

The Call

ISSUE No. 05,
MAY 2023

Inside This Issue

Summer at FCC	1
Need Books?	2
Worship Schedule	
Renewal Leadership and Task Teams	3
June Calendar	4
Pentecost Offering	
From the Trustees	5
Green Team Report	7
Bride's Room Update	8
Regional News	10
Summer Camp	11
News from the Pews	12
Summer VBS	13
Opportunities to Serve	14
Partners in Ministry	15



Clergy & Congregation Renewal 2023

It is almost June, and the time has just flown by! Can you believe it? The Clergy & Congregation Renewal for 2023 is fully underway, and we have already engaged as a congregation in many activities, with many more to come.

We have participated in a book study of *The Art of Living* by Thich Nhat Hanh, and are underway through a book study and preaching series based on the book *Dancing in the Darkness* by Rev. Otis Moss III.

We've fellowshiped together around the coffee pot, enjoyed beautiful art, learned Cribbage and gotten competitive at Scrabble.

And there is yet much more to come!

We will continue our Fellowship Coffees for the next two months, on the first Sunday of the month after worship, on June 4 and July 2.

We will have another book study, based on the book *Your Guide to Forest Bathing*, by M. Amos Clifford, with details to be announced. Please contact Darla Ewalt (515-290-1914) if you would like to be added to the list of participants for this activity.

There is Summer Camp at the Christian Conference Center in Newton, and Ames Vacation Bible Study at the First United Methodist Church.

And yes, the Congregational Picnic is BACK! We will be gathering at the Emma McCarthy Lee Park on Saturday, June 24, from 12—2 PM, for some food and fun. We haven't gotten together like this since before the pandemic, so I can't wait! It's always such a good time. Vern Hawkins (515-292-2094) is the primary contact for this event.

Looking ahead to July, as is our tradition — that we may worship together as ONE — we will be worshipping together with Ames United Church of Christ in each other's sanctuaries, with Pastor Mary Jane returning on July 16 and worshipping with us. (See schedule on the next page.)

Be on the lookout in the Weekly News Update for even more activities to come, such as more game gatherings and movie nights. You won't want to miss them.

— Liz Collazo, FCC Administrative Assistant

Do you need books for our “Congregational Renewal” Activities?

Copies of the following books continue to be available FOR PURCHASE from the church office, or FOR LOAN from the FCC Library. (Some copies remain for each title, but please allow a few days for us to order additional copies if necessary.)

- ***Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times*** by Otis Moss III (hardbound; \$18)
- ***The Art of Living: Peace and Freedom in the Here and Now*** by Thich Nhat Hanh (hardbound; \$18)
- ***Your Guide to Forest Bathing: Experience the Healing Power of Nature*** by M. Amos Clifford (paperback; \$17)

To purchase a book, contact Liz Collazo in the Church Office at 515-232-5766.

To borrow a book from the FCC Library, contact David Gregory at 515-708-9004. Books can be picked up from the church, or delivered to your home if you prefer. Happy “Renewal Reading!”



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 28	Liberation Listening Acts 2:1-8	David Digby
June 4	Become a Spiritual Hero Psalm 139:1-16	Janet Lott
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 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

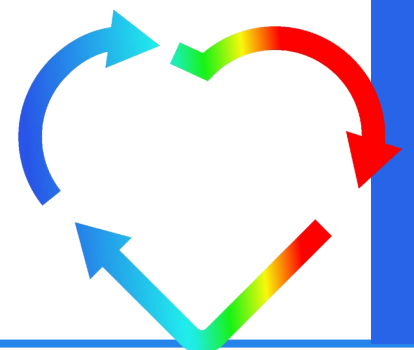
Welcome and deal with worship and people details on Sunday morning.

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



June Calendar

- ♦ **Elder's Circle**
Every Monday, 10:30 am via Zoon
- ♦ **FCC Makes Lunch for Food at First**
Saturday, June 3, 9:30 am—1pm
- ♦ **Faith Formation Team**
Tuesday, June 6, 6 pm
- ♦ **Property Team Meeting**
Tuesday, June 13, 7:15 pm
- ♦ **Newsletter Deadline**
Monday, June 19, by NOON
- ♦ **Trustees Meeting**
Monday, June 19, 7 pm
- ♦ **Council of Ministries Meeting**
Tuesday, June 27, 7 pm

Scheduled Events:

- ⇒ **Pentecost Sunday, May 28. Wear red!!**
Pentecost Offering received.
- ⇒ **A Conversation with the Upper Midwest Region's Open and Affirming Team via Zoom**
Wednesday, May 31, 7-8:30 PM. [Registration required.](#)
See details on page 10.
- ⇒ **Fellowship Coffee**
Sunday, June 4, after worship, in the Coffee House
- ⇒ **FCC Congregational Picnic**
Saturday, June 24, 12-2 PM,
Emma McCarthy Lee Park, in Ames.
- ⇒ **Book Study: Dancing in the Darkness**
Thursdays through June 29, from 5:15-6:00 PM
Via Zoom using the Sunday Worship zoom link



We're Calling You!
Join us for VBS
June 26-29
8:30am - 11:30am
Open for ages 4
through just
finishing 5th grade

Adults and youth
(6th-12th grade) are
being called to help
lead!

For More Information or to register, go to:
<https://ames-first-umc.mycokesburyvbs.com/>




We are a Movement for Wholeness in a Fragmented World

In the beginning, every church was new. It's right there in the Book of Acts. Early disciples came together, sharing all things in common, breaking bread with glad and generous hearts. God was doing a new thing: creating a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

In the beginning, Jesus sent out disciples, two by two, not to "plant" churches, but to proclaim good news, to experience the hospitality and wisdom of neighbors all around. At [New Church Ministry](#), we believe God is calling the whole Church back to becoming new... back to becoming who we are: a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

Your gifts to the 2023 Pentecost Offering, received this year in most congregations on Sundays, May 21 and 28, help ensure our movement continues to embody the Disciples of Christ vision: to be and to share the Good News, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth. Half of your gift supports the local new church movement through your region's ministry. The other half supports New Church Ministry efforts across the United States and Canada to equip, train, and empower new leaders. So, thank you. For participating in the new thing God is still doing — just as in the beginning.

[Please give generously to the Pentecost Offering.](#)

The Pentecost Offering will be received on Sundays, May 21 and 28.

You may give in the designated envelopes on those Sundays, online by using the link above, or you may mail your offering to First Christian Church, 611 Clark Avenue, Ames, IA 50010.

An Update from the Trustees

Our Growing Deficit is offset by an Unexpected Gift: We reported last month that our income/expense balance in March was negative (-\$4,300), meaning that March expenses exceeded March income by this amount. This tipped our year-to-date balance even farther into negative figures (-\$16,209), a situation we reported with great concern. Fundamentally, the budget picture did not improve in April, but in fact worsened. Budgeted income (in categories like pledges, faith factor, loose offering) was unusually low in April, and expenses unusually high (including a large insurance premium payment), creating an *additional* monthly deficit of -\$9,579. This made our cumulative, year-to-date deficit -\$25,788.

A deficit of this size on May 1, coming on the heels of a year-end deficit of -\$38,000 in 2022, would have required immediate action on the part of the Trustees; we were prepared to transfer funds from our savings and investments to cover potential overdrafts in our checking account. Instead, a blessing came in the form of an unexpected gift from Shirley Malaby.

Shirley and Ken had created a “donor-advised fund” with the Christian Church Foundation (CCF) several years ago, with the intent that a fixed amount (\$1,000) be transferred to First Christian Church each year, as a gift beyond their pledge. In the meantime, this fund grew steadily with market returns, thanks to wise management by CCF. Given the church’s financial struggles during and after the COVID pandemic, Shirley has decided that now would be a good time to gift the entire fund balance of \$40,008 to FCC—specifically to replenish our General Fund. This amount will be tracked in our monthly Profit & Loss statements as a special, unpledged gift.

In our conversations with Shirley, she expressed a desire that others might be inspired to make similar gifts—large or small—beyond their pledge offering, designated specifically to replenish the General

Fund. If the Spirit moves you in this direction and you wish to follow Shirley’s lead with a gift of any size, the Trustees would be most grateful. Short term, you can simply make a special offering with a note “To Replenish the General Fund.” Longer term, if you’d like to explore other giving options (funds, annuities, etc.) through the Christian Church Foundation, please contact Kirby Gould, Vice President of the Foundation’s North-Central Zone, at (816) 665-8446 or kgould@ccf.disciples.org. Kirby has long been a friend and advisor to First Christian Church, and is happy to discuss the variety of ways, both short and long term, that you can help FCC financially. ***In closing, we extend a heart-felt “Thank You” to Shirley Malaby (and the Malaby family), both for your recent gift and for planting this seed in the minds of others.***

Insurance Update: Contrary to what we reported in last month’s issue of The Call, the church will not be switching its insurance coverage to a new carrier, but rather will renew our policies (Property/Liability, Umbrella Excess Coverage, and Workers Compensation) with Church Mutual. Annual costs will increase by almost \$4,000 across the three policies, for coverage comparable to what we have had in the past.

Beginning to look for additional sources of non-donor income: In a first step to identify potential additional sources of non-donor income, the Trustees have had a “Brainstorming” session with Board Chair Roger Bertelsen and Vice Chair Vern Hawkins. The goal of brainstorming is to get all kinds of ideas on the table, without judging or evaluating them regarding feasibility, desirability, cost-effectiveness, etc. As we reported in the April issue of The Call, this will be a multi-year project, and we will gradually expand this discussion to include more voices. In the meantime, we have encouraged anyone with thoughts or suggestions regarding potential sources of non-donor income to contact any of the current trustees.

Lott Music Studio summer camp on Floor 2: One early proposal for increasing non-donor related income was to provide more opportunities for area businesses, community groups, and organizations (both for-profit and not-for-profit) to use church space for a fee. To this end, the Trustees are in the process of drafting a Facility Use Policy and related forms, based in part on the policies and forms in use at other area churches. These will eventually be submitted to the General Board for review and approval. In the meantime, we are “test driving” the process with an area business that has FCC connections. Lott Music Studio will rent part of our 2nd Floor, half-days, for a two-week music camp June 12-23. Some members of the congregation will be participating in this camp, so it is a good opportunity to assess what planning will be required to implement and eventually expand a program of this type.

Planning for turnover in the Treasurer position:

Amy Kuehl has announced her resignation from the FCC Treasurer position on June 1 after many years of dedicated service (thanks, Amy!) and the Trustees have been working on a plan to fill this vacancy. Given Pastor Mary Jane’s Renewal-related absence, we will ask the Nominations Committee to begin filling this vacancy a.s.a.p. after her return in July. In the meantime, and until a Treasurer is appointed, FCC member Matt Spitzli (a professional accountant) has volunteered to do bill paying, bank reconciliation, and payroll, using the church’s QuickBooks account; Trustees David Gregory and Anjeanette Perkins will sign all checks and provide other assistance as needed.

As always, if you have questions, suggestions, or concerns about the church’s financial health and well-being, please reach out to any of your current trustees. Our contact information appears below.

Thank you and best wishes,

David Gregory (Chair; 515-708-9004;

dgregory@iastate.edu)

Anjeanette Perkins (515-520-2625;

theRevAnj@gmail.com)

Derek Krebs (515-450-1987; kreedix@mchsi.com)



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: Marv Prins,” the envelope will be delivered directly to our Financial Secretary.
- 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 Secretary, Marv Prins (515-817-3694), 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.

Green Team Report



Our Mason Bees are out of hibernation and flying round and pollinating our flowers. We will soon be switching out the Mason Bee block and inserting our Leafcutter Bees block into the black box. Leafcutter bees are solitary species belonging to the Megachile genus of bees, within the Megachilidae bee family. The gentle Leafcutter bees are fascinating to watch, and provide a valuable and efficient pollination service for plants.

We have purchased our native plants from the ISU Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology Club. We purchased the following Iowa native prairie plants:

For front bed:

Antennaria plantaginifolia – Pussytoes
Asclepias tuberosa – Butterfly milkweed
Dodecatheon meadia – Shooting star
Liastris pycnostachya – Prairie blazing star
Ruellia humilis – Wild petunia

For west prayer garden area:

Allium canadense – Wild garlic
Dalea purpurea – Purple prairie clover
Eryngium yuccifolium – Rattlesnake master
Pycnanthemum verticillatum – Hairy Mountain mint
Sporobolus heterolepis – Prairie dropseed
Symphyotrichum sericeum – Silky aster

Climate Change Corner

Did you know that nature is healing and brings out the best in people? An article in the September 2022 issue of the National Geographic Magazine is about a man named Mark Covington, who returned to his childhood neighborhood in Detroit, Michigan. His old neighborhood was neglected by the city and was filled with empty buildings and empty lots filled with trash. He decided to clean up the empty lots so children had a place to play. In to keep the cleaned lot from refilling with trash, he started a small community garden. Almost immediately, neighbors asked to help him and one mother sent her kids over to help, so they stay busy in the summer and have structure in their lives.

The garden grew and more gardens were added. These included fruit trees, honey bees and animals. What started out as an effort to remove trash and deter littering morphed into a community area of public vegetable gardens, pollinator gardens, greenhouse, garlic beds, movie screen and picnic tables. Mark Covington said it is a sanctuary for people to come to and renew their spirits.

One person changed his community from a dirty depressed and lonely area to a place of beauty and fellowship. First Christian members can make a difference too.

The Bride's Room is Renovated

The Bride's Room at FCC has undergone a transformation!

During the pandemic, it had become a much-needed storage area, so the first order of business was to empty it of what didn't belong there. That left us with a very old, very pink, and very stained carpet that we couldn't afford to replace. The walls had swirling pastel wallpaper above the chair rail, and they were painted below. There were stains and nicks on the chair rail, as well as peeling and drywall damage from prior water issues. The ceiling as well was dark with age and covered with water stains.

At one end of the room was a pink, sagging countertop. Some of the ceiling lights didn't work and the wall sconces were very outdated. The door had its own issues and the window in the door was covered with an ill-fitting window blind. On top of that, the furniture was in sad shape. The room needed lots of help!

While Dawn and Denny Heaberlin painted the ceiling grid and installed new ceiling tiles, the furniture was assessed. Much of it was beyond repair and had come to the end of its usefulness. Marv Prins re-glued joints on some pieces that could be saved; Sue repaired the drywall damage and picked out new wall colors. We decided not to try to remove the wallpaper, which was in good shape, but to paint over it instead. That meant a coat of oil primer (so as to not loosen the paper) and several coats of paint.



Dave Fitz fixed any lighting problems and a leak in the ceiling that was still causing problems. We replaced the globes in the sconces to give them a new look at a cheaper price. Dawn cleaned the carpet several times trying to get out the stains. We finally decided that it would have to be professionally cleaned and that did the trick. It's still pink but it's clean! We bought some new furniture and put a new cover on an old sofa to make it look better. Denny and Dawn, along with sons Alex and Nathan, took out the old counter and replaced it with a stronger, nicer looking one.

The door got a new curtain and some cosmetic work to make it look better. We replaced the old plywood boxes down there with a small hutch from the Habitat Store; it will offer some pretty storage. We got a lamp from Habitat as well. Artwork for the walls was donated by the Heaberlins and David and Mary Gregory.

Almost forgot about the bathroom! It was in sad shape, too, but Marv installed a new faucet and Dawn cleaned the room and repaired, textured, and painted the walls.

In addition to those mentioned, so many others provided labor for this project, including Ruth and Jerry Powell, Derick and Cathy Krebs, and Jim Lester (and probably others I'm missing).

Funding for this project came entirely from Shirley Malaby, and for that we are truly grateful. At a time when the church's operating budget is very constrained, Shirley's designated gift allowed this project to be completed without spending from the General Fund. Thank you, Shirley! And thanks to all who worked hard to make this project happen.

--Sue Prins





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

May 28 Pentecost Offering
Received

May 30 Summer Camp Season
Begins!

June 15 General Assembly
Virtual Discussion

June 22 Regional Operations
Council Online

June 25 General Assembly
Virtual Discussion

July 6 General Assembly
Virtual Discussion

July 15 General Assembly
Virtual Discussion

July 27 Regional Operations
Council Online

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

Aug. 12 Summer Camp
Season Ends

Aug. 24 Regional Operations
Council Online

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

[Regional Prayer Calendar](#)

[Disciples videos](#)

This is Who I Am

Fall Women's Retreat

September 22-24, 2023
Lake Koronis Assembly Grounds
Paynesville, MN

Keynote Speaker:

Melissa Guthrie, Greensboro NC
(Hometown Marshalltown, IA)

**A reference of our theme for the
weekend:** *Colors of Hope*, Melissa
Guthrie, Editor

Chaplain: Deb Murphy, First Christian:
Minneapolis, MN

Registration:

Room Rates
Pine Lodge - \$160

Sunrise - \$210, 2-4 people
Sunrise - \$260, Single
Invite a friend!! Scholarships available

Interested in helping? Have a gift to
share? Contract your Retreat
Coordinators:

- Valerie Rottschaefer
vrottschaefer@gmail.com;
952-261-7657, texts are
welcome
- Becky Barkley
becky1974@centurylink.net;
515-577-5688, texts are
welcome
- Terri Jones
terrikay.jones@gmail.com or
TerriJ@ilcresources.com;
515-490-8293, texts are
welcome

A Conversation with the Upper Midwest Region's Open and Affirming Team

Join the UMW Open & Affirming Ministries team to learn more about
what the team does in our region, and discuss the recent spate of
anti-trans/anti-queer laws and their effect on our siblings.

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Zoom

Registration Required

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZUkdu
mgpz0vG9F9gckzpSVnPiDalF4oU4tq](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZUkdu
mgpz0vG9F9gckzpSVnPiDalF4oU4tq)

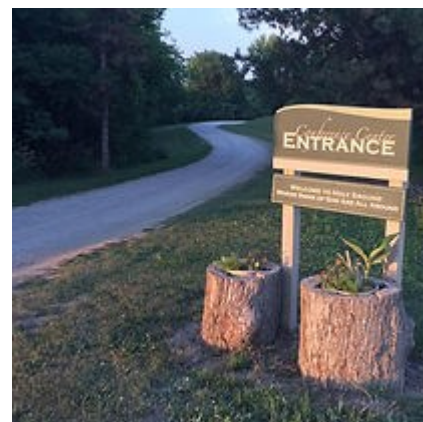


Summer Camp 2023

[Registration is now open for Summer Camp 2023!](#)

Check out the **NEW** offerings this year:

- High School Mission Trip: this week long mission trip is being led by a regional young adult group and their sponsors and is intended to provide an opportunity for youth to experience a mission trip even if their local congregation does not have the resources to do so.
- Adventure Camp - CO: For young adults from high school juniors up to age 22, Adventure Camp - CO will take camp on the road to Colorado. Campers will deepen their faith through tackling challenging adventures together.



Live. Love. Camp.

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

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

		Apr.	2023 YTD
Income		\$54,360	\$101,789
Expenses:		\$23,031	\$87,569
Difference:		\$30,429	\$14,220

Our deepest sympathies

go out to the family of John Lott, long time member of First Christian Church, who passed away on Monday evening, May 8th, at Israel Family Hospice House. Please hold his wife Janet Lott, his children Elizabeth and Aaron and their families, in your prayers during this difficult time. A Celebration of Life in memory of John be held on Saturday, August 12, visitation at 1:00 PM with a service at 2:00 PM.

More details forthcoming as we receive them.

June Birthdays

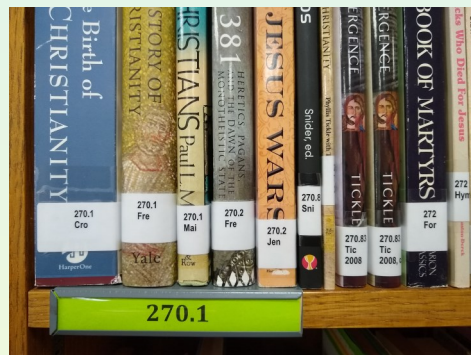
- 01 Jake Clark
- 02 Sue Prins
- 05 Barb Gurganus
- 08 Isaac Brenden
- 11 Lily Pendry
- 21 Walter Pogwizd
- 23 Sherri Khan
- 30 Derek Krebs



Watch for “Courtesy Reminders” from the FCC Library



For the first time since the pandemic, I am about to send courtesy reminders to folks who appear to have items checked out from the Library at First Christian Church. This is a common practice for small libraries that don't have an official loan period. If you've borrowed a book from the FCC Library since early 2020 (and still have it, according to our records), please watch your email for this reminder.



If you have finished with any borrowed items, you can return them to the cardboard drop box in the narthex (under the library display), or to the wooden drop box outside the Library door (across from the church office). If you'd like to have items picked up at your home, just contact me by email or phone (see below). If you have not finished with items, you are welcome to keep them longer!

If you believe that the library's records are in error, and you no longer have the items in question, please also contact me and I can adjust the library's files accordingly.

And as usual, please feel free to contact me if you have ANY questions about the FCC Library collection, or if you'd like me to send you a PDF copy of the Library's complete catalog.

--David Gregory, FCC Librarian
Email: dgregory@iastate.edu
Mobile: 515-708-9004

Iowa Seniors and Veterans Can Apply for New Property Tax Breaks

The FCC Trustees would like to share the following information as a general public service announcement. Please note the July 1 deadline.

As reported by the *Des Moines Register* last week, Iowa property owners who are 65 or older have until July 1 to apply for a new property tax exemption included as part of a tax cut signed into law in May. Also, military veterans who already qualify for an existing property tax credit are now eligible for an additional exemption.

For more information regarding these exemptions, see the [May 17th Register article](#) by Stephen Gruber-Miller. Additional information can also be found in the [May 19th City News and Update article](#) posted by the Ames City Assessor's Office.

As noted in the Register article, seniors can find the relevant application form at tax.iowa.gov/forms under the name [Homestead Tax Credit and Exemption 54-028](#).

Veterans can find the relevant application form at tax.iowa.gov/forms under the name [Military Service Property Tax Exemption 54-146](#).



Join us for food and fun at the
FCC Congregational Picnic
Saturday, June 24, from 12—2 PM
Emma McCarthy Lee Park
Vern Hawkins (515-292-2094) is the
primary contact for this event.



ON SUNDAY, June 4,
PLEASE PARK ON THE WEST SIDE LOT
ONLY, OR USE STREET PARKING.
Do NOT use the Fareway parking lot.

SAVE THE DATE!

Ames United Church of Christ and the Theologian-In-Residence Committee is pleased to announce the 2023

Theologian-In-Residence weekend will be September 15-17, 2023.

The Speaker will be Miguel De La Torre and will be titled "Confronting Hopelessness in Immigration". More Information to follow soon!!

Zoom Weekly Activity Schedule

Sunday

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

Wednesday

12:15 PM	Midweek Intercessory Prayers Online Link: 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.

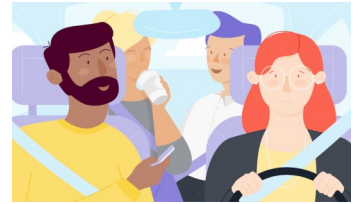
Stay Connected with FCC!

- [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 — contact Dawn Heaberlin at 515-451-9618 for more information.

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

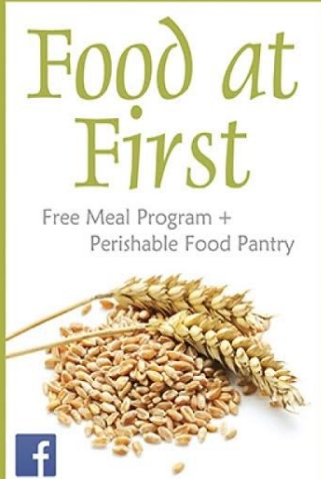
Contact assistance@gne.org or call **515-296-1449** for more information.

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