

FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions

Who is First Christian Church?

First Christian had been at this location since 1888. We are a part of the **Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**, a denomination founded on U.S. soil over 200 years ago. We believe in the unity of all who believe in Jesus Christ, and work to express that unity at every level of our church experience, from the individual to the global. For organizational purposes we are a particular congregation in a specific denomination. In ultimate principles, our first allegiance and identity is as followers of Christ, which is why we identify ourselves simply as “Christians” and seek in faith and practice to support the bonds between all Christians. For information on the beliefs of Disciples, go to:
<<http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/Evangelism/WhatDisciplesBelieve.htm>>

What are the Worship times?

Our regular Sunday worship begins at 9:20 am, and runs roughly till 10:40 am. At other times of the year special worship services may be scheduled. These include:
During Lent: Midweek worship on Wednesdays from 12:15 to 12:50
Holy Week worship at 7:00 pm on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
Christmas Eve: We have an early and a late service on December 24.
The start times may vary from one year to the next.

What is your worship like?

Our Sunday Worship is for all ages. Bringing together the best of new creativity and beloved traditions, we seek to gather as a community in meaningful ways. Visitors are always welcome, including those who have not been to church in a long time, and those with no religious background. Our worship area, main entrance and main restrooms are handicap accessible. During the service you may sit or stand as you are able. We sing and listen to music praising God. We share together in the ministry of the *Word* (Scripture and sermon) and *Table* (communion, remembering Jesus' Last Supper and gift of himself to us). We also make most sermons available online (check the “sermons” page of this web site). If you have particular questions or concerns, we invite you to call the church office to inquire further.

What are the Office Hours?

The Church Office opens at 8:30 am Monday-Friday. It closes at 4:30 pm Monday-Thursday and at 1:00 pm on Friday. The office is closed for all major holidays.

How do I Contact the Church Office?

The main telephone number is (515) 255-2181. This should be answered “live” during normal office hours, and electronically after-hours. You may leave a “general mailbox” message, or dial one of the office extensions to leave a voice mail for a particular person. The church mailing address is: 2500 University Avenue / Des Moines, Iowa 50311-4504. You may e-mail us from the “contact us” page.

How are meetings and events scheduled?

We have a very busy building with lots of rooms. It is no small task to maintain an accurate and organized schedule of all activities. It is imperative that anyone wishing to arrange for use of facilities first check with the church office to be sure space and necessary personnel are available, and then have your event placed on the calendar. This includes all church functions and outside groups. If a gathering is not sponsored by First Christian, it is subject to approval by the church staff (and if necessary, any appropriate committees), and a fee will be charged.

What about Weddings and Funerals?

First Christian will do whatever we reasonably can to accommodate the needs of our members (and their immediate family) for Weddings and Funerals. *(On occasion, we can host a wedding or funeral for someone who is not an active member or close relative of an active member, but requires special approval.)*

WEDDINGS:

Please be sure the date is available on the church calendar, and pick up a copy of our Wedding brochure. You will also need to verify with the minister that s/he is able to perform your ceremony. (Guest clergy and musicians are at the discretion of the ministers of First Christian.) Wedding preparation also requires counseling with the pastor.

FUNERALS:

It is helpful if you can plan in advance what you would like at your funeral (such as Scriptures, music, a particular minister, etc.) and have that material on file at the church office. Family members should notify us as soon as possible upon the death of a member, so that a date can be set on the church calendar, and planning for a memorial begun. Some prefer to hold the service at the funeral home, others wish to have it here at the church.

What opportunities are there for participation at First Christian?

Classes & Groups:

We have several adult study-groups which meet on Sunday mornings, along with age-appropriate classes for young people grades pre-K through 12. There are small groups which meet on a regular basis for fellowship and study. For further information, call the church office.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Children and youth: Teachers and volunteers for classes and youth activities

The Drake Neighborhood Farmers' Market (May-Sept.) requires many volunteers to function.

The Chancel Choir sings for Sunday worship Sept-May, and volunteer singers are welcome.

Is **helping in the Office** more your style? We have ongoing needs for volunteers in the church office.

We have many more opportunities (both short-term and ongoing) for service in the church and in the Des Moines community, please contact the church office.