



# the Spirit

8-19-2021

***Act justly.  
Love kindness.  
Walk humbly with God.***

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## From the President

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Well, here we are into our fourth week without a full-time pastor, but the worship experience goes on. We have had Sunday messages from Robin Kime from Threehouse, CJ Latham from Waverly, Josh Patty Regional Minister, and Brandon Johnson. Next week we will hear from David Glenn-Burns of Threehouse, then on August 29, Kirby Gold with the Disciple Foundation, and on September 5, CJ Latham will preach again.

The search committee is still in the process of looking for a fulltime Pastor. In the meantime, there is a committee that is interviewing a possible Interim Pastor Candidate. The Board met last night and all of the Committees are functioning and keeping the Church going.

We are also helping Threehouse celebrate their 100th Anniversary by having a presence and display at their open house on Sunday evening, August 22.

We have been in contact with the High School, and they are planning on having Homecoming on October 8. Now we need to decide if we are ready to host TGIF again. In order to have TGIF again we need 20 to 25 people to step forward to help. It takes that many people to help setup, cook, and man the serving tables, then tear down and cleanup. We will have a signup sheet posted in the narthex over the next few Sundays and an e-mail signup online. We will need to make that decision within the next few weeks in order to be prepared.

We all need to remember---WE ARE THE CHURCH.

Gary Chambers

Board Chair

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## TGIF 2021

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**TGIF**, the annual “free lunch” is scheduled for Friday, October 8, Homecoming Week-end for Cedar Falls High School! The signup sheet is in the Narthex for your convenience.

**TGIF** is Friday, October 8. It takes all of us working together to feed our neighbors at Cedar Falls High School. There will be a job for you!

## **In the Church Family**

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**Norm Calhoun** had surgery to close a hole in his heart on Monday, August 16. There was a complication of a vein being nicked. He remains in the hospital.

### ***Sympathies to—***

...Naila Graper for the death of her mother, Teresa Spoerl, who passed away on July 31, 2021  
...Kim Carbiener for the death of her uncle, Irv Carbiener, who passed away on August 17, 2021  
We will hold all of these families in our prayers of love and support during their time of loss and grief.

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

Norm Calhoun	Judd Truax	June Trepp
Jim Taylor	Kreg Miller	Scott Turner
Vern Sund	Curt Mather	Tom Jenkins
Larry Vanderwerf	Jim McCann	Joann Wahner
Patty Vanderwerf	Jason Turner	Todd & Naila Graper
Alyce Jenkins	Hank Trepp	Whitney & Erica Rissi
Joan Christensen-Sund	Kim Casey	

Vanderwerf's family in Guatemala  
Evelyn Wohlwend's son, Dave  
Linda Mather's sister-in-law, Connie  
Ramona Lucius' aunt, Darlene  
Linda Smith's uncle, Gary  
Karla Buchholz' nephew, Malcolm  
Joan Christensen-Sund's niece, Mara  
Norm Calhoun's cousin, Dorothy  
Joan Christensen-Sund's cousin, Paul  
Deanna Juhl's cousin, Joe

Kim Carbiener's neighbor, Koral  
Smith's friend, Rachel  
Taylors friend, Dave  
Taylor's friend, Kurt  
Calhoun's friend, Eleanor  
Calhoun's friends, Les and Evelyn  
Kim Carbiener's friend, Janie  
Marlene Rasmussen's friend's husband, Greg  
Linda Morgan's friends, the Mahncke family  
Prayers for peace and safety in our world

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

Linda Smith's cousin, Arielle Turnage  
Harding's son, Jay Craig  
Harding's daughter-in-law, Lani Craig

Juhl's granddaughter, Gwen Juhl  
Dorothy Fisher's grandson, Kyle D. Anderson

## **First Readers Book Club**

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First Book Club will meet at First Christian Church on Tuesday, September 14 at 10 AM. The featured book for this month is [This Tender Land](#) by William Kent Krueger. Books are available in the office and we do offer online options via Zoom for those who need to stay in their homes.

Please join us for the book discussion even if you don't get a chance to read the book.

## **Women's Circles**

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Esther Circle is making tentative plans to meet each month starting in October, in Fellowship Hall. Stay tuned for more details.

## Sunday Servants

### **Sunday, September 5**

Guest Speaker: Rev. CJ Latham  
Lay Leader: Linda Morgan  
Elders: Tim Jones/Joan Christensen-Sund  
Counters: Tim Jones/Pam Taylor  
Greeters: Jim & Deanna Juhl  
Flowers: OPEN

### **Sunday, September 12**

Guest Speaker: TBA  
Lay Leader: Gery Deaver  
Elders: Jim Boileau/Kathy Redding  
Counters: Sandy Goodwin/Carolyn Chambers  
Greeters: The Graper Family  
Flowers: Lowell & Kathy Redding

### **Sunday, September 19**

Guest Speaker: TBA  
Lay Leader: Kathy Redding  
Elders: Jim Taylor/Mary Jo Mallon  
Counters: Pam Taylor/ Jill Hulse  
Greeters: OPEN  
Flowers: OPEN

### **Sunday, September 26**

Guest Speaker: TBA  
Lay Leader: Gary Chambers  
Elders: Carl Jenkins/Gary Chambers  
Counters: Carolyn Chambers/Naila Graper  
Greeters: Jim & Jeanna Newcomb  
Flowers: OPEN

## **2021 Memorial Scholarship**

The Memorial and Endowment Committee is pleased to announce Diane Bowman as the 2021 recipient of the First Christian Church Memorial Scholarship. Applicants were asked to write a 500-word essay on the question "In today's atmosphere of division and hate, how does the lyric of the hymn 'They'll know we are Christians by our love' speak to you?"

Diane currently serves as the church secretary. She is attending Walden University studying for her Master's Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Sara Dib made the award presentation during the August 15 worship service. Congratulations, Diane!!

## **Greenhouse is Back!!**

Greenhouse is back this fall semester, and we couldn't be more excited! In order to maintain maximum safety for our kiddos and volunteers, we have made the decision to host Greenhouse over Zoom. Regardless of the way we meet, Greenhouse will always be filled with laughs, love, and tons of exploring God's world. Our first meeting will be September 1st and 5:15. If you have any questions, please reach out to Sofia.

## SEPTEMBER

### **Birthdays**

1. John Lang
4. Josh McCann
6. Carol Allard  
Kathy Lavenz
9. Tom Lavenz
14. Alison Finn
15. Curt Mather
16. Greg Hahn
17. Pam Taylor
29. Sandy Turner
30. Deanna Juhl

### **Anniversaries**

11. Lowell & Kathy Redding – 1981

#### **First Christian Church Staff**

Ministers:	Every Member
Pastor:	
Family Ministries:	Sofia O'Neil
Choir Director:	
Accompanist:	Mary Jo Woody
Accompanist:	Linda Morgan
Accompanist:	Jill Hulse
Accompanist:	Jeanine Fernandez
Bell Choir Director:	Tami Kofron
IT/AV Manager:	Dakota Hulse
Child Care:	Kim Carbiener
Secretary:	Diane Bowman
Financial Recorder:	Linda Smith

## **Pulpit Guests for August**

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### **On August 22...**

...David Glenn Burns will be our guest. David is the Director/Campus Minister for the Wesley Foundation at the University of Northern Iowa. First Christian Church, as well as other area churches offer support to the campus ministry called Threehouse which provides a safe and thriving place for UNI students to grow in their faith. Plan to be in worship to meet Pastor Glenn Burns and hear his message as they approach another challenging year of campus ministry.

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### **On August 29...**

...we will have a special guest from the Christian Church Foundation. Kirby Hughes Gould is vice president of the Foundation's North Central zone, which includes the regions of Mid-America, Greater Kansas City, Upper Midwest, Kansas, and Nebraska.

Kirby joined the Foundation in 1997. She previously served on the development staff of both the National Benevolent Association and the Oklahoma Christian Home. She has a Bachelor of Music Education/Music Therapy from Phillips University. She is a commissioned minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and is a Certified Fund Raising Executive, Chartered Financial Consultant and Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy.

Kirby and her husband, John, are the parents of two adult daughters and proud grandparents of one grandson. They are members of Hillcrest Christian Church in Overland Park, Kansas.

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David and Kirby will no doubt bring uplifting and inspiring messages to our worship services. We might even be lucky enough to hear Kirby play her violin! Your presence will enhance the worship experience, but please be vigilant and stay home if you are ill or have been exposed. Your cooperation with face-coverings is always appreciated. The services, as usual, will be broadcast on YouTube.

## **Thank you**

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Dear Church Family,

Thank you. Thank you! To all of my church family and friends who reached out to me following my surgery. The cards, phone calls, and good wishes were an oasis of relief during my recovery period. Thank you, again.

Joan Christensen-Sund

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Dear First Christian Church Members

Thank you for the generous scholarship gift. I am honored to be the recipient of the First Christian Church Memorial Scholarship. I have finished my first year in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program and have maintained a 4.0 average. There will be another year of classes and then a practicum and an internship. It is so exciting to be pursuing this dream of mine and it feels amazing and a little overwhelming. Thank you for your support as I continue to work towards my CMHC degree.

Diane Bowman

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First Christian Church

Thank you for your financial support of our regional and general ministries in the first six months of 2021. Your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund and the various special offerings invest in the vital work of our general ministries and the many ministries of our Upper Midwest Region.

Your generosity strengthens our mission to be Disciples Together

Thank you!

Joshua Patty

## Caring for God's World

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A disturbing new scientific report confirms that the impacts of climate change are happening faster and more severely than once thought. This new report from the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) demonstrates definitively the urgent need for swift action by policymakers in the United States and abroad to address this existential threat to people and the planet. The alarming findings of the IPCC report underscore the need for slashing climate pollution, speeding up the transition to clean energy, and safeguarding our most vulnerable communities.

*Kayla Calkin, Natural Resources Defense Council*

Drought, extreme heat, floods and wildfires are plaguing communities across the globe as world leaders gear up to discuss climate change at a major United Nations conference later this year.

Although skepticism exists, a broad swath of faith communities is a part of the global push for climate action. They advocate for policy change, fight for climate justice, establish creation care ministries, embrace solar energy, plant gardens and more.

Many people work to curb the causes of climate change because of their faith. But religious beliefs also lead some to reject the issue entirely. A 2016 report by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication found that 15% of Americans think global warming is not real because God controls the climate and 14% thought it was a sign of the End Times.

The United Nations conference, slated to bring world leaders to Glasgow, Scotland, in November to discuss reducing greenhouse gas emissions, comes six years after the 2015 Paris climate accord, an agreement the U.S. pulled out of under the Trump administration but rejoined after President Biden took office.

Religious environmental groups have lauded the administration's support for addressing climate change, including by committing to cutting U.S. emissions in half by 2030. Other faith-based organizations also are calling on Congress to act.

*Holly Meyer, ReligionLink*

“Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?”

*Mary Oliver, poet (1935 – 2019)*

## Troop 500 Can Drives

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Save the date!! Troop 500 will offer can drives on Saturday, October 9 and November 13 from 9-11 AM in the church parking lot. Thank you for the support you offer the Scouts and their program.

## Church Keys

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If you have a church building access key and are no longer in a position of leadership requiring a key, please return it to the church office. Thank you.



## Emergency Pantry

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*The Pantry is open each Thursday, 4 – 6 PM in the fellowship hall of First Christian Church.*



**Help keep the Pantry stocked**

Spaghetti and Pasta sauce

*Financial contributions are also welcomed*