

The Call

ISSUE NO. 02,
FEBRUARY, 2023

Inside This Issue

Lent 2023: Prepare to Change	1
Worship Schedule Tour of Life	2
Lent Activities and March Schedule	3
An Update from the Trustees	4
Lent Taizé Meditation Service	5
Regional News	6
Summer Camp 2023	7
News from the Pews	8
Opportunities to Serve	10
Partners in Ministry	11

Prepare to Change

LENT 2023

Woven Into a Tapestry of Love

In 1964 Bob Dylan wrote the classic song, "The Times They Are a-Changin'." That was certainly true then, but after 3 years of a pandemic, as people emerge from that event that changed the world, those words ring especially true.

So many things have changed. Old ways of doing things have come to pass. Organizations and institutions, including the church, are struggling to know how to meet the demands of this changing world. Some are ceasing to exist. Some are collapsing. Some are focusing their energy on the purpose for their existence and how best to express that in these times. The last one is hard, but hope filled. It demands we let go of much and trust that as we do, God will lead us to abundant life in the Spirit, together.



After worship on Sunday, February 19th and via Zoom on Monday, February 20th, Café Conversations were held to talk about our upcoming Clergy & Congregation Renewal that will take place April 15-July 15. This time will be a time of renewing our faith, opening ourselves to new ways of being church, and finding a bit of Sabbath rest for our weary souls. It will be a time of connection, reflection, and recommitment to that which is foundational; that upon which we will build what is to come next for us as a faith community.

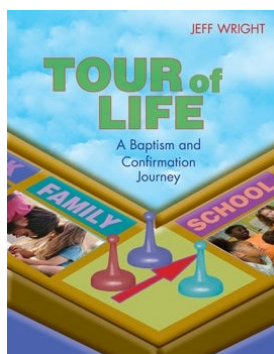
Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. Our theme for Lent is "Prepare to Change." Lent will be a time of preparation for the season of renewal that will follow. Last Sunday, Tim Button-Harrison concluded his sermon highlighting the Spirit of God's

command to “Listen to [Jesus]” saying, “Our theme this year for Lent is “Prepare to Change.” So let me close with a few questions: How might our reflection on the Transfiguration, that moment on the mountain with Jesus, help us prepare to change? How might observing the responses of disciples each time Jesus tells them of his coming suffering help us prepare to change. How might Jesus’ instructions – take up your cross, be last and servant of all, help us prepare to change? How might that voice coming through the clouds saying “Listen” help us prepare to change?”

May this season of Lent prepare us to change in ways that bring resurrection life to and beyond FCC!

Pastor Mary Jane

Youth “Tour of Life” Exploration of Baptism/Membership Class



Beginning the first Sunday in Lent – February 26, I will be teaching the “Tour of Life” exploration of baptism/membership curriculum. We will meet several Sundays during Lent following worship and have a Saturday retreat in the church building as well.

Upon completion, those who feel they are ready will be baptized on Easter Sunday, April 9th. The students will also participate in serving with FCC volunteers to prepare and serve the meal for Food at First on April 1st. Please pray for the students and mentors who will participate.

—Pastor Mary Jane

Woven Into a Tapestry of Love

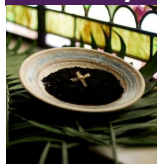


Feb. 22	ASH WEDNESDAY Joint Ash Wednesday Service with First United Methodist Church at FCC, 7:00 PM	
Feb. 26	Holding On to Letting Go	Matthew 18:15-35
Mar. 5	Stinginess to Generosity	Matthew 20:1-16
Mar. 12	Rejection to Acceptance	Matthew 22:1-14
Mar. 19	Asleep to Awake	Matthew 25:1-13
Mar. 26	Apathy to Mercy	Matthew 25:31-46
Apr. 2	Psalms and Passion	Matthew 21:1-17
Apr. 6	MAUNDY THURSDAY, 7:00 pm, at First United Methodist Church	Everyone will Know Matthew 26:17-30
Apr. 9 10:30 AM	*EASTER Entombed to Empty Tomb	Matthew 28:1-10

*There will be NO Early Morning Easter Service.

LENT SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

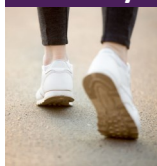
February 22 7:00 PM—Ash Wednesday Service



You may attend this joint service in person in the FCC sanctuary or you may attend via Zoom using our regular Sunday morning worship link.

There will be scripture, music, communion, and a time for ashes in this service to begin our Lenten journey. Rev. Amanda Gordon from First United Methodist Church will be our guest preacher.

February 27 12:15 PM—Lenten Walking Meditation



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 used last year).

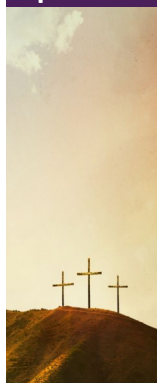
April 6 7:00 PM—Maundy Thursday Service



You may attend this joint service in person in the First United Methodist Church sanctuary or you may attend virtually.

This will be a service to remember Jesus last supper with his disciples and the events that unfolded leading to his crucifixion the next day. Pastor Mary Jane will be the preacher for this service.

April 8-9 6:00 AM–6:00 AM—Easter Prayer Vigil



Once again we will invite you to sign up for one or more 30 minutes time slots and set that time aside to pray from your home or wherever you are. The idea of the prayer vigil is that the church would keep a constant vigil of non-stop prayer between the time when Jesus was crucified and when the women discovered the empty tomb.

April 9 10:30 AM—Easter Sunday Service, possibly with baptisms

March Calendar

Liz Collazo will be on vacation from Monday, March 27, through Friday, March 31. She will return to the Church Office on Monday, April 3.

- ◆ **Elder's Circle**
Every Monday, 10:45 am via Zoon
- ◆ **FCC Makes Lunch for Food at First**
Saturday, March 4, 9:30 am—1pm
- ◆ **Green Chalice Team Meeting**
Sunday, March 5, following worship
- ◆ **Faith Formation Team**
Tuesday, March 7, 6 pm
- ◆ **Property Team Meeting**
Tuesday, March 14, 7:15 pm
- ◆ **Newsletter Deadline**
Monday, March 20, by NOON
- ◆ **Trustees Meeting**
Monday, March 20, 7 pm

Scheduled Events:

- ⇒ **Week of Compassion Offering Received**
Sunday, February 26, during worship
- ⇒ **General Assembly Early Bird Registration Deadline**, Wednesday, March 1st
- ⇒ **Renewal Café Conversations Round 2**
 - Sunday, March 19 in person following worship
 - Tuesday, March 21 on Zoom at 7:00 PM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81091617785?pwd=ZTdhaFI2UG1uVXgzeFVBZHC2dGR4QT09>
- ⇒ **Zoom Discussion: Womanist Theology, with Minister DeShay Jackson**, March 19, 7PM. DeShay Jackson (They/Them) serves as Minister of Music and Worship Arts for The Gathering. For more information and to register click [HERE](#). You will receive further information for participation in your registration confirmation.
- ⇒ **Good Neighbor Annual Choral Concert**, March 26 at 2 PM, Collegiate United Methodist Church



An Update from the Trustees...

“Bride’s Room Renovation” is added to the Designated Giving List

At their meeting on February 13, 2023, members of the FCC General Board voted unanimously to revise the church’s Designated Giving List, acting on a proposal received from the FCC Trustees. In this issue of *The Call*, the Trustees would like to remind FCC members and friends about the existence—and the importance—of this list.

The church’s Gift Policy, which has been in place since 2013, states that:

“The Board shall maintain a list of purposes for which designated gifts may be accepted, consistent with the current ministries and missions of the church. This list shall be known as the Designated Giving List.”

Periodically, the Trustees review the Designated Giving List, discuss ways in which it might be revised (in consultation with the pastor and other church leaders), develop a proposal, and submit it to the General Board. This week, the Trustees recommended to the Board that funding for a modest renovation of the Bride’s Room be added to this list.

The Bride’s Room, on the church’s lower level and connected by stairs to the Sanctuary, was unused by the congregation throughout the pandemic, serving instead as a much-needed storage space for Food at First. Though the room has been cared for, it shows the normal wear and tear of many years of prior use. To create a pleasant and welcoming environment, and in consultation with the Property Committee, the Trustees have proposed a fresh coat of paint, new carpet (probably in the form of carpet tiles), and some new furnishings to supplement those that can be transferred from other parts of the building. If you have a fondness for the Bride’s Room and would

like to assist in funding these improvements, please earmark a donation for this purpose. The Trustees—and the next generation of FCC brides—will greatly appreciate your generosity!

Four additional projects remain on the Designated Giving List, representing either short or long-term priorities for First Christian Church. The complete list now includes:

- 1) *Help fund a Ministry Coordinator for Children, Youth, and Families***
- 2) *Replace and update outdoor signage***
- 3) *Replace and update exterior doors***
- 4) *Help fund special projects and programs facilitated by the FCC Council of Ministries***
- 5) *Help fund a modest renovation of the Bride’s Room (paint, carpet, selected furnishings)***

As you can see, our current list includes both “brick-and-mortar” projects and programmatic initiatives.

Thank you again if you have ever contemplated a “special” gift to FCC, above and beyond those “regular” donations that support the General Fund and the church’s operating budget. If your special gift is *undesignated* (an option that is always welcomed), the Trustees will do their best to ensure that your gift is managed wisely. If you prefer to make a targeted gift, we hope the revised Designated Giving List provides you with both guidance and inspiration.

For more information, please feel free to contact any of the current (2023) FCC 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.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer A Service featuring Songs and Prayers of Taizè

Sunday Evening,
March 12, 2023,
7:00 p.m.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church
2210 Lincoln Way, Ames



We invite you to join us
for worship
with lovely music,
prayers and silence

Come celebrate the liturgical season of Lent with a contemplative worship experience featuring lovely meditative chants, music, scripture, and silence.



Contemplative Outreach
of Central Iowa

Silence Solitude Solidarity Service

www.CenterIowa.org



The Christian Church in the
Upper Midwest

Around the Region — Things We Do Together

For more info or to register for
events:

www.uppermidwestcc.org

Below, @CCC =
held at the Christian
Conference Center

Feb. 23 Regional Operations
Council Online

Feb. 26 Week of Compassion
Special Offering

Feb. 28 Property Committee @
CCC

Mar. 19 AR/PR Online Event:
Womanist Theology

Mar. 23 Regional Operations
Council Online

Mar. 25 Summer Camp Director
Training @ CCC

Apr. 21-23 CCC Work Retreat

Apr. 27 Regional Operations
Council Online

May 5-6 Regional Committee
on Ministry @ CCC

May 12-13 CMEP Retreat @
CCC

May 25 Regional Operations
Council Online

May 30 Summer Camp Season
Begins!

[Regional Prayer Calendar](#)

[Disciples videos](#)

Do We Really Mean That?

Rev. Joshua Patty
Regional Minister and President

Our General Minister, Rev. Terri Hord Owens, frequently encourages us to “be the church we say we are.” This is a reminder that some things take more work to make a reality. These words came to mind when I read an online article by Rev. Cindy Halvorson from a ministry consulting and support organization in Minnesota. In [“Five Themes LeaderWise Hears And Why They Are the Death of the Church,”](#) she names one I have heard from countless congregations over more than 20 years of ministry: “We are a welcoming church.”

I have never doubted the sincerity of this sentiment, but I have wondered if visitors actually experience this the way people in the ‘welcoming church’ imagine. Halvorson challenges us, “This statement raises questions: *Welcoming to whom? Welcoming how? Occasionally, congregations are willing to welcome people who will do things the way they do things and who will agree with them on their thoughts and beliefs without questions or challenges. They rarely understand that their tight-knit*

congregation that has been worshiping together for years, which they see as a strength, can feel closed and impenetrable to people outside of it.”

As much as we may want to welcome people – and as much as we recognize that not everyone will agree with us, it certainly is easier to connect with people who are quickly comfortable with how our church does things. When was the last time we imagined what it might be like for a visitor to worship with us for the first time? Or how a visitor might be connected to our congregation beyond worship – to join a class or group, to serve with us, to make a financial gift, to become a member? What specific things do we do to welcome people and invite them to return? What else should we do “to be the church we say we are.”

Such questions could strengthen other key aspects of our congregational identities too. What are we doing to value families and children in our congregation? How are we serving others in Christ’s name in our community and beyond? We can celebrate the concrete steps we have taken to make these things a reality and then figure out what other things we should do to better live out who we say we are and who we want to be as church.



General Assembly 2023

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

**Early Bird Registration ends
Wednesday, March 1st**

Summer Camp 2023

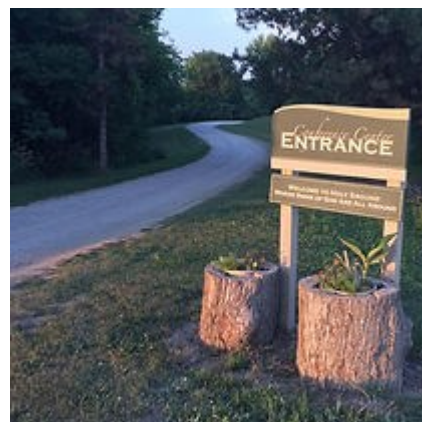
Each year the Christian Conference Center hosts 10 weeks of summer camp. They welcome about 900 campers and 200 volunteers to their facility for a week (or weekend) of church camp. Campers can attend overnight summer camp starting as infants (Family Camp) and can attend all the way through high school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

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

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:

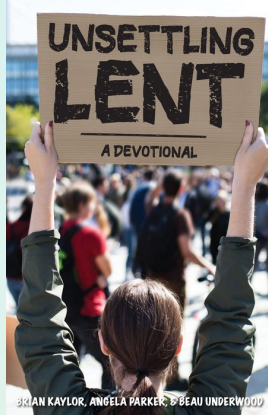
fccames@fccames.org

Stewardship Report

		Jan.	2022 YTD
Income		\$20,122	\$203,178
Expenses:		\$18,124	\$240,697
Difference:		\$1,998	\$(37,519)

March Birthdays

- 01 Roger Bertelsen
- 03 Shane Wierson
- 04 Jake LeCount
- 06 Ron Ratliff
- 09 Mary Lou Harrison
- 11 Matilda Spitzli
- 13 Jack Ewalt
- 16 Roma Sills
- 19 Henry Hayes, Jr.
- 20 Pat Popelka
- 26 Sam Button-Harrison
- 29 Adam Pendry
- 29 Bob Logston
- 29 Eileen Sambos
- 30 Zarabeth Clark
- 31 Zach Brown



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

Unsettling 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.

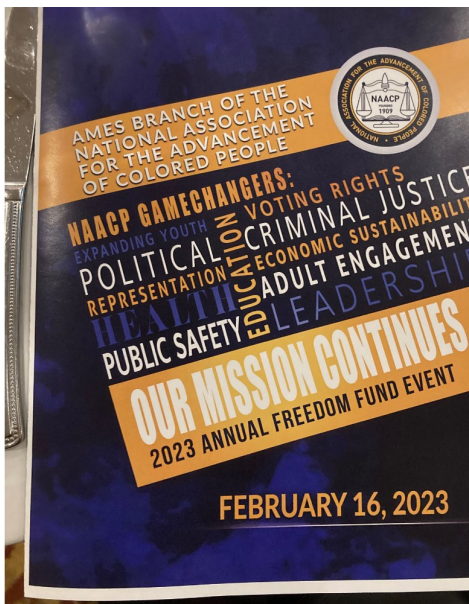
Brian Kaylor is a Baptist pastor with a Ph.D in Political Communication. He serves as President & Editor-in-Chief of *Word&Way*, a Christian publication founded in 1896. Angela Parker is an Assistant Professor of New Testament and Greek at Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology. She is also an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

Look for this Lenten devotional by the East entrance, on the Narthex table.

Congratulations to Jerry and Ruth Powell who joined First Christian Church on Sunday, February 5, 2023.



FCC ATTENDS THE NAACP BANQUET, FEBRUARY 16, 2023



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.

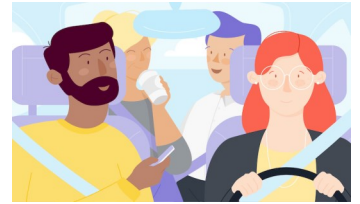
Stay Connected with FCC!

- [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

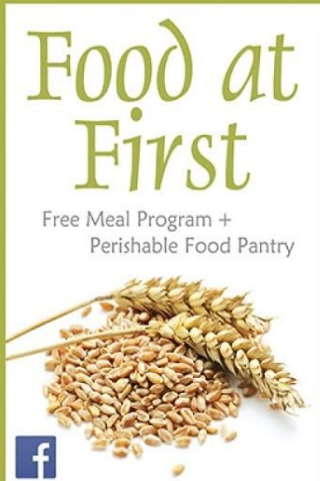
Contact assistance@gne.org or call **515-296-1449** for more information.

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
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