



The Link



Volume 41, Number 21

July 8, 2010

Sunday Worship:

7/11/10 at 9:20 AM
Tim Diebel preaching

7/18/10 at 9:20 AM
Tim Diebel preaching

7/25/10 at 9:20 AM
Tim Diebel preaching

Prayer Themes:

July 11: **Concerts:** Please pray for everyone who attends a concert or event at First Christian, especially for those who don't know Christ, or who don't yet have a church home.

July 18: **DM Area Religious Council:** Please pray for all the DMARC ministries we support, including the food pantry.

July 25: **Fellowship:** Please pray for the upcoming all-church picnic, that it may be a time of refreshment and renewed relationships for all our church members.

All-Church PICNIC

Sunday, July 25 (3 - 7 pm)

Christian Conference Center (in Newton)

Grab your neighbors and friends, children and grandchildren, members of your care group, and come out to our Disciples' conference center for an afternoon of food, fun, and fellowship. The time is 3:00-7:00 but you are welcome to come earlier and stay later. Maps will be provided to get to the "CCCC" in Newton – it's only about 45 minutes away. We can carpool from the church parking lot – if you need transportation, call the members of your care group or the church office.

Food is strictly "pot luck" – bring "Picnic" food (NO refrigeration or heating is available – plan accordingly and bring a cooler, etc.)

Schedule:

- 3:00-4:30 FREE TIME** *options include:* swimming (adult supervision required), miniature golf, walking/hiking/ exploring, table games, sittin' and rockin' on the porch
- 4:30 Care Groups semi-annual meeting**
- Organized games for children & youth**
- 5:30 EAT** Pot Luck (water, punch, and paper goods provided)
- 6:30 WORSHIP TOGETHER**
- 7:00 Head home** with a big smile on your face and in your heart

CAPtions:



Ordinarily, we manage to maintain a pretty good understanding about the relationship between cause and effect. Not always, of course. Just this week I have had the privilege of relearning the relationship between leaves clogging the downspouts and leaks in the house. And sometimes we get moving so fast that we forget to stop and think. But then there are those willful delusions – those operational myths that help us lie to ourselves with a temporarily clean conscience; like:

- " broken cookies have no calories
- " money spent on vacation doesn't count
- " unopened bills don't get past due
- " church – especially worship – hibernates in the summer.

Of course all of these tenets are patently false. At least the ones about vacation spending and summer worship. I'm still choosing to believe the one about cookies. So why do we behave as if these are facts? Indulgence, I suppose. Deep down we all believe that we are basically hard working people who deserve a little break now and then – a bonus treat, if you will; a cosmic freebie; lagniappe; pylon – and so we create little scenarios in which we can receive them, if only for a moment.

I follow that logic when it comes to cookies and vacations, but how does it square with worship? Worship isn't a duty on similar par with dieting and paying bills. How, then, does it move from being an expression of thankful praise and an experience of nourishing awe to being, an onerous and obligatory duty – like mowing the yard, watching ones weight or paying taxes – from which we all could use a little break? Do I weary of a sunrise...

...or the kiss of a spouse...

...or the cuddle of a pet...

...or the settling comfort of a good pillow at the end of a busy day...

...or the slaking goodness of a glass of cool water?

I don't think I have ever heard myself lament the prospect of a well-cooked meal. "It's summer; I think I'll forego eating until school starts back in September." Even if I could, why would I want to?

All of which is to say that I look forward to seeing you Sunday – if not before.

Timothy Cap Diebel

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH STAFF

Senior Minister

Timothy C. Diebel tdiebel@fccdm.org

Minister of Community Life

Sondra Eddings seddings@fccdm.org

Minister of Family Life

Suzanne Stout [sstout@fccdm.org](mailto:ss Stout@fccdm.org)

Minister of Music

Carl B. Staplin Carl.Staplin@drake.edu

Music Director/Composer in Residence

Ben Allaway BENLMNOP@aol.com

Bookkeeper

Steve DeHaven sdehaven@fccdm.org

Custodian

Richard Shoemaker (no e-mail)

Office Administrator

Nanette Johnson njohnson@fccdm.org

We Are Chicago-Bound



Eleven youth and four adults are making final preparations for their summer trip to Chicago – July 15-18. In addition to seeing some of the Chicago area, we will be spending time working with Humboldt Park Social Services organization – painting, cleaning and helping serve dinner at their community soup kitchen. Please hold our young people in prayer.



Sack Races,
Water Balloon Toss,
and more!

Attention Children in Grades 5 and younger: We hope you are making plans to attend the All Church Picnic on July 25 (3:00 to 7:00 pm) at our Camp & Conference Center in Newton. Come and enjoy time together swimming, playing mini-golf and enjoying the beautiful Holy Ground of the Conference Center. At 4:30 pm children grades 5 and younger will be invited to participate in some “old fashioned” games – sack race, three-legged race, and more. It’s sure to be a fun afternoon. We hope to see you there!



Camping continues!

The camping opportunities continue, and we have more young people participating. Please hold in prayer Tabby Robinson, who will be attending Junior Camp #4, July 12-17. What a wonderful experience is in store for her.

SUMMER Learning Hour

Summer Learning Hour Continues

Sunday, June 27, began a 3-week series which incorporates the documentary “A Little Salsa on the Prairie,” which chronicles the rapid ethnic diversification of Perry, Iowa. With the film as a guide, we will share together about issues pertinent to immigration, employment, and social relations between different ethnic groups. Through the film, we will hear from the residents of Perry concerning their plans, fears and hopes for the city. The conversation was rich and diverse. Make plans to join us as we continue to learn from one another – July 11 & July 18.

Future sessions include, Radical Welcome, Our Disciple Identity, and a report from our youth on their summer trip to Chicago. Watch future issues of the LINK for details on these upcoming classes.

And for our younger members:

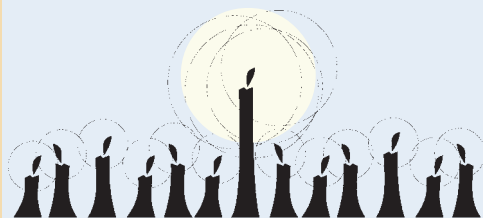
Infants through pre-K: Nursery care is provided for our littlest ones during the Learning Hour time (meets in the Mezzanine nursery).

Grades K-5: Meets each week to watch a bible-story video, and spend time coloring and playing together (meets in the Mezzanine classroom).

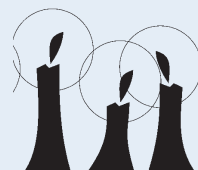


Campbell

“What do you want? Quaker
or interdenominational?”



The Contemplative Corner



for your Spiritual Journey

Just a Thought . . .

I recently came across a business article on customer loyalty which intrigued me. "This is true for churches, too," I mused. See if you agree.

The article showcased decisions beloved companies make that set them apart from the rest. Such decisions help "build an organization with energy and spirit that draws customers to them."

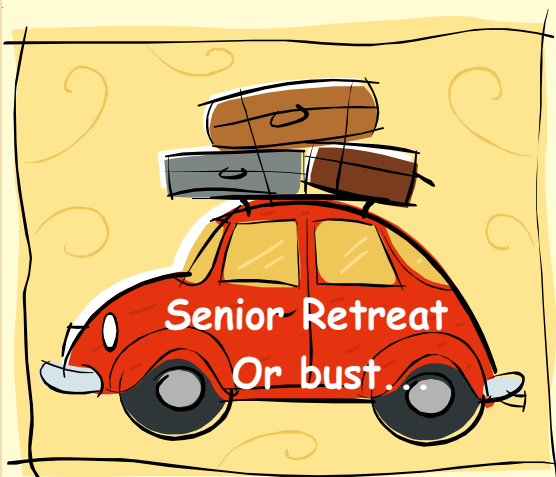
One such decision was "Beloved Companies Decide to Be Real" and spoke of the relationship between the company and the customer.

"Beloved companies shed their fancy packaging and break down barriers between 'big company, little customer.' The relationship is between people who share the same values and revel in each other's foibles, quirks, and spirit. That's what draws them to each other. But it's not easy being real; being this transparent...takes guts. And only the companies (*substitute churches*) who really know who they are can be 'real' consistently...They decide to create a safe place where the personality and creativity of people come through."

It's just my opinion, but I can't help but think that such a decision to be "real" and "revel in each another's foibles, quirks, and spirit" isn't also a great decision for a group of people...say, like us?

Blessings on your journey,

Mary Jo Franklin



A Retreat for Senior Adults: September 12-14

Registrations are now being accepted for our Region's retreat for everyone age 55 and older. Together we will learn how to move from "aging" to "sage-ing".

Held in the Lodge of our Regional Conference Center in Newton, IA, the retreat begins Sunday evening, September 12 and ends Tuesday afternoon, September 14. The cost is \$100 per person. Please contact the church office for a registration form or Suzanne Stout for more information.

Memorials Enhance Church Ministries



Although it's past Memorial day, it is always a good time to remember those who have participated in the programs of our church through their memorial donations. When a church member dies, we often receive financial donations in that person's memory. Sometimes this is in lieu of flowers, etc. for the funeral, or often just to honor the life of that deceased individual. Sometimes we receive memorial donations from outside our congregation, which shows the web of relationships we have beyond our church walls. Family members of the deceased can select areas of need toward which to channel the funds received in memory of their loved one.

In 2008, memorial contributions to the church totaled \$7,490. In 2009, this figure was \$8,325; and so far in 2010, we have received \$4,085. These donations have helped to fund a wide variety of materials and programs, including: A/V and sound equipment; choir risers; art fund; capital campaign for the recent remodeling; ice maker; hearing assist devices; children's books; a banner; tents for the Farmers' Market; a file cabinet for the Heritage Room; Learning Ministry supplies; LOGOS; the Disciples Women, and the ELL ministry. Details may be found in the memorial book in the Narthex.

- Mary Jane Opland

Member News and Prayer Needs



Recently hospitalized: **Letty June C., Walker B., Nadine M.**

Please also keep in your prayers: **Marjorie M., Virginia R., the Campbell family, Gary W.**

We give thanks for the great improvement in **Bill S's** health. He has returned home from the hospital in St. Louis. Thanks for all the prayers!



A Gift Which Benefits the Giver

Our church has a number of generous givers. If you, dear reader, consider yourself one of those, you are perhaps thinking seriously about putting the church in your will. If you are, you ought to consider a Charitable Annuity. They have several advantages:

1. They are a way to invest money you now invest at maybe 2% or so, and receive income from your investment for the rest of your life at 6 to 8 percent (rates increased July 1).
2. You will also get a tax benefit of up to half your investment as a donation, plus a portion of the annual income you receive will be tax exempt.
3. Best of all, a Charitable Annuity is a simple way to fulfill your wish to continue supporting your church when you are no longer around.

Sound like a win-win plan? It really is! We at your Foundation can provide more information and will offer other will planning ideas at a seminar this fall, September 13th.

- Richard Walters, President,
First Christian Endowment Foundation

First Christian Church

2500 University Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50311
515.255.2181
fax: 515.255.8759

Web: www.fccdm.org

Christian Church in the Upper Midwest:
www.uppermidwestcc.org

Sunday Morning Schedule:

9:20 am -- Morning Worship
10:45 am ---- Friendship Time
11:00 am ----- Learning Hour

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Thurs — 8:30-4:30
Friday — 8:30-1:00

The Link ...

... is published twice per month.
Submissions are due Wednesday of
the previous week and may be edited
for length, clarity, or for consistency
with other articles.

NEXT DEADLINE:

July 14 (July 22 issue)

WE ARE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST, an Open & Welcoming community of faith, called to witness to God's creative power in the midst of a richly diverse neighborhood. We are challenged to share in a vibrant Spirit-led common life. As we mature in the Spirit and respond to God's calling, we are empowered and compelled to reach out to neighbors near and far in a reconciling ministry partnership.

Farmers' Market



July 14

Root Beer Floats
Free root beer floats,
courtesy of the
Celebrations Ministry



July 21

Sweet Corn Festival

Come get your fresh,
roasted Iowa sweet corn

Dino Piano Concert

Sunday, July 11
at 3:00 pm



Free-will Offering

This renowned concert pianist brings his signature style of classical, religious, and contemporary music and showmanship which has made him a hit for three decades. Dino continues to play on tour as well as in Branson, MO. For further information, go to his web site at: < <http://www.dinoplayspiano.com/> >.

