

The Call

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Inside This Issue

Renewal 2023	1
Lent Schedule	2
April Calendar	3
An Update from the Trustees	4
Clergy & Congregational Renewal 2023	5
• Summer Worship Schedule	6
• Activities	7
• Book Resources	8
• What to Know	9
• Leadership & Task Teams	10
Green Team Report	11
Regional News	12
Summer Camp 2023	13
News from the Pews And Easter Offering	14
Good Neighbor 2023 Choral Concert	17
Opportunities to Serve	18
Partners in Ministry	19



Clergy & Congregation Renewal 2023

Spring is here! The days are getting longer and warmer. The changing of the season is a wondrous time, especially as we make the transition from winter to spring. If you are like me, Easter and Spring go together in your experience and in your heart. The cold and dark and barren of winter gives way to a warming and light and new life rising at its early stages. By the time the next issue of The Call comes out, Easter will have arrived and we will have said our good-byes as I take leave for Renewal.

The Clergy Congregation Renewal will begin on April 15th and continue until July 15th, 2023. I hope by now you've had the opportunity to hear about the various aspects of the upcoming renewal and give your feedback on the activities that most interest you. There is a great deal of information in this issue of The Call, so please read carefully. Let me or the Renewal Leadership Team know if you have any questions.

The theme for the Renewal is "Rest. Reconsider. Reconnect." The last three years have not been like any other. The pandemic forced all of us to change the

way we do things. It brought fear, confusion, isolation, loss, grief. The pandemic heightened political and social division and unrest. As a nation, we have lost over 1.1 million people to COVID. We have grown tired and weary from it all. We need rest.

In Matthew's gospel Jesus says, ²⁸"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Those are words of comfort and care. Even Jesus needed times of stepping back from the busyness of his ministry to rest and restore his energy and focus for what would come next. We, as pastor and congregation, like Jesus, need a time of rest. Early church father St. Augustine wrote, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You." May this renewal be one of **REST** for our weary souls. Rest in God to be renewed for another season of faith, love, and life as the people of God in our times.

While we have lost much during the pandemic, we have also gained much. We have learned new ways of being church as circumstances change, and we are no longer able to do things in the way to which we are accustomed. We have gained new members, had baby blessings, baptisms, and new ways of sharing these events both in person and using new technologies like Zoom connecting those at home with those at church. In light of changing times and ways of doing things and all we have lost and gained, this renewal can be a time to **RECONSIDER**. How might we open ourselves to new insight so that when we come together again as pastor and congregation, we may allow God to guide us into what is next? While I am away, there will be opportunities to hear new perspectives in worship, study books, and engage in new spiritual practices that will help ground our reflection in God.

Finally, the renewal time will bring opportunities to **RECONNECT** with God and one another. There will be community building activities to foster relationships old and new among FCC members and friends. There will be times of food, fellowship, and fun surrounded by prayer, worship, spiritual renewal, and care. This will be a time to strengthen the “ties that bind our hearts in Christian love” as the old hymn goes. May this renewal truly be a time of rest, a time to reconsider, and a time to reconnect making us stronger to rise to the challenges of our times in faith, grace, and love.

While I am away, from time to time I will post pictures and thoughts on my professional Facebook page. You may like my Pastor Mary Jane Facebook page to receive updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/pastormjbh/>

To really allow myself to experience the Renewal fully, once I leave I will not be checking my personal Facebook nor my church email. The Renewal Leadership Team has developed a good plan to cover the various aspects of what I do so you do not need to worry. Please don't hesitate to ask questions.

This is an exciting time as Pastor and Congregation. We have an opportunity to rest, reconsider, and reconnect as we prepare for the Spirit to lead us to what is next in this place and our time.

— Pastor Mary Jane

Woven Into a Tapestry of Love: Prepare to Change



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 John 13:1-35
Apr. 9 10:30 AM	*EASTER Entombed to Empty Tomb	Matthew 28:1-10

*There will be NO Early Morning Easter Service.

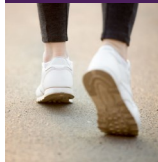
Renewal Preaching Schedule

Preaching in April

16	Matthew 28:16-20	Deb Lewis
23	FCC's Green Team	
30	Acts 2:14a; 22-32	Rev. Tiff Williams, Associate Regional Minister

LENT SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Mondays 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 3 will be the last day.

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. [Click here to join the livestream.](#)

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.

You may sign up on a sign-up board which is located in the Narthex, on Sunday mornings, or you may sign up ONLINE, by clicking [HERE](#).

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

There will be NO Early Easter Morning service

April 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, April 1, 9:30 am—1pm
- ♦ **Faith Formation Team**
Tuesday, April 4, 6 pm
- ♦ **Property Team Meeting**
Tuesday, April 11, 7:15 pm
- ♦ **Newsletter Deadline**
Monday, April 17, by NOON
- ♦ **Trustees Meeting**
Monday, April 17, 7 pm

Scheduled Events:

- ⇒ **Good Neighbor Annual Choral Concert**,
March 26 at 2 PM, Collegiate United Methodist Church
- ⇒ **Easter Offering Received**
Sundays, April 2 & 9, during worship
- ⇒ **Pastor Mary Jane and Congregation Commissioned**
Easter Sunday, April 9, during worship
We will celebrate Mary Jane's renewal journey and commission renewal leaders during her last worship service on April 9 (Easter). Regional Minister and President, Rev. Josh Patty will be with us for the commissioning. Folks and especially children are encouraged to write notes with well-wishes for Pastor Mary Jane, including children's artwork, to bring to the service.
- ⇒ **Pastor Mary Jane's Renewal begins**,
Saturday, April 15 through
Saturday, July 15

An Update from the Trustees

Though we started the month of February with a positive income/expense balance (of almost \$2,000), we ended the month with our first deficit of the year—and a large one at that: \$13,907. This means that February expenses exceeded February income by this amount. (Factoring in January's positive balance, our resulting year-to-date deficit is \$11,909.) Several factors appear to have been involved. It was a cold and snowy month, and our bills for heating and snow removal were predictably higher than those of last February. More significantly, income from both pledges and faith factor was much lower than anticipated. We realize that donor giving is not necessarily (in fact, not often) distributed evenly across the twelve months of the year, so we are hopeful that both pledged and non-pledged giving will grow as we move into spring. In the meantime, thanks for your support and please remember that every gift, large or small, is welcomed during these fiscally challenging times.

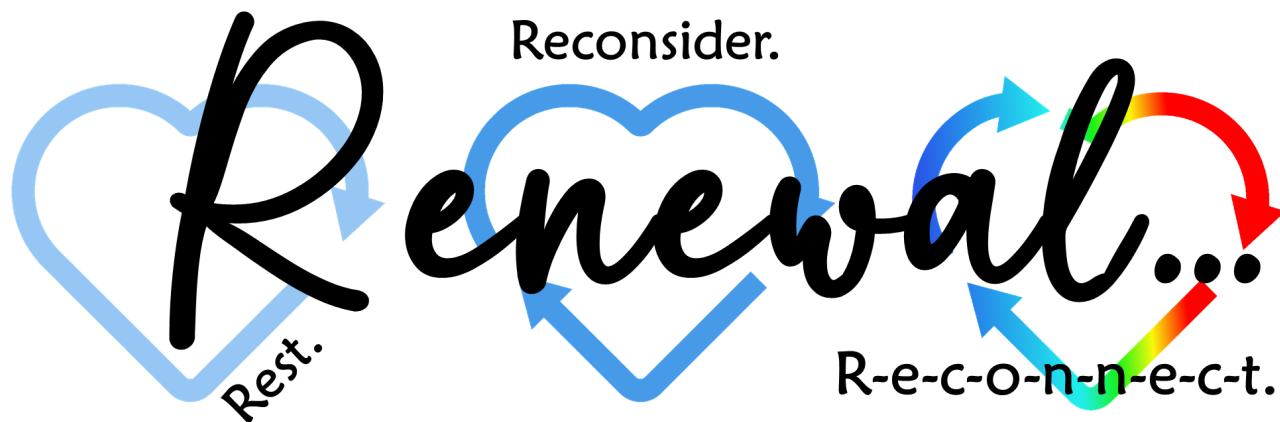
Aside from closely monitoring the 2023 budget, the Trustees have been busy with a number of other projects. The church's insurance policies (Property, Liability, and Workers Compensation) will be renewed or replaced by April 15—a process that tends to happen every three years. (We are currently reviewing a quote from one potential carrier and awaiting the quote from another.) The Trustees have also begun to address the need to identify additional sources of non-donor income. This will undoubtedly be a multi-year project, and we will keep the congregation apprised of our progress. Later in the year, as we approach the 2024 budget, the Trustees will also be exploring reasonable ways to reduce monthly expenditures. This two-pronged approach, increasing income and reducing expenses, will be necessary to deal with the budget shortfalls we've experienced for the past few years.

As always, if you have questions, suggestions, or concerns about the church's finances, feel free to reach out to any one of the FCC Trustees for 2023.

--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.



Clergy & Congregation Renewal 2023

It has been six years since the last Clergy & Congregational Renewal in 2017, and another Renewal is coming up very soon. From April 15 -July 15, 2023, Pastor Mary Jane will be away from FCC engaging in renewal practices and experiences to refresh and renew her ministry with us. At the same time the congregation will engage in practices and experiences to refresh and renew our ministry with her. As in 2017, we will share both a theme and a variety of resources and activities that will connect our Renewal journeys.

To help with planning, organizing, and implementing the Renewal, we have once again formed a Renewal Leadership Team (RLT). This year's team is composed of Roger Bertelsen (Board Chair), Vern Hawkins (Board Vice Chair and Personnel Chair), Sue Prins (Elder Chair), David Gregory (Trustee Chair), Deb Lewis (Council of Ministries Moderator), and Dawn Heaberlin (Food at First Representative and Property Liaison). The RLT has been meeting regularly since mid-January and is once again using "Café Conversations" to share information with church members and friends, and to invite ideas, feedback, and questions from as many people as possible.

The first of these all-congregational meetings was held after worship on Sunday, February 19, in the second-floor Great Room, with a corresponding Zoom meeting on Monday evening, February 20. Forty-five people attended the Sunday gathering (which included lunch), and another five attended its Zoom equivalent Monday evening. At these

meetings, attendees gathered in small groups first to review the 2017 Renewal—sharing what they remembered, what they learned, and what they found challenging or enjoyable. They then shared thoughts on the intervening years (2017-2022), focusing primarily on the pandemic and the challenges, experiences, and even a few opportunities it created at FCC. Finally, attendees shared their ideas and their questions about the upcoming Renewal. RLT members were diligent in recording all that was shared, to make the 2023 Renewal as positive, productive, and affirming as its predecessor.

After reviewing and processing what we learned in February, the RLT conducted a second set of meetings—a lunch meeting after worship on Sunday, March 19, and a Zoom-only gathering on Tuesday evening, March 21. This time, attendees learned more about Pastor Mary Jane's planned Renewal activities, and the corresponding **LEARNING ACTIVITIES** that will be available to all who wish to participate. These include:

- A book study of Thich Nhat Hanh's ***The Art of Living*** led by Deb Lewis and Roger Bertelsen, connecting us to Mary Jane's Renewal time at the Magnolia Grove Meditation Practice Center in Batesville, Mississippi.
- A book study of Otis Moss III's ***Dancing in the Darkness*** led by Abby Schwartz, connecting us to Mary Jane's planned multi-

state Civil Rights Tour and her participation in a Festival of Homiletics.

- Readings and activities related to **Forest Bathing**, another Renewal activity in which Mary Jane will engage during her time away. These will be led by Darla Ewalt.

The RLT also shared a list of eight possible **COMMUNITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES** that was generated from suggestions received at the February Café Conversations, and attendees were given a chance to vote for their top three choices among them. This was a fun process that allowed us decide that our community-building activities are likely to include:

- A Game Night in the Coffeehouse, with childcare available.
- An all-congregation picnic
- A gathering to share Music and Readings in the Coffeehouse

Stay tuned for more information about both the learning and the community-building activities that the RLT plans to coordinate as part of our combined Clergy & Congregational Renewal. Along with worship, each of these activities fits well within our Renewal Theme of “Rest. Reconsider. Reconnect.” We’ll share updates in *The Call*, in Weekly News emails, and in communications from the FCC Elders.

On the following pages, we reproduce (in part) information from the handouts that were shared at the Café Conversations, which provide more detail. If you have questions about the 2023 Renewal, please reach out to any member of the Renewal Leadership Team, whose contact information appears on page 10.

We will celebrate the start of Pastor Mary Jane’s Renewal journey during her last worship service on Easter Sunday, April 9. Rev. Josh Patty, our Regional Minister and President, will join us for this joyous event and will share in a commissioning and blessing for our Clergy & Congregational Renewal. If possible, please plan to join in this celebration, either in person or by Zoom. All are welcome as we begin this Renewal journey together!

Dancing In the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times By Otis Moss III

Renewal Sermon Series in May and June

Date	Book Chapter	Preacher
May 7	Link Love and Justice 1 Corinthians 13:4-8	Traverce Harrison
May 14	Consecrate Your Chaos John 16:4b-13	Anjeannette Perkins
May 21	Redirect Your Rage Genesis 50:14-21	Randy Allman
May 28	Beat Bias Acts 2:1-8	David Digby
June 4	Rework Your Origin Story	TBD
June 11	Practice Prophetic Grief Micah 7:18-19	Darla Ewalt
June 18	Pardon Our Dust Ecclesiastes 3:20; Matthew 6:14	Abby Schwartz
June 25	Dance in the Darkness John 1:2-5	David Digby

Renewal Preaching Schedule

Preaching in July

2 & 9	Worship will be at FCC with Ames United Church of Christ joining us. UCC will supply the preacher/s.
16	Worship will be at UCC with FCC joining them. Deb Lewis will preach. Pastor Mary Jane will be back and worshipping with us.
23	Worship will be at UCC. Pastor Mary Jane will preach.

Renewal Activities for the Congregation

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Several learning activities will help connect FCC's Congregational Renewal journey to Pastor Mary Jane's Renewal journey.

To connect us with the Civil Rights Trail and Festival of Homiletics...

- **Book study:** *Dancing in the Darkness* by Otis Moss III
Led by: Abby Schwartz and FCC Preachers

This book will be studied in Learning Time (April 16-May 21) and also on a weekday during May and June via Zoom (day/time to be determined). Chapters will be discussed in the same order/time-frame as they are covered in worship by FCC's preachers.

To connect us with the Magnolia Grove Meditation Practice Center...

- **Book study:** *The Art of Living* by Thich Nhat Hahn
Led by: Deb Lewis and Roger Bertelsen (schedule to be determined)
- **Movie Night:** Sharing a movie with a civil rights theme in the FCC Coffeehouse.
Led by: Renewal Leadership Team. (Date, time, and film to be determined.)

To connect us with the Practice of Forest Bathing...

- **Forest Bathing: The Healing Power of God's Creation**
Led by: Darla Ewalt

The congregation will be invited to step into their own renewal journey out in nature at different points during the renewal period through the practice of Forest Bathing. Our handbook will be *Your Guide to Forest Bathing* by M. Amos Clifford.

COMMUNITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

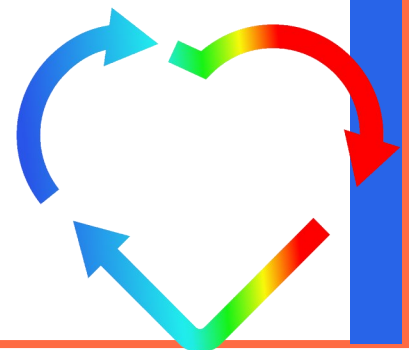
The Renewal Leadership Team will coordinate several fellowship events to enhance our sense of community, including one or more Game Nights, a picnic, and a gathering for "Music and Readings in the Coffeehouse." Watch for announcements of time and place!

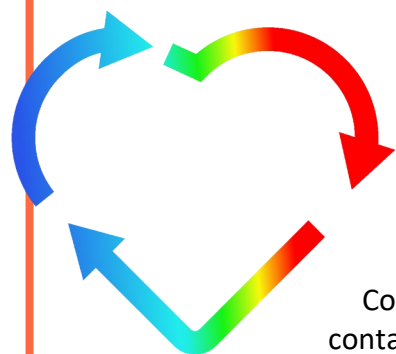
SHARING AND CELEBRATING

The Journey through Visuals: Liz Collazo will periodically share pictures in The Call related to Pastor Mary Jane's journey.

Reflecting on the Journey Renewal: Following their renewal journeys, the congregation and Pastor Mary Jane will gather to share and reflect on our respective renewal experiences.

Celebrating: We will celebrate Mary Jane's renewal journey and commission renewal leaders during her last worship service on April 9 (Easter). Upon Mary Jane's return there will be a welcome celebration meal following worship on August 13. In the fall, there will be a more in-depth time of sharing which may be in the form of a retreat. Details to be determined.

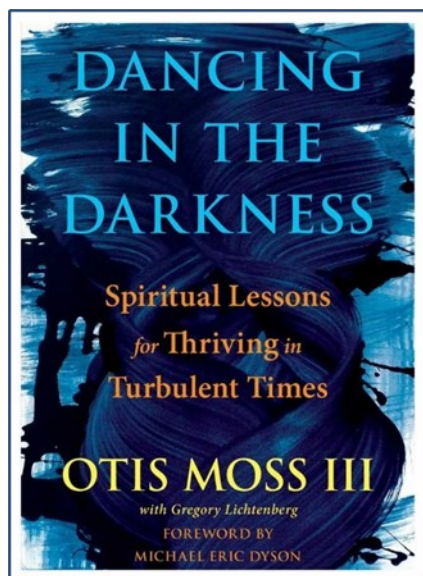




Book Resources for our Renewal Journey

The following books will be used to guide our various learning experiences during the 2023 Renewal. All three books were available for purchase during the March 19th Café Conversation, and copies continue to be available in the church office at the prices quoted below. Please contact Liz Collazo, FCC's Administrative Assistant, if you would like to purchase. Please also contact Liz if you'd like to have your name added to the growing list of book study participants!

A limited number of copies of each book will also be available in the FCC Library. If you'd like to borrow a library copy, please contact David Gregory, the FCC Librarian (515-708-9004).



Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times

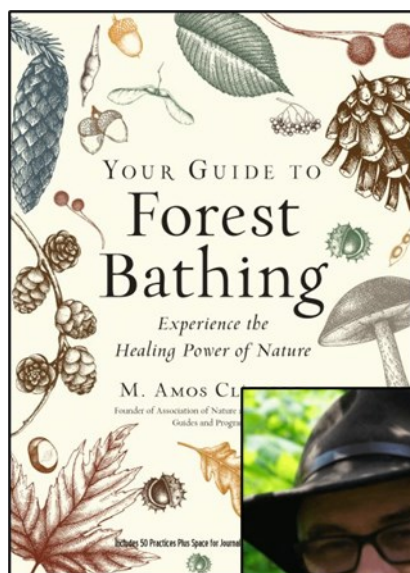
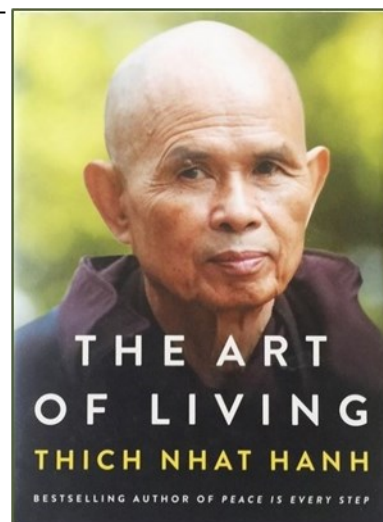
by Otis Moss III. (Hardbound; \$18)

A life affirming guide to the practical, political, and spiritual challenges of our day. Drawing on the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Howard Thurman, the Bible, Black culture, and his own personal experiences, Dr. Moss instructs readers on how to practice spiritual resistance by combining justice and love.

The Art of Living

by Thich Nhat Hanh
(Hardbound; \$18)

In this book, Thich Nhat Hanh, one of the most revered spiritual leaders of all time, presents seven transformative meditations that open up new perspectives on our lives, our relationships, and our interconnectedness with the world around us.



Your Guide to Forest Bathing: Experience the Healing Power of Nature by M. Amos Clifford (Paperback; \$17)

A beginner's guide to forest bathing by the Founder of the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy Guides and Programs. This book is designed to help reduce anxiety and promote a deep sense of relaxation and a renewed wonder for the natural world.

How's This Really Going to Work Around Here?

How are we going to manage while Pastor Mary Jane is gone from April 15th to July 15th?

Pastoral Care: FCC members and friends in need of pastoral care for personal and family issues, spiritual guidance, severe illnesses, hospitalizations, grief counseling, etc. will be referred to the Elders. During COVID the congregation was divided into Elder Circles of care. Each of you has an Elder providing you information, encouragement, and connection. They will share pastoral care responsibilities while Pastor Mary Jane is away. In case of a death, Deb Lewis will provide care to families and officiate at funerals/memorial services. Deb is a Commissioned Minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Upper Midwest (CCUM) and is experienced in providing pastoral care. In 2017, Deb served as the Renewal Chaplain (funded by the Lilly Grant). This Renewal season, Deb will share her gifts of pastoral care along with the other FCC Elders. Sue Prins serves as Elder Chair.

Worship: Janet Lott, Darla Ewalt, and Sue Prins will continue their leadership as part of the Worship Planning Team. Both Janet and Darla are Commissioned Ministers. Preaching will be done primarily by ministers who are FCC members with a couple of exceptions. Additionally, Elders will take on an increased role of leadership during Sunday morning worship.

Everyday Stuff: The everyday, nonpastoral matters that normally come to the pastor will be handled by various people depending on the situation. There will be some FCC volunteers in the building regularly or on call during office hours to assist Liz in dealing with matters that come up. Also, with the Food at First office now at FCC, Patty Yoder and FAF volunteers can address many things that come up.

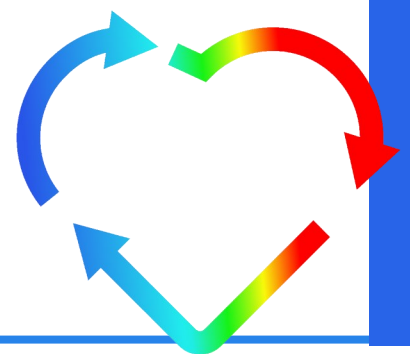
Communications: The Communications Team of Deb Lewis, David Gregory, and Liz Collazo will promote, encourage, and nurture the communication of all Renewal activities to the congregation, in a timely manner, as well as continue to provide routine information. The team will be responsible for coordinating, publicizing, and distributing all communication pertinent to the Renewal time to all the appropriate participants in as many means as are accessible to the congregation (e.g., *The Call* newsletter, Weekly News Update email, announcement slides, etc.). The team will also serve in a coaching/teaching role, to train and encourage the Renewal Leaders and Teams to communicate their information to the congregation. The Communications Team will be a central clearing house for Renewal time information before the information is distributed.

Who's in Charge? Renewal Leadership Team

What else do we need to know?

The organizational structure of the congregation will continue to operate as usual. All boards, committees, and groups will continue to meet and function. The Renewal Leadership Team will manage things pertaining specifically to the Clergy and Congregational Renewal Programs.

During the Renewal the congregation will focus on renewing our spiritual lives and deepening our relationships within FCC to form a solid foundation for moving FCC forward together with Pastor Mary Jane upon her return. Therefore, we will wait to propose, discuss, or act on any long-term initiatives or programs until she returns.



Renewal Leadership & Task Teams

Renewal Leadership Team (and contact information):

Roger Bertelsen (Board Chair)	515-290-2453 rbames102@gmail.com
Vern Hawkins (Board Vice Chair/Personnel)	515-291-0447 hawkinsis@icloud.com
Dawn Heaberlin (Property & Food at First)	515-451-9618 cnmdawn@gmail.com
Sue Prins (Elder Chair)	515-460-2628 sueprins@isunet.net
Deb Lewis (Council of Ministries Moderator)	515-290-6736 deb.q.lewis@gmail.com
David Gregory (Trustee Chair)	515-708-9004 dgregory@iastate.edu

This team coordinates and ensures communication of vision, programs, and responsibilities with all teams and with the congregation while promoting and nurturing whole-hearted participation in the Renewal activities.

Communications: Deb Lewis, David Gregory, Liz Collazo

Communications is responsible for collecting, promoting, nurturing, encouraging, and distributing a thorough means of communication, including all normal, ongoing activities of the church and information unique to the Renewal time.

Faith Formation: FCC 2023 Faith Formation Team

Faith Formation will continue their current vision in the teaching of all ages.

Finance: FCC 2023 Trustees and Financial Officers

Finance will continue their current responsibilities with the finances of the church and will coordinate any special needs of the Renewal time.

Hospitality: Dawn Heaberlin, FCC 2023 Hospitality Team

Hospitality coordinates, organizes, and hosts coffees, funerals, baby showers, and greeters.

Pastoral Care: Deb Lewis, FCC 2023 Elders

Pastoral care for FCC members and FCC friends.

Sunday Morning Hospitality: Sue Prins, Deb Lewis, Vern Hawkins

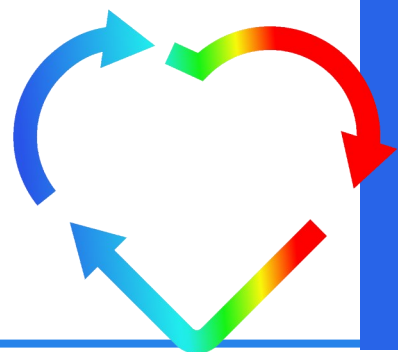
Welcome and deal with worship and people details on Sunday morning.

Sunday Morning Readiness: Vern Hawkins, Jim Lester, Dave Fitz, Dennis Heaberlin, Marv Prins

Building readiness and dealing with building issues on Sunday morning.

Worship: Janet Lott, Darla Ewalt, Sue Prins, Jenna Schwartz

Preachers during Renewal: Randy Allman, David Digby, Darla Ewalt, Traverce Harrison, Deb Lewis, Anjeanette Perkins, Abby Schwartz, the FCC Green Team, Associate Regional Minister Tiff Williams



Green Team Report



Have you noticed the bulletin board next to the stairs leading to the Bell Tower Room recently? The Green Team created a Hospitality Board. If you have something you no longer need and it is in good shape or a skill that you are willing to share or teach someone, you are encouraged to put that information on the board. Do you want some item or service or a skill you want to learn, put the information on the board. There are instructions on the Hospitality Board and ideas for wants/needs and haves that can be shared. The Hospitality Board is for free items and services and for FCC members and regular attendees only.


Do you get greeting cards in the mail from nonprofits such as the Wildlife Federation or Audubon Society? The Green Team is collecting the unused cards with their envelopes in a container in the Narthex. These cards will be delivered to Overflow to be sold to people who would use them. Not only does this program keep unused greeting cards from going in to the waste flow but it also supports the Ames Girls and Boys Club. What a wonderful way to share these unsolicited greeting cards!


Climate Change Corner


The City of Ames is committed to becoming a more sustainable organization, promoting conservation, and encouraging renewable energy within our community. As an organization, the City of Ames is committed to making environmentally sound choices in how we operate, in the equipment we purchase, the services we provide, and the policies that guide our organization's decision making.

Additionally, the City of Ames encourages sustainability through the programs and services we provide to the citizens of Ames. From hybrid public transit buses to bike lanes to electric vehicle charging stations, the City of Ames constantly looks for ways to help citizens make green decisions. Balancing the need to be fiscally responsible with our commitment to a cleaner, greener community, the City of Ames is committed to making the Smart Choice and the sustainable one.

Upcoming Ames Sustainability Events:

 **Ames Repair Café** will be April 22, 2023 from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM at the Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Ave. Ames Repair Café volunteers have partnered with the Ames Resource Recovery Plant to promote waste reduction by repairing rather than replacing items that no longer function properly. The repairs are offered at no charge.

 **Stash the Trash** will be April 29, 2023. Stash the Trash is an annual volunteer community clean-up. More information to follow.

 **Rummage RAMPage 2023** will be Friday, July 28, through Saturday, Aug. 5 at the Ames Intermodal Facility, 129 Hayward Ave. The City of Ames, in partnership with the ISU Office of Sustainability, annually hosts "Rummage RAMPage," a community sale designed to keep reusable items out of the waste stream.

Information from the City of Ames website



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

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!

July 29-Aug. 1 General
Assembly in Louisville, KY

Sept. 22-24 Fall Women's
Retreat @ Lake Koronis
Assembly Grounds

[Regional Prayer Calendar](#)

[Disciples videos](#)

Sharing Some News

Rev. Tiff Williams
CCC Camp Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace be with you. I regret that I am writing to inform you of some sad news. I am resigning my position as Associate Regional Minister and Camp Director of the Christian Conference Center. My final day of ministry with you will be Friday, May 19th, 2023.

Many of you know that I am a Priscilla of this region. I grew up worshipping at Bloomfield Christian Church, attending summer camps at the CCC, serving on UMwYC, and working as a summer intern. This region nurtured my calling and affirmed me on my path toward ministry. You have been my mentors, guides, and cherished friends. I would not be the person or the pastor that I am today without the Disciples of the Upper Midwest. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in a place that was so formative to my faith development. It has been a true full circle experience that I will cherish forever. However, in spite of many wonderful memories, I believe that God is calling me to something different.

Congregational ministry has always been close to my heart, and something I have increasingly missed in recent years. It has become apparent to me through prayer and discernment that it is time to return to local church ministry. I have been

called to serve as the Senior Pastor of Rush Creek Christian Church in Arlington, Texas. Rush Creek is a vibrant faith community in the heart of the Dallas/Fort Worth metro area. North Texas is an area that Daryn and I know well and our family is excited to be returning to a place that already feels like home.

Speaking of home, our family will always cherish our 7 years on this Holy Ground. We have made memories that will last a lifetime. Many of you have heard me say that you have spoiled our children, and you have! You have not spoiled them with things, however, but with unconditional love, grace, and kindness. They have loved growing up as “camp kids”. Thank you for loving me and my family so well and for the chance to serve in this way. As the Apostle Paul said, “I thank my God every time I remember you.”

Grace and peace,

Rev. Tiff Williams
Associate Regional Minister
Director of Camp and Conference
Center Ministries
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
in the Upper Midwest

[What Comes Next after the
Resignation of Rev. Tiff Williams](#) —

**A Note from Rev. Joshua Patty,
Regional Minister and President
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
in the Upper Midwest**



General Assembly 2023

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

Summer Camp 2023

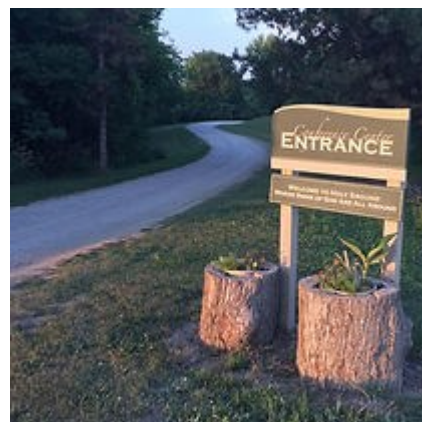
Each year the Christian Conference Center hosts 10 weeks of summer camp. They welcome about 900 campers and 200 volunteers to their facility for a week (or weekend) of church camp. Campers can attend overnight summer camp starting as infants (Family Camp) and can attend all the way through high school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

Feb. 2023 YTD			
Income		\$11,335	\$31,457
Expenses:		\$25,242	\$43,366
Difference:		\$(13,907)	\$(11,909)

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Lester Thompson, who passed away March 14, 2023. A graveside service will be held on April 15, at 1:30 pm at the Arcola Cemetery, in Arcola, Illinois. Memorial contributions may be made to First Christian Church. You may read his obituary [HERE](#).

In and Out of the Hospital:

Jim Lester, Joh Lott

April Birthdays

- 06 Laura Pogwizd
- 08 Michael Ewalt
- 13 Gwen Mitzel
- 18 Faith Pogwizd
- 19 Daniel Clark
- 20 Colleen Ryan
- 23 Jean Perkins
- 25 Killian Schwartz
- 26 James Brenden
- 26 Marv Prins
- 27 Hannah Button-Harrison
- 29 Dee Matthews
- 29 Jeff Sobotka



Bride's Room Progress!

Marv and Sue Prins, Cathy and Derek Krebs, Ruth Powell and Denny and Dawn Heaberlin have started work to update the Bride's Room. So far we have cleaned out the room, ran the carpet cleaner and removed the old ceiling tile. If there is anyone who would like to help, just let one of us know. If you would like to contribute funds to assist with the renovation you can earmark your gift for this purpose. Also a BIG THANK YOU!!! to those who have already given so generously, to get the project off the ground.

Dawn Heaberlin



Last Sunday after worship, we took Adam, Lily, and Olivia over to visit with Jim. He was so happy to see them. We all enjoyed a DQ root beer party together! He was in good spirits and talked openly about working to get some of his strength built back up.



— Derek and Cathy Krebs



The Easter Offering, received on April 2 & 9, 2023,

supports several of the general ministries of the Christian Church. Your gift supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, the formation of new congregations, support for pastors and chaplains, and so much more.

You may generously support this offering on those Sundays in the designated envelopes, send your check by mail to First Christian Church of Ames (Easter offering on the memo line), or [ONLINE](#).

HOSPITALITY

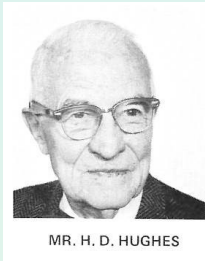
The FCC Hospitality Team NEEDS you! The Hospitality Team helps provide food, organization, and setup for events such as baby showers, funeral dinners, and other fellowship activities.

If you would like to help out with the hospitality ministry of First Christian Church, please contact Dawn Heaberlin at cnmdawn@gmail.com, 515-451-9618.

Washing the Dishes Together

Hi all,

At Thursday morning zoom coffee I had mentioned this poem written by a “old time” member of our church, Prof H D Hughes. He had given Paul and me a copy of a small booklet that had this poem in it. I cannot find the booklet anywhere in my house but I have a dear friend who had known Prof Hughes. Her husband was in the Agronomy Dept at the same time as Prof Hughes. She had a copy digitalized and sent it email to me. Actually, the poem was written by Prof Hughes’ father, she told me. There is a framed copy of the poem somewhere in FCC. It used to be hung on the FCC kitchen wall.



So this morning at FAF, Vern, Don and I were “Washing the dishes together”. Thank goodness for the dishwashers at FCC or we might still be washing dishes and pots and pans.

—Marge Hartman

Washing the Dishes Together

’Tis ev’ning time in the farmhouse old,
The sun has set in its bed of gold;
The cows are milked and chores put by,
And we’re washing the dishes, my wife and I,
We’re washing the dishes together.

Upon the stove the dishpan sits,
So full, so bright with its china bits.
The fire is losing its ruddy glow,
At last the embers are dying low,
As we’re washing the dishes together.

Now o’er and through them the water hot
Comes streaming out from the heating pot,
And cups and saucers and plates are seen,
With knives and forks and the big tureen,
As we’re washing the dishes together.

Now in the drainer they’re coming quick,
With many a cheery, clattering click.
My Jessie washes them while I dry;
We like it thus, though we don’t know why;
As we’re washing the dishes together.

Her nimble fingers so quickly run,
Now o’er, now under them every one.
With dish cloth floating o’er vurve and swell,
They ting and ring like a silver bell,
As we’re washing the dishes together.

Just wed, you say? You’re mistaken, no,
We’re married some eighteen years ago.
Our oldest boy is a’most sixteen,
And our only girl six birthdays seen,
As we’re washing the dishes together.

I used to think that I loved her when
She was a maid, and I did, too, then.
But how that love with years has grown—
And I don’t know how it’s better shown
Than by washing the dishes together.

We keep no “girl” for we can’t, you know,
The times are dull and the prices low,
A mortgage is holding the farmstead down—
But my eyes of blue look into her eyes of brown,
As we’re washing the dishes together.

We’ve both worked hard as the years have passed,
Some shadows into our lives were cast.
But somehow I think that we’ll pull through—
It seems to me folks always do
Who keep washing the dishes together. 1896



FCC Member Darcy Bonds was recently featured in an Iowa State University article about pursuing a career in Horticultural Research. You can read more about it [HERE](#).



2023 Spring Choral Concert

Join us for a Fundraiser to further the mission of Good Neighbor, which is to provide emergency assistance for basic needs. Assistance is offered in an atmosphere of comfort, dignity, and encouragement.

**Collegiate United Methodist Church
and Wesley Foundation**

2622 Lincoln Way, Ames IA 50014

Sunday, March 26th

2:00-4:00 pm

**Featuring Gabriel Fauré Requiem with
orchestra accompaniment performances by
seven church and community choirs**

Free Will Offering

You Do Not Walk Alone



Card Donations
[gnea.org/giving](https://www.gnea.org/giving)

(515) 296-1449 | www.gnea.org



@gnea-org

venmo



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.

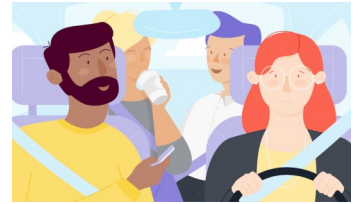
Stay Connected with FCC!

- [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 Sue Prins a call at 515-460-2628, sueprins@isunet.net.



"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** as a member of the Hospitality Team — see opportunity description on p. 15.

Thank you so much for what you do!
Keep watching this box and respond as you are able. It takes a lot of people contributing their gifts to keep the ministry of FCC moving, growing and vital.

Our Partners in Ministry



Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, Inc. provides Story County households with Emergency Food Vouchers that allow for the purchase of food in local grocery stores.

What You Need to Apply:

1. A photo ID
2. Income information/verification for the entire household for the past 30 days
3. Listing of household expenses
4. Proof of Story County residency

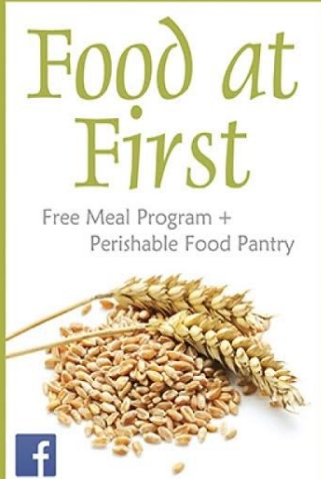
Contact assistance@gnea.org or call **515-296-1449** for more information.

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