



The Church Mouse

First Christian Church

608 10th Street

Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

October 18, 2023

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 11.13.23*

Grateful for Rest

By Pastor Leslie

The first week of October, Dan, and I, along with our three dogs, went on an adventure to Colorado. We were gifted time at my parent's cabin in the Rockies and it was just what we all needed. Our days are often spent trying to remember all that is needs to be done, balancing chores, work, spending time with our dogs and family, along with rest.

We arrived at the cabin after sunset, the wind was blowing, and it was in the 30s. We quickly unpacked the car and turned on the heat in the cabin. For three days we were without internet and often without cell service. We spent our days hiking, resting, exploring, and reading books (I even took time to watercolor, something I rarely make the time to do.) In the mountains we had constant reminders that winter is coming, especially on our first hike, as snowflakes slowly drifted down to the pathway we were hiking on.

Recently I came across an article that reflected on how all of creation prepares for and takes time for rest in the winter.

When I reflected on my own life, I realized that so much of my attention to my gardens and yard of course take a break in the winter months, but often my focus turns inward to the interior of my home. The rhythm of fall's beauty and release, and winter's sabbath rest, offer to us ample images and moments to consider what we need to release and how we can rest. Winter also offers us the opportunity to do inward reflection. To name our priorities and to see if they match up with how we are spending our time. Taking time for rest is not selfish, it is in fact good and holy.

I was simply amazed by how just a week away offers so much restoration for myself. When we are well rested our creative side surfaces and we can enjoy and appreciate even the smallest things in life, from the fuzzy caterpillars to the migrating birds, to the glorious fall foliage, to even those first snowflakes of the season.

Thank you all for the gift of rest I get with my allotted vacation days. I am grateful for Rev. Bonnie Wilkerson and all those in the congregation that took on extra responsibilities to help facilitate our worship experience.

A Prayer for Grateful Rest

"God of Justice, God of Peace, from a world filled with chaos and violence, call us to the quiet center. From our culture that swirls with media messages and frightening headlines, call us to the quiet center. From communities where anxiety seems to lurk around every corner, call us to the quiet center. From our disordered and distracted lives, call us to the quiet center. Like restless toddlers we resist receiving from You the necessities You provide. We desperately need rest, yet we fiercely resist Sabbath. Hold us, we pray, in Your loving arms until our senseless wresting and anxious wiggling is calmed by Your embrace. We pray for retreat with You not as a stopping point so much as a place to camp for the day. We do not ask to be removed from the work of tending Your world, we ask to be restored so that we may join Your work to restore Your creation. We long for repentance rather than escape. May our time of quiet reflection cultivate our discernment to filter out the distractions and listen to the messages we need. Strengthen our resolve to do justice and mercy throughout our communities. And may our lives be renewed for Your service. Amen." Rev. Andy Mangum, Regional Minister of the Southwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Ruth Allen Circle News

The baby diaper drive ends October 31st, we need sizes 4-6. Thank you for your help.

The Holiday Bake sale will be coming up Sunday, December 10, 2023, before and after church. This is always fun and yummy to see what our wonderful bakers bring for sale. More details coming next month.

Ruth Allen Circle will meet on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the library. Shelly Platt will be the hostess and study. This is an important meeting, as several decisions need to be made, and we need everyone's input so we can come to the right outcome for the future of Ruth Allen's Circle. As always, remember our ongoing projects; pop tabs, old eyeglasses and supporting the Food Pantry. See you at Circle Nov. 8th.

Juanita Anderson-President

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry needs new volunteers to help clients pick up their food. If you have any questions, please contact Jan Richers.

The Food Pantry will be collecting cake mixes, frosting, brownies, box potatoes, ham, turkey and monetary donations for the holiday visit. We have been blessed with a generous community and surrounding area.

Church T-Shirts

We have church t-shirts for sale in the Narthex. Shirts are \$20 each and if we do not have your size in stock, there is a sign-up form to order the size you need. The proceeds from the sale all go toward our General Fund.

September 2023 Budget

\$13,908.00 Monthly Budget Needs

\$8,060.00 Offerings received from September

\$2,987.00 Monthly income from investments & renters

\$2,861.00 Deficit

Sunday's Scriptures

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost-October 22

Exodus 33:12-23

Psalms 99

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

Liturgist– Diana Wilson

Elder– Leslie Dalstra

Deacon-Gerry Pohlpetter

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost-October 29

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

Liturgist –Vicki Lair

Elder–

Deacon –Jana Hubbs

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost-November 5

Joshua 3:7-17

Psalms 107:1-7, 33-37

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Matthew 23:1-12

Liturgist-Juanita Anderson

Elder-Dianne Hope

Deacon-Donna Block

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost-November 12

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalms 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

Liturgist-

Elder-

Deacon-Vicki Lair

Happy Birthday!

11.2 Kim Babington

11.6 Kaleb Mancill

11.10 Joe Bowen

11.18 Dan Darley

11.21 Jane Schevers

11.24 Mason Pohlpetter

11.27 Ann Pickard

Happy Anniversary!

11.11 Gary & Deb Kramer



Photo by [Terrance Raper](#) on [Unsplash](#)

CHURCH CALENDAR

10.21 Saturday

All Congregational Gathering in
Newton, Iowa

10.22 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

10.25 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Coffee with Pastor at
Swed & Co.

10.27 Friday

5:00 p.m. Trunk or Treat

10.29 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

1:00 p.m. Fall Book Study

10.30 Monday

5:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Meeting

11.1 Wednesday

All Saints Day

8:00 a.m. Coffee with Pastor at
Swed & Co.

11.5 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

1:00 p.m. Leadership Team
Meeting

11.6 Monday

5:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Meeting

11.8 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Coffee with Pastor at
Swed & Co.

10:00 a.m. Ruth Allen Circle
Meeting

11.11 Saturday

Happy Veterans Day

Thank you for your service!

11.12 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Ministry Fair

11.13 Monday

5:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Meeting

11.15 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Coffee with Pastor at
Swed & Co.

Prayer Concerns Together we pray for ...

Current Concerns:

Sharon Baldwin
Dexton Berry
F & F of William Biggs
Theo Burch
Nancy Clark
Greg Gaither
F & F of Sandy Smith
Marla Trentham
F & F of Michelle Winn

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

Long-Term

Concerns:

Barbara Altgibers
Dan Ammer
Jan Bindewald
Mark Bowman
John Chamness
Tracy Chamness
Barb Cobb
Melba Crago
Camdyn Cresswell
Wilbur Dalrymple
Tony Dixon
Daniel Drago
Toni Gaylord
Beverly Gobble
Noah Gould
Terri Bishop Hampton
Randy Herbert
Jean Hoffmeister
Rosie Howard
Sue Kuper
Carolyn MacLearn
Joe Mattix
Carol Ann Mercer
Randy Nielson
Olivia Nord

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

Members of the Military

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

