

The Good *News*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
RUNNELLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
MARCH 2023 | VOLUME 272

WE MISS YOU!

For the 40 days of Lent, Christians recommit to their faith through practices of fasting, prayer, and study. We do this to imitate the 40 days Jesus spent fasting and praying alone in the wilderness. If you have found yourself in a season of spiritual wilderness or you've been practicing your faith alone, we invite you to re-engage with the worship and ministries of RCC this Lenten season. We miss you!



Lenten Study

During Lent Pastor Katie will lead a Monday evening Bible study diving into the topic of forgiveness and exploring what it means for our relationships with God and with one another. The class will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 7 pm on March 6, 13, 20, & 27. If you wish to participate but can't make it in-person, contact Pastor Katie to connect via Zoom.



Holy Week Services

- Palm Sunday—April 2
- Maundy Thursday Service—April 6
- Good Friday—April 7
- Easter Services and Breakfast—April 9

Pastor Katie's Notes

Dear RCC,

The season of Lent is here. This 40-day season in our church year begins on Ash Wednesday and ends the day before Easter. Throughout history, Christians have fasted, prayed, and made extra offerings or done extra acts of service during the season. We do these things not to look pious, but to help focus our spiritual walk with Jesus.

For this reason, I often prepare a special worship theme during Lent to give our services extra focus. This year the theme is “forgiveness.”



What is unique about this year’s theme is that it was born out of last year’s theme! In 2022 we spent Lent exploring the Lord’s Prayer through Ash Wednesday prayer stations, Sunday morning worship, and a weekly evening Bible study. I was surprised that the line, “forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us” had the most robust discussion during Bible study. Members of our congregation wondered together:

How do you forgive someone who is unrepentant?

Does forgiving a person mean I must reconcile with them and continue our relationship?

If we *don’t* forgive others, does God not forgive us?

We had more questions than we could possibly explore in one sermon or Bible study, so I decided this year to devote the entire season of Lent to the topic of forgiveness.

I hope that you will join us in worship (either in-person or online) throughout Lent as we examine what forgiveness means for ourselves and our world, our relationships with others, and our relationship with God. I will also be leading a Bible study on Monday nights in March at 7 pm; I hope you will participate in that, too—your thoughts and questions will help me write my sermons!

And if you want to explore this topic further on your own, here are a few book recommendations that are guiding my sermon preparation:

Forgiveness: A Lenten Study by Marjorie J. Thompson

The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming by Henri J.M. Nouwen

The Book of Forgiving by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu

May the great opportunities provided at RCC this Lenten season lead you to new spiritual insights. And may we all reach Easter with renewed, recommitted faith.

Blessings,

Pastor Katie

Prayer Concerns

All Military Personnel and Veterans
Residents of Ukraine

Aislinn, Jane Charls' daughter

Joan Allsup

Dave, friend of Sue Howard

Roxanne Baker

Gary Cooper

John & Norma Grinstead

Shawn Hunter

Marcie Huffman, friend of Jill Simonsen

Sharon Lawson

Ryan N.

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 Sympathy

With Prayers and Heartfelt Sympathy

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

Cleon Klemish, Mary Beth Martin's father,
who passed away on January 6, 2023

Sarah Kennedy, Ed Kennedy's grandmother,
who passed away on January 7, 2023

Doris Boos, Jason Boos' mother,
who passed away on January 29, 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 at 515-966-2587, if you or someone you know would like to receive communion at home.

RCC BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will meet on Wednesday, March 29 at 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall and will be discussing *Bellewether* by Susanna Kearsley.

From Amazon: A *USA Today* best seller! "I've loved every one of Susanna's books! She has bedrock research and a butterfly's delicate touch with characters - sure recipe for historical fiction that sucks you in and won't let go!" (Diana Gabaldon, number one *New York Times* best-selling author of *Outlander*)

"The house, when I first saw it, seemed intent on guarding what it knew; but we all learned, by the end of it, that secrets aren't such easy things to keep."

It's late summer, war is raging, and families are torn apart by divided loyalties and deadly secrets. In this complex and dangerous time, a young French Canadian lieutenant is captured and billeted with a Long Island family, an unwilling and unwelcome guest. As he begins to pitch in with the never-ending household tasks and farm chores, Jean-Philippe de Sabran finds himself drawn to the daughter of the house. Slowly, Lydia Wilde comes to lean on Jean-Philippe, true soldier and gentleman, until their lives become inextricably intertwined. Legend has it that the forbidden love between Jean-Philippe and Lydia ended tragically, but centuries later, the clues they left behind slowly unveil the true story. Part history, part romance, and all kinds of magic, Susanna Kearsley's latest masterpiece will draw you in and never let you go, even long after you've closed the last page.

2023 RCC Book Club Picks

April 2023 - *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine: A Novel* by Gail Honeyman

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

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

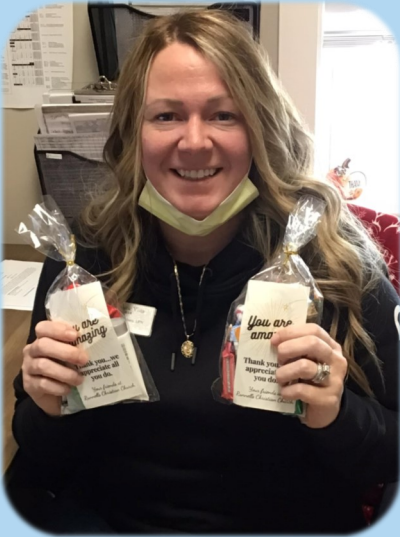
November 2023 - *The Noel Stranger* (#2 The Noel Series) by Richard Paul Evans

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

5th Sunday Project—January 29th, 2023

We don't always get to see where our Fifth Sunday Service projects end up, so it's a special treat to see the staff at Prairie Vista enjoying the care packages that were assembled in worship on January 29. Thank you to all who donated and assembled the care packages!

From Prairie Vista: Our friends at Runnells Christian Church gave our staff some very thoughtful care packages full of treats. You certainly made us feel special! A huge thank you from all of us at Prairie Vista Village!



Noisy Offering Update

Thank you for your donations to the Noisy Offerings. Your generosity is making a difference in the lives of others, here and around the world. In January we collected \$143.81 for the Food Pantry located in the Altoona Library. We will use this money to purchase the most needed food items for the pantry.

The March Noisy Offering will be donated to the Knock, Drop & Roll, Latino Food Pantry in Des Moines.



Please keep Katie Temple and Zach Funk as they serve on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic, Feb 24 through March 3.



Thank you!

Dear RCC

Thank you so much for all the prayers, calls, visits, and cards during this difficult time of the loss of Doris Boos. The gracious spirit and the kindness of the church members throughout has brought sunshine to the darkness of our hours. We will never forget the church's expression. The family is grateful for all the support as we continue to process Doris's passing. All the kindness is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered.

Thanks so much for all your thoughtfulness..

Jason, Tonya, Jaisa and Jacobe Boos

Runnells Christian Church,
Thank you for your support in buying school supplies. My students like using the twistable crayons. I appreciate your gift!

Kerry Perry
Kindergarten Teacher, Runnells Elementary



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 runnellsc@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.



Soup-er bowl challenge for Caring Hands Food Pantry

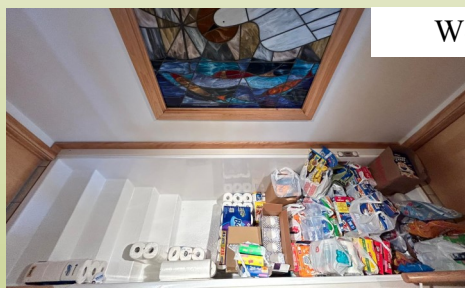
On January 15, the Community Engagement Committee gave the congregation a Soup-er Bowl Challenge to fill the baptistery with items for Caring Hands Food Pantry by Super Bowl Sunday. That's a 400+ gallon tub. And boy did the church show up! Every week the donations were brought into the sanctuary, prayed over, and loaded into the baptistery. We collected so much food that Caring Hands had to send a van out to collect it, and we filled the van! Thank you for your incredibly generous donations! When the food was taken to Caring Hands they weighed it and then sent us a note.

From Caring Hands: Hello! Thanks again for your wonderful food drive! The total amount of food and donated items **totaled 789 lbs.** Y'all are amazing! God bless you all!

Week 1—The Challenge is on!



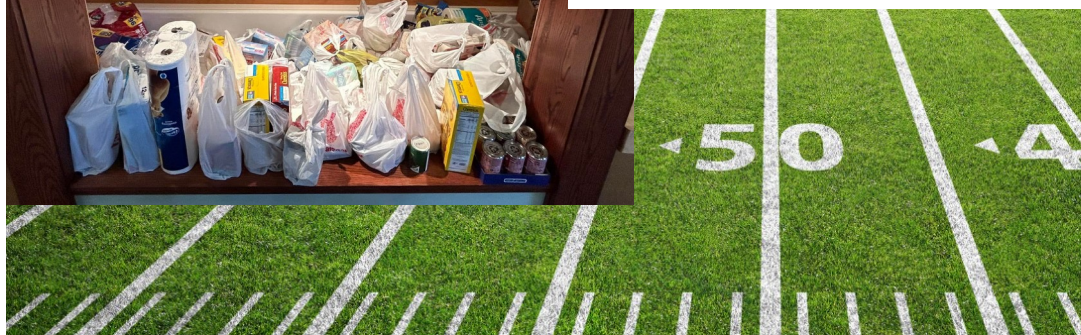
Week 2



Week 3



Week 4—Challenge Completed!
789 lbs donated to Caring Hands!



2023 RCC WOMEN'S RETREAT

Eleven women from RCC went on a weekend retreat together at the Christian Conference Center. The theme “Many Ways to Pray” taught us to pray in several distinct styles. We then put our new knowledge to work by designing the prayer stations the congregation will experience on Ash Wednesday! We also learned about the Danish word “hygge” (which means coziness) and how the Danes use warmth, friendship, and light to get them through the darkest days of winter. We shared delicious food, many laughs, a warm fire, and great friendships — we hygged!



SOUP SUPPER — FEBRUARY 4, 2023

Thank you!

Thanks to the cooks, the dishwashers, the servers, the bakers and everyone who purchased Chili & Potato Soup. Through our joint efforts we were able to make the Soup Supper a success! We raised a little over \$1,300.



EASTER LILY ORDERS

Return this form with cash or a check payable to RCC for \$10.00 per lily by Sunday, March 26

(You may pick up your lily after worship on April 9)

_____ Lily / Lilies at \$10.00 each.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

I would like to dedicate this Lily(s)

in MEMORY of: _____

in HONOR of: _____



Lily dedications will be listed in the May newsletter.

Lilies purchased will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning.

Please return your order form and payment to the Church Office. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Mike Bracewell

As family dynamics within the church change over time, so do the volunteer interests of those family members. After Mike Bracewell joined Runnells Christian Church in 2001, he and his wife Deb, started out volunteering by teaching Sunday School in 2003 and have never stopped volunteering.

In his 22 years of serving RCC, Mike has served on the pastoral relations committee, as a Sunday School teacher, youth sponsor, on the finance committee, as a deacon, a worship leader and as a church camp counselor.

“There is something really gratifying about volunteering. It’s the feeling of connectedness to others, giving you a purpose and more meaning in your own life. It’s also a great way to set a positive example for your kids. I often feel like I get more than I have given when I volunteer,” Mike said.



RCC is steeped in traditions and Mike’s favorite is the Easter morning breakfast and worship service.

“It’s just always a really great day,” he said.

Biblical scripture guides us and Mike’s favorite happens to be Ephesians 4:32:32: “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

“I feel like this is a good reminder that we are always supposed to be kind and respectful to everyone. Not just people we know or people we like or people who look like us,” Mike explained.

Anyone who might be on the fence about volunteering should simply take the plunge, Mike advised.

“Resist the temptation to say, ‘No.’ Sometimes you just have to take a leap of faith and do it. You might think you’re too busy, but if you just go ahead and trust that God is nudging you in the right direction, you will enjoy it,” he said.

In addition to his wife Deb, Mike’s family includes sons Tristan and Evan, and daughter Rosie. He also has a four-legged kid named Thea. When Mike isn’t busy with work and his dedication to the church, this recent empty nester enjoys boating, traveling, playing the stock market, playing poker, fishing, hosting tailgates, attending Iowa State events and hanging out with his family.



Submitted by Kristin Danley-Greiner

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
pastor.krussell@gmail.com
Website: 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 Vacation Bible
School has moved to June!
VBS will be held June 11-14, 2023!**



Looking ahead to April...

- RCC Easter Egg Hunt—April 1, 10am-12 pm
- Palm Sunday—April 2, 10:30 am
- Maundy Thursday—April 6
- Good Friday—April 7, 6:30 pm
- Easter Sunday—April 9
- Craft Show at RCC—April 15, 9am-2pm
- RCC Book Group—April 26
- 5th Sunday Project—April 30



POTLUCK SUNDAY

March 5 - following worship

Simply bring a dish to share. Drinks
and paper products will be
provided. One oven will be set to
warm and the other oven
will be set for cooking.

Enjoy lunch with RCC friends
in the fellowship hall!

