning!

We are looking for people who would be willing to volunteer to pick folks up and drive them to church on Sunday mornings. If that's you, give Pastor Mary Jane a call at 515-460-5363, or email her at maryjane@fccames.org.



"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 for more information.
- **BEAUTIFY** the Sanctuary during special events or worship themes. Contact Sue Prins at 515-460-2628 for more information.
- **WELCOME** and assist others on Sunday mornings as a Worship Assistant. Contact Vern Hawkins at 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.
- **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.

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

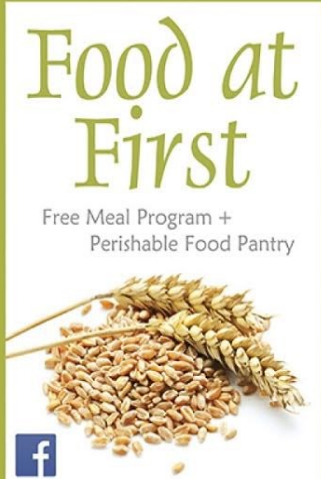
Contact assistance@gne.org or call **515-296-1449** for more information.

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/.



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

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	
Administrative Assistant:	Liz Collazo
Worship Musician:	Jenna Schwartz
Building Custodian:	Sherri Khan
Nursery Attendants:	Karen LeCount
	Lauren Byers

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