Faith news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 2022

Carol's Contemplations

Drought has hit Central Iowa again this year. Farmers fear that their crops might not produce the yield they normally do. Apple orchards might have smaller fruit. Vineyards might not produce their yield of grapes either. In our own back yards we see the brown grass and hear the crunch as we walk over it. Flowers have dried up and quit blooming. Bushes and trees are losing their leaves.

There have been many droughts throughout history. The Bible states in Habakkuk 3:17-18 "Even though the fig trees are all destroyed, and there is neither blossom left nor fruit, and though the olive crops all fail, and the fields lie barren; even if the flocks die in the field and the cattle barns are empty, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will be happy in the God of my salvation."

But we must also remember what Jesus said to the woman at the well in John Chapter 4; "If you only knew what a wonderful gift God has for you, and who I am, you would ask me for some living water!" The woman asked how that water is any better than what is in the well. Jesus replies, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become a perpetual spring of water welling up to eternal life."

If we believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior, He will provide living water; and God will provide what we need to survive a drought. Are you looking forward to receiving the living water?

Carol Macksey, Board Chair

Interim Pastor

Pastor Sue Woods will begin another short term interim with our church starting September 18th through Advent and Christmas. September is a great time to return to in person worship, and there will be more activities starting up leading into the Advent season. Please read the newsletter and Facebook notifications and come and join in fellowship with your church family.

CROP Hunger Walk

The Jasper County CROP Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, October 2nd. Donations can be made out to CROP Hunger Walk and left in the church office. Donations may also be given online at *events.crophungerwalk.org* and make your donations to the Jasper County Iowa walk.

Christian Women's Fellowship

The CWF will meet on THURSDAY, September 15th at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Come and join in the fellowship, study, and service with the women.

Choir

Choir Will Be Starting Back Up. Here is your chance to get involved and have some fun with music. We will be singing once a month, however, in November and December, we will sing twice a month. We will not have an every week rehearsal. The rehearsals will begin September 28th, 2022 on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We will not do a Christmas or Easter Cantata this musical year. So, here is your chance if you ever wanted to sing in choir. JUST DO IT!!!
Cathi Wickett

Puppet Ministry

Would you like to sing in church, but you don't have a singing voice? Do you get nervous when you talk in front of people? Would you like to share God's message in a fun way? Then the puppet ministry is the place for you. Join us on Wednesdays, beginning September 21st at 5:00pm. All ages, adult and youth, are welcome. Only requirements are to be tall enough to reach over the puppet curtain and the desire to share God's word. Call Vicki Gunsaulus at 521-5428 if you have any questions.

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

1	Layne Durr
2	Vicki Gunsaulus, Lisa Montgomery, Trey Warnick
3	Julie Crook, Eric Dodd
4	Justine Elliott, Elise Hiatt, Hayden Heath
5	Caysen Heath
6	Devin Abel
9	Shirley Brown, Jeanann Heath
13	Les Van Brogen, Michael Curtis
14	Devin Marshall, Mason Abel
16	Bud Pickett
17	Bev Curtis, Klay Montgomery
18	Miles Gunsaulus
19	Julie Brown
21	Nancy Wobschall
23	Diana Dougan, Morgan Arrowood
24	Desiree Eide, Gretchen Roth
25	Opal Snyder, Brady Cunningham
26	Gena Neasham

Anniversaries

2	Chris & Clarissa Wing
3	Dick & Shirley Lewis
4	Todd & Sue Anderson, Chase & Kayli Van Brogen
8	Steve & LaVon Roth, Blaine & Noella Barker
14	Josh & Leah Weithers
23	Dan & Julie Crook
26	Devin & Shannon Abel
28	James & Caitlyn Reeder

Family Unity Night

FUN will start on September 14 with a game night and registration!

The night starts at 5:30 p.m. with a light supper followed by classes for preschool - high school.

See you all there!

Family Unity Night Supper Menu

September 14th:
Hot Ham & Cheese
Tater Tots
Green Beans
Carrots, Celery & Dip
Fruit & Cookies

September 21st:
Spaghetti
French Bread
Salad
Fruit & Cookies

September 28th:
Hot Dogs with Chili & Cheese
Chips
Carrots, Celery & Dip
Fruit & Cookies

(Menu subject to change)

SEPTEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 **Labor Sunday** 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service 11:00 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship	5 **Labor Day** **(Office Closed)**	6	7	8 6:00 p.m. - Cub Scout meeting	9	10
11 **Patriot Day** 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service 12:00 p.m. - Church Picnic at the Christian Conference Center	12	13 7:00 p.m. - Board meeting	14 5:30 p.m. - Family Unity Night begins	15 6:30 p.m. - CWF	16	17
18 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service 11:00 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship	19	20 **October Newsletter Article Deadline**	21 5:00 p.m. - Puppet Practice 5:30 p.m. - Family Unity Night 6:00 p.m. - Pastor's Class	22 **First Day of Autumn**	23	24
25 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service 11:00 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship	26	27	28 5:00 p.m. - Puppet Practice 5:30 p.m. - Family Unity Night 6:00 p.m. - Pastor's Class 7:15 p.m. - Choir Practice	29 9:00 a.m. - Newsletter Team 10:00 a.m. - Elders	30	

Pastor's Class

This fall we will offer young people an important step on their faith journey. They will be given the chance to explore how baptism is an act of Covenant with God and the church. We have a number of young people interested in this class, and they will be joined by adult mentors and our church Elders. And there's room for MORE! We will meet at the church weekly for 6 weeks. Unless otherwise indicated. All classes will be Wednesdays from 6-7 p.m. There are several Bibles in the church library if your child needs one.

Here is a tentative weekly schedule that will explore how faith intersects with the everyday life.

Sept. 21st – God Loves You! Introductions and talk about individuality and church as community. We will talk about the diversity of creation and how we can love God by respecting and serving others.

Sept. 28th – God Loves the Bible! We will review different parts of the Bible and explore different translations. It will be fun with games and other activities.

Oct. 5th – God Loves Prayer! We will explore the ancient practice of praying with a labyrinth, talk about the Holy Spirit and other resources that support and encourage us.

Oct 12th – God Is Always Present! We will travel to Pence Funeral Home for a tour of the facility. The goal is to take away the mystery of death prevalent in Western culture. We will talk about grief, new life, healing, and the ceremony surrounding goodbyes. I have done this for several years and it is always done with an eye to the child's comfort. No one is asked to participate in anything that makes them uncomfortable. You or a grandparent are welcome to accompany your child.

Oct. 19th – God Loves the Church! We will talk about the church universal and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We will also talk about the two rites that the Disciples of Christ practice, baptism and communion. We will enter the empty baptistry to "practice" baptism.

Oct. 26th – God Loves Worship! We will prepare for Youth Sunday on October 30th. Each child will also "interview" one of the Elders to learn about their faith journey and share their thoughts on baptism.

Oct. 30th – Youth Sunday/Baptisms! The youth will lead worship this Sunday and participate in baptism if they choose. This is a joyous time so feel free to invite family and friends. We will have a reception in their honor following worship.

If you have any questions about the process, feel free to call the church office or Pastor Sue

May the church be a blessing to you and your child!

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

314 E. 2nd St. N.
Newton, IA 50208

Phone: 641-792-5850
E-mail: fccnewton@gmail.com
Web: http://fccnewton.org

All Church Picnic!

The Church will be gathering on Holy Grounds, one of the most beautiful places, for a picnic on September 11th at Noon.

Pack a picnic lunch and meet at the Christian Conference Center (5064 Lincoln Street). Come to the circle drive at the Conference Center and you will be directed to the picnic area.

Drinks and dessert will be provided. Hayrack ride tours of the Conference Center will follow lunch. A golf cart will be available if mobility is an issue.

Let's join together for some food, fun and fellowship!