

# The Good News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF RUNNELLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH | APRIL 2023 | VOLUME 273

*Join us for Holy Week at Runnells Christian Church*

## HOLY WEEK



PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 2

10:30 am - Service

MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 6  
WITH ALTOONA CC & MITCHELLVILLE CC

6:30 pm - Dinner

7:15 pm - Service

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 7

6:30 pm - Outdoor Cross Raising Service

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 9

6:30 am - Outdoor Sunrise Service

9-10 am - Breakfast (Freewill Offering)

10:30 am - Sanctuary Service



# Pastor Katie's Notes



Dear RCC,

There is an old joke that pastors only work on Sundays. (I didn't say it was a good joke!) But if the saying "many a true word is spoken in jest" is accurate, the "true word" of this joke is likely that the day-to-day work of a pastor is less noticeable than the very public work we do on Sunday mornings. I hope this article provides a little glimpse into how I spend my time.

I always aim for worship to go smoothly. With few distractions, we are better able to focus on the point of our worship: God! But it takes a lot of planning and preparation for every piece of the service to work just right. On average, I spend about 10 hours per week working on worship. That includes picking out hymns, recruiting volunteers, writing or choosing prayers, dreaming up worship themes, and researching, brainstorming, and writing an original sermon every week.

I also spend a lot of time on church communication, working with Deb to prepare the weekly email and monthly newsletter for our congregation while also maintaining our church website and social media pages to spread news about RCC more broadly.

Besides these two tasks, my work can vary quite a bit. Here are some of the things I've been up to in the last month:

- Met with the new Community Engagement Director of Caring Hands Outreach Center
- Participated in three regional meetings—one to help plan summer camp and two to plan the All-Congregational Gathering that will be held in Newton in October
- Prepared and led four evening Bible studies
- Attended a concert at Southeast Polk High School to watch three RCC youth perform
- Met with the pastors of Altoona Christian Church and Mitchellville Christian Church to plan our shared Maundy Thursday service
- Worked with Deb to fill out our 2022 yearbook report (we submit this to the denomination every year to maintain our tax-exempt non-profit status)
- Visited the Runnells Senior Center
- Started to design the 2023 VBS curriculum, "Welcome to the Neighborhood!"
- Made four in-person pastoral visits...and many, many more phone calls, texts, and emails!
- Attended meetings of the RCC Board, the RCC elders, and the RCC Congregational Life Committee

The variety in a pastor's day-to-day life has always been what has made ministry fun for me. Thank you for the privilege of being your pastor. You keep things interesting!

*Blessings,  
Pastor Katie*

## February by the Numbers

### Offering

Average weekly offering: **\$2,482.95**

Total for the month: **\$9,931.78**

### Attendance

Average weekly attendance: **42**

Highest weekly attendance: **59**

Number of people who attended worship at least once in February: **71**  
(not including guests)

## Making a Difference

With the new church year approaching in June, our thoughts turn to forming our nominating committee. The following is a very inspirational quote of Jimmy Carter:

"I have one life and one chance to make it count for something. My Faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, when ever I can, for as long as I can, with what ever I have, to try to make a difference."

May you prayerfully consider answering the call to serve the church, when approached by the nominating committee. We are the body of Christ and to do His work and His will takes the support of many. I pray you find your fit and serve out of your strengths. We would appreciate the gift of your time and talents to do whatever, wherever, whenever, to make a difference for this Church and for yourself.

*Submitted by Board Moderator, Bill Ingle*

## RCC BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will meet on Wednesday, April 26 at 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall and will be discussing ***Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine*** by Gail Honeyman.

From Amazon: No one's ever told Eleanor that life should be better than fine.

Meet Eleanor Oliphant: She struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she's thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy. But everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling and deeply unhygienic IT guy from her office. When she and Raymond together save Sammy, an elderly gentleman who has fallen on the sidewalk, the three become the kinds of friends who rescue one another from the lives of isolation they have each been living. And it is Raymond's big heart that will ultimately help Eleanor find the way to repair her own profoundly damaged one. The only way to survive is to open your heart.

### 2023 RCC Book Club Picks

May 2023 - ***The Paris Library*** by Janet Skeslien Charles

June 2023 - ***Three Wishes*** by Liane Moriarty

July 2023 - ***Two Sisters' Secret*** by Diane T Holmes (The author is Runnells resident Julie Spark's mother)

August 2023 - ***The Personal Librarian*** by Marie Benedict

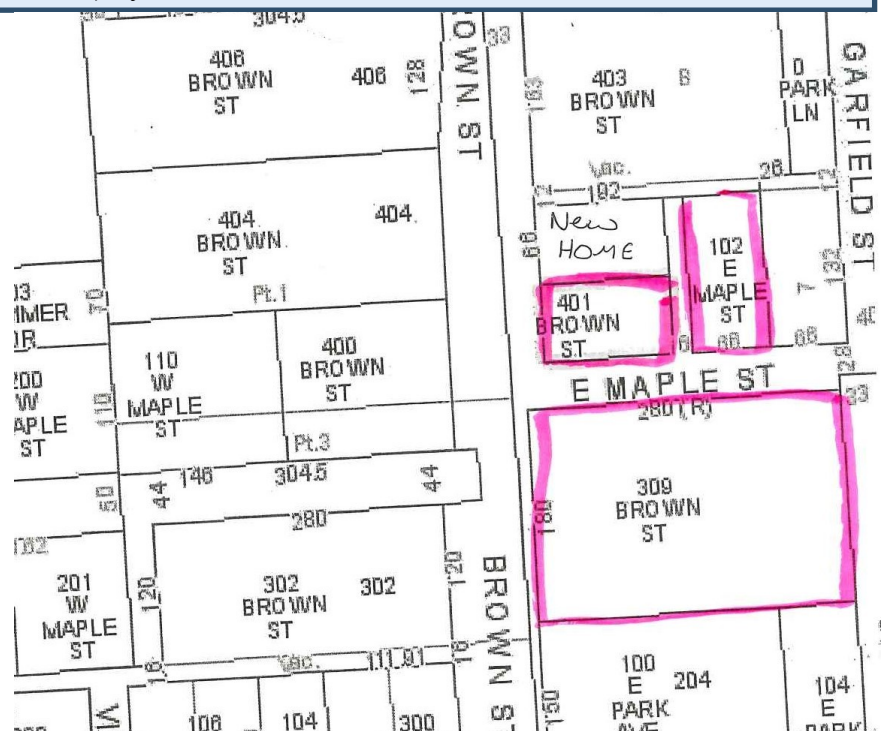
September 2023 - ***Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982: A Novel*** by Cho Nam-Joo (Author), Jamie Chang (Translator)

October 2023 - ***The Game You Played*** by Anni Taylor

November 2023 - ***The Noel Stranger*** (#2 The Noel Series) by Richard Paul Evans

## What's Happening in the Empty Lot by the Church?

You have likely noticed construction of a new home just north of the church. We've been getting a few questions about it at the church office and want to clarify that the church has NEVER owned this piece of property. That was an empty lot that sat between the church's property and the existing home at 403 Brown Street. The lot was sold and is now being turned into a residence. RCC still owns the lot on the north corner of Brown St and E Maple and you are still free to park in the gravel parking lot for church events. The city owns the alley that runs between the two lots that RCC owns (401 Brown St. and 102 E Maple St.) In the image to the right, the church's property is outlined in pink.





## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 5th Sunday Project on April 30th

For our April 5th Sunday project, we are working with the Caring Bags Foundation in Newton. They distribute bags to displaced, abused, and disadvantaged children worldwide. Our goal at RCC is to collect enough items to fill 20 bags appropriate for 5-7 year olds. We will begin collecting items on April 3rd. There will be sign up sheets in the narthex for you to indicate what you plan to donate. One of the items that goes in every bag is a tied fleece blanket. If you have fleece, appropriate for a child's blanket (print or solid colors), we will take these donations, as well. On April 12, 19 & 26th, we will hold a blanket and bag making party at the church to make the 20 fleece blankets and 20 bags. We will need people to cut and tie the blankets, people to cut and iron the bags and people to sew. No experience necessary, but if you sew and can bring your sewing machine, please do! Everyone is invited to come and help. More information to follow about making the blankets. Below is a list of items we will be needing for the bags. All donations must be new. Monetary donations to purchase items are welcome. Thank you!

#### Items needed for children's bags:

- Children's Shampoo/Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Hairbrush/comb
- Coloring book
- Crayons
- Water bottle
- Toy
- Book
- Stuffed Animal
- Beanie Baby
- Socks

### Noisy Offering Update

Thank you for your loose change donations to the Noisy Offerings. Your generosity is making a difference in the lives of others—here and around the world. In February we collected \$149.42 for the CWF to help pay for the Caring Hands Simple Supper.

In April, we have a goal of raising \$400 to purchase a paddle board for the Wolf Lake at the Camp & Conference Center in Newton.



## INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

### Dominican Republic Mission Trip

Zach Funk and Katie Temple joined 19 others to work with displaced Haitians in the Dominican Republic February 24 through March 3, 2023. The group of 21, mostly from Iowa, worked very hard building the parsonage on the second story of the Barranca church. They put up walls, cleaned the floors, brought many cement blocks, sand and gravel to the second story, built the forms, and started pouring the bond beam. They even decided to forego the trip to the beach so that they could push the project ahead. We held medical clinics for 2 days, and 3 days of dental clinics, treating over 335 people.

The pastors prayed over the people and gave a New Testament to all those who needed the Bible. Thank you to the outreach committee for the \$50 for the Creole Bibles and for the donations of medications and money for toys.

Please join Zach and Katie on April 16 at worship service, as we share about our trip.

Generous and faithful offerings enable the Dominican Missions organization to provide Christian education and daily meals in 14 different communities in and around La Vega. They need more sponsors to help meet this monthly need. Please keep them in your prayers as well. As always, your tax-deductible offering can be sent via check to TMCI, PO BOX 1761, Columbia, SC 29202, or online at [www.tmcworld.com](http://www.tmcworld.com).

Under missionary designation, choose DR Schools, La Vega and Haitian. Check out our new Facebook page, teachfeedlove. Here's the link: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087578141145>.



*Haitians receiving New Testament Bibles in Creole language.*

*Submitted by Katie Temple*

# Prayer Concerns

All Military Personnel and Veterans  
Residents of Ukraine  
Family & friends of Joan Allsup  
Aislinn, Jane Charls' daughter  
Dave, friend of Sue Howard  
Roxanne Baker  
Kirby Bullington  
Gary Cooper  
Sylvia Games, friend of Sue Howard  
Genesis Games, friend of Sue Howard  
John & Norma Grinstead  
Shawn Hunter  
Marcie Huffman, friend of Jill Simonsen  
Sharon Lawson  
Tom McGinn  
Ryan N.  
Leonard Northway  
Cristie Scarnatti, friend of Suzanne Morecock  
Jennifer Sieck  
Jaquie Tate  
Denny Wing  
Clay York

To keep our prayer concerns current, names will remain on the list for four weeks. At that time names will be removed unless you have asked that a name remain on the list and give an update on the person's well-being. If a name is removed and you'd like it on the list again, contact the church office. Thank you!

## With Prayers and Heartfelt Sympathy

Our prayers & Christian sympathy go out to the families & friends of:

**Charles St. Pierre**, Shannon St. Pierre's father-in-law,  
who passed away on March 24, 2023

**Ella Nakvinda**, Jill Simonsen's niece, who passed away on March 27, 2023

*May God's love comfort you in the time of your loss*

## HOME COMMUNION

Contact Elder Chair, Tammy Gaudette at 515-707-3715 or the church office, if you or someone you know would like to receive communion at home.



## Thank you

On March 7, the CWF provided a conference meal for the teachers at Runnells Elementary. Below is the thank-you note from the teachers.

Every bite I had was delicious. ☺  
Thank you, Christy Bartels

Thank you for your thoughtful request with a meal already prepared. It makes conference night easier. Chelsea

Thank you! Kim

Thank you so much! That was so thoughtful! Renee Redden

What a perfect meal! Much appreciated! ☺  
-Maggie Knoder

Thank you so much for the amazing meal!  
Lisa Vroom

Thanks so much for the amazing meal! -Cassie

What a wonderful meal! Thank you so very much. Anne

Thank you so much for the yummy wonderful meal. ♥ Lynn

Thank you so much for the yummy meal! Julia

Thank you for being so thoughtful! Krista VB

Thank you for the yummy food! Andie

We appreciate your kindness so much! God Bless! Kathy H.

Thank you for the yummy meal! Krista





# 2023 Graduates

We would like to honor our 2023 Graduates on Graduation Sunday. Please submit **one picture** of the graduate, along with any **Open House/Grad Party information**, for our May newsletter. Please e-mail a graduation picture to [runnellscc@gmail.com](mailto:runnellscc@gmail.com) or bring a picture to the office and we will scan it. Thank you.

## *Runnells Christian Church Scholarship Fund*

In 2010 a scholarship fund was established for eligible youth in our congregation for higher education.

*Applications are now available for the 2023-2024 academic year. Contact the office for an application.*



### **Guidelines to Apply for the Runnells Christian Church Scholarship Fund**

The high school student must be accepted by an accredited college, university, or technical school, with a "C," or 2 point grade average. The student must be enrolled in a course of study leading to an accredited degree, associate or undergraduate.

### **Eligibility for Scholarships:**

1. Be an active member of the Runnells Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ), Runnells, Iowa.
2. Strive to attend church at least once a month.
3. Should maintain a minimum of regular attendance, at least once a month, in youth group. (prior to Covid-19)
4. Consideration for aid will be based upon character and personality, grade point average, and involvement in church activities.
5. Scholarship applications are due by **April 30, 2023** for the 2023-2024 academic year and can be submitted to the church office.

## **Youth Sunday School**

In youth Sunday school, we have been studying Lenten symbols. Please see our Lenten tree in the sanctuary.



We have made more peanut butter pine cone bird feeders, which we hung by the church.

To make chocolate chip mini-muffins, we read Bible verses to determine the ingredients. We mixed them up, baked them and had a delicious treat.

On Palm Sunday we plan to make resurrection buns. Any student grade 5 through 12, and friends are welcome!



*Submitted by Katie Temple*

# SUMMER CAMP 2023

*Serious Fun. Powerful Purpose.*

## Camp Registration is now open!

New this year, registration is ONLINE ONLY. All applications and payments must be made through the registration portal at: [www.newtonccc.org](http://www.newtonccc.org). If registering online is not an option for you or you have difficulty registering, please contact the camp office at 641-792-1266.

Once you have completed your registration please forward your confirmation email to the church office and the church will pay their share. Runnells Christian Church and our CWF will pay **50% of one camp** for each child or youth. The camper pays 50%, the church pays 30% and CWF pays 20%. Scholarships are available through the Christian Conference Center for those in need. Please contact the church office for instructions on requesting a scholarship.

Please register for camp by **Sunday, April 23**. The church will then submit their portion of the payment before the May 1 early registration deadline.

Descriptions of the camps, costs, a typical day, what to bring, and more are available on the Upper Midwest Region website [www.newtonccc.org](http://www.newtonccc.org) or by calling 641-792-1266.

Pastor Katie and Tammy Feeley will be at the CYF Session 1, June 19-24.

## Session Dates & Prices

### **Grand Camp (Children ages 4 - Grade 2— Accompanied by one or more grandparent)**

Session 1: June 24-25

Session 2: July 15-16

Cost: \$65 per person

(grandchild & grandparents both pay to register)

### **Family Camp (Children ages 0-18 who are accompa- nied by an adult family member)**

June 2-4

Cost: \$80 per person, \$300 family maximum  
(Children 3 and under free!)

### **Beginners Camp (Grades 2-3)**

July 6-8

Cost: \$150

### **Junior Camp (Grades 3-5)**

Session 1: June 12-17

Session 2: July 10-15

Session 3: August 7-12

Cost: \$350

### **Chi Rho Camp (Grades 6-8)**

Session 1: June 19-24

Session 2: July 10-15

Cost: \$350

### **CYF Camp (Grades 9-12)**

Session 1: June 19-24

Session 2: July 17-22

Cost: \$350

### **Mission Camp—Minnesota (Grades 9-12)**

June 25-July 2

\$320

### **Adventure Camp— Iowa (Grades 6-12)**

July 24-29

Cost: \$350

### **Adventure Camp— Colorado (Youth & Young Adult Ages 17-22)**

July 2-8

Cost: \$400

### **ADAM Camp (Grades 6-12)**

July 24-29

Cost: \$350

### **Senior Adult Retreat (Ages 55+)**

September 18-20

Cost: \$165

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

# Nick Martin

With only two months left in his senior year of high school, Nick Martin looks ahead to attending college, but knows that his upbringing in the church has helped set him down the path he's on.

Nick has attended Runnells Christian Church for the past eight years with his parents Susan and Dale. Also attending RCC are his Aunt Beth, Uncle Donny and cousins Jacob and Joseph.

For the past four years, Nick has enjoyed volunteering in various ways through the church. He's helped with can recycling, shoveling snow for elderly church members and as a junior diaconate.

"I enjoy being able to help the community. I have volunteered with other organizations including the Key Club, Wrestling Rams and currently through Rise," Nick shared.

One of his favorite rituals at church includes children's time along with being in the church play at Christmastime.

The Bible verse that helps guide Nick is Luke 6:31 and Matthew 7:12: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

In his free time, Nick enjoys working out, hanging out with friends and launching his own business. For those interested in volunteering, Nick said to "just do it."

"Helping others makes you feel better," he said.



*Submitted by Kristin Danley-Greiner*



Sunday, April 2, 2023 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

# The Easter Bunny Trail Through Runnells

hosted by Runnells Christian Church

This family-friendly, fun, and FREE event is open to the whole community. Follow the Easter Bunny Trail through Runnells and look for Easter Eggs in yards around town.

\*Start any time between 2-3 pm at Runnells Christian Church, where you will pick up a map of the trail.

\*End at Runnells Christian Church for a special treat and photo op

\*All children should be accompanied by an adult

## Spring Craft & Vendor Show at Runnells Christian Church Saturday, April 15, 9am - 2 pm

Lunch and baked items available for purchase

Vendors and Crafters are needed--Contact Kristy  
Hoodjer at 515-710-3054 or Runnells Christian Church  
for more information

Runnells Christian Church | 309 Brown Street | Runnells, IA 50237  
runnellsscc@gmail.com | 515-966-2587



**Runnells Christian Church  
Fellowship Hall**  
**Saturday, April 22**  
**7:30-11:30 a.m.**

309 Brown Street | Runnells, IA 50237

## RUNNELLS COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

APPOINTMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED



To schedule your donation scan the QR code  
or contact Deb Bracewell at (515) 669-8739

**LifeServe**  
BLOOD CENTER  
Your Blood. Your Hospital. Your Neighbors.

Text: LIFESERVE to 999-777 | Call: 800.287.4903 | Visit: lifeservebloodcenter.org

# Runnells Christian Church

The Body of Christ:



Building



Growing



Serving

Place  
Stamp  
Here

## Runnells Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

P.O. Box 30  
309 Brown Street  
Runnells, Iowa 50237

*Please use P.O. Box 30 when  
addressing all mail to Church*

Phone: 515-966-2587  
E-mail: [runnellscc@gmail.com](mailto:runnellscc@gmail.com)  
[pastor.krussell@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.krussell@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.runnellscc.org](http://www.runnellscc.org)

### Church Staff:

Ministers: The Congregation  
**Pastor: Rev. Katie Russell Hainline**  
Church Admin/Bookkeeper: Deb Bracewell  
Nursery Attendant/Custodian: Ann Hammen  
Board Moderator: Bill Ingle  
Pianist: Tammy Feeley  
Choir Director: Mike Miller  
Bell Choir Director: Sheila Aukes

Address Service Requested



Has your address  
changed?



Keep us  
posted!

# SAVE *the* DATE

RCC WOMEN'S RETREAT  
FEBRUARY 16-18, 2024

## Looking ahead...

- Board Meeting—May 9
- Mother's Day—May 14
- Graduation Recognition Sunday—May 14
- Pastor Katie vacation—May 28-30
- Church Office closed for Memorial Day—May 29
- RCC May Book Group—May 31
- Volunteer Appreciation & Pentecost Celebration—June 4
- RCC Fish Fry—June 10
- RCC VBS—June 11-14
- Pastor Katie at Camp—Jun 18-23
- RCC Annual Meeting—June 25
- RCC June Book Group—28