



the Spirit

Supporting faith through worship, prayer and action;  
linked by mutual affection and love... (II Peter 1:5-8)



First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
1302 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
319-266-5959  
FAX: 319-266-3700  
cedarfallsdisciples.org  
e-mail: firstchristian@cfu.net  
www.cedarfallsdisciples.org

January 20, 2010

## A Listening Heart

My trip to Florida was wonderful. It was good to see my oldest brother and celebrate his immediate recognition of me. There was joy in the laughter as well as the tears my sister-in-law I shared. Many of you understand how simply seeing a situation with your own eyes provides clarity as well as hope. The trip was wonderful - and the warmer weather was very nice!

As a result of the fog the past few days, we are treated to a crystal-like world. The trees and bushes are spectacular with an intricate beauty by the Creator of all beauty. From John O'Donohue's *The Divine Imagination* these words are offered as a prayer for each of you:

May you be blessed with a sense of beauty and may beauty come and visit your life. May you be given the grace of recognition so that you may learn to see in a new way all that is beautiful about you.

In the light of that beauty may you gain a new respect for the Eternal that is alive in your feeling, thought and action. May you look again at your face, and may you see there the tender and poignant presence of an intimacy that is beautiful.

When you turn your gaze inward may it be a kind and healing gaze. May you be gifted to be gentle so that the shy beauty that hides so many of the chambers of your heart may come out and gather and focus to make a bouquet of blessings around your head and around your life.

May you look reverently at those that are close to you. And, if you have forgotten in their familiarity the beauty that is about them, may you learn to see it again, and may you celebrate with those you love the beauty that brought you together.

May you seek the truth but may you always remember to walk hand in hand with beauty because beauty is truth and truth is beauty.

The season of Lent begins February 17. May God's beauty wrap your hearts and lives as we prepare for the coming holy season.

I look forward to worshipping with you this Sunday.

Blessings,  
Liz ☺



## **January Board Meeting**

---

Board members please note the January Board meeting has been moved to January 26 at 7 PM. If this creates a conflict, please talk with Jim Taylor or the church office. Thank you. 🕊

## **Bible Study - Genesis**

---

Thursday morning Bible Study will return on Thursday, January 21. We will review the Abraham stories in Genesis before moving into the Isaac in Genesis 24. There is always a pot of coffee brewed so come and join the conversation on Thursdays at 9:30 AM in the church library. 🕊

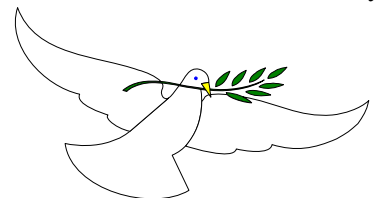
## **Receiving the "Spirit"**

---

The church office is seeking your input on receiving "The Spirit" newsletter. Please complete the enclosed survey and return it to the church. You may put it in the offering or email the church at [firstchristian@cfu.net](mailto:firstchristian@cfu.net).

For those folks who are out-of-town/state who receive the newsletter, we would like your input also. If you would like to receive the newsletter via your email, send an email to the church office ([firstchristian@cfu.net](mailto:firstchristian@cfu.net)). If you would like to have The Spirit mailed to your home, please return the enclosed survey to the church so that we can add you to our postal mail list.

We believe that communication is a priority and we will strive to keep everyone informed in the fastest and most cost-effective way possible. 🕊



## Words of Thanks

---

I would like to thank all the people for cards, phone calls and visits. It's so wonderful to have such caring friends. Liz's visits really keeps me up to date on church activities. Thank you for the bag of goodies, really delicious. Thanks again for everything. I miss everyone

-Mildred Wilkenson ☘



Thank you so much for the cards, yummy goodies, the generous monetary gift and all the good wishes I received this past Christmas. As I stood in the circle on Christmas Eve singing Silent Night it reminded me once again how caring our congregation is and how it means so much to me to be a part of First Christian Church. May this New Year be filled with peace and love.

-Linda Myszka ☘



Thank you congregation for the gift I received at Christmas.

-Kim Carbiener ☘

## Year-End Giving Statements

---

The 2009 giving statements have been prepared by treasurer Carolyn Chambers. This statement includes your giving from January 1 through December 31, 2009. Hopefully this report will make tax preparation easier. If you have questions about your giving statement, please call Carolyn. To have your statement mailed to you, contact the church. ☘



## Directory Changes

---

Dixie McCann's e-mail address:

Damccann at live.com ☘

E-mail Change



## 39er's February Gathering

---

The 39er's will host Linda Morgan, Director of Heartland Habitat for Humanity on Thursday, February 18 at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Linda will share her experiences on an international Habitat build in Thailand this past November. Linda and her husband, Bob participated in a "build" that built 82 homes in Southeast Asia.

There will be coffee prepared for the morning gathering. Following Linda's presentation, we will go to lunch at the Butterfly Cafe in Waterloo. A sign up sheet will be posted Sunday, January 31. ☘

## Music Ministry

---

The Bell Choir has resumed rehearsals on Tuesday evenings, 6:30 to 7:30 PM. If you would like to participate in the Bell Choir, join us on Tuesdays and pick up a bell for ringing!

The Chancel Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM. There is space for more voices to sing the beautiful Gospel message. Come and join the choir on Wednesdays. ☘

## Are the Roads Safe?

---

When you are planning a trip this winter make sure you check the forecast. For Iowa travel information, dial 511 or go online to the Iowa Road condition website:

<http://hb.511ia.org/main.jsf> ☘

## First Readers Book Club

---

Our February read has been recommended by the librarian at the Cedar Falls Library. She said that everyone she knows who has read it really liked the book. So, let's see what we think about "Olive Kitteridge" by Elizabeth Strout.

Thirteen linked tales from Strout present a heart-wrenching, penetrating portrait of ordinary coastal Mainers living lives of quiet grief intermingled with flashes of human connection. The opening "Pharmacy" focuses on terse, dry junior high-school teacher Olive Kitteridge and her gregarious pharmacist husband, Henry, both of whom have survived the loss of a psychologically damaged parent, and both of whom suffer painful attractions to co-workers. Their son, Christopher, takes center stage in "A Little Burst", which describes his wedding in humorous, somewhat disturbing detail, and in "Security", where Olive, in her 70s, visits Christopher and his family in New York. Strout's fiction showcases her ability to reveal through familiar details—the mother-of-the-groom's wedding dress, a grandmother's disapproving observations of how her grandchildren are raised—the seeds of tragedy. Themes of suicide, depression, bad communication, aging and love, run through these stories, none more vivid or touching than "Incoming Tide," where Olive chats with former student Kevin Coulson as they watch waitress Patty Howe by the seashore, all three struggling with their own misgivings about life. Like this story, the collection is easy to read and impossible to forget. Its literary craft and emotional power will surprise readers unfamiliar with Strout.

Our next meeting will be Thurs., February 18. Location to be announced. 🐦



## Sunday Servants 🐦

---

### FEBRUARY 7

**Elders:** Kermit Allard/Jim Taylor  
**Greeters:** Brian & Angie Brummel  
**Counters:** Marilyn Miller/Pam Taylor  
**Flowers:** OPEN

### FEBRUARY 14

**Elders:** Mary Jo Mallon/Jim Boileau  
**Home Communion:** Kathy Redding/Joan C-Sund  
**Greeters:** Lowell & Kathy Redding  
**Counters:** Mary Jones/Hank Trepp  
**Flowers:** OPEN

### FEBRUARY 21

**Elders:** Traci Hahn/Kermit Allard  
**Greeters:** Gene & Mary Shields  
**Counters:** Marlene Rasmussen/  
Evelyn Wohlwend  
**Flowers:** OPEN

### FEBRUARY 28

**Elders:** Lowell Redding/Joan C-Sund  
**Home Communion:** Traci Hahn/Mary Jo Mallon  
**Greeters:** Jack & Carlynn Harrum  
**Counters:** Pam Taylor/Steve Harding  
**Flowers:** Ray & Darlene Cannon

**LAY LEADER:** Gary Chambers 🐦

## LOGOS Youth Ministry

---

We are a small but energetic group on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. LOGOS youth ministry is back in full swing on Wednesdays. Join the excitement as we stay plugged into God's power! 🐦

### D.I.P.'s

---

"Disciples In Progress," the junior and senior high youth group, will meet Wednesdays at 5:00 PM, then join LOGOS for dinner and fellowship. 🐦

## **In the Church Family**

**Marilyn Miller** had additional surgery on her ankle Monday, January 11. Marilyn is home and recuperating.

**Becky Smith** was in a car accident Wednesday, January 13. Her wrists and right foot sustained injuries. She is at Allen Hospital with hopes of going home soon.

**Dixie McCann** had surgery Monday, January 18 at Sartori Hospital. She will be in the hospital for several days.

### ***Sympathy to...***

...Dotta Hassman and family on the death of her mother, Frances Dinsdale, on Saturday, January 9. A celebration of her life was held on January 14 in Traer, Iowa. Our prayers of love and support are with Dotta and her family at this time of sorrow and loss.

### ***Please keep in your prayers...***

Mildred Wilkinson	Liz Willett
Bill Wahner	Chuck Willett
Chuck Chamness	Marcia Chamness
Alice Reints	Phyllis Siefken
George Dunkelberg	Orvin Schoville
Ruth Peterson	George Sublette
Sandy Turner's son, Scott	
Shields' daughter, Theresa	
Truax's grandson, Will Reinart	
Holland's grandson, Mark Peterson	
Carl Jenkins' mother, Bernice	
Deanna Juhl's mother, Doris Legg	
Sandy McCann's father, Frank Thorp	
Sarah Hulse's grandmother, Elaine Rockwood	
Amy Thomas' father-in-law, Jeff Thomas	
Mary Jo Woody's sister, Ann	
Woodward's brother, Don Wilson	
Priscilla Dean's brother, Richard	
Harriet Hahn's sister	
Carl Jenkins' brother, John	
Kim Carbiener's brother, Rick Carbiener	
Dorothy Mueller's brother, Bob Fulton	
Dave Crooks' sister-in-law, Darlene	
Gary Chambers' aunt, Katerine Canaway	

### ***Please keep in your prayers...(Continued)***

Kim Carbiener's aunt & uncle, Nancy & Bob Anderson  
Mary Ann Calhoun's cousin, Mary Wolf  
Jim Juhl's cousin, Karen Winner  
Darlene Cannon's nephew, Bob Koch  
Vanderwerf's niece, Tami Hayden  
Kermit Allard's niece's husband, Jim LaFortune  
Vanderwerf's friends, Carl & Barb Meyer  
Taylor's receptionist's daughter, Amy Jo Vanderkamp  
Sandy Turner's friend, Elbert Briden  
Dean Bartholomew's friend, Bob Owen  
Linda Smith's friend, Carman Davis  
Dunkelberg's friends, Nico DeJong  
Jane Buck's friends, Brenda & Craig  
Joan C-Sund's friends, Jeanne Holub and Ken Collison  
Linda Smith's friend, Carman Davis  
Mary Jo Mallon's co-workers, Cheryl Moore, Ivy Hagedorn, Arlin Branhangen's father  
Joan C-Sund's friend's granddaughter, Greta Oliver Palmer and family  
World peace and safety 🙏

### **Family & friends serving in the military:**

Jared Coil	Jay Craig
Jason Colvin	Matthew Romine
Scott Vanderwerf	Eric Schmidt
Raul Vasquez	Andy Pettit
Jeff Bell	Mathew P. Burke
Monica Sneed	Scott Payne
Lance Sneed	David Thompson
Ron Horn, Jr.	Robert Prunty
Warren Snook	Anthony Colvin
Boyd Smith	Mark Peterson
Dale Harper	Sam Barrett
Michael Ritland	Jay Hankins
Ashley Cook	Dustin Day
Kent Salisbury	James Bleeker
Justin Johnson	Jack Darland
Johnny J.T. Ceras	Duane Buche
Brett Williams	Pauley Schreiber
Jack Darland	Derek Szmyt
Christopher Niederhauser	🙏

# Week of Compassion Offering -Response to Haiti Earthquake

---

Amy Gopp, Director of Week of Compassion has suggested three ways to help:

1. Continue to donate - this truly is the BEST and most effective way to help right now - [www.weekofcompassion.org](http://www.weekofcompassion.org) - 100% goes to Haiti relief efforts-Week of Compassion is part of the largest global alliance of Christian humanitarian agencies in the world, ACT Alliance (thus, our capacity on the ground is vast and has stood the test of time) as well as Church World Service.
2. Assemble and send emergency kits -- there is an URGENT need for more CWS hygiene and baby kits -- our ecumenical warehouse in New Windsor, MD has been emptied already -- please go to <http://www.churchworldservice.org> for a list of items needed for the kits - I know how often people want to do something "hands on" in a time like this - this is a GREAT and truly helpful way to do so.
3. PRAY, PRAY, PRAY for all those affected by this disaster in Haiti and for those trying to help them.

Monetary gifts will be received again this Sunday. The congregation was very generous last week in gifts to Week of Compassion. Almost \$1,000 was raised in support of the relief efforts in Haiti.

Item #2 on Amy's list regarding Church World Service emergency kits will be another means for members and friends of FCC to respond.

LOGOS will work along side of our CWF Circles to gather supplies needed for Hygiene kits. There will boxes in the narthex for your donation of items. A \$12 donation to the church with "hygiene kits" on the memo line will also be gratefully received.

*To assemble a Hygiene Kit you will need:*

- One hand towel measuring @ 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six Band-Aids®

Do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Toothpaste that has an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment. Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure. 🕊

