



# The Good *News*



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF RUNNELLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
SUMMER 2023 | VOLUME 275

## Welcome to the Summer 2023 Newsletter!

In an effort to be responsible stewards of the donations at Runnells Christian Church, we have made some changes to the communications from RCC and we want to explain those here.

- **Weekly Email**—The weekly email will be your main source of upcoming events at Runnells Christian Church. This email is sent out every Wednesday. It contains information about upcoming events, the schedule for the week, birthdays, prayer concerns, and more. If you are not currently receiving the weekly email and would like to, please send an email to the church at [runnellsc@gmail.com](mailto:runnellsc@gmail.com). If you do not have an email address, you can pick up a printed copy of the weekly email in the narthex each Sunday. If you wish to submit something for the weekly email, please contact the church office by 10am on Wednesday morning.
- **The Quarterly Newsletter**— We will publish a newsletter in the spring, summer, fall, and winter. Besides giving an overview of the next few months, the newsletter will also share pictures and articles about what has been happening at church. If you wish to submit something for the Quarterly Newsletter, please contact the church office.
- **Worship**—Another way to stay up-to-date is to attend worship in-person or online each week. Information about church events are shared on the slides before and after the service and verbal announcements are shared before the final hymn.

The switch from a monthly newsletter to a quarterly newsletter will save us over \$500 a year in postage. If you have a printed copy mailed to you and you also receive the newsletter via email, please consider contacting the church to no longer have a copy mailed to you. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Katie or Deb Bracewell.



# Pastor Katie's Notes

Dear RCC,

I was talking with a friend recently about how to raise resilient children. Resiliency is not something we are born with; it is something we develop. And one of the best ways to develop resiliency is by shaping the stories we tell about ourselves. My friend shared that her child took longer to complete her math tests than her peers did. At first her child said, "I'm not good at math," but then eventually she said, "I'm not smart." My friend spent hours and hours working with her child on homework and study skills. Very recently her child said, "I can do math! It takes me a little longer than the other kids, but I can even do the hard problems!" My friend was thrilled to hear that the story her child was telling about herself had changed from "I am not smart" to "With effort, I can do hard things!" She was telling a story of resiliency!



In the Bible, Matthew says crowds of sick people followed Jesus to be cured of their illnesses; they were like "sheep without a shepherd" and longed to hear Jesus preach Good News. The scriptures say that Jesus told his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38, NRSV)

I've been thinking about these verses as we enter stewardship season at Runnells Christian Church because I've been wondering what kind of story we tell about our church. Is it a story about scarcity and how there aren't enough laborers? Or is it a story about opportunity and how much there is to harvest?

I like to tell the "harvest is plentiful" version of our story! When I tell the story of our church, I tell a story about a church that always rises to a challenge; in just a few weeks, we can fill a baptistery with 789 lbs of food for hungry families in our community! I tell a story about a church that is willing to try new things; when I hoped 10 women would go on a weekend retreat together, 15 signed up! I tell a story about a church that says "yes" more than it says "no," because it never wants to miss an opportunity to share God's love with others.

I tell these stories because I want to help build a resilient church—a church that will carry out its ministry even in adversity—so that Runnells Christian Church will be part of God's "plentiful harvest" for years and years to come.

Will you tell this story with me?

*Blessings,  
Pastor Katie*





## Congratulations Graduates!

Each RCC graduate was recognized during worship and awarded a scholarship for their first year of college. Graduates pictured below are: Amelia Funk, Claudia Phipps, Zach Funk, Anna Simon-  
sen, Joel Greiner, Nick Martin, and Joseph Martin, and Jaisa Boos.





## Pentecost Sunday & Volunteer Recognition



You're invited to  
**Sally Hershey's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday!!**

**Saturday, August 5, 2023**  
**11:00-2:00**

**Runnells Community Center**

Food and Beverage provided  
Please join us in celebration!



### Global Ministries

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
and the United Church of Christ

#### Global Ministries Missionary Presentation

Phyllis Burd, a Global Ministries missionary in Kenya, will be speaking at Mitchellville Christian Church on the Sunday, July 9th at 3 pm. Light refreshments will be served. Members of Runnells Christian Church are encouraged to attend to learn more about the work of the church around the world!

#### 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 April we collected \$494.05 and were able to purchase a paddle board and snow cone supplies for the Camp & Conference Center. In May, we collected \$170.28 to be donated to the Easter Seals Crisis Center.

# Prayer Concerns

## All Military Personnel and Veterans

### Residents of Ukraine

Aislinn, Jane Charls' daughter

Roxanne Baker

Betty, relative of Bill Ingle

Ava Brady

Gary Cooper

Dave, friend of Sue Howard

Dorothy, relative of Bill Ingle

Sylvia Games, friend of Sue Howard

Genesis Games, friend of Sue Howard

John & Norma Grinstead

Shawn Hunter

Marcie Huffman, friend of Jill Simonsen

Gary Jacobsen

Sharon Lawson

Ryan N.

Leonard Northway

Cristie Scarnatti, friend of Suzanne Morecock

Betty Sloan

Pam York Sports

Jaque Tate

Denny Wing

Clay York

Gladys York

## 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.



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.



Dear RCC,  
Thank you for the scholarship. I have enjoyed being a member of this church community This scholarship means a lot to me.  
Thank you—Nicklas Martin

The staff at Runnells Elementary sent a card thanking the CWF for providing a meal for them during their last week of school. You can see the note in the church office.

## RCC BOOK GROUP

The Book Group meets in the fellowship hall on the last Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 pm, for a book discussion. The summer book group dates and books are as follows:

- ♦ Wednesday, July 26 we will discuss *Two Sisters' Secret* by Diane T Holmes (The author is Runnells resident Julie Spark's mother)
- ♦ Wednesday, August 30 we will discuss *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict

### Book Group picks for the rest of the year

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



# VBS 2023 "Welcome to the Neighborhood"

We had over 47 kids register and over 20 helpers! A great time was had by all. Thank you to everyone who played a part in creating such a great neighborhood for the kids at VBS.





# 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  
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?



## April & May by the Numbers

### April Offering

Average weekly offering: \$3,172.40  
Total for the month: \$15,862.00

### April Attendance

Average weekly attendance: 84  
Highest weekly attendance: 116  
Number of people who attended worship at least once in April: 118

### May Offering

Average weekly offering: \$2,135.40  
Total for the month: \$8,541.59

### May Attendance

Average weekly attendance: 48  
Highest weekly attendance: 65  
Number of people who attended worship at least once in May: 67

## Add these dates to your calendar

- July 6-8—Peyton & Mary Robinson at church camp
- July 9—Elder's meeting (7:30 am)
- July 9—Missionary visit at Mitchellville CC (3 pm)
- July 15-16—Carol Elam at Grandcamp
- July 16—Diaconate meeting (10:30 am)
- July 26—RCC Book Group (7 pm)
- July 30—Aug 2—Pastor Katie at General Assembly
- August 6—RCC at Iowa Cubs (1 pm)
- August 14-Aug 20—Pastor Katie Vacation
- August 30—RCC Book Group (7 pm)