



The Church Mouse

First Christian Church

608 10th Street

Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

March 15, 2023

Minister:

Rev. Leslie Dalstra

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www.fccfmdisciples.org

Office hours:

Monday—Thursday

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Worship Service

at 10:00 a.m. In-person

and virtually through our FB
page.

*Deadline for submissions for the
next newsletter is 4.17.23*

Spiritual Disciples of Pilgrimage

by Pastor Leslie

Spiritual disciples offer to us a means through which we can find meaning in our day and connection to the Divine. Many of the psalms of ascent are prayers of pilgrimage, of traveling literally up to the temple in Jerusalem. But we don't have to travel to a specific space to be on a pilgrimage. All we need to do is to carve out time in our day to be with God.

Rather than only offering our petitions to God, allow there to be space for listening. Maybe you will feel more comfortable if you set a timer. Begin with a prayer of thanksgiving and then set a timer for three minutes and embrace the silence. Continue with a prayer of forgiveness or confession and repeat the silence. Continue with a prayer for others and listen. Offer a prayer of what is deep within your heart and then listen. When your prayer is over take time to consider how our words impact ourselves and others. What might God be teaching us about what needs to be said and what does not need to be said.

Notice throughout your day when you are

filling the silence with sounds to distract you from what is going on deep down inside. What would happen if you took time throughout your day to check in with God? It can be as simple as taking 5 minutes to read a psalm, listening to the words, and noticing what they are saying to you in that moment. Return to the words later in the day. Do the same words spark your imagination or thoughts later in the day?

If you journal, write about what you are feeling, what you notice surfacing, emotions, thoughts, observations about yourself. Are they negative or positive? Write what you feel God is saying to you, words you need to hear.

A pilgrimage is ultimately a journey to the center of our being, the heart of God. It is a journey away from cynicism and inaction. In the small village of Chimayó in the mountains of northern New Mexico is a pilgrimage site that offers these words to those who travel there: "If you are a stranger, if you are weary from the struggles of life ... whether you have a broken heart, follow the long mountain road, find a home in Chimayó." ¹

Lent is a time to find the heart of God, the journey might begin with cleaning out the clutter, or cocooning ourselves and doing the hard work of shifting and changing but we have a destination, it is the brilliant light of that first Easter morning where we are captivated by the brilliance and light that it is all we can see.

[1] George Mendoza, poem written at Chimayó, 1974, in *Running toward the Light: The George Mendoza Story*, William J. Buchanan (Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 2006), 85.

February 2023 Budget

\$13,908.00 Monthly Budget Needs

\$8,344.00 Offerings received from February

\$2,427.00 Monthly income from investments & renters

\$3,137.00 Needed to make our Budget for February

Roxy's Pantry

Low income residents of north Lee County will no longer have to choose between feeding themselves or their pets thanks to a new pet food pantry coming to Fort Madison.

Roxy's Pantry will provide up to six months of food for the dogs and cats of residents that are in need of assistance.

Food distribution will occur on the last Wednesday of each month and pet owners can get one month of food based on the veterinary recommendation of the particular breed of pet.

Roxy's Pantry is seeking donations of both dog and cat food as well as financial contributions. Five percent of all financial donations will go toward the General Fund of the church with the rest going to purchase pet food and supplies.

Roxy's Pantry will operate out of First Christian Church at 608 10th St. in Fort Madison. Applications to receive help can be found online at www.fccfmdisciples.org or by stopping by First Christian Church between 9-12 Monday - Thursday.



Reduce Your Taxes with an IRA Gift

Did you know that you can reduce your taxes by making a gift from your IRA to charity? The IRA charitable rollover permits individuals who are 70 1/2 years old to roll over up to \$100,000 to a charity, free from federal income tax. You can help our church and enjoy valuable tax savings, too. For more information, contact your tax preparer or financial advisor.

Ruth Allen Circle News:

The Ruth Allen Circle will meet Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Mel Holtkamp will be the hostess and study. We will be cleaning the kitchen. The Food Pantry needs are: chili beans, kidney beans, diced tomatoes and cookies. Don't forget old eyeglasses and pop tabs. Our book sale is ongoing and the books are on display in the Narthex. Hard covers are \$2 and soft covers are \$1. Also the Upper Room devotional booklets are on the table in the Narthex by our sign in sheet. A donation of \$1 may be placed in the little box. It is nice for Lent and Easter devotions. Hope you can join us on April 12 for fellowship and fun as we work together.

Juanita Anderson, President

Food Pantry Says "Thank you!"

We recently received a letter from the Fort Madison Food Pantry thanking us for our donations for 2022. These were donations made by you, through the church. In part, the letter said, "Your assistance is crucial to our success, particularly during this most difficult time of our community...Last year on average we served 30 households each day open. With the additional strain caused by the Corona-19 virus, our numbers have seen a rise of 25% and the Pantry's food resources are not as plentiful as prior. As you know, hunger hurts — not just the individual but the entire community. The Corona pandemic has added to the burdens of this vulnerable section of our community, which makes your gift even more appreciated. With neighbors like you helping neighbors, we can make a very real difference! The Food Pantry could not do what it does without the generous support of a caring community. Thank you again for your thoughtful donation." In 2022 our church members gave, in addition to the many food donations, \$930.25.

Happy Birthday!

4-1 Peggy Hayes
4-1 Harry Dalstra
4-2 Kayla Jacobs
4-3 Billy Burchett
4-6 Leigh Johnson
4-7 Jennifer Hubbs
4-8 Dianne Hope
4-9 Donna Hedgepeth
4-9 Eva Dalstra
4-11 Joy Kuper

4-15 Beth Daly
4-17 Teresa Perry
4-22 Pam Reuther
4-22 Dena Burchett
4-22 Lucille Galey
4-26 Dalyn Wondra

Happy Anniversary!

4-30 Alvin & Melody Holtkamp

Easter Special Offering

Several times a year, congregations receive a special offering to support the ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These gifts are given above and beyond the regular core support of Disciples Mission Fund.

The Easter Offering, received by most congregations 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. Your gift has the power to change lives around the world.

Thank you for donating to the Easter Special Offering.

Sunday's Scriptures

Fourth Sunday in Lent-March 19

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalms 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

Fifth Sunday in Lent-March 26

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

Liturgy of the Psalms-April 2

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Matthew 21:1-11

Resurrection of the Lord-April 9

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

Second Sunday of Easter-April 16

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalms 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

March 19

Liturgist-Diana Wilson

Elder-Jeff Metcalf

Deacon-Gerry Pohlpetter

March 26

Liturgist-Vicki Lair

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Gerry Pohlpetter

April 2

Liturgist-Jeff Metcalf

Elder-Diane Hope

Deacon-Donna Block

April 9

Liturgist-Jeff Metcalf

Elder-Jeff Metcalf

Deacon-Dan Dalstra

April 16

Liturgist-Juanita Anderson

Elder-Jana Hubbs

Deacon-Gerry Pohlpetter

April 23

Liturgist-

Elder-Diane Hope

Deacon-Gerry Pohlpetter

Prayer Concerns Together we pray for ...

Current Concerns:

F & F of Charlie Adams
Ed Bartholomew
F & F Judy Beebe
Melba Crago
Ashlee Darley
Maxine Dennison
Pam Hunold
Cody Jones
Elizabeth Long
F & F of Tara Sharp
Kevin Steeples
F & F of Harold Towery
Marla Trentham
Emily Walker

Names in Current Concerns will be removed after a month unless the office is notified and asked to keep the individual on for a longer time period.



Long-Term

Concerns:

Dan Ammer
Simon Bentzinger
Jan Bindewald
Jim Bowman
John Chamness
Tracy Chamness
Barb Cobb
Wilbur Dalrymple
Tony Dixon
Daniel Drago
Sherri Enke
Gene Faul
Toni Gaylord
Beverly Gobble
Noah Gould
Terri Bishop Hampton
Randy Herbert
Jean Hoffmeister
Rosie Howard
Joe Mattix
Carol Ann Mercer
Lyn Newberry
Nick Neyens
Randy Nielson
Olivia Nord

Beverly Oge
Cody Raines
Bill Seyb
Trisha Scott
Sharman Steeples
Sharon Strunk
Don Sunden
Shawna Williamson

Members of the Military

**Lord, in your
mercy, hear
our prayers.
Amen**

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 3.19

10:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
2:00 p.m. Book Study

Monday 3.20

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Meeting

Wednesday 3.22

7:30 a.m. Coffee with Pastor
11:45 a.m. Lenten Lunch at
Union Presbyterian

Friday 3.24

11:30 a.m. Mel Ammer Funeral
Dinner

Sunday 3.26

10:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
2:00 p.m. Grief Support Meeting

Monday 3.27

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Meeting

Wednesday 3.29

7:30 a.m. Coffee with Pastor
11:45 a.m. Lenten Lunch at
Union Presbyterian

Sunday 4.2

10:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School

Monday 4.3

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Meeting

Wednesday 4.5

7:30 a.m. Coffee with Pastor

Thursday 4.6

5:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday
Service

Friday 4.7

12:00 p.m. Good Friday Service
at United Methodist

Sunday 4.9

Happy Easter!

7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service
10:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School

Monday 4.10

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Meeting

Wednesday 4.12

7:30 a.m. Coffee with Pastor
10:00 a.m. Ruth Allen Circle
Meeting

Sunday 4.16

10:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School

Seeking: honest questions for deeper faith

The Parish Partner congregations invite you to explore the season of Lent together through a number of worship services and Lenten lunches during this sacred season.

Lenten Lunches

Union Presbyterian Church

719 Ave. F

11:45-12:45

A series of reflections offered by our Parish Partner pastors along with lunch provided by our Parish Partner congregations.

An offering will be collected to support our community's Head Start children through our backpack ministry.

Wednesday, 3.22—Meal—St. John's UCC—Speaker, Pastor Pete Hagglund

Wednesday, 3.29—Meal—First Christian Church (DOC), Speaker, Pastor Jim Luder

Maundy Thursday Service

First Christian Church

April 6, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Good Friday Service

Fort Madison United Methodist Church

April 7, 2023 at Noon