



The Church Mouse

First Christian Church

608 10th Street

Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

February 21, 2024

Minister:

Rev. Leslie Dalstra

(915) 342-3536

fccfmpastor@gmail.com

Office:

(319) 372-4193

fccfm@yahoo.com



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 3.18.24*

Bind my wandering heart to Thee

By Pastor Leslie Dalstra

This year our Lenten focus is on the disciple Peter. He is the one who will emerge as a leader in the church after Jesus' resurrection. As we explore some snapshots of his life in the gospels, we will find that he was both steadfast and wavering, a close friend and one who denied that friendship, he was both a follower and a wanderer. Peter, like us, lived into his faithfulness, in community, through the guidance of Jesus.

This Lent we will let go of the idea that our faith is linear and always moving in a steady progression forward. We will release the idea that we must prove our worth to God. We will affirm that throughout our life, our faith can ebb and flow and our wandering is part of the journey.

There is much to admire in Peter's life, he drops his nets and follows, he walks on water, he sprints to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to greet the Risen Christ. But that is not the full picture. He also believes himself to be unworthy, he doubts, and he sinks. Even when he stumbles, he gets up and continues to love and grow. Through Peter we hear again that God loves imperfect people and despite all our shortcomings God claims us and calls us.

Together let us “tune our hearts to sing God’s grace” and may we find refreshment and renewal in God’s “streams of mercy never ceasing” as our wandering hearts are bound to God.

Coffee Fellowship

It takes change to keep our coffee fellowship running. Did you know that our change jar is what makes it possible to purchase tea, hot chocolate, juice, and coffee. Not to mention coffee filters, napkins, creamers, and sugar. Please place some spare change in the jar when enjoying our hospitality on Sunday morning.

Happy Birthday!

3.2 Leslie Dalstra

3.2 Sharon Strunk

3.10 Jan Richers

3.11 Linda Smith

3.13 Donna Block

3.13 Diana Wilson

3.14 Paul Hedgepeth

3.15 Phyllis Anderson

3.20 Jana Hubbs

Happy Anniversary!

3.1 Arthur & Linda Nash

January 2024 Budget

\$14,044.00 Monthly Budget Needs

\$ 6,939.00 Offerings received from January

\$4,807.00 Monthly income from investments & renters

-\$2298.00 Deficit

Week of Compassion Special Offering

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. In 2024, Week of Compassion marks 80 years of a single mission: working with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, toward the vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope.

Recent months have seen increasingly severe and frequent natural disasters in the United States, even as the world witnesses ongoing war in Ukraine and the Middle East, earthquakes in Morocco, drought in the Horn of Africa, and flooding in Libya, impacting those regions for years to come. Communities are gaining traction in long-term recovery after devastating tornadoes in Kentucky, repeated hurricanes in Florida, and catastrophic wildfires in Hawaii. Such natural, political, and climate crises continue to increase the numbers of displaced persons worldwide.

Over the last 80 years, in communities recovering from disasters; among those creating new lives after fleeing their homes; and when creating hopeful futures in the face of extraordinary challenges, you have been there, because YOU are Week of Compassion. You continue to share your gifts with compassionate generosity. Thank you for your constant support and partnership, throughout the year, throughout the world.

Donations to the Week of Compassion Special Offering will be collected on February 18th and 25th. Please give generously as you are able. Thank you.

Ruth Allen Circle News

Ruth Allen Circle mailed off 10 Valentine boxes! Thank you everyone who entered a name. We will be hosting the Lenten Meal on February 28th at the Union Presbyterian Church. Our next meeting will be March 8 at 10:00 a.m. in the church library. All ladies are invited!

Mel Holtkamp-President

2024 Lenten Lunches Schedule

Join the other Parish Partner congregations at Union Presbyterian at 11:45 a.m. on Wednesdays during Lent. Together we will further explore the life of Peter each week.

Please note, all lunches will be held at Union Presbyterian Church, 719 Ave E. The lunch and Lent Meditations will run from 11:45 am-12:45pm. A Free-will donation will be appreciated with all monies to support the Back Pack Ministry of the Parish Partners.

Meal Provided by-

Feb. 21st St. Luke's Episcopal

Feb. 28th First Christian Church

Mar. 6th St. John's United Ch. Of Christ

Mar. 13th Union Presbyterian Church

Mar. 20th United Methodist Church

Mediation offered by-

The Rev. Leslie Dalstra

The Rev. Bonnie Wilkerson

Padma Templeton

Chaplain Jim Luder

Kathleen Pilkington

Service Sign Up Sheets

Liturgists, elders and deacon sign up forms are on a table outside the office, for the rest of the month through July 28, 2024.

Each **elder needs to sign up 6 times** for the period from January 1 to July 28.

Each **deacon needs to sign up between 3 to 4 times** for the time period from January 1 to July 28.

Anyone wanting to be a liturgist is invited to sign up. Pastor Leslie can offer help and instruction to new liturgists.



Grandparents raising grandchildren

WE ARE LAUNCHING A NEW MINISTRY! GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN SUPPORT GROUP BEGINNING ON FEBRUARY 5TH FROM 6-7 P.M.

Giving your Offering

There are several ways to contribute financially to the church:

You can go to our website and pay with a debit or credit card. This service includes a 2.9% service fee.

You can set up an automatic bill pay with your bank that would send the amount you desire from the bank to the church. (There are no fees attached to this transaction.)

You can write a check or bring cash and put it in an envelope.

We deeply appreciate your financial partnership with the ministries at First Christian Church!

Thank You!

“Disciple’s Women! Thank you so much for the box of goodies! It was full of so many nice things that me and my roommates enjoyed, especially during the busy time of the semester.” Eva Dalstra

“Thank you so much for the Valentines gift box, it means a lot! I especially loved the bag of mini muffins!” Jack Fries

“Thank you for the Valentine’s Day box! It made my day so much brighter and I appreciate the snacks and goodies inside!” Terri Anne Waggle

Sunday's Scriptures

Second Sunday in Lent- February 25

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38 or 9:2-9

Liturgist—Diana Wilson

Elder—Diana Wilson

Deacon-Donna Block

Third Sunday in Lent-March 3

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

Liturgist-Ken Steeples

Elder-Ken Steeples

Deacon-Pam Reuther

Fourth Sunday in Lent- March 10

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

Liturgist-

Elder-Jana Hubbs

Deacon-Gerry Pohlpetter

Fifth Sunday in Lent-March 17

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12 or 119:9-16

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

Liturgist-Vicki Lair

Elder-Vicki Lair

Deacon-Pam Reuther

CHURCH CALENDAR

2.25 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
Week of Compassion

2.26 Monday

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Meeting
6:00 Grandparents Support Group

2.28 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Coffee with the Pastor
11:45 a.m. Lenten Lunch at Presbyterian Church

3.3 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
11:15 a.m. New Deacon Training

3.4 Monday

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Meeting
6:00 Grandparents Support Group

3.6 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Coffee with the Pastor
11:45 a.m. Lenten Lunch at Presbyterian Church

3.10 Sunday

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

3.11 Monday

6:00 Girl Scouts Meeting
6:00 p.m. Grandparents Support Group

3.13 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Coffee with the Pastor
11:45 a.m. Lenten Lunch at Presbyterian Church

3.17 Sunday

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

Prayer Concerns Together we pray for ...

Current Concerns:

Juanita Anderson
Traci Beck
Ashlee Darley
F & F of Jim Gordon
F & F of Larry Harrison
Libby Mayer
Joe Mattix
Jaimie Mesecher
Melissa Platt
Jerry Roberts
Charlie & Cheryl Sievert
Shane Strode
F & F of Jason Turpin

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
Melba Crago
Camdyn Cresswell
Wilbur Dalrymple
Tony Dixon
Daniel Drago
Toni Gaylord
Beverly Gobble
Jim Gordon
Noah Gould
Terri Bishop Hampton
Randy Herbert
Jean Hoffmeister
Rosie Howard
Sue Kuper
Carolyn MacLearn
Carol Ann Mercer
Randy Nielson
Olivia Nord

Beverly Oge
Cody Raines
Bill Seyb
Trisha Scott
Sharon Strunk
Don Sunden
Gale Swan
Shawna Williamson
Marie Wilson

Members of the Military

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

