



# The Church Mouse

First Christian Church

608 10th Street

Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

March 19, 2025

Minister:

Rev. Leslie Dalstra

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[www.fccfmdisciples.org](http://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 4.14.25*

## EVERYTHING [ IN ] BETWEEN

This Lenten season our focus is on the in-between moments in our lives. Those moments of starting something but have not yet to completed them. Think about home improvement projects and how many trips you end up taking to the hardware store. Or when deciding to cook or bake something, realizing after you have begun that you do not have a necessary ingredient.

Beginnings and endings surely are memorable but there is much that we learn in the “in-between” time. That is where we make adjustments, learn, grow, and hopefully laugh. Lent is a season of preparation, Jesus has set his eyes on Jerusalem but he has not yet arrived.

Lent is a time to remember that God can be found in the messy middle and, just as importantly, that life lessons are learned in-between the false dichotomies that we create.

I pray that this season is meaningful and rich for you. Our worship team and our congregational care team have spent time working to create a space and moments that will enrich our Lenten experience.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 17th

at 5:30 p.m. This year, for Maundy Thursday we are going to do something new! We will have dinner worship. We will begin our service in the fellowship hall, where we will incorporate communion into our evening meal. We will need volunteers to make and bring crock pots of soup.

After the meal is finished we will meet outside by our small garden area (weather permitting) or in our chapel and hear the words of Jesus and his disciples in the garden. We will then go to our side yard where we will have a small fire going in a fire pit and hear the words of Peter denying Jesus. We will conclude back in the chapel where we will sing together "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?"

This service is designed for people of all ages. Please spread the word and invite a friend to join us. Another change for the season is that our Easter sunrise service will be held at 1008 Denmark Hilltop at 7:30 a.m. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy a service of word and sacrament overlooking our city!

Blessings! *Pastor Leslie*

*Happy Birthday!*

*Happy Anniversary!*

4-1 Harry Dalstra

4-30 Alvin & Melody Holtkamp

4-7 Jennifer Hubbs

4-8 Dianne Hope

4-9 Donna Hedgepeth

4-9 Eva Dalstra

4-11 Joy Kuper

4-22 Lucille Galey

4-22 Pam Reuther

*Thank You!*

Many thanks for the prayer blanket for Ron Cochran.

Sincerely,

The Cochran Family

## February 2025 Budget

\$14,044.00 Monthly Budget Needs

6,589.00 Offerings received from February

5,837.00 Monthly income from investments & renters

\$1618.00 Deficit

## Information Center

You can access financials/ministry reports/endowment fund and memorial fund information/newsletters/directories and current relevant information at our Information Center, located to the right of our main entrance to our sanctuary.

## Cowboy Crunchies

1 c white sugar	1/2 tsp salt
1 c brown sugar	2 c flour
1 c Crisco	2 c oatmeal
2 large eggs	1 c coconut
1 tsp vanilla	1 c Rice Krispies
1 tsp baking soda	

Cream sugars and shortening, add eggs and beat. Add vanilla, baking soda, salt & then flour. Fold in the oatmeal, coconut and Rice Krispies. Roll into balls, then in sugar, flatten with glass dipped in sugar. Bake 350 degrees for 11-12 min.

## Lost Creek Cemetary

We have been given an outreach opportunity at Lost Creek Cemetery through the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Assoc. The Lost Creek Cemetery has been associated with our church in the past, and the Leadership Team was in favor of this opportunity. It will mostly be helping to repair the headstones. If you are interested, a sign-up sheet will be in the narthex for your name and phone number. You will be called to see if you are available once we find out when work will be done at the cemetery. The work will be once a week in the evening from 4 or 5 pm to 8 or 9 pm. and will not be every week. It will also depend on the weather. Thank you.



# FORT MADISON FOOD PANTRY

3421 Avenue L  
P.O. Box 273  
Fort Madison, IA 52627



The Fort Madison Food Pantry is an all-volunteer resource for families and individuals struggling with food insecurity.

Your food and cash donations help us tremendously. One tip – if there happens to be a “complete” option for a food item such as oatmeal, etc., which requires the addition of water only, this helps our clients stretch the foods they receive.

Oatmeal (Instant or Original)

Cream of Wheat

Poptarts

Spaghetti Sauce

Diced Tomatoes

Tomato Juice

Chili Beans

Chili Sauce for hotdogs

Canned Chicken

Ready to eat pastas i.e. Beefaroni, Spaghetti O's

Pancake Mix (Complete so only water needed)

Pancake Syrup

Rice-A-Roni

Saltine Crackers

Soup or Soup Mixes (including Cream of Mushroom/Chicken, etc to use in tuna casserole, green bean casserole, etc)

Ramen Noodles

Dried Egg Noodles, Elbow Macaroni, Penne, Spaghetti Noodles

Corn Muffin Mix

If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please note that the Food Pantry is able to purchase many food items from the Food Bank of Iowa at the rate of \$.19 per pound which greatly stretches your donation. Monetary donations can be mailed to the post office box listed at the top of this page. Thank you to all who help!!

# Sunday's Scriptures

## Third Sunday in Lent- March 23

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

**Liturgist– Dawn Willson**

**Elder–Sue Bowman**

**Deacon–Pam Reuther**

## Fourth Sunday in Lent- March 30

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**Liturgist–Gene Beebe**

**Elder–Gene Beebe**

**Deacon-Amy Hayes**

## Fifth Sunday in Lent-April 6

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

**Liturgist–Ken Steeples**

**Elder-Ken Steeples**

**Deacon-Mike Hayes**

## Liturgy of the Palms-April 13

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Luke 19:28-40

**Liturgist-Vicki Lair**

**Elder-Vicki Lair**

**Deacon-Shelly Platt**



# CHURCH CALENDAR

## 3.19 Wednesday

8:30 a.m. Coffee with the Pastor

12:00 p.m. Lenton Lunch

## 3.20 Thursday

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Meeting

## 3.23 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

## 3.24 Monday

5:00 p.m. End of Month Meal

6:00 p.m. Grandparent Support Group Meeting

## 3.26 Wednesday

8:30 a.m. Coffee with the Pastor

10:00 a.m. Book Study

12:00 p.m. Lenton Lunch

4:00 p.m. Roxy's Pantry

## 3.27 Thursday

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Meeting

## 3.30 Sunday

8:30 Baptism Class

10:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Baptism Class

## 3.31 Monday

6:00 p.m. Grandparent Support Group Meeting

## 4.2 Wednesday

8:30 a.m. Coffee with the Pastor

12:00 p.m. Lenton Lunch

## 4.3 Thursday

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Meeting

## 4.6 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Elders Meeting

## 4.7 Monday

6:00 p.m. Grandparent Support Group Meeting

## 4.9 Wednesday

8:30 Coffee with the Pastor

12:00 p.m. Lenton Lunch

## 4.10 Thursday

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Meeting

## 4.13 Sunday

8:30 a.m. Baptism Class

10:00 a.m. Central Park for Procession of the Cross

11:15 a.m. Baptism Class

## 4.14 Monday

6:00 p.m. Grandparent Support Group Meeting

## 4.19 Wednesday

8:30 Coffee with the Pastor

# Prayer Concerns Together we pray for ...

## Current Concerns:

Juanita Anderson  
Allison Box  
Sherri Enke  
F & F of Doug Gregory  
F & F of Connly Duke Griffin  
Tina Hageman  
Bob & Nancy Heaton  
F & F of Jean Hoffmeister  
Joe Mattix  
Teresa Norris  
F & F of Steve Ruble  
Jim Shoup  
Paul Woodrum



*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:

Barbara Altgibers  
Dan Ammer  
Jan Bindewald  
Mark Bowman  
John Chamness  
Tracy Chamness  
Barb Cobb  
Ron & Rovene Cochran  
Melba Crago  
Camdyn Cresswell  
Wilbur Dalrymple  
Tony Dixon  
Rev. Bruce Dobyngs  
Daniel Drago  
Allen & Marie Egbert  
Toni Gaylord  
Jean Hoffmeister  
Carolyn MacLearn  
Carol Ann Mercer  
John McLane  
Randy Nielson  
Olivia Nord

Beverly Oge  
Melissa Platt  
Cody Raines  
Benita Roberts  
Jerry Roberts  
Earnest Rouse  
Bill Seyb  
Trisha Scott  
Sharon Strunk  
Gale Swan  
Shawna Williamson  
Marie Wilson

## **Members of the Military**

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