



The Church Mouse

First Christian Church

608 10th Street

Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

November 19, 2025

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
12.15.25*

Giving as a sign of faithfulness

by Rev. Leslie Dalstra

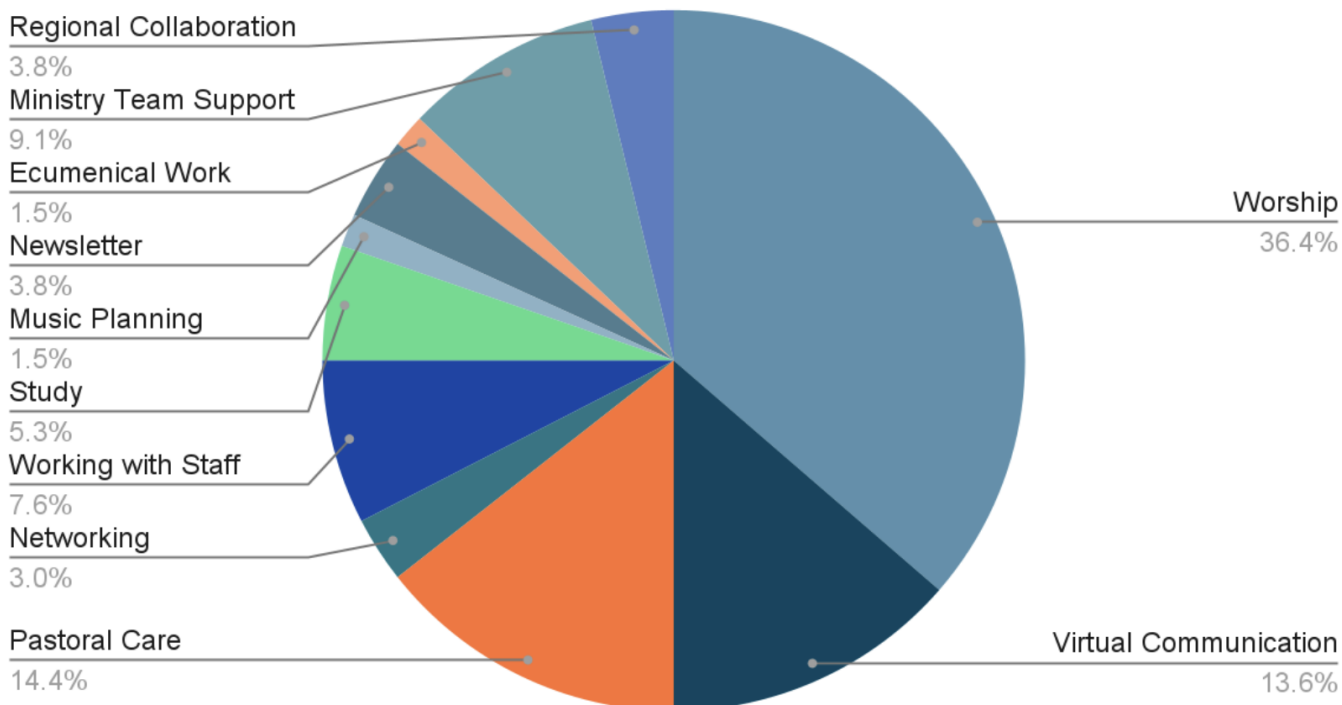
When Harry was in elementary school, we began the process of having our children fill out a pledge card for the upcoming year. I suggested \$1 a week since they were earning \$10 with their allowance. Once Harry did the math, he thought he should give more, like \$100 a week. He wondered how \$1 could make a difference. I explained to him that it is not about the amount but the intention of giving to the church before you head the store to buy something you want. Like most endeavors, they both started out strong and by the end of the year, Dan and I usually fulfilled the remainder of their pledge.

A central question of stewardship is, does God deserve our best or our left overs? Some of us give out of what we have left at the end of the week or the end of the month, others commit to a certain amount and budget for it either weekly or monthly. I invite you to consider how each act of giving relates to our faithfulness.

As we approach the close of 2025, I encourage you to consider if your offering has matched your commitment to Christ's church and the transforming message of the gospel. This is a deeply personal question and is why I prefer not to know what anyone gives to the church.

I have been through seasons when Dan and I were barely able to make ends meet, so we gave what we could, a measured amount that we budgeted for just as we have budgeted for a certain amount to give when we have a surplus in the bank. Every year, for the past 27 years, we have increased our giving. Sometimes by \$1 or \$2 and sometimes by increments of \$10 or \$15, or even by \$50 more weekly. As we have invested in the church through our offering, we have grown in our faith in ways unexpected. I am proud to call First Christian Church in Fort Madison, my home congregation. I am grateful to be in ministry with each and every one of you. My own faith is deepened by your presence, encouragement, and prayers, and frankly that is worth the investment.

Pastor's Allocation of Time



Community & World Service Team Ministry

We will be doing a collection to purchase Christmas presents for children selected off of the Angel Tree from the Salvation Army. We plan to buy for four children and the goal is to do two younger children and two teenagers. I will do the shopping and deliver the presents to the Salvation Army. I would like to do the shopping on December 7th if we have collected enough by then. Let me know if you have questions.

Amy Hayes

Congregational Care Team Ministry

We are actively preparing for our **"Harvest Meal"**, which is scheduled to take place immediately following the church service on **Sunday, December 7th**. This special gathering is offering a fantastic opportunity for our church family to connect over a delicious meal and enjoy warm fellowship. We're pleased to announce that the menu has been carefully planned and sign-up sheets are readily available in the narthex. We encourage everyone to mark their calendars and join us for this heartwarming event.

Following that, we are thrilled to host a **"Cookie Exchange and Tea Party"** on **Sunday, December 14th, starting at 11:30am**, right after our church service. This delightful event promises an afternoon of sweet treats, warm beverages, and pleasant conversations, complete with an array of finger sandwiches. We invite all members to participate by bringing their favorite homemade cookies to share and exchange, adding to the festive spirit.

As Christmas approaches, our hearts turn to those who may not be able to join us for services. We are delighted to announce that **"Christmas Caroling"** will resume this year on **Saturday, December 20th at 1 p.m.** Our carolers will meet at the church to do a quick practice run of beloved Christmas songs before carpooling to visit our cherished shut-ins. This outing is a beautiful way to bring cheer and remind them of their valued place in our community. We welcome all who love to sing or wish to help with transportation to join us in spreading holiday joy.

Looking ahead to the new year, get ready for another exciting **"Sunday Fun-Day"** for the entire congregation on **Sunday, February 8th from 2-4 p.m.!** This highly anticipated event is designed for all ages to enjoy great company, fantastic food, and a wide variety of fun games. Whether you're a fan of board games or more active challenges, prepare for an afternoon filled with laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. It's a perfect opportunity to strengthen our community bonds.—Vicki Lair

Christian Education Team Ministry

Christian Education will present a **Christmas program on December 21st during service**. We will also be **providing snow removal service** within our community and for our homebound members during the winter season as needed, reach out to the office if you would like to be put on a call list when it snows.

Diana Wilson



Worship Team Ministry

Hanging of the Greens! We will be decorating the sanctuary and the chapel on **Saturday, Nov. 29th at 9:30 a.m.** Come and take part in bringing a festive spirit to our sanctuary and chapel. All are welcome to come and join the fun!

Christmas Eve Service will be in the chapel, providing a intimate and cozy atmosphere as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The service will begin at **5:30 pm.**

We need candle lighters for the Advent candles on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 21, and Dec. 24 (at the Christmas Eve service). Dec. 14 has been filled. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Donna Block. The liturgist will do the reading and our candle lighters will only be responsible for the lighting of the candles.

Donna Block



The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our **fifteen colleges and universities** as well as our **seven seminaries and divinity houses**.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships to religious life

offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

Supporting our students is more important than ever. Scholarship requests are increasing yearly for our colleges, universities, seminaries and divinity houses. For this reason, we ask for your generous financial support during this year's **Thanksgiving Offering**.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world.

Happy Birthday!

12.1 Ryan Wilson

12.5 Sue Bowman

12.10 Mary Dennison

12.10 Andrew Hope

12.19 Gary Holtkamp

12.19 Matt Orr

12.22 Juanita Anderson

12.30 Mary Lou Roberts

12.31 Alice Bowen

12.31 Daniel Wilson



Sunday's Scriptures

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost-November 23

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

Liturgist-Dawn Willson

Elder-Vicki Lair

Deacon-Dan Dalstra

First Sunday of Advent- November 30

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 1:1-17

Liturgist-Dan Dalstra

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Second Sunday of Advent- December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10

Luke 1:26-38

Liturgist-Jana Hubbs

Elder-Jana Hubbs

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Third Sunday of Advent- December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 1:18-25

Liturgist-Vicki Lair

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Pam Reuther



CHURCH CALENDAR

11.19 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

4:00 pm Roxy's Distribution

4:45 pm Leadership Team Meeting

11.20 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

11.23 Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Congregational Meeting

11.26 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11.27 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

11.30 Sunday

First Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

12.3 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

12.4 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.7 Sunday

2nd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Harvest Meal

12.10 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11-7 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing

12.11 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.14 Sunday

3rd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:30 Cookie Exchange w/ tea

October 2025 Budget

\$14,044.00 Monthly Budget Needs

6,492.00 Offerings received from October

5,837.00 Monthly income from investments & renters-

-\$1,715.00 Deficit

Prayer Concerns Together we pray for ...

Current Concerns:

F & F of Wayne Boeding
F & F of Barb Bogie
Brad Bradford
F & F of Howard Dalrymple
F & F of Fred Minks
Rev. Dan Masden
Joy Kuper
Matt Orr
Kelly Peters
Darrell Richers
Paulette Schrepfer
Noah
Amanda
First Christian Church in Slidell
Louisiana

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:

Juanita Anderson
Dan Ammer
Jan Bindewald
Mark Bowman
John Chamness
Tracy Chamness
Barb Cobb
Melba Crago
Camdyn Cresswell
Wilbur Dalrymple
Tony Dixon
Rev. Bruce Dobyns
Daniel Drago
Allen & Marie Egbert
Toni Gaylord
Carolyn MacLearn
Carol Ann Mercer
Randy Nielson
Olivia Nord



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

Members of the Military

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



The Church Mouse

First Christian Church

608 10th Street

Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

November 19, 2025

Minister:

Rev. Leslie Dalstra

(915) 342-3536

fccmpastor@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
12.15.25*

Giving as a sign of faithfulness

by Rev. Leslie Dalstra

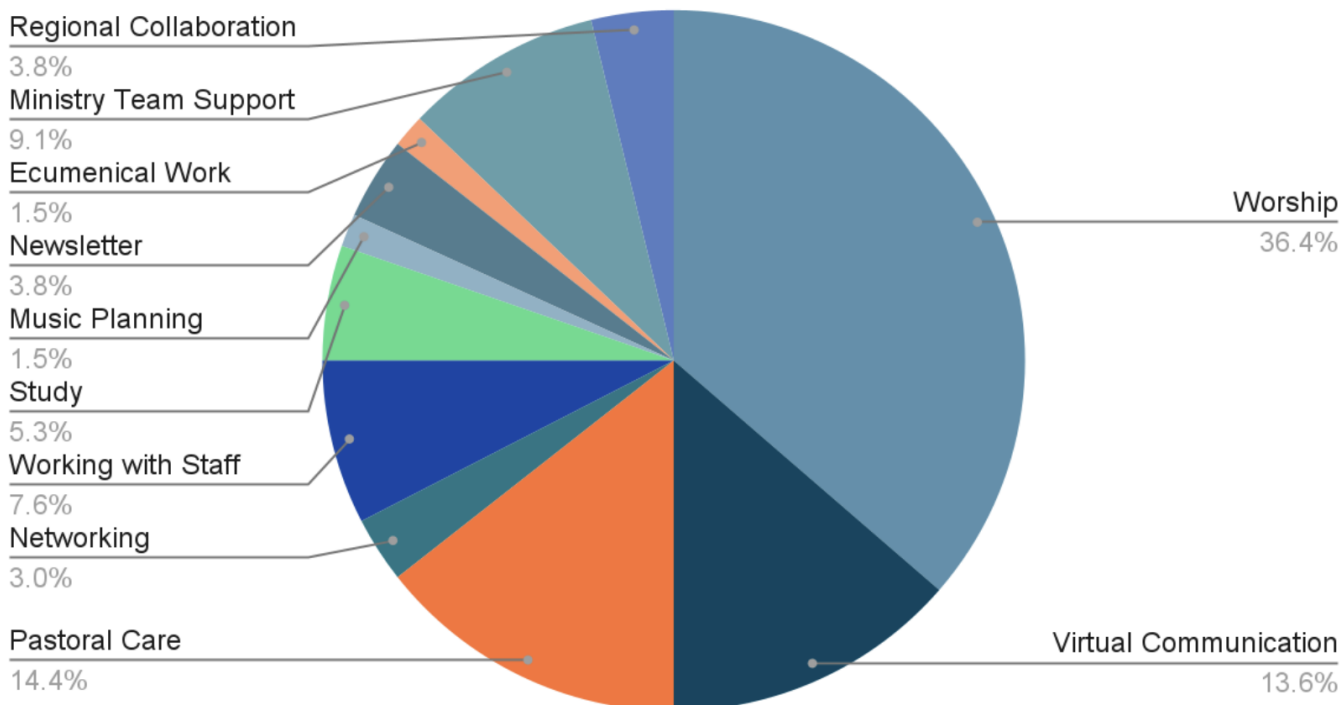
When Harry was in elementary school, we began the process of having our children fill out a pledge card for the upcoming year. I suggested \$1 a week since they were earning \$10 with their allowance. Once Harry did the math, he thought he should give more, like \$100 a week. He wondered how \$1 could make a difference. I explained to him that it is not about the amount but the intention of giving to the church before you head the store to buy something you want. Like most endeavors, they both started out strong and by the end of the year, Dan and I usually fulfilled the remainder of their pledge.

A central question of stewardship is, does God deserve our best or our left overs? Some of us give out of what we have left at the end of the week or the end of the month, others commit to a certain amount and budget for it either weekly or monthly. I invite you to consider how each act of giving relates to our faithfulness.

As we approach the close of 2025, I encourage you to consider if your offering has matched your commitment to Christ's church and the transforming message of the gospel. This is a deeply personal question and is why I prefer not to know what anyone gives to the church.

I have been through seasons when Dan and I were barely able to make ends meet, so we gave what we could, a measured amount that we budgeted for just as we have budgeted for a certain amount to give when we have a surplus in the bank. Every year, for the past 27 years, we have increased our giving. Sometimes by \$1 or \$2 and sometimes by increments of \$10 or \$15, or even by \$50 more weekly. As we have invested in the church through our offering, we have grown in our faith in ways unexpected. I am proud to call First Christian Church in Fort Madison, my home congregation. I am grateful to be in ministry with each and every one of you. My own faith is deepened by your presence, encouragement, and prayers, and frankly that is worth the investment.

Pastor's Allocation of Time



Community & World Service Team Ministry

We will be doing a collection to purchase Christmas presents for children selected off of the Angel Tree from the Salvation Army. We plan to buy for four children and the goal is to do two younger children and two teenagers. I will do the shopping and deliver the presents to the Salvation Army. I would like to do the shopping on December 7th if we have collected enough by then. Let me know if you have questions.

Amy Hayes

Congregational Care Team Ministry

We are actively preparing for our **"Harvest Meal"**, which is scheduled to take place immediately following the church service on **Sunday, December 7th**. This special gathering is offering a fantastic opportunity for our church family to connect over a delicious meal and enjoy warm fellowship. We're pleased to announce that the menu has been carefully planned and sign-up sheets are readily available in the narthex. We encourage everyone to mark their calendars and join us for this heartwarming event.

Following that, we are thrilled to host a **"Cookie Exchange and Tea Party"** on **Sunday, December 14th, starting at 11:30am**, right after our church service. This delightful event promises an afternoon of sweet treats, warm beverages, and pleasant conversations, complete with an array of finger sandwiches. We invite all members to participate by bringing their favorite homemade cookies to share and exchange, adding to the festive spirit.

As Christmas approaches, our hearts turn to those who may not be able to join us for services. We are delighted to announce that **"Christmas Caroling"** will resume this year on **Saturday, December 20th at 1 p.m.** Our carolers will meet at the church to do a quick practice run of beloved Christmas songs before carpooling to visit our cherished shut-ins. This outing is a beautiful way to bring cheer and remind them of their valued place in our community. We welcome all who love to sing or wish to help with transportation to join us in spreading holiday joy.

Looking ahead to the new year, get ready for another exciting **"Sunday Fun-Day"** for the entire congregation on **Sunday, February 8th from 2-4 p.m.!** This highly anticipated event is designed for all ages to enjoy great company, fantastic food, and a wide variety of fun games. Whether you're a fan of board games or more active challenges, prepare for an afternoon filled with laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. It's a perfect opportunity to strengthen our community bonds.—Vicki Lair

Christian Education Team Ministry

Christian Education will present a **Christmas program on December 21st during service**. We will also be **providing snow removal service** within our community and for our homebound members during the winter season as needed, reach out to the office if you would like to be put on a call list when it snows.

Diana Wilson



Worship Team Ministry

Hanging of the Greens! We will be decorating the sanctuary and the chapel on **Saturday, Nov. 29th at 9:30 a.m.** Come and take part in bringing a festive spirit to our sanctuary and chapel. All are welcome to come and join the fun!

Christmas Eve Service will be in the chapel, providing a intimate and cozy atmosphere as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The service will begin at **5:30 pm.**

We need candle lighters for the Advent candles on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 21, and Dec. 24 (at the Christmas Eve service). Dec. 14 has been filled. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Donna Block. The liturgist will do the reading and our candle lighters will only be responsible for the lighting of the candles.

Donna Block



The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our **fifteen colleges and universities** as well as our **seven seminaries and divinity houses**.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships to religious life

offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

Supporting our students is more important than ever. Scholarship requests are increasing yearly for our colleges, universities, seminaries and divinity houses. For this reason, we ask for your generous financial support during this year's **Thanksgiving Offering**.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world.

Happy Birthday!

12.1 Ryan Wilson

12.5 Sue Bowman

12.10 Mary Dennison

12.10 Andrew Hope

12.19 Gary Holtkamp

12.19 Matt Orr

12.22 Juanita Anderson

12.30 Mary Lou Roberts

12.31 Alice Bowen

12.31 Daniel Wilson



Sunday's Scriptures

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost-November 23

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

Liturgist-Dawn Willson

Elder-Vicki Lair

Deacon-Dan Dalstra

First Sunday of Advent- November 30

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 1:1-17

Liturgist-Dan Dalstra

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Second Sunday of Advent- December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10

Luke 1:26-38

Liturgist-Jana Hubbs

Elder-Jana Hubbs

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Third Sunday of Advent- December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 1:18-25

Liturgist-Vicki Lair

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Pam Reuther



CHURCH CALENDAR

11.19 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

4:00 pm Roxy's Distribution

4:45 pm Leadership Team Meeting

11.20 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

11.23 Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Congregational Meeting

11.26 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11.27 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

11.30 Sunday

First Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

12.3 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

12.4 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.7 Sunday

2nd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Harvest Meal

12.10 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11-7 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing

12.11 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.14 Sunday

3rd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:30 Cookie Exchange w/ tea

October 2025 Budget

\$14,044.00 Monthly Budget Needs

6,492.00 Offerings received from October

5,837.00 Monthly income from investments & renters-

-\$1,715.00 Deficit

Prayer Concerns Together we pray for ...

Current Concerns:

F & F of Wayne Boeding
F & F of Barb Bogie
Brad Bradford
F & F of Howard Dalrymple
F & F of Fred Minks
Rev. Dan Masden
Joy Kuper
Matt Orr
Kelly Peters
Darrell Richers
Paulette Schrepfer
Noah
Amanda
First Christian Church in Slidell
Louisiana

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:

Juanita Anderson
Dan Ammer
Jan Bindewald
Mark Bowman
John Chamness
Tracy Chamness
Barb Cobb
Melba Crago
Camdyn Cresswell
Wilbur Dalrymple
Tony Dixon
Rev. Bruce Dobyns
Daniel Drago
Allen & Marie Egbert
Toni Gaylord
Carolyn MacLearn
Carol Ann Mercer
Randy Nielson
Olivia Nord



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

Members of the Military

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



The Church Mouse

First Christian Church

608 10th Street

Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

November 19, 2025

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
12.15.25*

Giving as a sign of faithfulness

by Rev. Leslie Dalstra

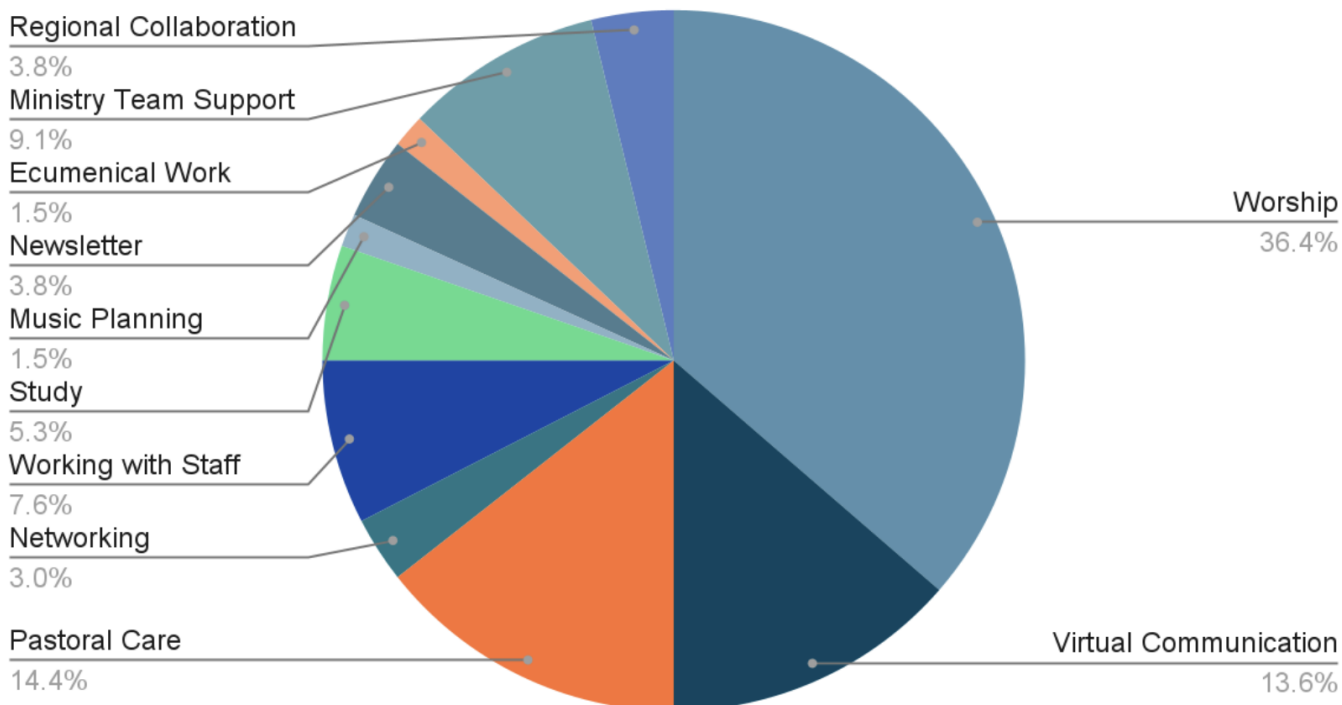
When Harry was in elementary school, we began the process of having our children fill out a pledge card for the upcoming year. I suggested \$1 a week since they were earning \$10 with their allowance. Once Harry did the math, he thought he should give more, like \$100 a week. He wondered how \$1 could make a difference. I explained to him that it is not about the amount but the intention of giving to the church before you head the store to buy something you want. Like most endeavors, they both started out strong and by the end of the year, Dan and I usually fulfilled the remainder of their pledge.

A central question of stewardship is, does God deserve our best or our left overs? Some of us give out of what we have left at the end of the week or the end of the month, others commit to a certain amount and budget for it either weekly or monthly. I invite you to consider how each act of giving relates to our faithfulness.

As we approach the close of 2025, I encourage you to consider if your offering has matched your commitment to Christ's church and the transforming message of the gospel. This is a deeply personal question and is why I prefer not to know what anyone gives to the church.

I have been through seasons when Dan and I were barely able to make ends meet, so we gave what we could, a measured amount that we budgeted for just as we have budgeted for a certain amount to give when we have a surplus in the bank. Every year, for the past 27 years, we have increased our giving. Sometimes by \$1 or \$2 and sometimes by increments of \$10 or \$15, or even by \$50 more weekly. As we have invested in the church through our offering, we have grown in our faith in ways unexpected. I am proud to call First Christian Church in Fort Madison, my home congregation. I am grateful to be in ministry with each and every one of you. My own faith is deepened by your presence, encouragement, and prayers, and frankly that is worth the investment.

Pastor's Allocation of Time



Community & World Service Team Ministry

We will be doing a collection to purchase Christmas presents for children selected off of the Angel Tree from the Salvation Army. We plan to buy for four children and the goal is to do two younger children and two teenagers. I will do the shopping and deliver the presents to the Salvation Army. I would like to do the shopping on December 7th if we have collected enough by then. Let me know if you have questions.

Amy Hayes

Congregational Care Team Ministry

We are actively preparing for our **"Harvest Meal"**, which is scheduled to take place immediately following the church service on **Sunday, December 7th**. This special gathering is offering a fantastic opportunity for our church family to connect over a delicious meal and enjoy warm fellowship. We're pleased to announce that the menu has been carefully planned and sign-up sheets are readily available in the narthex. We encourage everyone to mark their calendars and join us for this heartwarming event.

Following that, we are thrilled to host a **"Cookie Exchange and Tea Party"** on **Sunday, December 14th, starting at 11:30am**, right after our church service. This delightful event promises an afternoon of sweet treats, warm beverages, and pleasant conversations, complete with an array of finger sandwiches. We invite all members to participate by bringing their favorite homemade cookies to share and exchange, adding to the festive spirit.

As Christmas approaches, our hearts turn to those who may not be able to join us for services. We are delighted to announce that **"Christmas Caroling"** will resume this year on **Saturday, December 20th at 1 p.m.** Our carolers will meet at the church to do a quick practice run of beloved Christmas songs before carpooling to visit our cherished shut-ins. This outing is a beautiful way to bring cheer and remind them of their valued place in our community. We welcome all who love to sing or wish to help with transportation to join us in spreading holiday joy.

Looking ahead to the new year, get ready for another exciting **"Sunday Fun-Day"** for the entire congregation on **Sunday, February 8th from 2-4 p.m.!** This highly anticipated event is designed for all ages to enjoy great company, fantastic food, and a wide variety of fun games. Whether you're a fan of board games or more active challenges, prepare for an afternoon filled with laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. It's a perfect opportunity to strengthen our community bonds.—Vicki Lair

Christian Education Team Ministry

Christian Education will present a **Christmas program on December 21st during service**. We will also be **providing snow removal service** within our community and for our homebound members during the winter season as needed, reach out to the office if you would like to be put on a call list when it snows.

Diana Wilson



Worship Team Ministry

Hanging of the Greens! We will be decorating the sanctuary and the chapel on **Saturday, Nov. 29th at 9:30 a.m.** Come and take part in bringing a festive spirit to our sanctuary and chapel. All are welcome to come and join the fun!

Christmas Eve Service will be in the chapel, providing a intimate and cozy atmosphere as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The service will begin at **5:30 pm.**

We need candle lighters for the Advent candles on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 21, and Dec. 24 (at the Christmas Eve service). Dec. 14 has been filled. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Donna Block. The liturgist will do the reading and our candle lighters will only be responsible for the lighting of the candles.

Donna Block



The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our **fifteen colleges and universities** as well as our **seven seminaries and divinity houses**.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships to religious life

offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

Supporting our students is more important than ever. Scholarship requests are increasing yearly for our colleges, universities, seminaries and divinity houses. For this reason, we ask for your generous financial support during this year's **Thanksgiving Offering**.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world.

Happy Birthday!

12.1 Ryan Wilson

12.5 Sue Bowman

12.10 Mary Dennison

12.10 Andrew Hope

12.19 Gary Holtkamp

12.19 Matt Orr

12.22 Juanita Anderson

12.30 Mary Lou Roberts

12.31 Alice Bowen

12.31 Daniel Wilson



Sunday's Scriptures

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost-November 23

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

Liturgist-Dawn Willson

Elder-Vicki Lair

Deacon-Dan Dalstra

First Sunday of Advent- November 30

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 1:1-17

Liturgist-Dan Dalstra

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Second Sunday of Advent- December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10

Luke 1:26-38

Liturgist-Jana Hubbs

Elder-Jana Hubbs

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Third Sunday of Advent- December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 1:18-25

Liturgist-Vicki Lair

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Pam Reuther



CHURCH CALENDAR

11.19 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

4:00 pm Roxy's Distribution

4:45 pm Leadership Team Meeting

11.20 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

11.23 Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Congregational Meeting

11.26 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11.27 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

11.30 Sunday

First Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

12.3 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

12.4 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.7 Sunday

2nd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Harvest Meal

12.10 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11-7 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing

12.11 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.14 Sunday

3rd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:30 Cookie Exchange w/ tea

October 2025 Budget

\$14,044.00 Monthly Budget Needs

6,492.00 Offerings received from October

5,837.00 Monthly income from investments & renters-

-\$1,715.00 Deficit

Prayer Concerns Together we pray for ...

Current Concerns:

F & F of Wayne Boeding
F & F of Barb Bogie
Brad Bradford
F & F of Howard Dalrymple
F & F of Fred Minks
Rev. Dan Masden
Joy Kuper
Matt Orr
Kelly Peters
Darrell Richers
Paulette Schrepfer
Noah
Amanda
First Christian Church in Slidell
Louisiana

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:

Juanita Anderson
Dan Ammer
Jan Bindewald
Mark Bowman
John Chamness
Tracy Chamness
Barb Cobb
Melba Crago
Camdyn Cresswell
Wilbur Dalrymple
Tony Dixon
Rev. Bruce Dobyns
Daniel Drago
Allen & Marie Egbert
Toni Gaylord
Carolyn MacLearn
Carol Ann Mercer
Randy Nielson
Olivia Nord



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

Members of the Military

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



The Church Mouse

First Christian Church

608 10th Street

Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

November 19, 2025

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
12.15.25*

Giving as a sign of faithfulness

by Rev. Leslie Dalstra

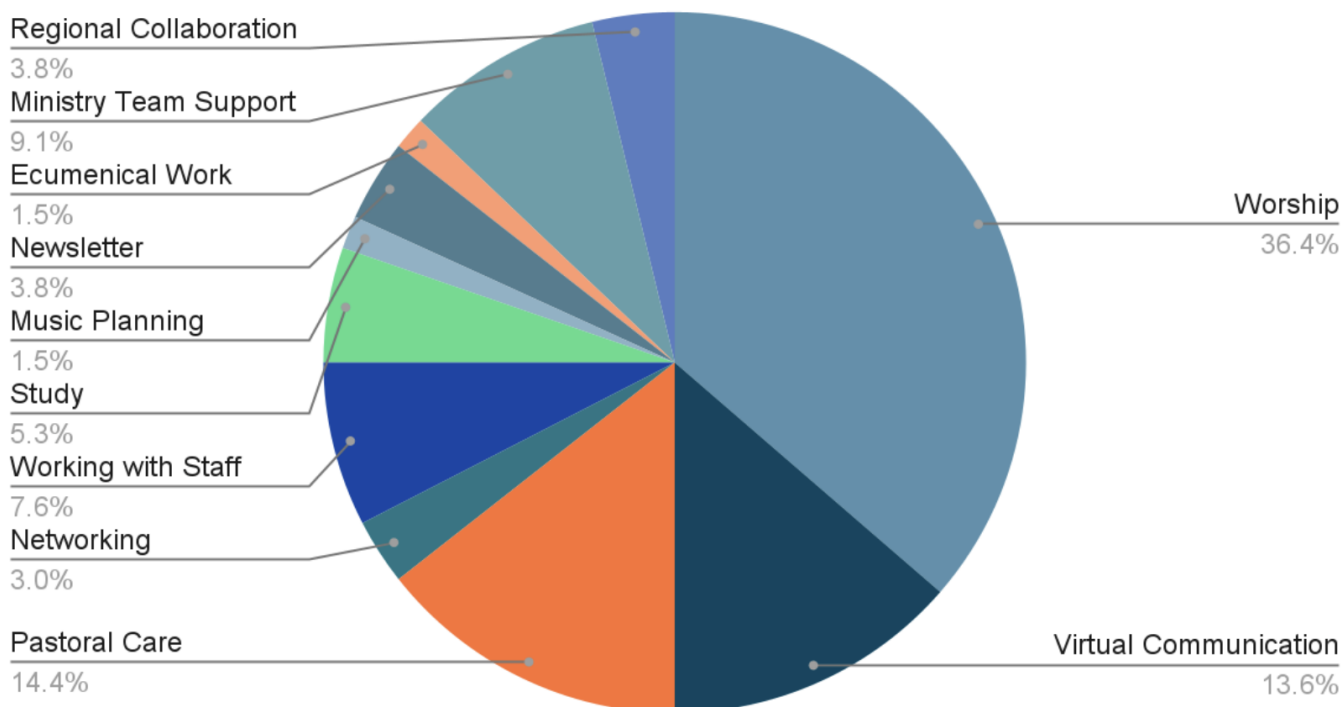
When Harry was in elementary school, we began the process of having our children fill out a pledge card for the upcoming year. I suggested \$1 a week since they were earning \$10 with their allowance. Once Harry did the math, he thought he should give more, like \$100 a week. He wondered how \$1 could make a difference. I explained to him that it is not about the amount but the intention of giving to the church before you head the store to buy something you want. Like most endeavors, they both started out strong and by the end of the year, Dan and I usually fulfilled the remainder of their pledge.

A central question of stewardship is, does God deserve our best or our left overs? Some of us give out of what we have left at the end of the week or the end of the month, others commit to a certain amount and budget for it either weekly or monthly. I invite you to consider how each act of giving relates to our faithfulness.

As we approach the close of 2025, I encourage you to consider if your offering has matched your commitment to Christ's church and the transforming message of the gospel. This is a deeply personal question and is why I prefer not to know what anyone gives to the church.

I have been through seasons when Dan and I were barely able to make ends meet, so we gave what we could, a measured amount that we budgeted for just as we have budgeted for a certain amount to give when we have a surplus in the bank. Every year, for the past 27 years, we have increased our giving. Sometimes by \$1 or \$2 and sometimes by increments of \$10 or \$15, or even by \$50 more weekly. As we have invested in the church through our offering, we have grown in our faith in ways unexpected. I am proud to call First Christian Church in Fort Madison, my home congregation. I am grateful to be in ministry with each and every one of you. My own faith is deepened by your presence, encouragement, and prayers, and frankly that is worth the investment.

Pastor's Allocation of Time



Community & World Service Team Ministry

We will be doing a collection to purchase Christmas presents for children selected off of the Angel Tree from the Salvation Army. We plan to buy for four children and the goal is to do two younger children and two teenagers. I will do the shopping and deliver the presents to the Salvation Army. I would like to do the shopping on December 7th if we have collected enough by then. Let me know if you have questions.

Amy Hayes

Congregational Care Team Ministry

We are actively preparing for our **"Harvest Meal"**, which is scheduled to take place immediately following the church service on **Sunday, December 7th**. This special gathering is offering a fantastic opportunity for our church family to connect over a delicious meal and enjoy warm fellowship. We're pleased to announce that the menu has been carefully planned and sign-up sheets are readily available in the narthex. We encourage everyone to mark their calendars and join us for this heartwarming event.

Following that, we are thrilled to host a **"Cookie Exchange and Tea Party"** on **Sunday, December 14th, starting at 11:30am**, right after our church service. This delightful event promises an afternoon of sweet treats, warm beverages, and pleasant conversations, complete with an array of finger sandwiches. We invite all members to participate by bringing their favorite homemade cookies to share and exchange, adding to the festive spirit.

As Christmas approaches, our hearts turn to those who may not be able to join us for services. We are delighted to announce that **"Christmas Caroling"** will resume this year on **Saturday, December 20th at 1 p.m.** Our carolers will meet at the church to do a quick practice run of beloved Christmas songs before carpooling to visit our cherished shut-ins. This outing is a beautiful way to bring cheer and remind them of their valued place in our community. We welcome all who love to sing or wish to help with transportation to join us in spreading holiday joy.

Looking ahead to the new year, get ready for another exciting **"Sunday Fun-Day"** for the entire congregation on **Sunday, February 8th from 2-4 p.m.!** This highly anticipated event is designed for all ages to enjoy great company, fantastic food, and a wide variety of fun games. Whether you're a fan of board games or more active challenges, prepare for an afternoon filled with laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. It's a perfect opportunity to strengthen our community bonds.—Vicki Lair

Christian Education Team Ministry

Christian Education will present a **Christmas program on December 21st during service**. We will also be **providing snow removal service** within our community and for our homebound members during the winter season as needed, reach out to the office if you would like to be put on a call list when it snows.

Diana Wilson



Worship Team Ministry

Hanging of the Greens! We will be decorating the sanctuary and the chapel on **Saturday, Nov. 29th at 9:30 a.m.** Come and take part in bringing a festive spirit to our sanctuary and chapel. All are welcome to come and join the fun!

Christmas Eve Service will be in the chapel, providing a intimate and cozy atmosphere as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The service will begin at **5:30 pm.**

We need candle lighters for the Advent candles on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 21, and Dec. 24 (at the Christmas Eve service). Dec. 14 has been filled. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Donna Block. The liturgist will do the reading and our candle lighters will only be responsible for the lighting of the candles.

Donna Block



The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our **fifteen colleges and universities** as well as our **seven seminaries and divinity houses**.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships to religious life

offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

Supporting our students is more important than ever. Scholarship requests are increasing yearly for our colleges, universities, seminaries and divinity houses. For this reason, we ask for your generous financial support during this year's **Thanksgiving Offering**.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world.

Happy Birthday!

12.1 Ryan Wilson

12.5 Sue Bowman

12.10 Mary Dennison

12.10 Andrew Hope

12.19 Gary Holtkamp

12.19 Matt Orr

12.22 Juanita Anderson

12.30 Mary Lou Roberts

12.31 Alice Bowen

12.31 Daniel Wilson



Sunday's Scriptures

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost-November 23

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

Liturgist-Dawn Willson

Elder-Vicki Lair

Deacon-Dan Dalstra

First Sunday of Advent- November 30

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 1:1-17

Liturgist-Dan Dalstra

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Second Sunday of Advent- December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10

Luke 1:26-38

Liturgist-Jana Hubbs

Elder-Jana Hubbs

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Third Sunday of Advent- December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 1:18-25

Liturgist-Vicki Lair

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Pam Reuther



CHURCH CALENDAR

11.19 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship
4:00 pm Roxy's Distribution
4:45 pm Leadership Team Meeting

11.20 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

11.23 Sunday

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Congregational Meeting

11.26 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11.27 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

11.30 Sunday

First Sunday in Advent
10:00 am Worship

12.3 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

12.4 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.7 Sunday

2nd Sunday in Advent
10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Harvest Meal

12.10 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship
11-7 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing

12.11 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.14 Sunday

3rd Sunday in Advent
10:00 am Worship
11:30 Cookie Exchange w/ tea

October 2025 Budget

\$14,044.00 Monthly Budget Needs
6,492.00 Offerings received from October
5,837.00 Monthly income from investments & renters-
-\$1,715.00 Deficit

Prayer Concerns Together we pray for ...

Current Concerns:

F & F of Wayne Boeding
F & F of Barb Bogie
Brad Bradford
F & F of Howard Dalrymple
F & F of Fred Minks
Rev. Dan Masden
Joy Kuper
Matt Orr
Kelly Peters
Darrell Richers
Paulette Schrepfer
Noah
Amanda
First Christian Church in Slidell
Louisiana

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:

Juanita Anderson
Dan Ammer
Jan Bindewald
Mark Bowman
John Chamness
Tracy Chamness
Barb Cobb
Melba Crago
Camdyn Cresswell
Wilbur Dalrymple
Tony Dixon
Rev. Bruce Dobyns
Daniel Drago
Allen & Marie Egbert
Toni Gaylord
Carolyn MacLearn
Carol Ann Mercer
Randy Nielson
Olivia Nord



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

Members of the Military

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



The Church Mouse

First Christian Church

608 10th Street

Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

November 19, 2025

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
12.15.25*

Giving as a sign of faithfulness

by Rev. Leslie Dalstra

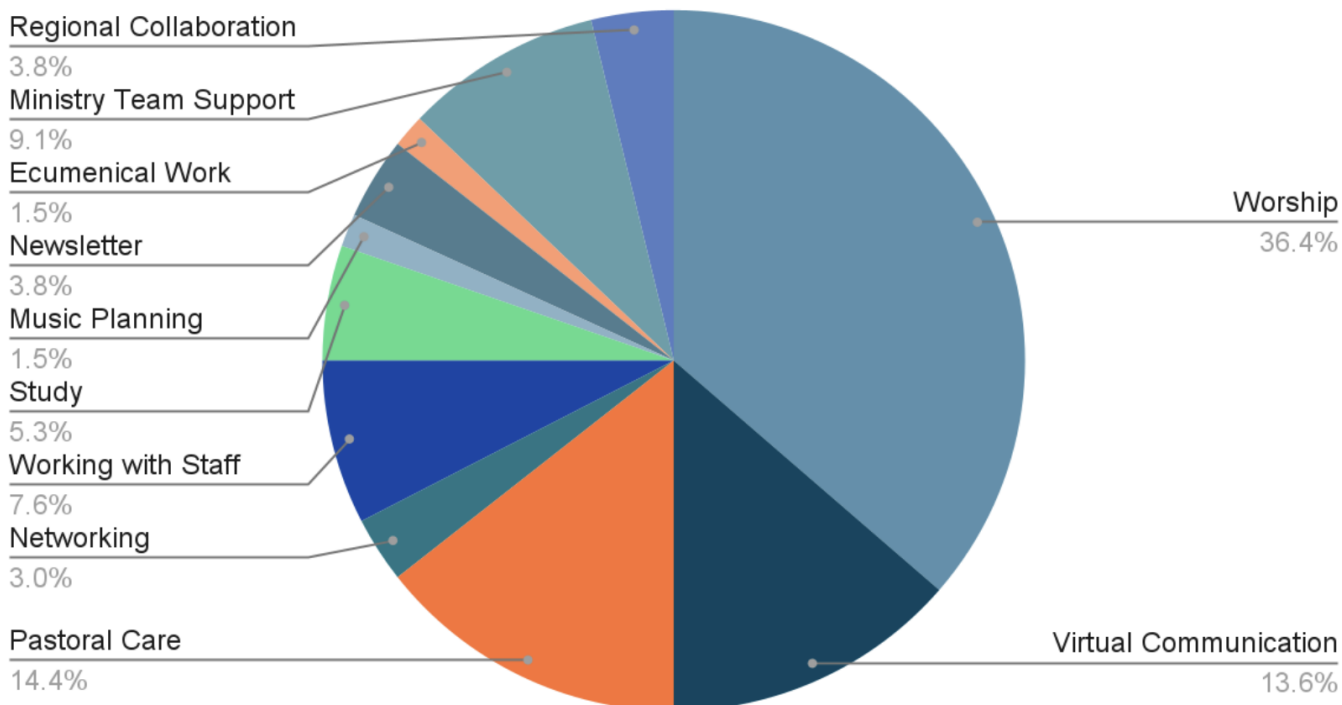
When Harry was in elementary school, we began the process of having our children fill out a pledge card for the upcoming year. I suggested \$1 a week since they were earning \$10 with their allowance. Once Harry did the math, he thought he should give more, like \$100 a week. He wondered how \$1 could make a difference. I explained to him that it is not about the amount but the intention of giving to the church before you head the store to buy something you want. Like most endeavors, they both started out strong and by the end of the year, Dan and I usually fulfilled the remainder of their pledge.

A central question of stewardship is, does God deserve our best or our left overs? Some of us give out of what we have left at the end of the week or the end of the month, others commit to a certain amount and budget for it either weekly or monthly. I invite you to consider how each act of giving relates to our faithfulness.

As we approach the close of 2025, I encourage you to consider if your offering has matched your commitment to Christ's church and the transforming message of the gospel. This is a deeply personal question and is why I prefer not to know what anyone gives to the church.

I have been through seasons when Dan and I were barely able to make ends meet, so we gave what we could, a measured amount that we budgeted for just as we have budgeted for a certain amount to give when we have a surplus in the bank. Every year, for the past 27 years, we have increased our giving. Sometimes by \$1 or \$2 and sometimes by increments of \$10 or \$15, or even by \$50 more weekly. As we have invested in the church through our offering, we have grown in our faith in ways unexpected. I am proud to call First Christian Church in Fort Madison, my home congregation. I am grateful to be in ministry with each and every one of you. My own faith is deepened by your presence, encouragement, and prayers, and frankly that is worth the investment.

Pastor's Allocation of Time



Community & World Service Team Ministry

We will be doing a collection to purchase Christmas presents for children selected off of the Angel Tree from the Salvation Army. We plan to buy for four children and the goal is to do two younger children and two teenagers. I will do the shopping and deliver the presents to the Salvation Army. I would like to do the shopping on December 7th if we have collected enough by then. Let me know if you have questions.

Amy Hayes

Congregational Care Team Ministry

We are actively preparing for our **"Harvest Meal"**, which is scheduled to take place immediately following the church service on **Sunday, December 7th**. This special gathering is offering a fantastic opportunity for our church family to connect over a delicious meal and enjoy warm fellowship. We're pleased to announce that the menu has been carefully planned and sign-up sheets are readily available in the narthex. We encourage everyone to mark their calendars and join us for this heartwarming event.

Following that, we are thrilled to host a **"Cookie Exchange and Tea Party"** on **Sunday, December 14th, starting at 11:30am**, right after our church service. This delightful event promises an afternoon of sweet treats, warm beverages, and pleasant conversations, complete with an array of finger sandwiches. We invite all members to participate by bringing their favorite homemade cookies to share and exchange, adding to the festive spirit.

As Christmas approaches, our hearts turn to those who may not be able to join us for services. We are delighted to announce that **"Christmas Caroling"** will resume this year on **Saturday, December 20th at 1 p.m.** Our carolers will meet at the church to do a quick practice run of beloved Christmas songs before carpooling to visit our cherished shut-ins. This outing is a beautiful way to bring cheer and remind them of their valued place in our community. We welcome all who love to sing or wish to help with transportation to join us in spreading holiday joy.

Looking ahead to the new year, get ready for another exciting **"Sunday Fun-Day"** for the entire congregation on **Sunday, February 8th from 2-4 p.m.!** This highly anticipated event is designed for all ages to enjoy great company, fantastic food, and a wide variety of fun games. Whether you're a fan of board games or more active challenges, prepare for an afternoon filled with laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. It's a perfect opportunity to strengthen our community bonds.—Vicki Lair

Christian Education Team Ministry

Christian Education will present a **Christmas program on December 21st during service**. We will also be **providing snow removal service** within our community and for our homebound members during the winter season as needed, reach out to the office if you would like to be put on a call list when it snows.

Diana Wilson



Worship Team Ministry

Hanging of the Greens! We will be decorating the sanctuary and the chapel on **Saturday, Nov. 29th at 9:30 a.m.** Come and take part in bringing a festive spirit to our sanctuary and chapel. All are welcome to come and join the fun!

Christmas Eve Service will be in the chapel, providing a intimate and cozy atmosphere as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The service will begin at **5:30 pm.**

We need candle lighters for the Advent candles on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 21, and Dec. 24 (at the Christmas Eve service). Dec. 14 has been filled. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Donna Block. The liturgist will do the reading and our candle lighters will only be responsible for the lighting of the candles.

Donna Block



The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our **fifteen colleges and universities** as well as our **seven seminaries and divinity houses**.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships to religious life

offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

Supporting our students is more important than ever. Scholarship requests are increasing yearly for our colleges, universities, seminaries and divinity houses. For this reason, we ask for your generous financial support during this year's **Thanksgiving Offering**.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world.

Happy Birthday!

12.1 Ryan Wilson

12.5 Sue Bowman

12.10 Mary Dennison

12.10 Andrew Hope

12.19 Gary Holtkamp

12.19 Matt Orr

12.22 Juanita Anderson

12.30 Mary Lou Roberts

12.31 Alice Bowen

12.31 Daniel Wilson



Sunday's Scriptures

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost-November 23

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

Liturgist-Dawn Willson

Elder-Vicki Lair

Deacon-Dan Dalstra

First Sunday of Advent- November 30

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 1:1-17

Liturgist-Dan Dalstra

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Second Sunday of Advent- December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10

Luke 1:26-38

Liturgist-Jana Hubbs

Elder-Jana Hubbs

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Third Sunday of Advent- December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 1:18-25

Liturgist-Vicki Lair

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Pam Reuther



CHURCH CALENDAR

11.19 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

4:00 pm Roxy's Distribution

4:45 pm Leadership Team Meeting

11.20 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

11.23 Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Congregational Meeting

11.26 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11.27 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

11.30 Sunday

First Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

12.3 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

12.4 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.7 Sunday

2nd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Harvest Meal

12.10 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11-7 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing

12.11 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.14 Sunday

3rd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:30 Cookie Exchange w/ tea

October 2025 Budget

\$14,044.00 Monthly Budget Needs

6,492.00 Offerings received from October

5,837.00 Monthly income from investments & renters-

-\$1,715.00 Deficit

Prayer Concerns Together we pray for ...

Current Concerns:

F & F of Wayne Boeding
F & F of Barb Bogie
Brad Bradford
F & F of Howard Dalrymple
F & F of Fred Minks
Rev. Dan Masden
Joy Kuper
Matt Orr
Kelly Peters
Darrell Richers
Paulette Schrepfer
Noah
Amanda
First Christian Church in Slidell
Louisiana

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:

Juanita Anderson
Dan Ammer
Jan Bindewald
Mark Bowman
John Chamness
Tracy Chamness
Barb Cobb
Melba Crago
Camdyn Cresswell
Wilbur Dalrymple
Tony Dixon
Rev. Bruce Dobyns
Daniel Drago
Allen & Marie Egbert
Toni Gaylord
Carolyn MacLearn
Carol Ann Mercer
Randy Nielson
Olivia Nord



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

Members of the Military

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



The Church Mouse

First Christian Church

608 10th Street

Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

November 19, 2025

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
12.15.25*

Giving as a sign of faithfulness

by Rev. Leslie Dalstra

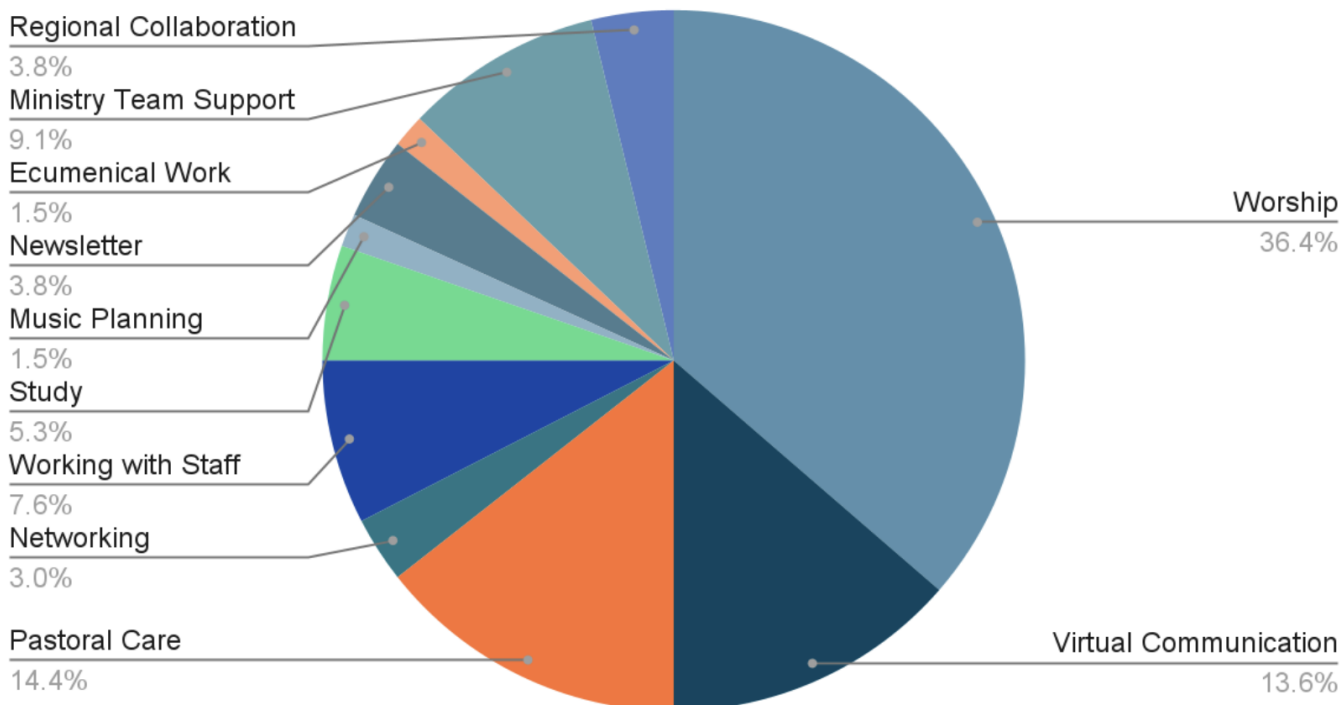
When Harry was in elementary school, we began the process of having our children fill out a pledge card for the upcoming year. I suggested \$1 a week since they were earning \$10 with their allowance. Once Harry did the math, he thought he should give more, like \$100 a week. He wondered how \$1 could make a difference. I explained to him that it is not about the amount but the intention of giving to the church before you head the store to buy something you want. Like most endeavors, they both started out strong and by the end of the year, Dan and I usually fulfilled the remainder of their pledge.

A central question of stewardship is, does God deserve our best or our left overs? Some of us give out of what we have left at the end of the week or the end of the month, others commit to a certain amount and budget for it either weekly or monthly. I invite you to consider how each act of giving relates to our faithfulness.

As we approach the close of 2025, I encourage you to consider if your offering has matched your commitment to Christ's church and the transforming message of the gospel. This is a deeply personal question and is why I prefer not to know what anyone gives to the church.

I have been through seasons when Dan and I were barely able to make ends meet, so we gave what we could, a measured amount that we budgeted for just as we have budgeted for a certain amount to give when we have a surplus in the bank. Every year, for the past 27 years, we have increased our giving. Sometimes by \$1 or \$2 and sometimes by increments of \$10 or \$15, or even by \$50 more weekly. As we have invested in the church through our offering, we have grown in our faith in ways unexpected. I am proud to call First Christian Church in Fort Madison, my home congregation. I am grateful to be in ministry with each and every one of you. My own faith is deepened by your presence, encouragement, and prayers, and frankly that is worth the investment.

Pastor's Allocation of Time



Community & World Service Team Ministry

We will be doing a collection to purchase Christmas presents for children selected off of the Angel Tree from the Salvation Army. We plan to buy for four children and the goal is to do two younger children and two teenagers. I will do the shopping and deliver the presents to the Salvation Army. I would like to do the shopping on December 7th if we have collected enough by then. Let me know if you have questions.

Amy Hayes

Congregational Care Team Ministry

We are actively preparing for our **"Harvest Meal"**, which is scheduled to take place immediately following the church service on **Sunday, December 7th**. This special gathering is offering a fantastic opportunity for our church family to connect over a delicious meal and enjoy warm fellowship. We're pleased to announce that the menu has been carefully planned and sign-up sheets are readily available in the narthex. We encourage everyone to mark their calendars and join us for this heartwarming event.

Following that, we are thrilled to host a **"Cookie Exchange and Tea Party"** on **Sunday, December 14th, starting at 11:30am**, right after our church service. This delightful event promises an afternoon of sweet treats, warm beverages, and pleasant conversations, complete with an array of finger sandwiches. We invite all members to participate by bringing their favorite homemade cookies to share and exchange, adding to the festive spirit.

As Christmas approaches, our hearts turn to those who may not be able to join us for services. We are delighted to announce that **"Christmas Caroling"** will resume this year on **Saturday, December 20th at 1 p.m.** Our carolers will meet at the church to do a quick practice run of beloved Christmas songs before carpooling to visit our cherished shut-ins. This outing is a beautiful way to bring cheer and remind them of their valued place in our community. We welcome all who love to sing or wish to help with transportation to join us in spreading holiday joy.

Looking ahead to the new year, get ready for another exciting **"Sunday Fun-Day"** for the entire congregation on **Sunday, February 8th from 2-4 p.m.!** This highly anticipated event is designed for all ages to enjoy great company, fantastic food, and a wide variety of fun games. Whether you're a fan of board games or more active challenges, prepare for an afternoon filled with laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. It's a perfect opportunity to strengthen our community bonds.—Vicki Lair

Christian Education Team Ministry

Christian Education will present a **Christmas program on December 21st during service**. We will also be **providing snow removal service** within our community and for our homebound members during the winter season as needed, reach out to the office if you would like to be put on a call list when it snows.

Diana Wilson



Worship Team Ministry

Hanging of the Greens! We will be decorating the sanctuary and the chapel on **Saturday, Nov. 29th at 9:30 a.m.** Come and take part in bringing a festive spirit to our sanctuary and chapel. All are welcome to come and join the fun!

Christmas Eve Service will be in the chapel, providing a intimate and cozy atmosphere as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The service will begin at **5:30 pm.**

We need candle lighters for the Advent candles on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 21, and Dec. 24 (at the Christmas Eve service). Dec. 14 has been filled. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Donna Block. The liturgist will do the reading and our candle lighters will only be responsible for the lighting of the candles.

Donna Block



The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our **fifteen colleges and universities** as well as our **seven seminaries and divinity houses**.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships to religious life

offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

Supporting our students is more important than ever. Scholarship requests are increasing yearly for our colleges, universities, seminaries and divinity houses. For this reason, we ask for your generous financial support during this year's **Thanksgiving Offering**.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world.

Happy Birthday!

12.1 Ryan Wilson

12.5 Sue Bowman

12.10 Mary Dennison

12.10 Andrew Hope

12.19 Gary Holtkamp

12.19 Matt Orr

12.22 Juanita Anderson

12.30 Mary Lou Roberts

12.31 Alice Bowen

12.31 Daniel Wilson



Sunday's Scriptures

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost-November 23

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

Liturgist-Dawn Willson

Elder-Vicki Lair

Deacon-Dan Dalstra

First Sunday of Advent- November 30

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 1:1-17

Liturgist-Dan Dalstra

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Second Sunday of Advent- December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10

Luke 1:26-38

Liturgist-Jana Hubbs

Elder-Jana Hubbs

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Third Sunday of Advent- December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 1:18-25

Liturgist-Vicki Lair

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Pam Reuther



CHURCH CALENDAR

11.19 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship
4:00 pm Roxy's Distribution
4:45 pm Leadership Team Meeting

11.20 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

11.23 Sunday

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Congregational Meeting

11.26 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11.27 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

11.30 Sunday

First Sunday in Advent
10:00 am Worship

12.3 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

12.4 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.7 Sunday

2nd Sunday in Advent
10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Harvest Meal

12.10 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship
11-7 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing

12.11 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.14 Sunday

3rd Sunday in Advent
10:00 am Worship
11:30 Cookie Exchange w/ tea

October 2025 Budget

\$14,044.00 Monthly Budget Needs
6,492.00 Offerings received from October
5,837.00 Monthly income from investments & renters-
-\$1,715.00 Deficit

Prayer Concerns Together we pray for ...

Current Concerns:

F & F of Wayne Boeding
F & F of Barb Bogie
Brad Bradford
F & F of Howard Dalrymple
F & F of Fred Minks
Rev. Dan Masden
Joy Kuper
Matt Orr
Kelly Peters
Darrell Richers
Paulette Schrepfer
Noah
Amanda
First Christian Church in Slidell
Louisiana

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:

Juanita Anderson
Dan Ammer
Jan Bindewald
Mark Bowman
John Chamness
Tracy Chamness
Barb Cobb
Melba Crago
Camdyn Cresswell
Wilbur Dalrymple
Tony Dixon
Rev. Bruce Dobyns
Daniel Drago
Allen & Marie Egbert
Toni Gaylord
Carolyn MacLearn
Carol Ann Mercer
Randy Nielson
Olivia Nord



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

Members of the Military

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



The Church Mouse

First Christian Church

608 10th Street

Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

November 19, 2025

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
12.15.25*

Giving as a sign of faithfulness

by Rev. Leslie Dalstra

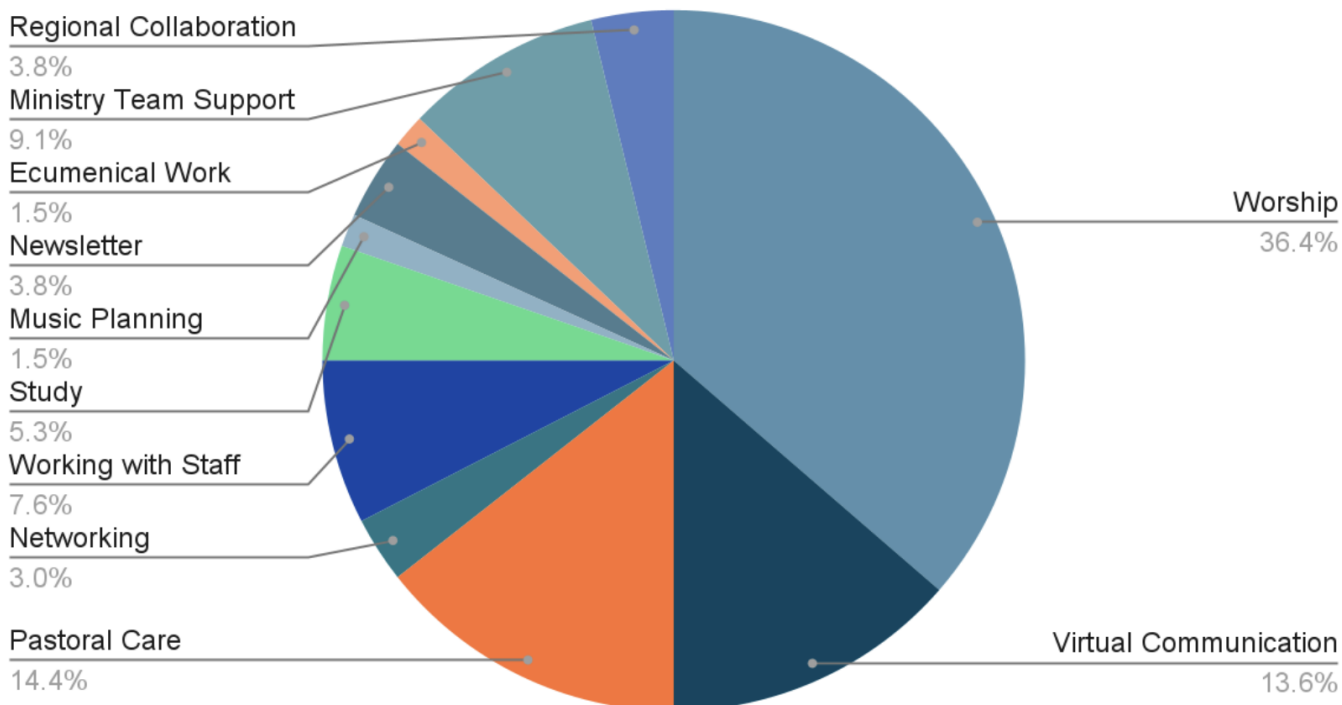
When Harry was in elementary school, we began the process of having our children fill out a pledge card for the upcoming year. I suggested \$1 a week since they were earning \$10 with their allowance. Once Harry did the math, he thought he should give more, like \$100 a week. He wondered how \$1 could make a difference. I explained to him that it is not about the amount but the intention of giving to the church before you head the store to buy something you want. Like most endeavors, they both started out strong and by the end of the year, Dan and I usually fulfilled the remainder of their pledge.

A central question of stewardship is, does God deserve our best or our left overs? Some of us give out of what we have left at the end of the week or the end of the month, others commit to a certain amount and budget for it either weekly or monthly. I invite you to consider how each act of giving relates to our faithfulness.

As we approach the close of 2025, I encourage you to consider if your offering has matched your commitment to Christ's church and the transforming message of the gospel. This is a deeply personal question and is why I prefer not to know what anyone gives to the church.

I have been through seasons when Dan and I were barely able to make ends meet, so we gave what we could, a measured amount that we budgeted for just as we have budgeted for a certain amount to give when we have a surplus in the bank. Every year, for the past 27 years, we have increased our giving. Sometimes by \$1 or \$2 and sometimes by increments of \$10 or \$15, or even by \$50 more weekly. As we have invested in the church through our offering, we have grown in our faith in ways unexpected. I am proud to call First Christian Church in Fort Madison, my home congregation. I am grateful to be in ministry with each and every one of you. My own faith is deepened by your presence, encouragement, and prayers, and frankly that is worth the investment.

Pastor's Allocation of Time



Community & World Service Team Ministry

We will be doing a collection to purchase Christmas presents for children selected off of the Angel Tree from the Salvation Army. We plan to buy for four children and the goal is to do two younger children and two teenagers. I will do the shopping and deliver the presents to the Salvation Army. I would like to do the shopping on December 7th if we have collected enough by then. Let me know if you have questions.

Amy Hayes

Congregational Care Team Ministry

We are actively preparing for our **"Harvest Meal"**, which is scheduled to take place immediately following the church service on **Sunday, December 7th**. This special gathering is offering a fantastic opportunity for our church family to connect over a delicious meal and enjoy warm fellowship. We're pleased to announce that the menu has been carefully planned and sign-up sheets are readily available in the narthex. We encourage everyone to mark their calendars and join us for this heartwarming event.

Following that, we are thrilled to host a **"Cookie Exchange and Tea Party"** on **Sunday, December 14th, starting at 11:30am**, right after our church service. This delightful event promises an afternoon of sweet treats, warm beverages, and pleasant conversations, complete with an array of finger sandwiches. We invite all members to participate by bringing their favorite homemade cookies to share and exchange, adding to the festive spirit.

As Christmas approaches, our hearts turn to those who may not be able to join us for services. We are delighted to announce that **"Christmas Caroling"** will resume this year on **Saturday, December 20th at 1 p.m.** Our carolers will meet at the church to do a quick practice run of beloved Christmas songs before carpooling to visit our cherished shut-ins. This outing is a beautiful way to bring cheer and remind them of their valued place in our community. We welcome all who love to sing or wish to help with transportation to join us in spreading holiday joy.

Looking ahead to the new year, get ready for another exciting **"Sunday Fun-Day"** for the entire congregation on **Sunday, February 8th from 2-4 p.m.!** This highly anticipated event is designed for all ages to enjoy great company, fantastic food, and a wide variety of fun games. Whether you're a fan of board games or more active challenges, prepare for an afternoon filled with laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. It's a perfect opportunity to strengthen our community bonds.—Vicki Lair

Christian Education Team Ministry

Christian Education will present a **Christmas program on December 21st during service**. We will also be **providing snow removal service** within our community and for our homebound members during the winter season as needed, reach out to the office if you would like to be put on a call list when it snows.

Diana Wilson



Worship Team Ministry

Hanging of the Greens! We will be decorating the sanctuary and the chapel on **Saturday, Nov. 29th at 9:30 a.m.** Come and take part in bringing a festive spirit to our sanctuary and chapel. All are welcome to come and join the fun!

Christmas Eve Service will be in the chapel, providing a intimate and cozy atmosphere as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The service will begin at **5:30 pm.**

We need candle lighters for the Advent candles on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 21, and Dec. 24 (at the Christmas Eve service). Dec. 14 has been filled. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Donna Block. The liturgist will do the reading and our candle lighters will only be responsible for the lighting of the candles.

Donna Block



The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our **fifteen colleges and universities** as well as our **seven seminaries and divinity houses**.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships to religious life

offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

Supporting our students is more important than ever. Scholarship requests are increasing yearly for our colleges, universities, seminaries and divinity houses. For this reason, we ask for your generous financial support during this year's **Thanksgiving Offering**.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world.

Happy Birthday!

12.1 Ryan Wilson

12.5 Sue Bowman

12.10 Mary Dennison

12.10 Andrew Hope

12.19 Gary Holtkamp

12.19 Matt Orr

12.22 Juanita Anderson

12.30 Mary Lou Roberts

12.31 Alice Bowen

12.31 Daniel Wilson



Sunday's Scriptures

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost-November 23

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

Liturgist-Dawn Willson

Elder-Vicki Lair

Deacon-Dan Dalstra

First Sunday of Advent- November 30

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 1:1-17

Liturgist-Dan Dalstra

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Second Sunday of Advent- December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10

Luke 1:26-38

Liturgist-Jana Hubbs

Elder-Jana Hubbs

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Third Sunday of Advent- December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 1:18-25

Liturgist-Vicki Lair

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Pam Reuther



CHURCH CALENDAR

11.19 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

4:00 pm Roxy's Distribution

4:45 pm Leadership Team Meeting

11.20 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

11.23 Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Congregational Meeting

11.26 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11.27 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

11.30 Sunday

First Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

12.3 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

12.4 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.7 Sunday

2nd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Harvest Meal

12.10 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11-7 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing

12.11 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.14 Sunday

3rd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:30 Cookie Exchange w/ tea

October 2025 Budget

\$14,044.00 Monthly Budget Needs

6,492.00 Offerings received from October

5,837.00 Monthly income from investments & renters-

-\$1,715.00 Deficit

Prayer Concerns Together we pray for ...

Current Concerns:

F & F of Wayne Boeding
F & F of Barb Bogie
Brad Bradford
F & F of Howard Dalrymple
F & F of Fred Minks
Rev. Dan Masden
Joy Kuper
Matt Orr
Kelly Peters
Darrell Richers
Paulette Schrepfer
Noah
Amanda
First Christian Church in Slidell
Louisiana

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:

Juanita Anderson
Dan Ammer
Jan Bindewald
Mark Bowman
John Chamness
Tracy Chamness
Barb Cobb
Melba Crago
Camdyn Cresswell
Wilbur Dalrymple
Tony Dixon
Rev. Bruce Dobyns
Daniel Drago
Allen & Marie Egbert
Toni Gaylord
Carolyn MacLearn
Carol Ann Mercer
Randy Nielson
Olivia Nord



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

Members of the Military

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



The Church Mouse

First Christian Church

608 10th Street

Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

November 19, 2025

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
12.15.25*

Giving as a sign of faithfulness

by Rev. Leslie Dalstra

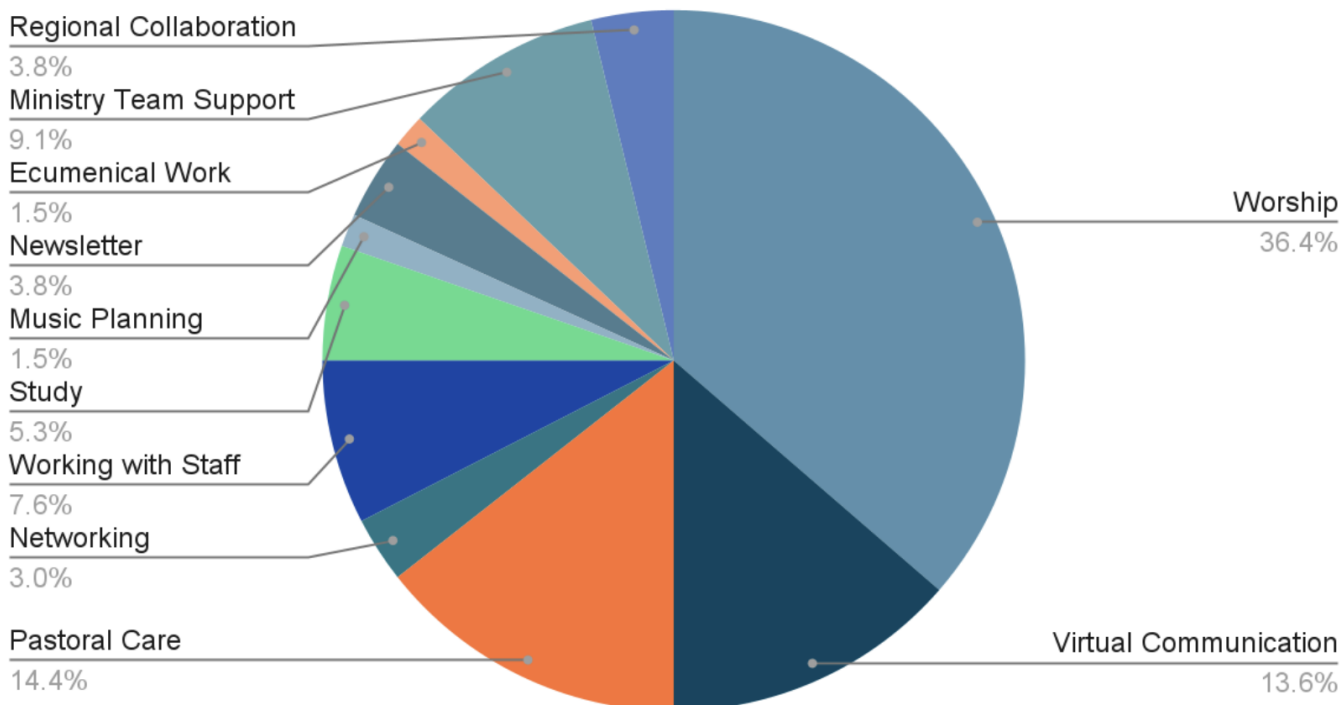
When Harry was in elementary school, we began the process of having our children fill out a pledge card for the upcoming year. I suggested \$1 a week since they were earning \$10 with their allowance. Once Harry did the math, he thought he should give more, like \$100 a week. He wondered how \$1 could make a difference. I explained to him that it is not about the amount but the intention of giving to the church before you head the store to buy something you want. Like most endeavors, they both started out strong and by the end of the year, Dan and I usually fulfilled the remainder of their pledge.

A central question of stewardship is, does God deserve our best or our left overs? Some of us give out of what we have left at the end of the week or the end of the month, others commit to a certain amount and budget for it either weekly or monthly. I invite you to consider how each act of giving relates to our faithfulness.

As we approach the close of 2025, I encourage you to consider if your offering has matched your commitment to Christ's church and the transforming message of the gospel. This is a deeply personal question and is why I prefer not to know what anyone gives to the church.

I have been through seasons when Dan and I were barely able to make ends meet, so we gave what we could, a measured amount that we budgeted for just as we have budgeted for a certain amount to give when we have a surplus in the bank. Every year, for the past 27 years, we have increased our giving. Sometimes by \$1 or \$2 and sometimes by increments of \$10 or \$15, or even by \$50 more weekly. As we have invested in the church through our offering, we have grown in our faith in ways unexpected. I am proud to call First Christian Church in Fort Madison, my home congregation. I am grateful to be in ministry with each and every one of you. My own faith is deepened by your presence, encouragement, and prayers, and frankly that is worth the investment.

Pastor's Allocation of Time



Community & World Service Team Ministry

We will be doing a collection to purchase Christmas presents for children selected off of the Angel Tree from the Salvation Army. We plan to buy for four children and the goal is to do two younger children and two teenagers. I will do the shopping and deliver the presents to the Salvation Army. I would like to do the shopping on December 7th if we have collected enough by then. Let me know if you have questions.

Amy Hayes

Congregational Care Team Ministry

We are actively preparing for our **"Harvest Meal"**, which is scheduled to take place immediately following the church service on **Sunday, December 7th**. This special gathering is offering a fantastic opportunity for our church family to connect over a delicious meal and enjoy warm fellowship. We're pleased to announce that the menu has been carefully planned and sign-up sheets are readily available in the narthex. We encourage everyone to mark their calendars and join us for this heartwarming event.

Following that, we are thrilled to host a **"Cookie Exchange and Tea Party"** on **Sunday, December 14th, starting at 11:30am**, right after our church service. This delightful event promises an afternoon of sweet treats, warm beverages, and pleasant conversations, complete with an array of finger sandwiches. We invite all members to participate by bringing their favorite homemade cookies to share and exchange, adding to the festive spirit.

As Christmas approaches, our hearts turn to those who may not be able to join us for services. We are delighted to announce that **"Christmas Caroling"** will resume this year on **Saturday, December 20th at 1 p.m.** Our carolers will meet at the church to do a quick practice run of beloved Christmas songs before carpooling to visit our cherished shut-ins. This outing is a beautiful way to bring cheer and remind them of their valued place in our community. We welcome all who love to sing or wish to help with transportation to join us in spreading holiday joy.

Looking ahead to the new year, get ready for another exciting **"Sunday Fun-Day"** for the entire congregation on **Sunday, February 8th from 2-4 p.m.!** This highly anticipated event is designed for all ages to enjoy great company, fantastic food, and a wide variety of fun games. Whether you're a fan of board games or more active challenges, prepare for an afternoon filled with laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. It's a perfect opportunity to strengthen our community bonds.—Vicki Lair

Christian Education Team Ministry

Christian Education will present a **Christmas program on December 21st during service**. We will also be **providing snow removal service** within our community and for our homebound members during the winter season as needed, reach out to the office if you would like to be put on a call list when it snows.

Diana Wilson



Worship Team Ministry

Hanging of the Greens! We will be decorating the sanctuary and the chapel on **Saturday, Nov. 29th at 9:30 a.m.** Come and take part in bringing a festive spirit to our sanctuary and chapel. All are welcome to come and join the fun!

Christmas Eve Service will be in the chapel, providing a intimate and cozy atmosphere as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The service will begin at **5:30 pm.**

We need candle lighters for the Advent candles on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 21, and Dec. 24 (at the Christmas Eve service). Dec. 14 has been filled. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Donna Block. The liturgist will do the reading and our candle lighters will only be responsible for the lighting of the candles.

Donna Block



The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our **fifteen colleges and universities** as well as our **seven seminaries and divinity houses**.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships to religious life

offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

Supporting our students is more important than ever. Scholarship requests are increasing yearly for our colleges, universities, seminaries and divinity houses. For this reason, we ask for your generous financial support during this year's **Thanksgiving Offering**.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world.

Happy Birthday!

12.1 Ryan Wilson

12.5 Sue Bowman

12.10 Mary Dennison

12.10 Andrew Hope

12.19 Gary Holtkamp

12.19 Matt Orr

12.22 Juanita Anderson

12.30 Mary Lou Roberts

12.31 Alice Bowen

12.31 Daniel Wilson



Sunday's Scriptures

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost-November 23

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

Liturgist-Dawn Willson

Elder-Vicki Lair

Deacon-Dan Dalstra

First Sunday of Advent- November 30

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 1:1-17

Liturgist-Dan Dalstra

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Second Sunday of Advent- December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10

Luke 1:26-38

Liturgist-Jana Hubbs

Elder-Jana Hubbs

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Third Sunday of Advent- December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 1:18-25

Liturgist-Vicki Lair

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Pam Reuther



CHURCH CALENDAR

11.19 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

4:00 pm Roxy's Distribution

4:45 pm Leadership Team Meeting

11.20 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

11.23 Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Congregational Meeting

11.26 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11.27 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

11.30 Sunday

First Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

12.3 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

12.4 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.7 Sunday

2nd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Harvest Meal

12.10 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11-7 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing

12.11 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.14 Sunday

3rd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:30 Cookie Exchange w/ tea

October 2025 Budget

\$14,044.00 Monthly Budget Needs

6,492.00 Offerings received from October

5,837.00 Monthly income from investments & renters-

-\$1,715.00 Deficit

Prayer Concerns Together we pray for ...

Current Concerns:

F & F of Wayne Boeding
F & F of Barb Bogie
Brad Bradford
F & F of Howard Dalrymple
F & F of Fred Minks
Rev. Dan Masden
Joy Kuper
Matt Orr
Kelly Peters
Darrell Richers
Paulette Schrepfer
Noah
Amanda
First Christian Church in Slidell
Louisiana

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:

Juanita Anderson
Dan Ammer
Jan Bindewald
Mark Bowman
John Chamness
Tracy Chamness
Barb Cobb
Melba Crago
Camdyn Cresswell
Wilbur Dalrymple
Tony Dixon
Rev. Bruce Dobyns
Daniel Drago
Allen & Marie Egbert
Toni Gaylord
Carolyn MacLearn
Carol Ann Mercer
Randy Nielson
Olivia Nord



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

Members of the Military

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



The Church Mouse

First Christian Church

608 10th Street

Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

November 19, 2025

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
12.15.25*

Giving as a sign of faithfulness

by Rev. Leslie Dalstra

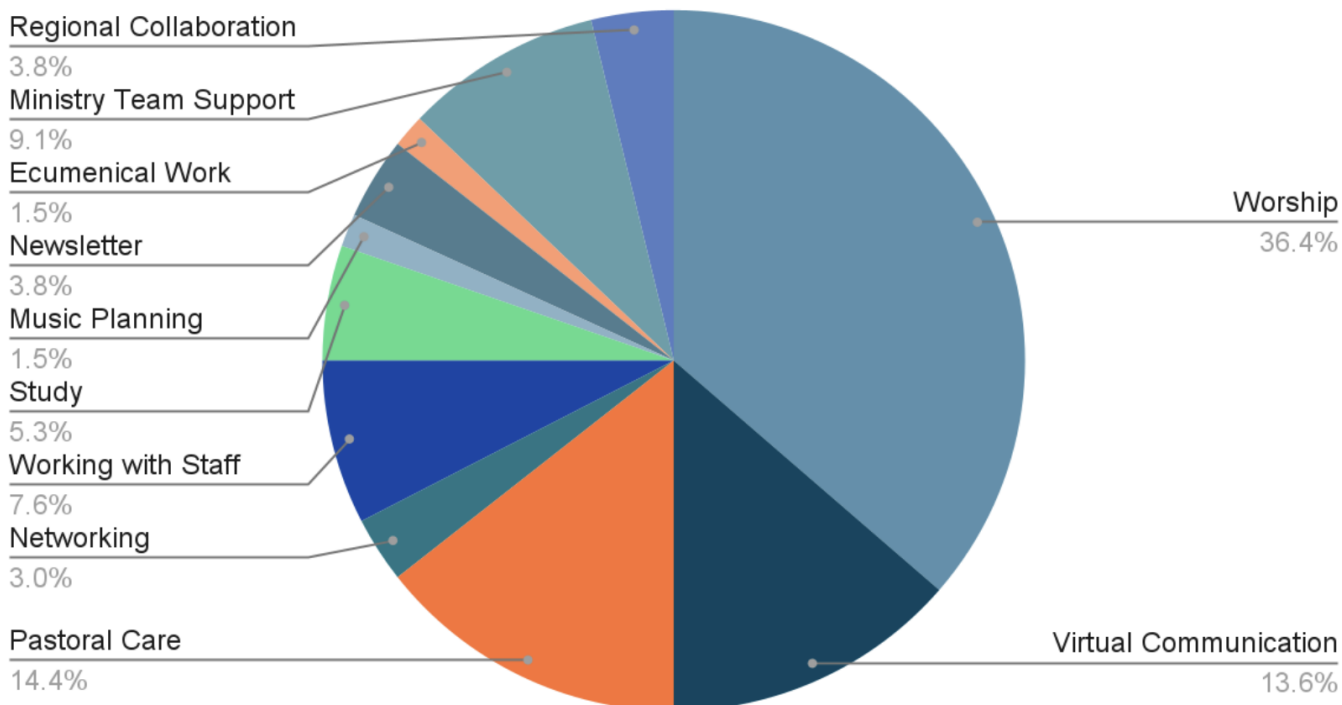
When Harry was in elementary school, we began the process of having our children fill out a pledge card for the upcoming year. I suggested \$1 a week since they were earning \$10 with their allowance. Once Harry did the math, he thought he should give more, like \$100 a week. He wondered how \$1 could make a difference. I explained to him that it is not about the amount but the intention of giving to the church before you head the store to buy something you want. Like most endeavors, they both started out strong and by the end of the year, Dan and I usually fulfilled the remainder of their pledge.

A central question of stewardship is, does God deserve our best or our left overs? Some of us give out of what we have left at the end of the week or the end of the month, others commit to a certain amount and budget for it either weekly or monthly. I invite you to consider how each act of giving relates to our faithfulness.

As we approach the close of 2025, I encourage you to consider if your offering has matched your commitment to Christ's church and the transforming message of the gospel. This is a deeply personal question and is why I prefer not to know what anyone gives to the church.

I have been through seasons when Dan and I were barely able to make ends meet, so we gave what we could, a measured amount that we budgeted for just as we have budgeted for a certain amount to give when we have a surplus in the bank. Every year, for the past 27 years, we have increased our giving. Sometimes by \$1 or \$2 and sometimes by increments of \$10 or \$15, or even by \$50 more weekly. As we have invested in the church through our offering, we have grown in our faith in ways unexpected. I am proud to call First Christian Church in Fort Madison, my home congregation. I am grateful to be in ministry with each and every one of you. My own faith is deepened by your presence, encouragement, and prayers, and frankly that is worth the investment.

Pastor's Allocation of Time



Community & World Service Team Ministry

We will be doing a collection to purchase Christmas presents for children selected off of the Angel Tree from the Salvation Army. We plan to buy for four children and the goal is to do two younger children and two teenagers. I will do the shopping and deliver the presents to the Salvation Army. I would like to do the shopping on December 7th if we have collected enough by then. Let me know if you have questions.

Amy Hayes

Congregational Care Team Ministry

We are actively preparing for our **"Harvest Meal"**, which is scheduled to take place immediately following the church service on **Sunday, December 7th**. This special gathering is offering a fantastic opportunity for our church family to connect over a delicious meal and enjoy warm fellowship. We're pleased to announce that the menu has been carefully planned and sign-up sheets are readily available in the narthex. We encourage everyone to mark their calendars and join us for this heartwarming event.

Following that, we are thrilled to host a **"Cookie Exchange and Tea Party"** on **Sunday, December 14th, starting at 11:30am**, right after our church service. This delightful event promises an afternoon of sweet treats, warm beverages, and pleasant conversations, complete with an array of finger sandwiches. We invite all members to participate by bringing their favorite homemade cookies to share and exchange, adding to the festive spirit.

As Christmas approaches, our hearts turn to those who may not be able to join us for services. We are delighted to announce that **"Christmas Caroling"** will resume this year on **Saturday, December 20th at 1 p.m.** Our carolers will meet at the church to do a quick practice run of beloved Christmas songs before carpooling to visit our cherished shut-ins. This outing is a beautiful way to bring cheer and remind them of their valued place in our community. We welcome all who love to sing or wish to help with transportation to join us in spreading holiday joy.

Looking ahead to the new year, get ready for another exciting **"Sunday Fun-Day"** for the entire congregation on **Sunday, February 8th from 2-4 p.m.!** This highly anticipated event is designed for all ages to enjoy great company, fantastic food, and a wide variety of fun games. Whether you're a fan of board games or more active challenges, prepare for an afternoon filled with laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. It's a perfect opportunity to strengthen our community bonds.—Vicki Lair

Christian Education Team Ministry

Christian Education will present a **Christmas program on December 21st during service**. We will also be **providing snow removal service** within our community and for our homebound members during the winter season as needed, reach out to the office if you would like to be put on a call list when it snows.

Diana Wilson



Worship Team Ministry

Hanging of the Greens! We will be decorating the sanctuary and the chapel on **Saturday, Nov. 29th at 9:30 a.m.** Come and take part in bringing a festive spirit to our sanctuary and chapel. All are welcome to come and join the fun!

Christmas Eve Service will be in the chapel, providing a intimate and cozy atmosphere as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The service will begin at **5:30 pm.**

We need candle lighters for the Advent candles on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 21, and Dec. 24 (at the Christmas Eve service). Dec. 14 has been filled. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Donna Block. The liturgist will do the reading and our candle lighters will only be responsible for the lighting of the candles.

Donna Block



The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our **fifteen colleges and universities** as well as our **seven seminaries and divinity houses**.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships to religious life

offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

Supporting our students is more important than ever. Scholarship requests are increasing yearly for our colleges, universities, seminaries and divinity houses. For this reason, we ask for your generous financial support during this year's **Thanksgiving Offering**.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world.

Happy Birthday!

12.1 Ryan Wilson

12.5 Sue Bowman

12.10 Mary Dennison

12.10 Andrew Hope

12.19 Gary Holtkamp

12.19 Matt Orr

12.22 Juanita Anderson

12.30 Mary Lou Roberts

12.31 Alice Bowen

12.31 Daniel Wilson



Sunday's Scriptures

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost-November 23

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

Liturgist-Dawn Willson

Elder-Vicki Lair

Deacon-Dan Dalstra

First Sunday of Advent- November 30

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 1:1-17

Liturgist-Dan Dalstra

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Second Sunday of Advent- December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10

Luke 1:26-38

Liturgist-Jana Hubbs

Elder-Jana Hubbs

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Third Sunday of Advent- December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 1:18-25

Liturgist-Vicki Lair

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Pam Reuther



CHURCH CALENDAR

11.19 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

4:00 pm Roxy's Distribution

4:45 pm Leadership Team Meeting

11.20 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

11.23 Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Congregational Meeting

11.26 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11.27 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

11.30 Sunday

First Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

12.3 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

12.4 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.7 Sunday

2nd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Harvest Meal

12.10 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11-7 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing

12.11 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.14 Sunday

3rd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:30 Cookie Exchange w/ tea

October 2025 Budget

\$14,044.00 Monthly Budget Needs

6,492.00 Offerings received from October

5,837.00 Monthly income from investments & renters-

-\$1,715.00 Deficit

Prayer Concerns Together we pray for ...

Current Concerns:

F & F of Wayne Boeding
F & F of Barb Bogie
Brad Bradford
F & F of Howard Dalrymple
F & F of Fred Minks
Rev. Dan Masden
Joy Kuper
Matt Orr
Kelly Peters
Darrell Richers
Paulette Schrepfer
Noah
Amanda
First Christian Church in Slidell
Louisiana

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:

Juanita Anderson
Dan Ammer
Jan Bindewald
Mark Bowman
John Chamness
Tracy Chamness
Barb Cobb
Melba Crago
Camdyn Cresswell
Wilbur Dalrymple
Tony Dixon
Rev. Bruce Dobyns
Daniel Drago
Allen & Marie Egbert
Toni Gaylord
Carolyn MacLearn
Carol Ann Mercer
Randy Nielson
Olivia Nord



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

Members of the Military

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



The Church Mouse

First Christian Church

608 10th Street

Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

November 19, 2025

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
12.15.25*

Giving as a sign of faithfulness

by Rev. Leslie Dalstra

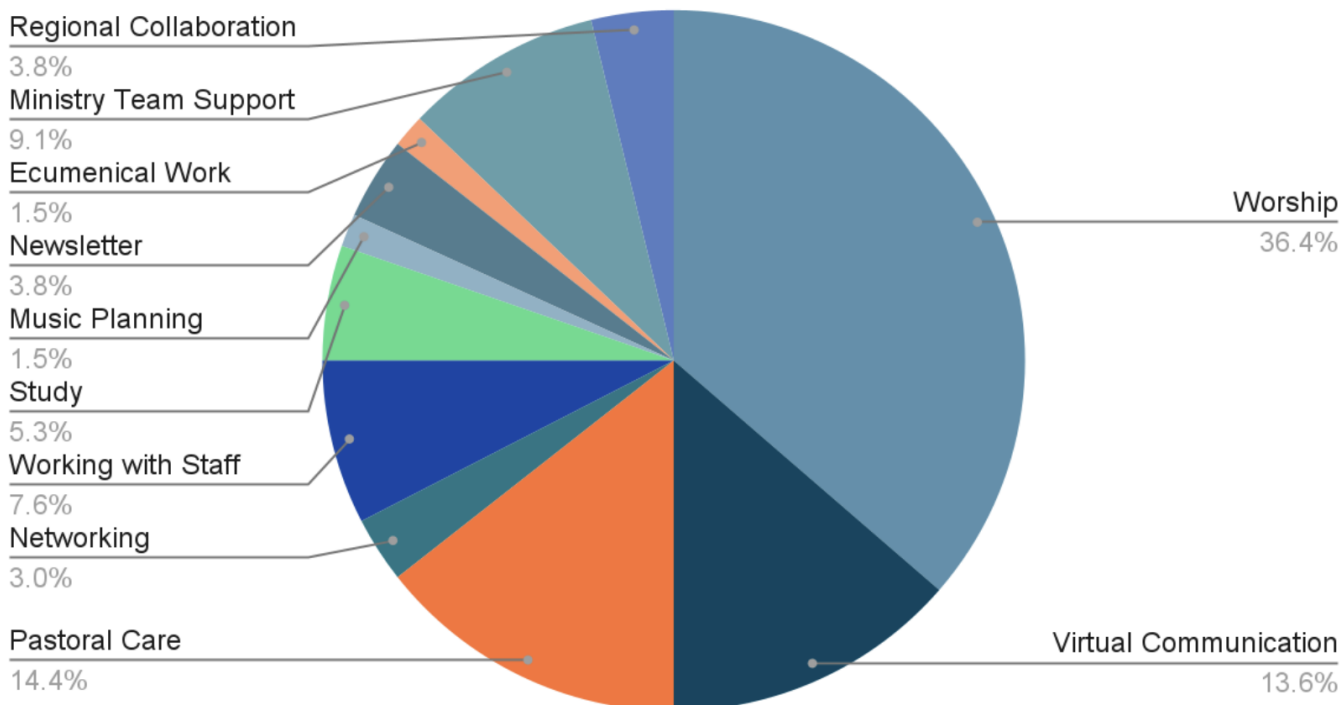
When Harry was in elementary school, we began the process of having our children fill out a pledge card for the upcoming year. I suggested \$1 a week since they were earning \$10 with their allowance. Once Harry did the math, he thought he should give more, like \$100 a week. He wondered how \$1 could make a difference. I explained to him that it is not about the amount but the intention of giving to the church before you head the store to buy something you want. Like most endeavors, they both started out strong and by the end of the year, Dan and I usually fulfilled the remainder of their pledge.

A central question of stewardship is, does God deserve our best or our left overs? Some of us give out of what we have left at the end of the week or the end of the month, others commit to a certain amount and budget for it either weekly or monthly. I invite you to consider how each act of giving relates to our faithfulness.

As we approach the close of 2025, I encourage you to consider if your offering has matched your commitment to Christ's church and the transforming message of the gospel. This is a deeply personal question and is why I prefer not to know what anyone gives to the church.

I have been through seasons when Dan and I were barely able to make ends meet, so we gave what we could, a measured amount that we budgeted for just as we have budgeted for a certain amount to give when we have a surplus in the bank. Every year, for the past 27 years, we have increased our giving. Sometimes by \$1 or \$2 and sometimes by increments of \$10 or \$15, or even by \$50 more weekly. As we have invested in the church through our offering, we have grown in our faith in ways unexpected. I am proud to call First Christian Church in Fort Madison, my home congregation. I am grateful to be in ministry with each and every one of you. My own faith is deepened by your presence, encouragement, and prayers, and frankly that is worth the investment.

Pastor's Allocation of Time



Community & World Service Team Ministry

We will be doing a collection to purchase Christmas presents for children selected off of the Angel Tree from the Salvation Army. We plan to buy for four children and the goal is to do two younger children and two teenagers. I will do the shopping and deliver the presents to the Salvation Army. I would like to do the shopping on December 7th if we have collected enough by then. Let me know if you have questions.

Amy Hayes

Congregational Care Team Ministry

We are actively preparing for our **"Harvest Meal"**, which is scheduled to take place immediately following the church service on **Sunday, December 7th**. This special gathering is offering a fantastic opportunity for our church family to connect over a delicious meal and enjoy warm fellowship. We're pleased to announce that the menu has been carefully planned and sign-up sheets are readily available in the narthex. We encourage everyone to mark their calendars and join us for this heartwarming event.

Following that, we are thrilled to host a **"Cookie Exchange and Tea Party"** on **Sunday, December 14th, starting at 11:30am**, right after our church service. This delightful event promises an afternoon of sweet treats, warm beverages, and pleasant conversations, complete with an array of finger sandwiches. We invite all members to participate by bringing their favorite homemade cookies to share and exchange, adding to the festive spirit.

As Christmas approaches, our hearts turn to those who may not be able to join us for services. We are delighted to announce that **"Christmas Caroling"** will resume this year on **Saturday, December 20th at 1 p.m.** Our carolers will meet at the church to do a quick practice run of beloved Christmas songs before carpooling to visit our cherished shut-ins. This outing is a beautiful way to bring cheer and remind them of their valued place in our community. We welcome all who love to sing or wish to help with transportation to join us in spreading holiday joy.

Looking ahead to the new year, get ready for another exciting **"Sunday Fun-Day"** for the entire congregation on **Sunday, February 8th from 2-4 p.m.!** This highly anticipated event is designed for all ages to enjoy great company, fantastic food, and a wide variety of fun games. Whether you're a fan of board games or more active challenges, prepare for an afternoon filled with laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. It's a perfect opportunity to strengthen our community bonds.—Vicki Lair

Christian Education Team Ministry

Christian Education will present a **Christmas program on December 21st during service**. We will also be **providing snow removal service** within our community and for our homebound members during the winter season as needed, reach out to the office if you would like to be put on a call list when it snows.

Diana Wilson



Worship Team Ministry

Hanging of the Greens! We will be decorating the sanctuary and the chapel on **Saturday, Nov. 29th at 9:30 a.m.** Come and take part in bringing a festive spirit to our sanctuary and chapel. All are welcome to come and join the fun!

Christmas Eve Service will be in the chapel, providing a intimate and cozy atmosphere as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The service will begin at **5:30 pm.**

We need candle lighters for the Advent candles on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 21, and Dec. 24 (at the Christmas Eve service). Dec. 14 has been filled. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Donna Block. The liturgist will do the reading and our candle lighters will only be responsible for the lighting of the candles.

Donna Block



The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our **fifteen colleges and universities** as well as our **seven seminaries and divinity houses**.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships to religious life

offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

Supporting our students is more important than ever. Scholarship requests are increasing yearly for our colleges, universities, seminaries and divinity houses. For this reason, we ask for your generous financial support during this year's **Thanksgiving Offering**.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world.

Happy Birthday!

12.1 Ryan Wilson

12.5 Sue Bowman

12.10 Mary Dennison

12.10 Andrew Hope

12.19 Gary Holtkamp

12.19 Matt Orr

12.22 Juanita Anderson

12.30 Mary Lou Roberts

12.31 Alice Bowen

12.31 Daniel Wilson



Sunday's Scriptures

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost-November 23

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

Liturgist-Dawn Willson

Elder-Vicki Lair

Deacon-Dan Dalstra

First Sunday of Advent- November 30

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 1:1-17

Liturgist-Dan Dalstra

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Second Sunday of Advent- December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10

Luke 1:26-38

Liturgist-Jana Hubbs

Elder-Jana Hubbs

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Third Sunday of Advent- December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 1:18-25

Liturgist-Vicki Lair

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Pam Reuther



CHURCH CALENDAR

11.19 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

4:00 pm Roxy's Distribution

4:45 pm Leadership Team Meeting

11.20 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

11.23 Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Congregational Meeting

11.26 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11.27 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

11.30 Sunday

First Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

12.3 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

12.4 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.7 Sunday

2nd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Harvest Meal

12.10 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11-7 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing

12.11 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.14 Sunday

3rd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:30 Cookie Exchange w/ tea

October 2025 Budget

\$14,044.00 Monthly Budget Needs

6,492.00 Offerings received from October

5,837.00 Monthly income from investments & renters-

-\$1,715.00 Deficit

Prayer Concerns Together we pray for ...

Current Concerns:

F & F of Wayne Boeding
F & F of Barb Bogie
Brad Bradford
F & F of Howard Dalrymple
F & F of Fred Minks
Rev. Dan Masden
Joy Kuper
Matt Orr
Kelly Peters
Darrell Richers
Paulette Schrepfer
Noah
Amanda
First Christian Church in Slidell
Louisiana

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:

Juanita Anderson
Dan Ammer
Jan Bindewald
Mark Bowman
John Chamness
Tracy Chamness
Barb Cobb
Melba Crago
Camdyn Cresswell
Wilbur Dalrymple
Tony Dixon
Rev. Bruce Dobyns
Daniel Drago
Allen & Marie Egbert
Toni Gaylord
Carolyn MacLearn
Carol Ann Mercer
Randy Nielson
Olivia Nord



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

Members of the Military

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



The Church Mouse

First Christian Church

608 10th Street

Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

November 19, 2025

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
12.15.25*

Giving as a sign of faithfulness

by Rev. Leslie Dalstra

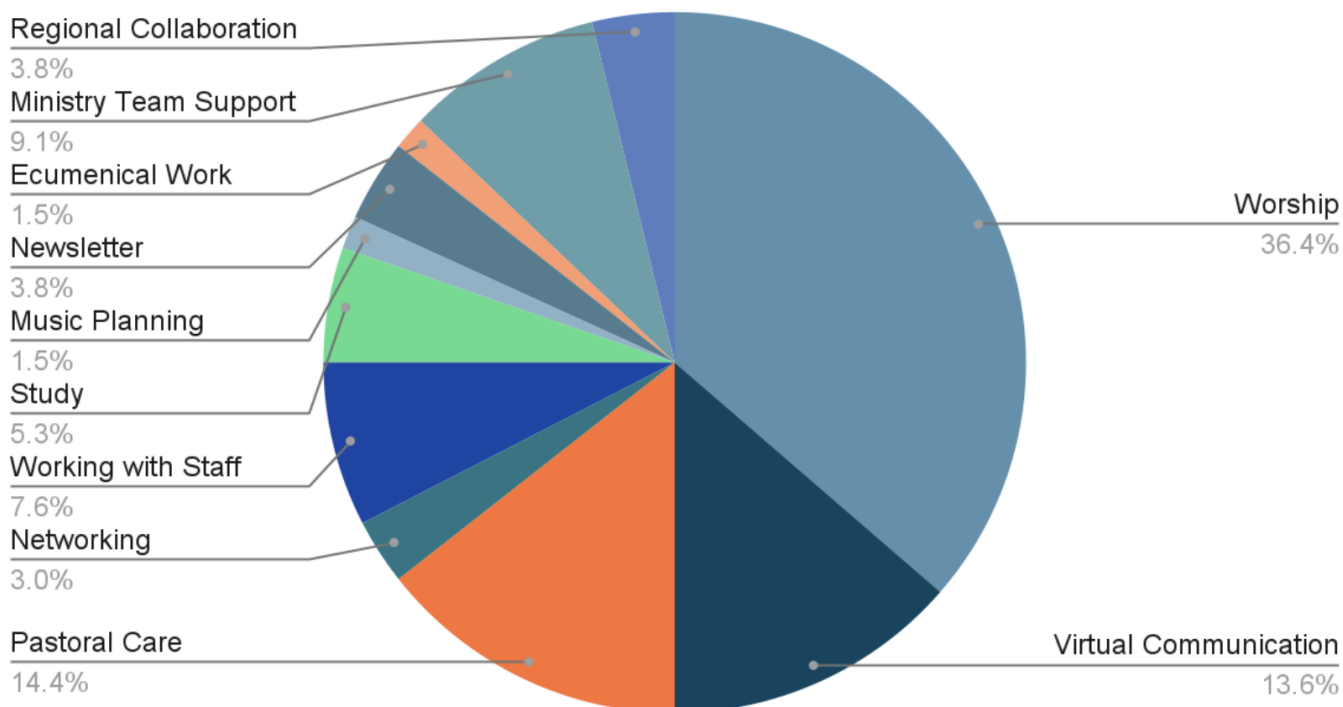
When Harry was in elementary school, we began the process of having our children fill out a pledge card for the upcoming year. I suggested \$1 a week since they were earning \$10 with their allowance. Once Harry did the math, he thought he should give more, like \$100 a week. He wondered how \$1 could make a difference. I explained to him that it is not about the amount but the intention of giving to the church before you head the store to buy something you want. Like most endeavors, they both started out strong and by the end of the year, Dan and I usually fulfilled the remainder of their pledge.

A central question of stewardship is, does God deserve our best or our left overs? Some of us give out of what we have left at the end of the week or the end of the month, others commit to a certain amount and budget for it either weekly or monthly. I invite you to consider how each act of giving relates to our faithfulness.

As we approach the close of 2025, I encourage you to consider if your offering has matched your commitment to Christ's church and the transforming message of the gospel. This is a deeply personal question and is why I prefer not to know what anyone gives to the church.

I have been through seasons when Dan and I were barely able to make ends meet, so we gave what we could, a measured amount that we budgeted for just as we have budgeted for a certain amount to give when we have a surplus in the bank. Every year, for the past 27 years, we have increased our giving. Sometimes by \$1 or \$2 and sometimes by increments of \$10 or \$15, or even by \$50 more weekly. As we have invested in the church through our offering, we have grown in our faith in ways unexpected. I am proud to call First Christian Church in Fort Madison, my home congregation. I am grateful to be in ministry with each and every one of you. My own faith is deepened by your presence, encouragement, and prayers, and frankly that is worth the investment.

Pastor's Allocation of Time



Community & World Service Team Ministry

We will be doing a collection to purchase Christmas presents for children selected off of the Angel Tree from the Salvation Army. We plan to buy for four children and the goal is to do two younger children and two teenagers. I will do the shopping and deliver the presents to the Salvation Army. I would like to do the shopping on December 7th if we have collected enough by then. Let me know if you have questions.

Amy Hayes

Congregational Care Team Ministry

We are actively preparing for our **"Harvest Meal"**, which is scheduled to take place immediately following the church service on **Sunday, December 7th**. This special gathering is offering a fantastic opportunity for our church family to connect over a delicious meal and enjoy warm fellowship. We're pleased to announce that the menu has been carefully planned and sign-up sheets are readily available in the narthex. We encourage everyone to mark their calendars and join us for this heartwarming event.

Following that, we are thrilled to host a **"Cookie Exchange and Tea Party"** on **Sunday, December 14th, starting at 11:30am**, right after our church service. This delightful event promises an afternoon of sweet treats, warm beverages, and pleasant conversations, complete with an array of finger sandwiches. We invite all members to participate by bringing their favorite homemade cookies to share and exchange, adding to the festive spirit.

As Christmas approaches, our hearts turn to those who may not be able to join us for services. We are delighted to announce that **"Christmas Caroling"** will resume this year on **Saturday, December 20th at 1 p.m.** Our carolers will meet at the church to do a quick practice run of beloved Christmas songs before carpooling to visit our cherished shut-ins. This outing is a beautiful way to bring cheer and remind them of their valued place in our community. We welcome all who love to sing or wish to help with transportation to join us in spreading holiday joy.

Looking ahead to the new year, get ready for another exciting **"Sunday Fun-Day"** for the entire congregation on **Sunday, February 8th from 2-4 p.m.!** This highly anticipated event is designed for all ages to enjoy great company, fantastic food, and a wide variety of fun games. Whether you're a fan of board games or more active challenges, prepare for an afternoon filled with laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. It's a perfect opportunity to strengthen our community bonds.—Vicki Lair

Christian Education Team Ministry

Christian Education will present a **Christmas program on December 21st during service**. We will also be **providing snow removal service** within our community and for our homebound members during the winter season as needed, reach out to the office if you would like to be put on a call list when it snows.

Diana Wilson



Worship Team Ministry

Hanging of the Greens! We will be decorating the sanctuary and the chapel on **Saturday, Nov. 29th at 9:30 a.m.** Come and take part in bringing a festive spirit to our sanctuary and chapel. All are welcome to come and join the fun!

Christmas Eve Service will be in the chapel, providing a intimate and cozy atmosphere as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The service will begin at **5:30 pm.**

We need candle lighters for the Advent candles on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 21, and Dec. 24 (at the Christmas Eve service). Dec. 14 has been filled. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Donna Block. The liturgist will do the reading and our candle lighters will only be responsible for the lighting of the candles.

Donna Block



The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our **fifteen colleges and universities** as well as our **seven seminaries and divinity houses**.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships to religious life

offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

Supporting our students is more important than ever. Scholarship requests are increasing yearly for our colleges, universities, seminaries and divinity houses. For this reason, we ask for your generous financial support during this year's **Thanksgiving Offering**.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world.

Happy Birthday!

12.1 Ryan Wilson

12.5 Sue Bowman

12.10 Mary Dennison

12.10 Andrew Hope

12.19 Gary Holtkamp

12.19 Matt Orr

12.22 Juanita Anderson

12.30 Mary Lou Roberts

12.31 Alice Bowen

12.31 Daniel Wilson



Sunday's Scriptures

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost-November 23

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

Liturgist-Dawn Willson

Elder-Vicki Lair

Deacon-Dan Dalstra

First Sunday of Advent- November 30

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 1:1-17

Liturgist-Dan Dalstra

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Second Sunday of Advent- December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10

Luke 1:26-38

Liturgist-Jana Hubbs

Elder-Jana Hubbs

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Third Sunday of Advent- December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 1:18-25

Liturgist-Vicki Lair

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Pam Reuther



CHURCH CALENDAR

11.19 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

4:00 pm Roxy's Distribution

4:45 pm Leadership Team Meeting

11.20 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

11.23 Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Congregational Meeting

11.26 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11.27 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

11.30 Sunday

First Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

12.3 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

12.4 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.7 Sunday

2nd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Harvest Meal

12.10 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11-7 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing

12.11 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.14 Sunday

3rd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:30 Cookie Exchange w/ tea

October 2025 Budget

\$14,044.00 Monthly Budget Needs

6,492.00 Offerings received from October

5,837.00 Monthly income from investments & renters-

-\$1,715.00 Deficit

Prayer Concerns Together we pray for ...

Current Concerns:

F & F of Wayne Boeding
F & F of Barb Bogie
Brad Bradford
F & F of Howard Dalrymple
F & F of Fred Minks
Rev. Dan Masden
Joy Kuper
Matt Orr
Kelly Peters
Darrell Richers
Paulette Schrepfer
Noah
Amanda
First Christian Church in Slidell
Louisiana

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:

Juanita Anderson
Dan Ammer
Jan Bindewald
Mark Bowman
John Chamness
Tracy Chamness
Barb Cobb
Melba Crago
Camdyn Cresswell
Wilbur Dalrymple
Tony Dixon
Rev. Bruce Dobyns
Daniel Drago
Allen & Marie Egbert
Toni Gaylord
Carolyn MacLearn
Carol Ann Mercer
Randy Nielson
Olivia Nord



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

Members of the Military

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



The Church Mouse

First Christian Church

608 10th Street

Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

November 19, 2025

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
12.15.25*

Giving as a sign of faithfulness

by Rev. Leslie Dalstra

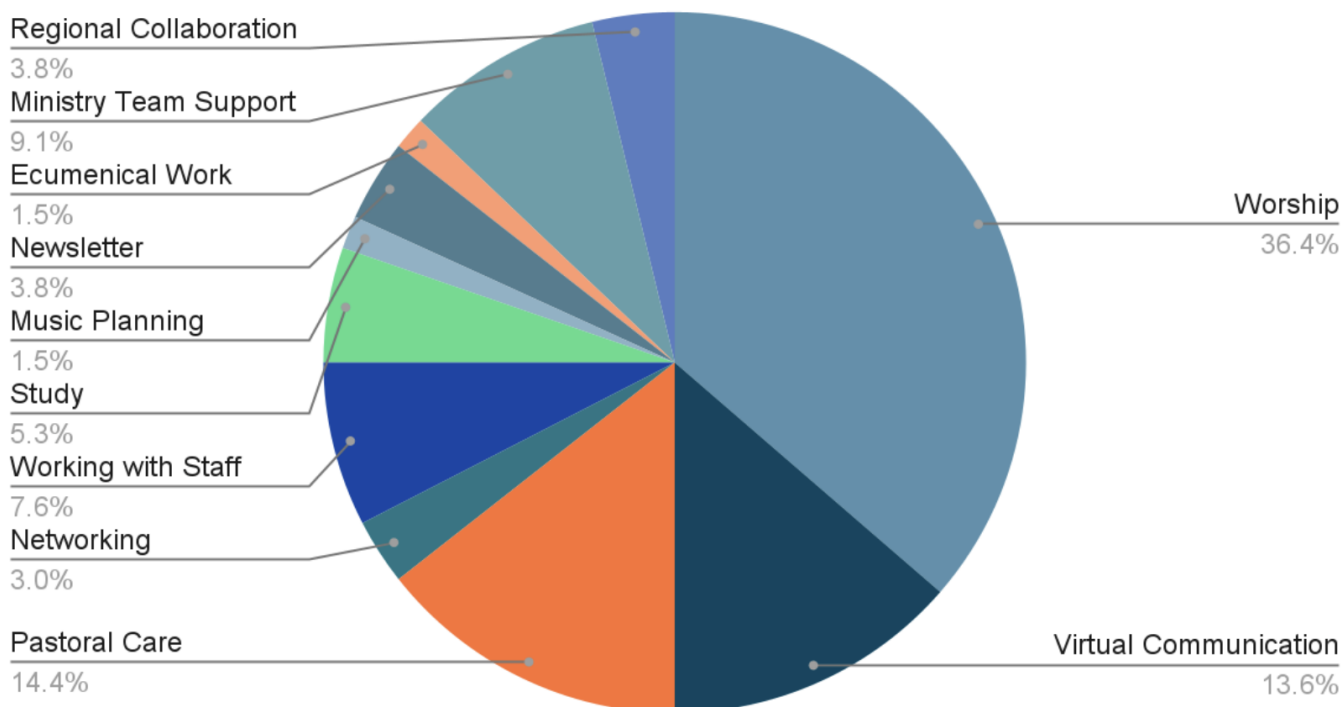
When Harry was in elementary school, we began the process of having our children fill out a pledge card for the upcoming year. I suggested \$1 a week since they were earning \$10 with their allowance. Once Harry did the math, he thought he should give more, like \$100 a week. He wondered how \$1 could make a difference. I explained to him that it is not about the amount but the intention of giving to the church before you head the store to buy something you want. Like most endeavors, they both started out strong and by the end of the year, Dan and I usually fulfilled the remainder of their pledge.

A central question of stewardship is, does God deserve our best or our left overs? Some of us give out of what we have left at the end of the week or the end of the month, others commit to a certain amount and budget for it either weekly or monthly. I invite you to consider how each act of giving relates to our faithfulness.

As we approach the close of 2025, I encourage you to consider if your offering has matched your commitment to Christ's church and the transforming message of the gospel. This is a deeply personal question and is why I prefer not to know what anyone gives to the church.

I have been through seasons when Dan and I were barely able to make ends meet, so we gave what we could, a measured amount that we budgeted for just as we have budgeted for a certain amount to give when we have a surplus in the bank. Every year, for the past 27 years, we have increased our giving. Sometimes by \$1 or \$2 and sometimes by increments of \$10 or \$15, or even by \$50 more weekly. As we have invested in the church through our offering, we have grown in our faith in ways unexpected. I am proud to call First Christian Church in Fort Madison, my home congregation. I am grateful to be in ministry with each and every one of you. My own faith is deepened by your presence, encouragement, and prayers, and frankly that is worth the investment.

Pastor's Allocation of Time



Community & World Service Team Ministry

We will be doing a collection to purchase Christmas presents for children selected off of the Angel Tree from the Salvation Army. We plan to buy for four children and the goal is to do two younger children and two teenagers. I will do the shopping and deliver the presents to the Salvation Army. I would like to do the shopping on December 7th if we have collected enough by then. Let me know if you have questions.

Amy Hayes

Congregational Care Team Ministry

We are actively preparing for our **"Harvest Meal"**, which is scheduled to take place immediately following the church service on **Sunday, December 7th**. This special gathering is offering a fantastic opportunity for our church family to connect over a delicious meal and enjoy warm fellowship. We're pleased to announce that the menu has been carefully planned and sign-up sheets are readily available in the narthex. We encourage everyone to mark their calendars and join us for this heartwarming event.

Following that, we are thrilled to host a **"Cookie Exchange and Tea Party"** on **Sunday, December 14th, starting at 11:30am**, right after our church service. This delightful event promises an afternoon of sweet treats, warm beverages, and pleasant conversations, complete with an array of finger sandwiches. We invite all members to participate by bringing their favorite homemade cookies to share and exchange, adding to the festive spirit.

As Christmas approaches, our hearts turn to those who may not be able to join us for services. We are delighted to announce that **"Christmas Caroling"** will resume this year on **Saturday, December 20th at 1 p.m.** Our carolers will meet at the church to do a quick practice run of beloved Christmas songs before carpooling to visit our cherished shut-ins. This outing is a beautiful way to bring cheer and remind them of their valued place in our community. We welcome all who love to sing or wish to help with transportation to join us in spreading holiday joy.

Looking ahead to the new year, get ready for another exciting **"Sunday Fun-Day"** for the entire congregation on **Sunday, February 8th from 2-4 p.m.!** This highly anticipated event is designed for all ages to enjoy great company, fantastic food, and a wide variety of fun games. Whether you're a fan of board games or more active challenges, prepare for an afternoon filled with laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. It's a perfect opportunity to strengthen our community bonds.—Vicki Lair

Christian Education Team Ministry

Christian Education will present a **Christmas program on December 21st during service**. We will also be **providing snow removal service** within our community and for our homebound members during the winter season as needed, reach out to the office if you would like to be put on a call list when it snows.

Diana Wilson



Worship Team Ministry

Hanging of the Greens! We will be decorating the sanctuary and the chapel on **Saturday, Nov. 29th at 9:30 a.m.** Come and take part in bringing a festive spirit to our sanctuary and chapel. All are welcome to come and join the fun!

Christmas Eve Service will be in the chapel, providing a intimate and cozy atmosphere as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The service will begin at **5:30 pm.**

We need candle lighters for the Advent candles on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 21, and Dec. 24 (at the Christmas Eve service). Dec. 14 has been filled. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Donna Block. The liturgist will do the reading and our candle lighters will only be responsible for the lighting of the candles.

Donna Block



The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our **fifteen colleges and universities** as well as our **seven seminaries and divinity houses**.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships to religious life

offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

Supporting our students is more important than ever. Scholarship requests are increasing yearly for our colleges, universities, seminaries and divinity houses. For this reason, we ask for your generous financial support during this year's **Thanksgiving Offering**.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world.

Happy Birthday!

12.1 Ryan Wilson

12.5 Sue Bowman

12.10 Mary Dennison

12.10 Andrew Hope

12.19 Gary Holtkamp

12.19 Matt Orr

12.22 Juanita Anderson

12.30 Mary Lou Roberts

12.31 Alice Bowen

12.31 Daniel Wilson



Sunday's Scriptures

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost-November 23

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

Liturgist-Dawn Willson

Elder-Vicki Lair

Deacon-Dan Dalstra

First Sunday of Advent- November 30

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 1:1-17

Liturgist-Dan Dalstra

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Second Sunday of Advent- December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10

Luke 1:26-38

Liturgist-Jana Hubbs

Elder-Jana Hubbs

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Third Sunday of Advent- December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 1:18-25

Liturgist-Vicki Lair

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Pam Reuther



CHURCH CALENDAR

11.19 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

4:00 pm Roxy's Distribution

4:45 pm Leadership Team Meeting

11.20 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

11.23 Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Congregational Meeting

11.26 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11.27 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

11.30 Sunday

First Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

12.3 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

12.4 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.7 Sunday

2nd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Harvest Meal

12.10 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11-7 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing

12.11 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.14 Sunday

3rd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:30 Cookie Exchange w/ tea

October 2025 Budget

\$14,044.00 Monthly Budget Needs

6,492.00 Offerings received from October

5,837.00 Monthly income from investments & renters-

-\$1,715.00 Deficit

Prayer Concerns Together we pray for ...

Current Concerns:

F & F of Wayne Boeding
F & F of Barb Bogie
Brad Bradford
F & F of Howard Dalrymple
F & F of Fred Minks
Rev. Dan Masden
Joy Kuper
Matt Orr
Kelly Peters
Darrell Richers
Paulette Schrepfer
Noah
Amanda
First Christian Church in Slidell
Louisiana

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:

Juanita Anderson
Dan Ammer
Jan Bindewald
Mark Bowman
John Chamness
Tracy Chamness
Barb Cobb
Melba Crago
Camdyn Cresswell
Wilbur Dalrymple
Tony Dixon
Rev. Bruce Dobyns
Daniel Drago
Allen & Marie Egbert
Toni Gaylord
Carolyn MacLearn
Carol Ann Mercer
Randy Nielson
Olivia Nord



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

Members of the Military

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



The Church Mouse

First Christian Church

608 10th Street

Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

November 19, 2025

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
12.15.25*

Giving as a sign of faithfulness

by Rev. Leslie Dalstra

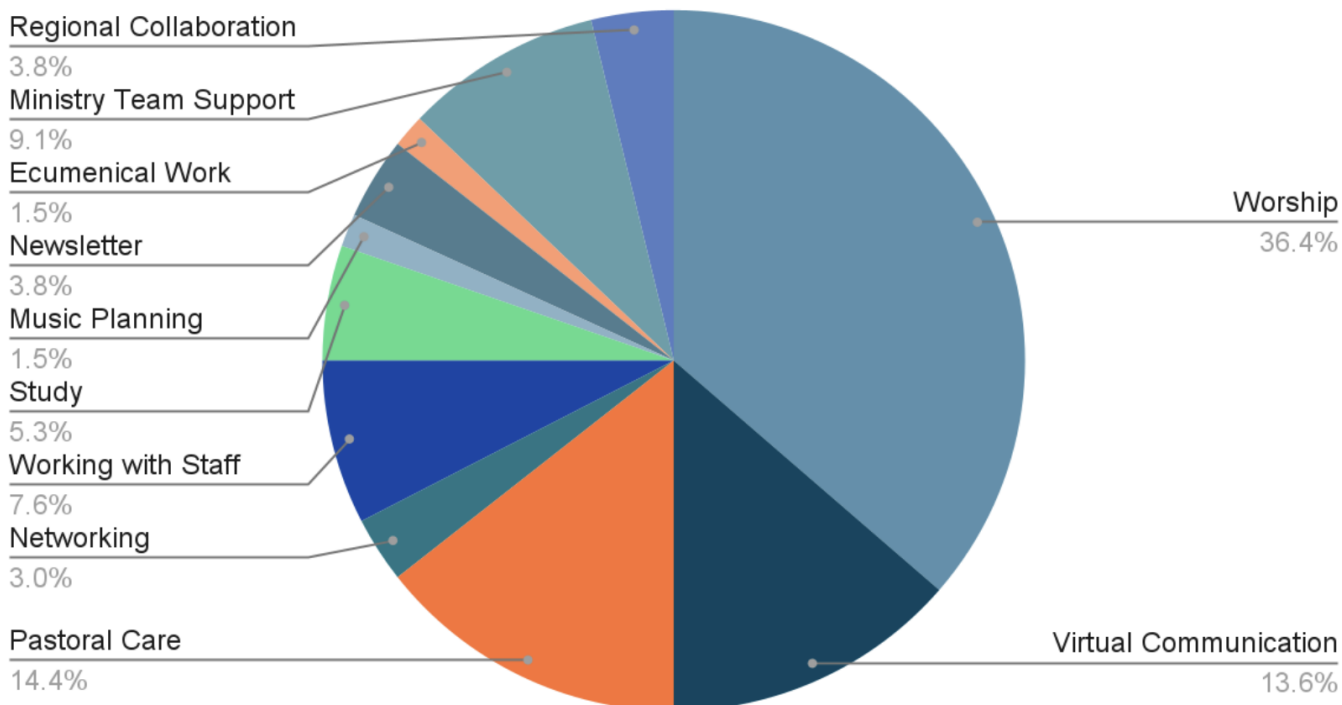
When Harry was in elementary school, we began the process of having our children fill out a pledge card for the upcoming year. I suggested \$1 a week since they were earning \$10 with their allowance. Once Harry did the math, he thought he should give more, like \$100 a week. He wondered how \$1 could make a difference. I explained to him that it is not about the amount but the intention of giving to the church before you head the store to buy something you want. Like most endeavors, they both started out strong and by the end of the year, Dan and I usually fulfilled the remainder of their pledge.

A central question of stewardship is, does God deserve our best or our left overs? Some of us give out of what we have left at the end of the week or the end of the month, others commit to a certain amount and budget for it either weekly or monthly. I invite you to consider how each act of giving relates to our faithfulness.

As we approach the close of 2025, I encourage you to consider if your offering has matched your commitment to Christ's church and the transforming message of the gospel. This is a deeply personal question and is why I prefer not to know what anyone gives to the church.

I have been through seasons when Dan and I were barely able to make ends meet, so we gave what we could, a measured amount that we budgeted for just as we have budgeted for a certain amount to give when we have a surplus in the bank. Every year, for the past 27 years, we have increased our giving. Sometimes by \$1 or \$2 and sometimes by increments of \$10 or \$15, or even by \$50 more weekly. As we have invested in the church through our offering, we have grown in our faith in ways unexpected. I am proud to call First Christian Church in Fort Madison, my home congregation. I am grateful to be in ministry with each and every one of you. My own faith is deepened by your presence, encouragement, and prayers, and frankly that is worth the investment.

Pastor's Allocation of Time



Community & World Service Team Ministry

We will be doing a collection to purchase Christmas presents for children selected off of the Angel Tree from the Salvation Army. We plan to buy for four children and the goal is to do two younger children and two teenagers. I will do the shopping and deliver the presents to the Salvation Army. I would like to do the shopping on December 7th if we have collected enough by then. Let me know if you have questions.

Amy Hayes

Congregational Care Team Ministry

We are actively preparing for our **"Harvest Meal"**, which is scheduled to take place immediately following the church service on **Sunday, December 7th**. This special gathering is offering a fantastic opportunity for our church family to connect over a delicious meal and enjoy warm fellowship. We're pleased to announce that the menu has been carefully planned and sign-up sheets are readily available in the narthex. We encourage everyone to mark their calendars and join us for this heartwarming event.

Following that, we are thrilled to host a **"Cookie Exchange and Tea Party"** on **Sunday, December 14th, starting at 11:30am**, right after our church service. This delightful event promises an afternoon of sweet treats, warm beverages, and pleasant conversations, complete with an array of finger sandwiches. We invite all members to participate by bringing their favorite homemade cookies to share and exchange, adding to the festive spirit.

As Christmas approaches, our hearts turn to those who may not be able to join us for services. We are delighted to announce that **"Christmas Caroling"** will resume this year on **Saturday, December 20th at 1 p.m.** Our carolers will meet at the church to do a quick practice run of beloved Christmas songs before carpooling to visit our cherished shut-ins. This outing is a beautiful way to bring cheer and remind them of their valued place in our community. We welcome all who love to sing or wish to help with transportation to join us in spreading holiday joy.

Looking ahead to the new year, get ready for another exciting **"Sunday Fun-Day"** for the entire congregation on **Sunday, February 8th from 2-4 p.m.!** This highly anticipated event is designed for all ages to enjoy great company, fantastic food, and a wide variety of fun games. Whether you're a fan of board games or more active challenges, prepare for an afternoon filled with laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. It's a perfect opportunity to strengthen our community bonds.—Vicki Lair

Christian Education Team Ministry

Christian Education will present a **Christmas program on December 21st during service**. We will also be **providing snow removal service** within our community and for our homebound members during the winter season as needed, reach out to the office if you would like to be put on a call list when it snows.

Diana Wilson



Worship Team Ministry

Hanging of the Greens! We will be decorating the sanctuary and the chapel on **Saturday, Nov. 29th at 9:30 a.m.** Come and take part in bringing a festive spirit to our sanctuary and chapel. All are welcome to come and join the fun!

Christmas Eve Service will be in the chapel, providing a intimate and cozy atmosphere as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The service will begin at **5:30 pm.**

We need candle lighters for the Advent candles on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 21, and Dec. 24 (at the Christmas Eve service). Dec. 14 has been filled. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Donna Block. The liturgist will do the reading and our candle lighters will only be responsible for the lighting of the candles.

Donna Block



The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our **fifteen colleges and universities** as well as our **seven seminaries and divinity houses**.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships to religious life

offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

Supporting our students is more important than ever. Scholarship requests are increasing yearly for our colleges, universities, seminaries and divinity houses. For this reason, we ask for your generous financial support during this year's **Thanksgiving Offering**.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world.

Happy Birthday!

12.1 Ryan Wilson

12.5 Sue Bowman

12.10 Mary Dennison

12.10 Andrew Hope

12.19 Gary Holtkamp

12.19 Matt Orr

12.22 Juanita Anderson

12.30 Mary Lou Roberts

12.31 Alice Bowen

12.31 Daniel Wilson



Sunday's Scriptures

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost-November 23

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

Liturgist-Dawn Willson

Elder-Vicki Lair

Deacon-Dan Dalstra

First Sunday of Advent- November 30

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 1:1-17

Liturgist-Dan Dalstra

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Second Sunday of Advent- December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10

Luke 1:26-38

Liturgist-Jana Hubbs

Elder-Jana Hubbs

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Third Sunday of Advent- December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 1:18-25

Liturgist-Vicki Lair

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Pam Reuther



CHURCH CALENDAR

11.19 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

4:00 pm Roxy's Distribution

4:45 pm Leadership Team Meeting

11.20 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

11.23 Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Congregational Meeting

11.26 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11.27 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

11.30 Sunday

First Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

12.3 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

12.4 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.7 Sunday

2nd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Harvest Meal

12.10 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11-7 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing

12.11 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.14 Sunday

3rd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:30 Cookie Exchange w/ tea

October 2025 Budget

\$14,044.00 Monthly Budget Needs

6,492.00 Offerings received from October

5,837.00 Monthly income from investments & renters-

-\$1,715.00 Deficit

Prayer Concerns Together we pray for ...

Current Concerns:

F & F of Wayne Boeding
F & F of Barb Bogie
Brad Bradford
F & F of Howard Dalrymple
F & F of Fred Minks
Rev. Dan Masden
Joy Kuper
Matt Orr
Kelly Peters
Darrell Richers
Paulette Schrepfer
Noah
Amanda
First Christian Church in Slidell
Louisiana

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:

Juanita Anderson
Dan Ammer
Jan Bindewald
Mark Bowman
John Chamness
Tracy Chamness
Barb Cobb
Melba Crago
Camdyn Cresswell
Wilbur Dalrymple
Tony Dixon
Rev. Bruce Dobyns
Daniel Drago
Allen & Marie Egbert
Toni Gaylord
Carolyn MacLearn
Carol Ann Mercer
Randy Nielson
Olivia Nord



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

Members of the Military

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



The Church Mouse

First Christian Church

608 10th Street

Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

November 19, 2025

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
12.15.25*

Giving as a sign of faithfulness

by Rev. Leslie Dalstra

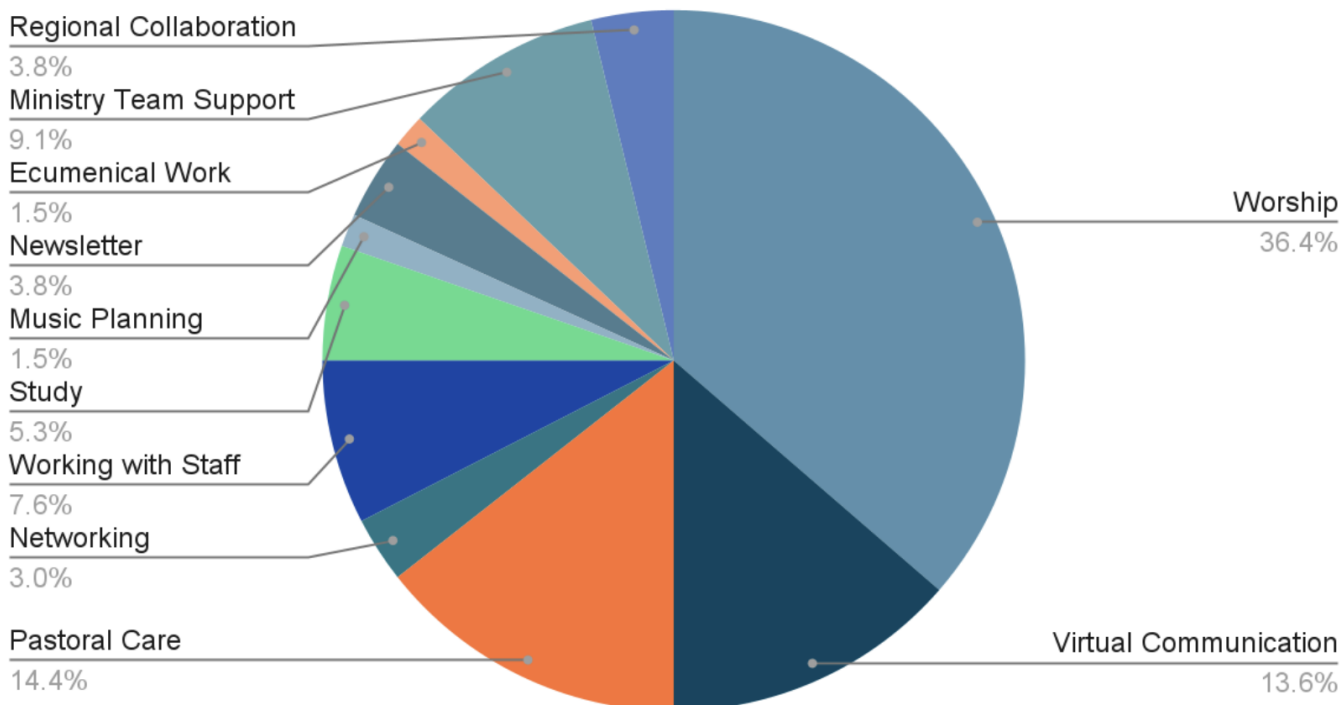
When Harry was in elementary school, we began the process of having our children fill out a pledge card for the upcoming year. I suggested \$1 a week since they were earning \$10 with their allowance. Once Harry did the math, he thought he should give more, like \$100 a week. He wondered how \$1 could make a difference. I explained to him that it is not about the amount but the intention of giving to the church before you head the store to buy something you want. Like most endeavors, they both started out strong and by the end of the year, Dan and I usually fulfilled the remainder of their pledge.

A central question of stewardship is, does God deserve our best or our left overs? Some of us give out of what we have left at the end of the week or the end of the month, others commit to a certain amount and budget for it either weekly or monthly. I invite you to consider how each act of giving relates to our faithfulness.

As we approach the close of 2025, I encourage you to consider if your offering has matched your commitment to Christ's church and the transforming message of the gospel. This is a deeply personal question and is why I prefer not to know what anyone gives to the church.

I have been through seasons when Dan and I were barely able to make ends meet, so we gave what we could, a measured amount that we budgeted for just as we have budgeted for a certain amount to give when we have a surplus in the bank. Every year, for the past 27 years, we have increased our giving. Sometimes by \$1 or \$2 and sometimes by increments of \$10 or \$15, or even by \$50 more weekly. As we have invested in the church through our offering, we have grown in our faith in ways unexpected. I am proud to call First Christian Church in Fort Madison, my home congregation. I am grateful to be in ministry with each and every one of you. My own faith is deepened by your presence, encouragement, and prayers, and frankly that is worth the investment.

Pastor's Allocation of Time



Community & World Service Team Ministry

We will be doing a collection to purchase Christmas presents for children selected off of the Angel Tree from the Salvation Army. We plan to buy for four children and the goal is to do two younger children and two teenagers. I will do the shopping and deliver the presents to the Salvation Army. I would like to do the shopping on December 7th if we have collected enough by then. Let me know if you have questions.

Amy Hayes

Congregational Care Team Ministry

We are actively preparing for our **"Harvest Meal"**, which is scheduled to take place immediately following the church service on **Sunday, December 7th**. This special gathering is offering a fantastic opportunity for our church family to connect over a delicious meal and enjoy warm fellowship. We're pleased to announce that the menu has been carefully planned and sign-up sheets are readily available in the narthex. We encourage everyone to mark their calendars and join us for this heartwarming event.

Following that, we are thrilled to host a **"Cookie Exchange and Tea Party"** on **Sunday, December 14th, starting at 11:30am**, right after our church service. This delightful event promises an afternoon of sweet treats, warm beverages, and pleasant conversations, complete with an array of finger sandwiches. We invite all members to participate by bringing their favorite homemade cookies to share and exchange, adding to the festive spirit.

As Christmas approaches, our hearts turn to those who may not be able to join us for services. We are delighted to announce that **"Christmas Caroling"** will resume this year on **Saturday, December 20th at 1 p.m.** Our carolers will meet at the church to do a quick practice run of beloved Christmas songs before carpooling to visit our cherished shut-ins. This outing is a beautiful way to bring cheer and remind them of their valued place in our community. We welcome all who love to sing or wish to help with transportation to join us in spreading holiday joy.

Looking ahead to the new year, get ready for another exciting **"Sunday Fun-Day"** for the entire congregation on **Sunday, February 8th from 2-4 p.m.!** This highly anticipated event is designed for all ages to enjoy great company, fantastic food, and a wide variety of fun games. Whether you're a fan of board games or more active challenges, prepare for an afternoon filled with laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. It's a perfect opportunity to strengthen our community bonds.—Vicki Lair

Christian Education Team Ministry

Christian Education will present a **Christmas program on December 21st during service**. We will also be **providing snow removal service** within our community and for our homebound members during the winter season as needed, reach out to the office if you would like to be put on a call list when it snows.

Diana Wilson



Worship Team Ministry

Hanging of the Greens! We will be decorating the sanctuary and the chapel on **Saturday, Nov. 29th at 9:30 a.m.** Come and take part in bringing a festive spirit to our sanctuary and chapel. All are welcome to come and join the fun!

Christmas Eve Service will be in the chapel, providing a intimate and cozy atmosphere as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The service will begin at **5:30 pm.**

We need candle lighters for the Advent candles on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 21, and Dec. 24 (at the Christmas Eve service). Dec. 14 has been filled. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Donna Block. The liturgist will do the reading and our candle lighters will only be responsible for the lighting of the candles.

Donna Block



The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our **fifteen colleges and universities** as well as our **seven seminaries and divinity houses**.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships to religious life

offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

Supporting our students is more important than ever. Scholarship requests are increasing yearly for our colleges, universities, seminaries and divinity houses. For this reason, we ask for your generous financial support during this year's **Thanksgiving Offering**.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world.

Happy Birthday!

12.1 Ryan Wilson

12.5 Sue Bowman

12.10 Mary Dennison

12.10 Andrew Hope

12.19 Gary Holtkamp

12.19 Matt Orr

12.22 Juanita Anderson

12.30 Mary Lou Roberts

12.31 Alice Bowen

12.31 Daniel Wilson



Sunday's Scriptures

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost-November 23

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

Liturgist-Dawn Willson

Elder-Vicki Lair

Deacon-Dan Dalstra

First Sunday of Advent- November 30

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 1:1-17

Liturgist-Dan Dalstra

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Second Sunday of Advent- December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10

Luke 1:26-38

Liturgist-Jana Hubbs

Elder-Jana Hubbs

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Third Sunday of Advent- December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 1:18-25

Liturgist-Vicki Lair

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Pam Reuther



CHURCH CALENDAR

11.19 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

4:00 pm Roxy's Distribution

4:45 pm Leadership Team Meeting

11.20 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

11.23 Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Congregational Meeting

11.26 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11.27 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

11.30 Sunday

First Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

12.3 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

12.4 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.7 Sunday

2nd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Harvest Meal

12.10 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11-7 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing

12.11 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.14 Sunday

3rd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:30 Cookie Exchange w/ tea

October 2025 Budget

\$14,044.00 Monthly Budget Needs

6,492.00 Offerings received from October

5,837.00 Monthly income from investments & renters-

-\$1,715.00 Deficit

Prayer Concerns Together we pray for ...

Current Concerns:

F & F of Wayne Boeding
F & F of Barb Bogie
Brad Bradford
F & F of Howard Dalrymple
F & F of Fred Minks
Rev. Dan Masden
Joy Kuper
Matt Orr
Kelly Peters
Darrell Richers
Paulette Schrepfer
Noah
Amanda
First Christian Church in Slidell
Louisiana

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:

Juanita Anderson
Dan Ammer
Jan Bindewald
Mark Bowman
John Chamness
Tracy Chamness
Barb Cobb
Melba Crago
Camdyn Cresswell
Wilbur Dalrymple
Tony Dixon
Rev. Bruce Dobyns
Daniel Drago
Allen & Marie Egbert
Toni Gaylord
Carolyn MacLearn
Carol Ann Mercer
Randy Nielson
Olivia Nord



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

Members of the Military

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



The Church Mouse

First Christian Church

608 10th Street

Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

November 19, 2025

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
12.15.25*

Giving as a sign of faithfulness

by Rev. Leslie Dalstra

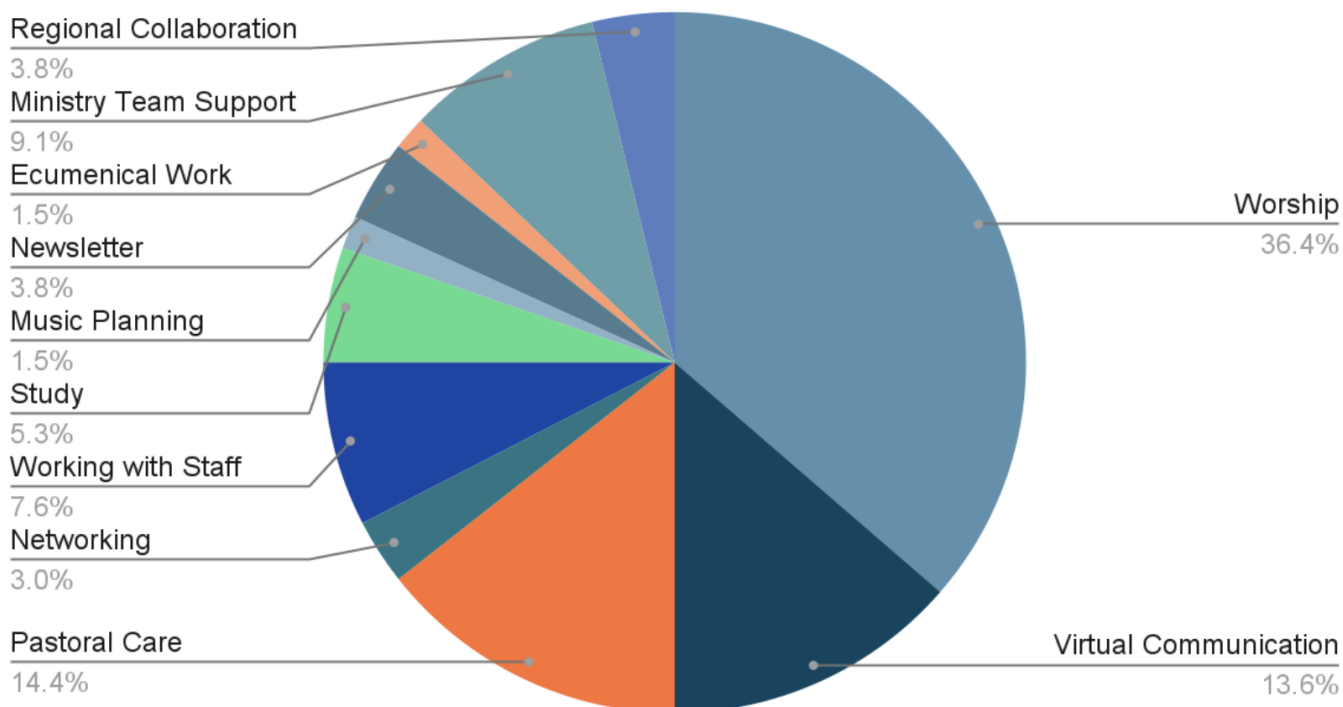
When Harry was in elementary school, we began the process of having our children fill out a pledge card for the upcoming year. I suggested \$1 a week since they were earning \$10 with their allowance. Once Harry did the math, he thought he should give more, like \$100 a week. He wondered how \$1 could make a difference. I explained to him that it is not about the amount but the intention of giving to the church before you head the store to buy something you want. Like most endeavors, they both started out strong and by the end of the year, Dan and I usually fulfilled the remainder of their pledge.

A central question of stewardship is, does God deserve our best or our left overs? Some of us give out of what we have left at the end of the week or the end of the month, others commit to a certain amount and budget for it either weekly or monthly. I invite you to consider how each act of giving relates to our faithfulness.

As we approach the close of 2025, I encourage you to consider if your offering has matched your commitment to Christ's church and the transforming message of the gospel. This is a deeply personal question and is why I prefer not to know what anyone gives to the church.

I have been through seasons when Dan and I were barely able to make ends meet, so we gave what we could, a measured amount that we budgeted for just as we have budgeted for a certain amount to give when we have a surplus in the bank. Every year, for the past 27 years, we have increased our giving. Sometimes by \$1 or \$2 and sometimes by increments of \$10 or \$15, or even by \$50 more weekly. As we have invested in the church through our offering, we have grown in our faith in ways unexpected. I am proud to call First Christian Church in Fort Madison, my home congregation. I am grateful to be in ministry with each and every one of you. My own faith is deepened by your presence, encouragement, and prayers, and frankly that is worth the investment.

Pastor's Allocation of Time



Community & World Service Team Ministry

We will be doing a collection to purchase Christmas presents for children selected off of the Angel Tree from the Salvation Army. We plan to buy for four children and the goal is to do two younger children and two teenagers. I will do the shopping and deliver the presents to the Salvation Army. I would like to do the shopping on December 7th if we have collected enough by then. Let me know if you have questions.

Amy Hayes

Congregational Care Team Ministry

We are actively preparing for our **"Harvest Meal"**, which is scheduled to take place immediately following the church service on **Sunday, December 7th**. This special gathering is offering a fantastic opportunity for our church family to connect over a delicious meal and enjoy warm fellowship. We're pleased to announce that the menu has been carefully planned and sign-up sheets are readily available in the narthex. We encourage everyone to mark their calendars and join us for this heartwarming event.

Following that, we are thrilled to host a **"Cookie Exchange and Tea Party"** on **Sunday, December 14th, starting at 11:30am**, right after our church service. This delightful event promises an afternoon of sweet treats, warm beverages, and pleasant conversations, complete with an array of finger sandwiches. We invite all members to participate by bringing their favorite homemade cookies to share and exchange, adding to the festive spirit.

As Christmas approaches, our hearts turn to those who may not be able to join us for services. We are delighted to announce that **"Christmas Caroling"** will resume this year on **Saturday, December 20th at 1 p.m.** Our carolers will meet at the church to do a quick practice run of beloved Christmas songs before carpooling to visit our cherished shut-ins. This outing is a beautiful way to bring cheer and remind them of their valued place in our community. We welcome all who love to sing or wish to help with transportation to join us in spreading holiday joy.

Looking ahead to the new year, get ready for another exciting **"Sunday Fun-Day"** for the entire congregation on **Sunday, February 8th from 2-4 p.m.!** This highly anticipated event is designed for all ages to enjoy great company, fantastic food, and a wide variety of fun games. Whether you're a fan of board games or more active challenges, prepare for an afternoon filled with laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. It's a perfect opportunity to strengthen our community bonds.—Vicki Lair

Christian Education Team Ministry

Christian Education will present a **Christmas program on December 21st during service**. We will also be **providing snow removal service** within our community and for our homebound members during the winter season as needed, reach out to the office if you would like to be put on a call list when it snows.

Diana Wilson



Worship Team Ministry

Hanging of the Greens! We will be decorating the sanctuary and the chapel on **Saturday, Nov. 29th at 9:30 a.m.** Come and take part in bringing a festive spirit to our sanctuary and chapel. All are welcome to come and join the fun!

Christmas Eve Service will be in the chapel, providing a intimate and cozy atmosphere as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The service will begin at **5:30 pm.**

We need candle lighters for the Advent candles on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 21, and Dec. 24 (at the Christmas Eve service). Dec. 14 has been filled. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Donna Block. The liturgist will do the reading and our candle lighters will only be responsible for the lighting of the candles.

Donna Block



The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our **fifteen colleges and universities** as well as our **seven seminaries and divinity houses**.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships to religious life

offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

Supporting our students is more important than ever. Scholarship requests are increasing yearly for our colleges, universities, seminaries and divinity houses. For this reason, we ask for your generous financial support during this year's **Thanksgiving Offering**.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world.

Happy Birthday!

12.1 Ryan Wilson

12.5 Sue Bowman

12.10 Mary Dennison

12.10 Andrew Hope

12.19 Gary Holtkamp

12.19 Matt Orr

12.22 Juanita Anderson

12.30 Mary Lou Roberts

12.31 Alice Bowen

12.31 Daniel Wilson



Sunday's Scriptures

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost-November 23

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

Liturgist-Dawn Willson

Elder-Vicki Lair

Deacon-Dan Dalstra

First Sunday of Advent- November 30

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 1:1-17

Liturgist-Dan Dalstra

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Second Sunday of Advent- December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10

Luke 1:26-38

Liturgist-Jana Hubbs

Elder-Jana Hubbs

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Third Sunday of Advent- December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 1:18-25

Liturgist-Vicki Lair

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Pam Reuther



CHURCH CALENDAR

11.19 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

4:00 pm Roxy's Distribution

4:45 pm Leadership Team Meeting

11.20 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

11.23 Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Congregational Meeting

11.26 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11.27 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

11.30 Sunday

First Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

12.3 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

12.4 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.7 Sunday

2nd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Harvest Meal

12.10 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11-7 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing

12.11 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.14 Sunday

3rd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:30 Cookie Exchange w/ tea

October 2025 Budget

\$14,044.00 Monthly Budget Needs

6,492.00 Offerings received from October

5,837.00 Monthly income from investments & renters-

-\$1,715.00 Deficit

Prayer Concerns Together we pray for ...

Current Concerns:

F & F of Wayne Boeding
F & F of Barb Bogie
Brad Bradford
F & F of Howard Dalrymple
F & F of Fred Minks
Rev. Dan Masden
Joy Kuper
Matt Orr
Kelly Peters
Darrell Richers
Paulette Schrepfer
Noah
Amanda
First Christian Church in Slidell
Louisiana

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:

Juanita Anderson
Dan Ammer
Jan Bindewald
Mark Bowman
John Chamness
Tracy Chamness
Barb Cobb
Melba Crago
Camdyn Cresswell
Wilbur Dalrymple
Tony Dixon
Rev. Bruce Dobyns
Daniel Drago
Allen & Marie Egbert
Toni Gaylord
Carolyn MacLearn
Carol Ann Mercer
Randy Nielson
Olivia Nord



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

Members of the Military

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



The Church Mouse

First Christian Church

608 10th Street

Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

November 19, 2025

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
12.15.25*

Giving as a sign of faithfulness

by Rev. Leslie Dalstra

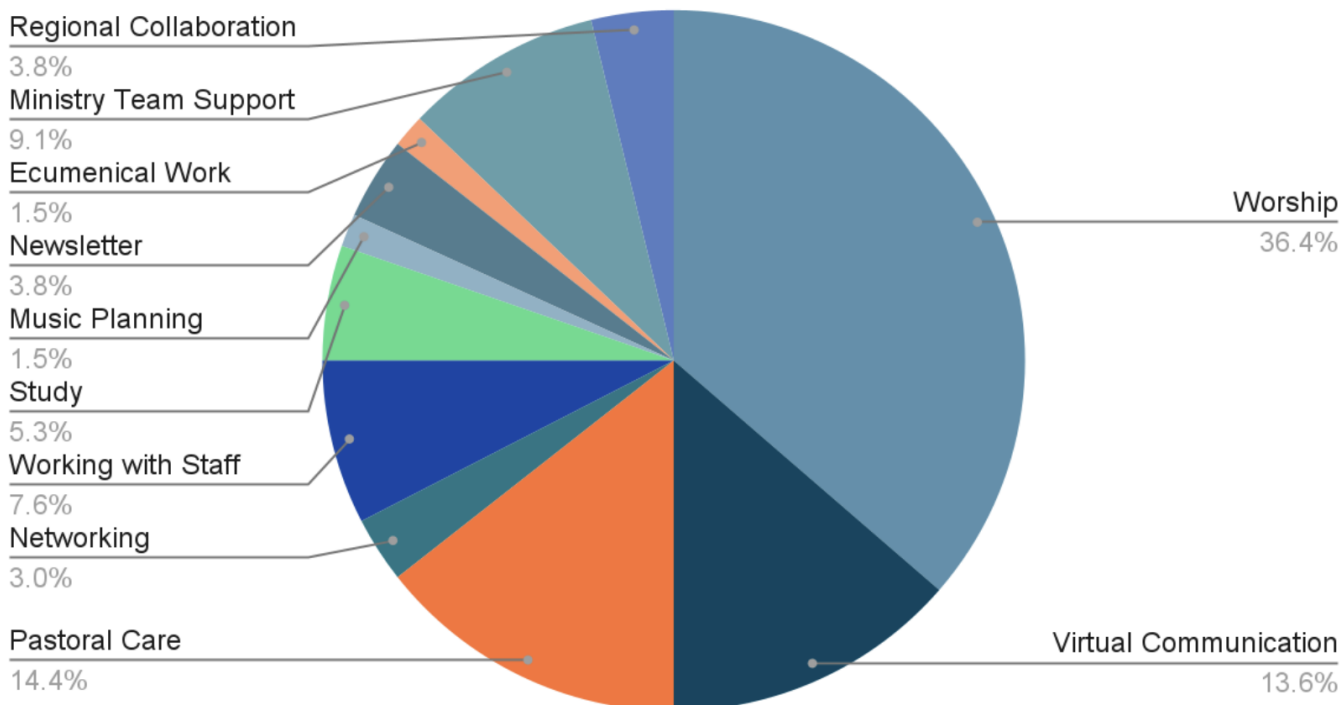
When Harry was in elementary school, we began the process of having our children fill out a pledge card for the upcoming year. I suggested \$1 a week since they were earning \$10 with their allowance. Once Harry did the math, he thought he should give more, like \$100 a week. He wondered how \$1 could make a difference. I explained to him that it is not about the amount but the intention of giving to the church before you head the store to buy something you want. Like most endeavors, they both started out strong and by the end of the year, Dan and I usually fulfilled the remainder of their pledge.

A central question of stewardship is, does God deserve our best or our left overs? Some of us give out of what we have left at the end of the week or the end of the month, others commit to a certain amount and budget for it either weekly or monthly. I invite you to consider how each act of giving relates to our faithfulness.

As we approach the close of 2025, I encourage you to consider if your offering has matched your commitment to Christ's church and the transforming message of the gospel. This is a deeply personal question and is why I prefer not to know what anyone gives to the church.

I have been through seasons when Dan and I were barely able to make ends meet, so we gave what we could, a measured amount that we budgeted for just as we have budgeted for a certain amount to give when we have a surplus in the bank. Every year, for the past 27 years, we have increased our giving. Sometimes by \$1 or \$2 and sometimes by increments of \$10 or \$15, or even by \$50 more weekly. As we have invested in the church through our offering, we have grown in our faith in ways unexpected. I am proud to call First Christian Church in Fort Madison, my home congregation. I am grateful to be in ministry with each and every one of you. My own faith is deepened by your presence, encouragement, and prayers, and frankly that is worth the investment.

Pastor's Allocation of Time



Community & World Service Team Ministry

We will be doing a collection to purchase Christmas presents for children selected off of the Angel Tree from the Salvation Army. We plan to buy for four children and the goal is to do two younger children and two teenagers. I will do the shopping and deliver the presents to the Salvation Army. I would like to do the shopping on December 7th if we have collected enough by then. Let me know if you have questions.

Amy Hayes

Congregational Care Team Ministry

We are actively preparing for our **"Harvest Meal"**, which is scheduled to take place immediately following the church service on **Sunday, December 7th**. This special gathering is offering a fantastic opportunity for our church family to connect over a delicious meal and enjoy warm fellowship. We're pleased to announce that the menu has been carefully planned and sign-up sheets are readily available in the narthex. We encourage everyone to mark their calendars and join us for this heartwarming event.

Following that, we are thrilled to host a **"Cookie Exchange and Tea Party"** on **Sunday, December 14th, starting at 11:30am**, right after our church service. This delightful event promises an afternoon of sweet treats, warm beverages, and pleasant conversations, complete with an array of finger sandwiches. We invite all members to participate by bringing their favorite homemade cookies to share and exchange, adding to the festive spirit.

As Christmas approaches, our hearts turn to those who may not be able to join us for services. We are delighted to announce that **"Christmas Caroling"** will resume this year on **Saturday, December 20th at 1 p.m.** Our carolers will meet at the church to do a quick practice run of beloved Christmas songs before carpooling to visit our cherished shut-ins. This outing is a beautiful way to bring cheer and remind them of their valued place in our community. We welcome all who love to sing or wish to help with transportation to join us in spreading holiday joy.

Looking ahead to the new year, get ready for another exciting **"Sunday Fun-Day"** for the entire congregation on **Sunday, February 8th from 2-4 p.m.!** This highly anticipated event is designed for all ages to enjoy great company, fantastic food, and a wide variety of fun games. Whether you're a fan of board games or more active challenges, prepare for an afternoon filled with laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. It's a perfect opportunity to strengthen our community bonds.—Vicki Lair

Christian Education Team Ministry

Christian Education will present a **Christmas program on December 21st during service**. We will also be **providing snow removal service** within our community and for our homebound members during the winter season as needed, reach out to the office if you would like to be put on a call list when it snows.

Diana Wilson



Worship Team Ministry

Hanging of the Greens! We will be decorating the sanctuary and the chapel on **Saturday, Nov. 29th at 9:30 a.m.** Come and take part in bringing a festive spirit to our sanctuary and chapel. All are welcome to come and join the fun!

Christmas Eve Service will be in the chapel, providing a intimate and cozy atmosphere as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The service will begin at **5:30 pm.**

We need candle lighters for the Advent candles on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 21, and Dec. 24 (at the Christmas Eve service). Dec. 14 has been filled. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Donna Block. The liturgist will do the reading and our candle lighters will only be responsible for the lighting of the candles.

Donna Block



The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our **fifteen colleges and universities** as well as our **seven seminaries and divinity houses**.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships to religious life

offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

Supporting our students is more important than ever. Scholarship requests are increasing yearly for our colleges, universities, seminaries and divinity houses. For this reason, we ask for your generous financial support during this year's **Thanksgiving Offering**.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world.

Happy Birthday!

12.1 Ryan Wilson

12.5 Sue Bowman

12.10 Mary Dennison

12.10 Andrew Hope

12.19 Gary Holtkamp

12.19 Matt Orr

12.22 Juanita Anderson

12.30 Mary Lou Roberts

12.31 Alice Bowen

12.31 Daniel Wilson



Sunday's Scriptures

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost-November 23

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

Liturgist-Dawn Willson

Elder-Vicki Lair

Deacon-Dan Dalstra

First Sunday of Advent- November 30

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 1:1-17

Liturgist-Dan Dalstra

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Second Sunday of Advent- December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10

Luke 1:26-38

Liturgist-Jana Hubbs

Elder-Jana Hubbs

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Third Sunday of Advent- December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 1:18-25

Liturgist-Vicki Lair

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Pam Reuther



CHURCH CALENDAR

11.19 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

4:00 pm Roxy's Distribution

4:45 pm Leadership Team Meeting

11.20 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

11.23 Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Congregational Meeting

11.26 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11.27 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

11.30 Sunday

First Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

12.3 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

12.4 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.7 Sunday

2nd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Harvest Meal

12.10 Wednesday

8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship

11-7 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing

12.11 Thursday

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting

12.14 Sunday

3rd Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:30 Cookie Exchange w/ tea

October 2025 Budget

\$14,044.00 Monthly Budget Needs

6,492.00 Offerings received from October

5,837.00 Monthly income from investments & renters-

-\$1,715.00 Deficit

Prayer Concerns Together we pray for ...

Current Concerns:

F & F of Wayne Boeding
F & F of Barb Bogie
Brad Bradford
F & F of Howard Dalrymple
F & F of Fred Minks
Rev. Dan Masden
Joy Kuper
Matt Orr
Kelly Peters
Darrell Richers
Paulette Schrepfer
Noah
Amanda
First Christian Church in Slidell
Louisiana

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:

Juanita Anderson
Dan Ammer
Jan Bindewald
Mark Bowman
John Chamness
Tracy Chamness
Barb Cobb
Melba Crago
Camdyn Cresswell
Wilbur Dalrymple
Tony Dixon
Rev. Bruce Dobyns
Daniel Drago
Allen & Marie Egbert
Toni Gaylord
Carolyn MacLearn
Carol Ann Mercer
Randy Nielson
Olivia Nord



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

Members of the Military

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