First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Christian Communicator

December 2026
Volume 29, Issue 9



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Lexi Wahlert
Kim Stephen
(cousin to Grubbs, Comstocks, & Rouws)
Allan Rouw
(brother-in-law to Grubbs, Comstocks, & Rouws)
Jake Beck
(Roger/Cyndy Gay's son-in-law)
Donnell Clarke
(family friend of Connie Louderback)
Kristelle Vanderbeek
Jeff Baumgardner
(Shari Fynaardt's brother-in-law)
Phyllis Lane
Ann Mattix
(Lara Vandello's aunt)
Brad Sarver
(Larry & Patty's son)
Vinnie Provenzano
Chuck Shrader
(friend of Heather Stevens)
Lyndsay VanDenHeuvel
(niece of Randy/Kathy Pleima)
Stan Gray
David Gleason
Jeff Nicholson
BJ Bowie
Patty Sarver
Carole Gile
Richard Gile
Eileen Eick
(friend of Kathy Butler)

MILITARY

Kyrsten DeWees, daughter of Rick & Michelle DeWees
Kelly Lane, granddaughter of Phyllis Lane



FROM THE PASTOR

I saw a short video from a group called The Grief Table.

In that video, I learned something that I believe will help us make sense as to why, at times, the Christmas season can be difficult and emotionally painful for grieving people. The creator of the Grief Table says that when something beautiful happens, like a milestone, or a Christmas party, or the pure joy of celebrating a Christmas tradition, the heart can feel two things at the same time. The heart can feel Joy AND the sharp awareness that someone or something, is missing. Grief and joy don't take turns. One doesn't leave so the other can arrive. Grief and Joy are partners and either show up together or not at all. Life after loss (or absence, or broken expectations) is braided. These three strands are intertwined: Grief, Joy, and Love.

If this thought from The Grief Table makes sense to you, we would love for you to join us at the Blue Christmas Service here at FCC where we celebrate the three braided strands of grief, joy, and love.

Molly



Any checks for the 2026 giving year **should be in the office by Monday, December 28**. Church offices will be closed 12-24 thru 1-3-2027.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Oskaloosa is a welcoming place where people feel a connection to God through Jesus Christ and a commitment to each other, our community and the world.



2026 First Christian Church
ADVENT GIVING CAMPAIGN

November 29th Week	December 6th Week	December 13th Week	December 20th Week
The Climb	**Homestead**	**Suds of Love**	**OHS Caring Closet**
• Peanut Butter	• Jumbo Word Searches	• Socks	• Feminine Hygiene Products
• Cheerios	• Puzzles	• Mittens	• Body Wash
• Single serving snacks	• Body Wash	• Hand Towels	• Lotions
• Bread		• Wash Cloths	• Chapstick

PLEASE BRING ALL GIFTS AND PLACE UNDER THE GIVING TREE LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX THAT IS NEAR THE CHURCH LIBRARY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY & COMPASSION!



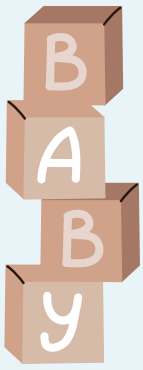
With Sympathy

Sympathies are extended to Linda Cohrt upon the death of her sister, Nancy, November 17, 2026.

The family of Judy De Jong would like to thank everyone who lived in her world the last 10 years. Pastors Robert and Molly for countless visits and prayers, for the women's groups who sent cards and note (we read everyone and names included), the DWF group who served the funeral luncheon, and everyone who sent cards and memorials and all the ways to honor her. Thank you.

As a member of First Christian Church for over 80 years this was her other home and family. I know she is still here every Sunday in spirit.

Much love-The De Jong Family

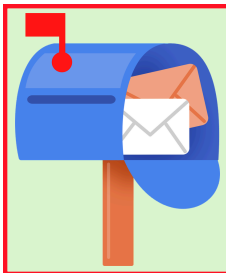


Banner Brady Hinnah
(Emily & Aaron Hinnah)
born November 16
16 pounds 13 ounces
19 ¾ inches
Emily and Banner are doing great!



"A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace." — Isaiah 9:6

FCC offices will close for the holidays on December 24 and will reopen January 4.



FCC Christmas Cards

1) There will be a box at the top of the stairs leading into the narthex for you to drop your cards off.
2) PLEASE have them delivered **no later than Sunday, December 20**.
3) Cards will be **ready for pick up Thursday, December 24**.

December Birthdays



1 - Jean Binns
Johnny Bixler
Diane Stewart
3 - Jacque Howard
Mike Sexton
Silas VerSchuure
5 - Zachary Boggess
7 - Julie Boomershine
Jenna Sullivan
9 - Barb Klampe
Allen Sullivan
10 - Barbara Sarver
11 - Bob Owen
Arlene Wiedmann
13 - Joseph Smith
14 - Margaret Chitwood
16 - Dick Grubb
17 - Jan Cruzen
18 - Joe Warrick
19 - Jacob Spears
22 - Ayla Bixler
Bob Deffenbaugh
23 - Linda Forsythe
Kristelle VanDerBeek
25 - Mary Sexton
28 - Jay Bock
29 - Kerri Moore
31 - Gary Malin
Jarod Miller



"Sisters In Spirit"

Sisters In Spirit will meet Saturday, December 5 at 8:30 AM in the lounge.

The Christmas Offering will be collected Sunday, December 13 and Sunday, December 20. The Christmas Offering supports regional ministries.

2026 Elders & Officers of the Board

Elders

1-year-term
Linda Cohrt
Laura Ginaven
Lorri Grubb - ***Chair***
Brook VanRheenen - ***Secretary***

2-year-term
Gene Fynaardt - ***Vice-Chair***
Larry Homan
Brian Myers
Eric Palmer
Randy Pleima

*****Meetings are on the 2nd Sunday of each month following worship in the lounge unless otherwise noted *****

Diaconate

1-year-term
Ranae Banicky
Jim Brandriff
Dennis Green
Kayla Martin
Brian Myers

2-year-term
Jon Angove
Makenzie Banicky
Colton Butler
David Gile
Carol Huffman
Sone Scott
Kendra Slycord
Julie Spears
Harper VerSchuure

Board
Randy Pleima - Chair
Gene Fynaardt - Vice-Chair
Kayla Martin - Secretary
Sone Scott - Treasurer
Karen Keep - Financial Secretary

ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH

Jerry & Barb Gilbert
December 9

Josh & Julie Spears
December 14, 1996

Lenny & Sharon Hofer
December 19, 2004

Nathan & Jennifer Peterson
December 21, 2002

Jerry & Linda Wolf
December 23, 1967

A Simple & Secure way to give to First Christian Church (DOC), Oskaloosa.

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CHURCH LIBRARY NEWS

Hello Readers,
It's been a while but it's that time again! We have new books, and more new books coming in. Our ordering source underwent some changes but we are back to ordering. We have some Christmas books in that will get you into the season. You might want to check out "We Wish You a Messy Christmas" "Meddling with Mistletoe" and "Have Yourself a Christiansen Christmas". There are also a couple more that will be coming in soon. Maybe you'd like "Conspiracy" in the Sanctuary Series by Colleen Coble. Check out Love Series, "Bookmarked for Love" and the Silver Teapot Series "Not Precisely Mr. Knightley". If you prefer stand-alone books we've got "Falling Into Us" by Denise Hunter and "Legacy of Mercy" by Lynn Austin. We should have other books coming in throughout November. These will be stand-alone books, current series continued and new book series. We hope these books will add to your reading enjoyment. As the season starts to turn colder you might prefer to cuddle up to the table with one of our many puzzles. No need to check out the puzzles just take them home and enjoy watching the picture come together.

Your Church Library Staff,
Sone and Jeri

CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATOR

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