

# The Call

ISSUE No. 01,  
JANUARY, 2023

## RISE UP ANEW

SPECIAL OFFERING  
February 19-26, 2023



### Inside This Issue

Week of Compassion Offering	1
Worship Schedule	2
February Schedule	3
An Update from the Trustees	4
A COVID Update	5
Green Team Report	6
Regional News	8
Summer Camp 2023	9
News from the Pews	10
Opportunities to Serve	12
Partners in Ministry	13



They RISE UP ANEW each morning, so great is God's faithfulness. + LAMENTATIONS 3:21-23

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. For nearly 80 years, Week of Compassion has pursued its mission, working with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, toward the vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope.



**T**his past year has continued to witness the ravages of COVID-19 across the globe. War in Ukraine persists, and recovery for that nation's people will be extensive and long-lasting. Communities from Kentucky to Puerto Rico to Newfoundland are in the throes of long-term recovery from tornadoes, massive floods, and hurricanes. Wildfires continue to imperil western U.S. states and Canadian provinces, and drought affects the world's farmers, ranchers, and tribal communities alike. Unfathomable floods in Pakistan and the Philippines have left indelible images of destruction and tragedy, while the simplest needs—nutrition, shelter, work—seem out of reach for far too many people in far too many places.

In the middle of it all, Week of Compassion calls on God's mercy and speaks boldly of the Divine goodness made new each day. When it seems that tragedy and hardship is all that rises up, the people of God trust in a holy word, and proclaim with their work, their witness, and their generous

*Yet it is because I remember all this that I have hope. YHWH's favor is not exhausted, nor has God's compassion failed. They rise up anew each morning, so great is God's faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:12-23, The Inclusive Bible)*

giving, that God’s faithfulness will rise up anew, too.

Because God’s compassion never fails, we have seen an abundance of compassion in the face of fatigue. Because God’s compassion never fails, we have seen partnerships forged, communities strengthened, and opportunities blossoming—concrete and tangible ways that Week of Compassion, serving with and on behalf of the whole Disciples church, is part of what God is doing to make things new.

It is about so much more than dollars and cents. Week of Compassion is where Disciples respond to the challenges and the blessings they see and experience in the world. Week of Compassion is a full-body-of-Christ response. As our General Minister and President, Rev. Terri Hord Owens has often said, “When Week of Compassion is there, the whole church is there”—to bring immediate relief and long-term recovery after disasters; equip churches and leaders for disaster preparedness; respond to assist refugees; and support global development projects that empower communities.

As Disciples, we gather at the table of thanksgiving, where we remember Christ’s very life poured out lavishly for everyone without exception. This abundance and blessing is what we receive, who we are, and who God calls us to be. In the midst of pain that seems too great and challenges that seem too many, God’s great faithfulness remains, and we rise up anew, again and again, to give, serve, and live with compassionate generosity. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership, throughout the year, throughout the world.

In gratitude,

Rev. Vy Nguyen  
Executive Director, Week of Compassion

**The Week of Compassion Offering will be received on Sundays, February 19 and 26. We will have coin boxes available for collecting your change throughout the week and designated envelopes. You may also give online, [HERE](#). Please remember to designate your offering as “Week of Compassion.”**

<b>Epiphany 2023</b>		
<b>Jan. 22</b>	<b>Beatitudes</b>	<b>Matthew 5:1-20</b>
<b>Jan. 29</b>	<b>Treasure in Heaven</b>	<b>Matthew 6:7-21</b>
<b>Feb. 5</b>	<b>The Golden Rule</b>	<b>Matthew 7:1-14; 24-29</b>
<b>Feb. 12</b>	<b>Parables of the Kingdom</b>	<b>Matthew 13:24-43</b>
<b>Feb. 19</b>	<b>Transfiguration</b>	<b>Matthew 16:24-17:8</b>
		
<b>Woven Into a Tapestry of Love: Prepare to be Changed</b>		
<b>Feb. 22</b>	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY Joint Ash Wednesday Service with First United Methodist Church at FCC, 7:00 PM</b>	
<b>Feb. 26</b>	<b>Forgiveness</b>	<b>Matthew 18:15-35</b>
<b>Mar. 5</b>	<b>Laborers in the Vineyard</b>	<b>Matthew 20:1-16</b>
<b>Mar. 12</b>	<b>Wedding Banquet</b>	<b>Matthew 22:1-14</b>
<b>Mar. 19</b>	<b>Bridesmaids (or Talents)</b>	<b>Matthew 25:1-13</b>
<b>Mar. 26</b>	<b>Last Judgment</b>	<b>Matthew 25:31-46</b>
<b>Apr. 2</b>	<b>Triumphal Entry</b>	<b>Matthew 21:1-17</b>
<b>Apr. 6</b>	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY, 7:00 pm, at First United Methodist Church</b>	<b>Matthew 26:17-30</b>
<b>Apr. 9</b>	<b>EASTER Resurrection</b>	<b>Matthew 28:1-10</b>

# February Calendar

- ◆ **Elder's Circle**  
Every Monday, 10:45 am via Zoon
- ◆ **FCC Makes Lunch for Food at First**  
Saturday, February 4, 9:30 am—1pm
- ◆ **Green Chalice Team Meeting**  
Sunday, February 5, 1:45 pm
- ◆ **Faith Formation Team**  
Wednesday, February 8, 6 pm
- ◆ **Meeting of the General Board**  
**Monday, February 13, 7 PM, via Zoom**
- ◆ **Property Team Meeting**  
Tuesday, February 14, 7:15 pm
- ◆ **Newsletter Deadline**  
Monday, February 20, by NOON
- ◆ **Trustees Meeting**  
Monday, February 27, 7 pm

## Scheduled Events:

### ⇒ Café Conversations

- Sunday, February 19 in person following worship
- Monday, February 20 on Zoom at 7:00 PM  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81091617785?pwd=ZTdhaFI2UG1uVXgzeFVBZhc2dGR4QT09>

### ⇒ Week of Compassion Offering Received Sundays, February 19 and 26, during worship

### ⇒ Lenten Walking Meditation

**Beginning Monday, February 27, 12:15 PM.**  
You can participate in this year's Lenten Walking Meditation by meeting at Ada Hayden at 12:15 each Monday, or by walking on your own and record a message for the group using the Marco Polo app (the same app we've used in past years).



**2023 Keynote Speaker**  
**SHARON PERRY FANTINI, PH.D.**  
VP for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
Iowa State University

5:30 pm CST (Social)  
6:30 pm CST (Dinner)  
7:30 pm CST (Virtual Program\*)

LIVE STREAM ON @AMES-IOWA NAACP\*

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

**OUR MISSION CONTINUES...**  
**2023 ANNUAL FREEDOM FUND BANQUET**

**THURSDAY | FEB. 16, 2023**  
GATEWAY HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTER  
**AMES, IOWA NAACP BRANCH**

### Ames NAACP Hybrid Freedom Fund Banquet Thursday, February 16, 2023, Gateway Hotel 6:30 PM Social, 7 PM Main Event

As in years past, First Christian Church is committing to support the work of the NAACP by participating in this event, which features Sharon Perry Fantini, PH.D., as Keynote Speaker. Sharon is VP for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Iowa State University. If you are interested joining for the dinner or the virtual program, please contact the Church Office by Monday, February 6th at [fccames@fccames.org](mailto:fccames@fccames.org), 515-232-5766, so that we may register as a group. If you are attending the dinner, please let us know your meal preference. The menu is listed [HERE](#).

**Should Christians Hold Seders?**  
Feb. 19, 2023  
7:00-8:30 p.m.

Registration is required

Speaker: Rabbi Marc Kline  
Senior Interim Rabbi at Temple Ohev Shalom  
Harrisburg, PA

Hosted by the Upper Midwest Region  
Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Action Team

### Should Christians Hold Seders?

Hosted by the Christian Church in the Upper Midwest Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Action Team, February 19, 7-8:30 PM, via Zoom

**Speaker:** Rabbi Marc Kline, Senior Interim Rabbi at Temple Ohev Shalom in Harrisburg, PA

Registration is Required — [REGISTER HERE](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. [Read more on Facebook.](#)

# An Update from the Trustees

Once again, the Trustees wish to thank all those who helped fund the church's operating budget in 2022, through pledges and unpledged gifts. We are grateful as well to those who have pledged to support the 2023 budget. Please remember that it is not too late to submit your 2023 pledge. Simply return your pledge card through the offering plate or U.S. mail or contact Liz Collazo in the church office for assistance. To date, written pledges totaling \$146,495 have been submitted to the church. This is less than the hoped-for pledge total of \$181,000. We thank you in advance for helping to meet this goal.

As we close the 2022 budget year, we are disheartened to report that we ended the year with a deficit of \$38,310—that is, spending exceeded income by this amount. Expenses were actually lower than what had been budgeted (by almost \$17,000), but income was also much lower (by almost \$55,000), thus producing this record deficit. As we have stated in the past, we have sufficient money in the General Fund to cover this shortfall, but deficit spending of this magnitude needs to be an exception, and not the rule. We ended the previous year (2021) with a deficit of \$14,000, so this recurrence of deficit spending is clearly of concern.

The Trustees, who meet monthly, will make their highest priority this year to explore ways to both reduce expenses at First Christian Church and to identify new sources of income. If you, as a congregant or friend, have advice for us in this regard, please reach out to one of the 2023 Trustees listed below. In the meantime, if you have the financial resources, please prayerfully consider making a special gift to the church, beyond your planned 2023 giving, specifically to help address the 2022 deficit (and to strengthen the General Fund). As always, we will keep you informed through regular updates in The Call.

Blessings in the New Year from your 2023 Trustees,  
David Gregory (Chair), Anjeanette Perkins, and Derek Krebs

## *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.

# A COVID Update from the FCC Leadership Group

As we enter a new year, the Leadership Group would like to share this update with congregants and friends of First Christian Church. First, our membership has changed to include leaders elected in our recent congregational meeting. Those now serving on the Leadership Group include Pastor Mary Jane Button-Harrison, Roger Bertelsen (General Board), David Gregory (Trustees), Vern Hawkins (Personnel), Deb Lewis (Council of Ministries), and Sue Prins (Elders). The mission of the group, however, remains the same: to prayerfully “follow the science” in developing plans to keep the FCC community both physically safe and spiritually connected during public health crises. To that end, we continue to monitor data regarding COVID -19 in Story County, as well as guidelines set forth by public health specialists.

Since March of 2022, Leadership has determined that FCC will observe the following guideline from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): As long as Story County remains at

a Low or Medium risk level (based on CDC standards and definitions), safety protocols at First Christian Church will continue to be relaxed. If Story County’s risk level should increase to High, more stringent safety protocols will be re-introduced. This continues to be our position in 2023.

Leadership would also like to recommend that you read the following article in the January 9, 2023 issue of the *Ames Tribune* on [XBB.1.5, the latest COVID-19 variant](#). XBB.1.5 is believed to be the most transmissible version of the COVID virus yet—five times more contagious than the earlier omicron variant. As the new variant is expected to hit Iowa in the coming weeks, infectious disease specialists are urging Iowans to get the bivalent COVID-19 booster shot as soon as possible. Iowa Department of Health specialists are particularly concerned that “fewer than 1 in 6 Iowans have received a bivalent booster dose, the shot designed to protect from omicron strains of COVID-19.”

If you are concerned or uncertain about your own immunity or current vaccination/booster status (or concerned about a family member or loved one) please be sure to consult with your doctor or healthcare provider, especially in light of the more virulent strains of COVID-19 that are emerging. And as always, if you are feeling unwell during this time of COVID, flu, and other respiratory illnesses, please choose Zoom as an alternative to in-person worship and other church gatherings. Let’s continue to keep ourselves—and each other—healthy and well!

--David Gregory,  
on behalf of the FCC Leadership Group



# Green Team Report



**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. So far one visitor has taken the challenge, will you?

In December, we collected mittens, scarves and money for kids aging out of foster care and to help those who have the greatest needs. The Christmas season always opens our hearts to our neighbors who are struggling. Our Mother Earth is struggling too! What can we do? RECYCLE! The Green Team has some ideas.

- Do you get unused greeting cards or unused Christmas cards in the mail from a nonprofit organization? The Green Team will be setting up a box for you to put these cards with envelopes in so they can be recycled. Team members will deliver them to Overflow to be sold to help the Boys and Girls Club.
- Nice used clothing in good condition can be donated to Overflow, Affordables in Story City (supports Bethany Life), and Clothing That Works at the Collegiate Methodist Church Annex (adult clothing), besides Goodwill and Salvation Army.
- Do you have old jeans that are really in bad shape? They can be recycled! They can be mailed free of charge to Zappos for Good (<https://bluejeansgogreen.org/recycle-denim/> for more information). The Green Team will discuss this recycling option.
- Old shoes cluttering your closet? There are several options for recycling old shoes. Nike will recycle tennis/running shoes and the Ames Noon Kiwanis will be having a shoe drive later this year.
- Old sweaters with broken zippers or are no longer useable are being made into mittens by Happy Harmony Mittens in Nevada, Iowa. See their Facebook page for more information.
- Old furniture in good shape can be donated to Habitat for Humanity (<https://hfhci.org/donate/> for more information). First Christian was involved in the creation of the Habitat for Humanity of Central Iowa.
- The City of Ames recycling Programs:
  - Rummage RAMPage 2023 will be Friday, July 28, through Saturday, Aug. 5 for furniture, small working electronics, flat screen TVs, kitchenware, houseware, house plants, and sporting equipment (<https://www.cityofames.org/living/rummage-rampage> for more information).
  - Glass Recycling – glass dumpsters located at Fareway stores, HyVee Stores, and 420 E 2<sup>nd</sup> St.
  - Food Waste – Compost dumpster located at 420 E 2<sup>nd</sup> St.
  - Do you have a talent, skill, service that you are willing to share or an offer of help to an FCC member or do you need help with some project or a short-term need? The Green Team is creating a Hospitality Board. Watch for more information!

# Climate Change Corner

## State of The Climate

The world is in a climate emergency – “a code red for humanity” according to the UN Secretary-General. The concentration of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the atmosphere is wreaking havoc across the world and threatening lives, economies, health and food. The world is far from securing a global temperature rise to below 2°C as promised in the Paris Agreement. With a baseline in 1990, some countries are emitting more, some the same and others are emitting less.

*Published 9 Nov 2021 by the UN Environment Programme*



### What can we do? Here are a few ideas.

- Take the Green Team Challenge and maybe make more than one change.
- Recycle cellphones and other devices at the Story County Conservation Center and other Story County Offices.

A critical component in smartphones and other devices is a substance called coltan. 80% of the world’s supply of coltan is found directly in the center of gorilla habitat in the Congo. Mineral mining for smartphones has fueled bloody conflicts and gorilla habitat loss. The best way you can reduce this impact is recycling old smartphones and limiting unnecessary upgrades to a new device.



Story County Conservation has partnered with the Blank Park Zoo and ECO-CELL to recycle your old smartphones (and ipads, tablets, mp3 players, handheld gaming systems, chargers, and device accessories). ECO-CELL is a nonprofit which reclaims the precious minerals found inside these devices. Recycling these items helps save endangered gorillas by reducing the demand for coltan while 100% of the proceeds from this project go directly towards reforestation in the Congo and care for rescued gorillas.



- Support legislative bills that help to fight Climate Change by writing to your Representatives and Senators.

***Stay informed!***



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

**Jan. 20 Ministerial Standing Applications Due**

**Jan. 26 Regional Operations Council Online**

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

**Feb. 10-12 Junior Retreat**

**Feb. 10-11 Committee on Ministry**

**Feb. 19 Week of Compassion Special Offering**

**Feb. 19 AR/PR Online Event: "Should Christians Hold Seders?"**

**Feb. 23 Regional Operations Council Online**

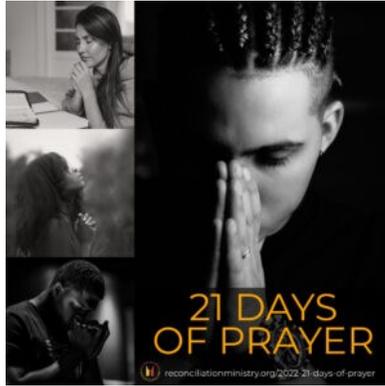
**Feb. 26 Week of Compassion Special Offering**

**Mar. 23 Regional Operations Council Online**

[Regional Prayer Calendar](#)

[Disciples videos](#)

# 21-Days of Prayer Journey 2023



The Journey begins January 15th continuing through February 4th, 2023. [There are daily prayer offerings](#) from Disciples from each expression and ministry of our Church.

As we live into our identity as an Anti-Racist/Anti-Oppression Church, each year we ground our mission and ministry in prayer. While we listen for God in the prayers of the people, we hope that you will receive courage and grace to bring Christ's love, justice, and peace to the people and places entrusted to us through our shared ministry of Reconciliation. Will you join us?

## Anti-Racism Action Calendar

The Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Team of the Upper Midwest would like to encourage our congregations and everyone in our region to take action to learn about and support communities and individuals of color. They've put together this [calendar](#) with daily suggestions for the month of February. Feel free to print it off or share it with others.

Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Action Calendar February 2023 BIPOC = Black, Indigenous, People of Color						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Buy a book by a BIPOC author.	2 Learn about implicit bias: <a href="#">Facout Butler, Jaki and Racism - The New York Times (nytimes.com)</a>	3 Learn about the National Convocation on disciples.org.	4 Follow Disciples Public Presence on Facebook.
5 Sing an African American spiritual in worship.	6 Learn about DOC Refugee & Immigration Ministries at <a href="#">Discipleshomemissions.org</a> .	7 Buy a BIPOC created card to send to a church or family member or friend.	8 Read & reflect on the poem "The Hill We Climb" by Amanda Gorman.	9 Reflect on your identity: How would you describe it? How would others? How has race played a part in shaping your identity?	10 Watch and reflect on this video on White Supremacy: <a href="https://youtu.be/YrHlQIO_bQ">https://youtu.be/YrHlQIO_bQ</a>	11 Look around your place of worship and see how many pictures of Jesus there are. How many are white? How many reflect another culture?
12 Say a prayer written by an indigenous community. (Please cite the author.)	13 Watch and reflect on this video on Anti-Asian Hate: <a href="https://youtu.be/14WUJuy9d4QE">https://youtu.be/14WUJuy9d4QE</a>	14 Watch and reflect on this video: Native Americans On Race: <a href="#">Garrison, A Conversation With Native Americans on Race - The New York Times (nytimes.com)</a>	15 Donate to an organization committed to anti-racism and/or anti hate. Don't forget our reconciliation offering as Disciples.	16 Purchase a piece of art from a BIPOC artist.	17 Learn about Reconciliation Ministries at disciples.org.	18 Learn about Critical Race Theory (CRT): <a href="#">Critical race theory: Experts break down what it actually means - Bing video</a>
19 Register and attend AR/PR Discussion on Christian Seders at 7PM tonight.	20 Learn about NAPAD (North American Pacific Asian Disciples) on disciples.org.	21 Eat at a BIPOC owned restaurant.	22 Research your local representation and see where they stand on issues such as, "Don't say gay," and anti-critical race theory legislation.	23 Commit to responding to hate in one of the ways listed by the Southern Poverty Law Center: <a href="#">Ten Ways to Fight Hate: A Community Response Guide   Southern Poverty Law Center (splcenter.org)</a>	24 Watch this video from the NY Times on Asian-American Race: <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/15/learning/lesson-plans/25-min-films-for-exploring-race-bias-and-identity-with-students.html?smid=em-share">https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/15/learning/lesson-plans/25-min-films-for-exploring-race-bias-and-identity-with-students.html?smid=em-share</a>	25 Learn about Christian Nationalism by listening to this podcast: <a href="#">Christian nationalism podcast discussion guides — Christians Against Christian Nationalism</a>
26 Sing the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," in worship.	27 Read a Children's book by a BIPOC author: <a href="http://faithful-voices.org/preschool-elementary">faithful-voices.org/preschool-elementary</a>	28 Follow the CCUM Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Page on Facebook.				

This calendar was compiled by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Upper Midwest Anti-Racism/Pro Reconciliation Team — Action Team. Please share this with your congregations and invite members and friends to take action to learn about and support communities and individuals of color.



## General Assembly 2023

<https://ga.disciples.org/>

# Summer Camp 2023

Each year the Christian Conference Center hosts 10 weeks of summer camp. They welcome about 900 campers and 200 volunteers to their facility for a week (or weekend) of church camp. Campers can attend overnight summer camp starting as infants (Family Camp) and can attend all the way through high school (CYF Camp). They even have a camp for retirees! Camp is for everyone!

Camp schedules and activities vary by age level and interest group. Each day of camp begins with a Bible lesson and prayer practice, includes organized games, free time, at least one swim time or lake activity, and ends with campfire worship around one of our many fire rings. We hope you'll explore the summer camp drop downs on their [website](#) to learn more.

Camps are planned and implemented by volunteers and staff from our denomination, the [Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\) in the Upper Midwest](#).

We hope you'll join us for Summer Camp 2023! Whether you're a returning camper or a first timer, we can't wait to welcome you to Holy Ground to play, worship and learn with us. We offer camps for ages 0-99. There's a place for YOU at the Christian Conference Center.

**First Christian Church will pay for half of ONE camp for every child that enrolls for camp this summer. Registration opens February 1st. Please notify the church office of your registration, so we may pay our part.**



Live. Love. Camp.

## SAVE THE DATES!!!

### Session Dates and Prices

#### Grand Camp

Session 1: June 24-25  
Session 2: July 15-16  
Children ages 4 through 2nd grade accompanied by one or more grandparents

#### Family Camp

June 2-4  
Children ages 0-18 who are accompanied by an adult family member  
(Children 3 and under free!)

#### Beginners

July 6-8  
Grades 2-3

#### Junior Camp

Session 1: June 12-17  
Session 2: July 10-15  
Session 3: August 7-12  
Grades 3-5

#### Chi Rho Camp

Session 1: June 12-17  
Session 2: June 19-24  
Session 3: July 10-15  
Grades 6-8

#### CYF Camp

Session 1: June 19-24  
Session 2: July 17-22  
Grades 9-12

#### Adventure Camp

July 24-29  
Grades 6-12

#### ADAM Camp

July 24-29  
Grades 6-12

#### Standing Rock Study Trip

To be announced  
Grades 9-12

#### Senior Adult Retreat

September 18-20  
Ages 55+

**All grades indicate the grade to be completed in the 2022-2023 school year.**

**Age indicates the age at the time of the start of the event.**

# 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

	Dec.	2022 YTD
<b>Income:</b>	\$13,173	\$202,386
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$21,807	\$240,697
<b>Difference:</b>	(\$8,634)	\$(38,310)

## February Birthdays

- 01 Ed Gagnier
- 02 Mark Love
- 03 Eric Brown
- 03 Spencer Haley
- 06 Ella Spitzli
- 07 Karen McElwain
- 08 DeLores Hawkins
- 09 Karen Brenden
- 09 Mendy Krebs
- 11 Suzanne Clark
- 14 Larry Mesenbrink
- 16 Cathy Krebs
- 17 Mary Von Ah Gregory
- 20 Meg Knol-Digby



## THANK YOU!

We would like to thank all who shared their holiday spirit by donating to YSS, MICA and the mitten tree.

We were able to give gift cards of \$130 each to the 2 young people who were aging out of YSS so that they could buy some household essentials.

MICA received 148 ½ pounds of food and products due to your generosity.

And, last but not least, we donated 17 hats, 17 mittens/ gloves, 3 scarves, and 7 socks/ slippers to those in need. Patty Yoder at Food At First was glad to take them and will hand them out to those needing their warmth.

You are a loving, warm, and generous people.

Thank you – Sue Prins

Dear First Christian Church Friends,

Thank you so much for the lunch prepared and served following my son, David’s memorial service. It was a real uplifting gift to our family.

Lovingly,  
 Wanda Button

Dear First Christian Church,

Thank You for your recent in-kind gift in support of our Holiday Giving Program, valued at \$260.00. Your support will make an immediate positive impact on the lives and futures

of children, youth and families in our community.

By committing to putting kids first, you help YSS provide what many have never experienced: hope and opportunity. In fact, YSS helps tens of thousands of youth and family each year, thanks to friends like you.

Your support is vital to the continued success of our programs, which allow young people to find their voice, heal with compassion, make healthy choices, and ultimately, **stand strong.**

Thank you again, for your generosity and for believing in the potential of youth. If you ever have questions about YSS or how to get involved, feel free to contact me.

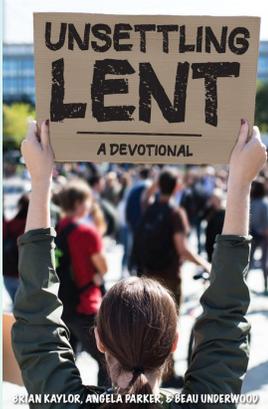
With gratitude,  
 Andrew Allan  
 YSS President and CEO  
 515-233-3151  
[aallen@yss.org](mailto:aallen@yss.org)

### ASH WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE



WEDNESDAY,  
 FEBRUARY 22, 7:00 PM  
 AT FIRST CHRISTIAN  
 CHURCH

FIRST UNITED  
 METHODIST CHURCH  
 WILL JOIN US



## Unsettling Lent: A Lenten Devotional by Brian Kaylor, Angela Parker, and Beau Underwood

**U***nsettling Lent* is not your ordinary Lenten devotional. That's a good thing, given the ways Lent's radical meaning has been diminished by our culture's false promotion of religious complacency. By connecting the biblical story to present-day realities, it invites Christians to make Lent a season of solidarity and justice-seeking. In contrast to devotionals emphasizing personal spirituality and interior transformations, *Unsettling Lent* emphasizes the public implications and communal aspects of self-denial, sacrificial love, and confrontations with power. Followers of Jesus are invited to journey to the cross in a more faithful way that promises to harness the power of this season for the renewal of ourselves, our churches, and our world.

Brian Kaylor is a Baptist pastor with a Ph.D in Political Communication. He serves as President & Editor-in-Chief of *Word&Way*, a Christian publication founded in 1896. Angela Parker is an Assistant Professor of New Testament and Greek at Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology. She is also an ordained missionary Baptist pastor. Beau Underwood is senior pastor of Allisonville Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indianapolis.

Look for this Lenten devotional by church pews

## 2023 STATE OF THE COMMUNITY Friday, January 27th CityChurch of Ames-Des Moines 2400 Oakwood Road

Community leaders will report on their organizations' successes, challenges, and how they collaborate to better serve our community and county.

The panel will include:

Dr. Jonathan Wickert, Provost,  
Iowa State University  
John Haila, Mayor, City of Ames  
Latifah Faisal, Chair,  
Story County Board of Supervisors  
Dr. Robert Denson, Des Moines Area  
Community College  
Dr. Julious Lawson, Superintendent,  
Ames Community School District  
Amber Dearoff, Vice President,  
Mary Greeley Medical Center

Doors open @ 11:00 AM.

Registration is free. Hickory Park Lunch Available for \$10 with reservation by 1/24 (which you may pay at the door).

Register at [prez.lwvasc@gmail.com](mailto:prez.lwvasc@gmail.com)  
or at <https://www.uwstory.org/state-community>

Program begins at 11:45 AM

Program will be live on Facebook at League of Women Voters Ames & Story County.



## Zoom Weekly Activity Schedule

### Sunday\*

9:30 AM	⇒ Zoom Room Opens ⇒ Tech People Setup ⇒ Musicians Practice ⇒ Adult Learning Time	Online Link: <a href="http://www.fccames.org/SundayWorship">www.fccames.org/SundayWorship</a> 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: <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

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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.

# 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

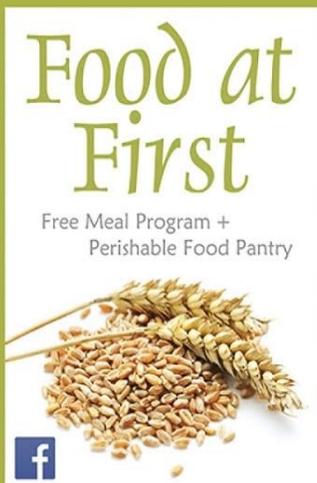
Contact [assistance@gnea.org](mailto:assistance@gnea.org) or call **515-296-1449** for more information.

## 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
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