

The Good News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
RUNNELLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
MARCH 2022 | VOLUME 260

ASH WEDNESDAY 2022



STOP BY RUNNELLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2 BETWEEN 4-7 PM &
WORSHIP THROUGH SELF-GUIDED PRAYER STATIONS

Teach Us To
pray

2022 Lenten Bible Study
Mondays at 7 pm on Zoom, beginning March 7
Runnels Christian Church



Pastor Katie's Notes

Dear RCC,

The season of Lent is a time for spiritual renewal. During the 40 days (minus Sundays) leading up to Easter, Christians around the world fast, pray, study scripture, and seek to grow in their faith. Some of you may choose to “give something up” for Lent, which is a form of fasting. Others may choose to add something, like a new daily prayer practice. Often Lenten practices are personal, but this year at RCC we will take on a Lenten practice together: praying the Lord’s prayer.



Sure, we pray the Lord’s Prayer in worship every week. But sometimes we do it so easily from memory that we don’t slow down to think deeply about the words mean.

Our congregation’s Lenten practice is designed to help us all get to know this prayer and its significance on a deeper level.

Here are several ways you can join in the congregational Lenten prayer practice:

- Stop by the sanctuary on Ash Wednesday between 4-7 pm and let the Ash Wednesday prayer stations guide you to connect the words of the prayer to your own daily life
- Worship with RCC in-person or online every Sunday in Lent, when we will explore a new line of the prayer each week
- Join the Monday evening Bible study on Zoom at 7 pm where we will discuss why Jesus gave us these particular words to pray



Even if you have your own Lenten disciplines and practices this year, we hope you will join us in our congregational journey. Let us each add our voices to the voices of the disciples who have gone before us, saying: **Lord, teach us to pray.**

Blessings,

Pastor Katie

RCC YOUTH IN SERVICE TO OTHERS

On February 6 the youth brightened some church members days by decorating and delivering Valentine treats.



Due to extra-curricular conflicts and spring break, the youth group will not meet in March. The next youth group meeting is Sunday, April 3. We need a volunteer to provide a meal for the youth group meeting on April 3.

All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome and we encourage our youth to bring a friend. For more information on any youth activities please contact Sheila Aukes at 515-707-7590.



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 2022-2023 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, 2022** for the 2022-2023 academic year.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ***Sheila Aukes***



Whether she's encouraging the youth group as a leader or directing the bell choir, member and volunteer Sheila Aukes can be found almost everywhere at Runnells Christian Church.

Currently, Sheila serves as vice-chair of community engagement, as a youth group leader and as bell choir director. She also enjoys singing in the choir. Previous volunteer positions include serving as council chair, an elder, Vacation Bible School director, Sunday School teacher, worship chair, missions chair and remodel chair. One of her first volunteer activities she engaged in was as a storyteller at VBS, enlightening youth of all ages to what tales lie between the pages of the Bible.

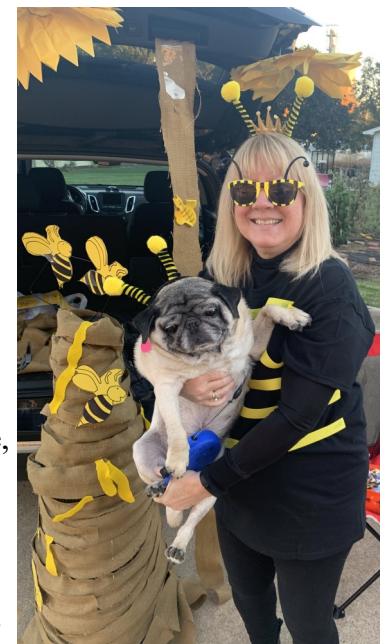
Sheila has attended Runnells Christian Church since 2002 when her good friend Katie Temple invited her to worship. Her favorite part of volunteering is the fellowship, she said.

"It is always enjoyable to be with other members of the congregation. I also love seeing the smiles on all the faces," she said.

Her family includes twins Amelia and Zachary, 17, and three fur babies. In her spare time, Sheila enjoys reading, baking, traveling, attending concerts and other live performances, and spending time with family and friends.



One particular scripture that speaks to Sheila is Proverbs 31:24, which reads: "Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord." This verse can even be found on a plaque in her home.



Her favorite tradition at church happens to be communion during service, which has changed slightly due to the pandemic, but still touches her heart and warms her soul.

"The ritual really helps renew my energy and reminds me of God's love. And all are welcome at the table which means a lot to me," Sheila said.

Anyone wondering if they should volunteer at church should "just jump in," Sheila advised.

"There are so many opportunities depending on your availability and talents. There are activities behind the scenes or during worship. Some commitments are short term so you don't have to worry that you are signing up for something forever," she said.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Simple Supper Help Needed

On the last Monday of each month the Caring Hands Outreach Center provides a meal, Simple Supper, for the clients of the Food Pantry at Adventure Life Church. RCC is on deck to provide and serve the meal in March. (You have probably seen that the children's Noisy Offering for February will be used to finance this meal.) Anyone can volunteer to help with this ministry. Opportunities abound to submit menu ideas, to prepare, transport and serve the meal. We have been advised to prepare for 50 people. (The number used to be 80 to 100 people.) The clients will have the option to dine in or take away. They were served chili in January and loose meat sandwiches in February. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact Sue Howard at 515-979-2944. This is a very rewarding and fulfilling experience and a real treat for the people served. Thank you!

FIFTH SUNDAY PROJECT

On the fifth Sunday in January, during worship we packaged welcome kits for Afghan Refugees.



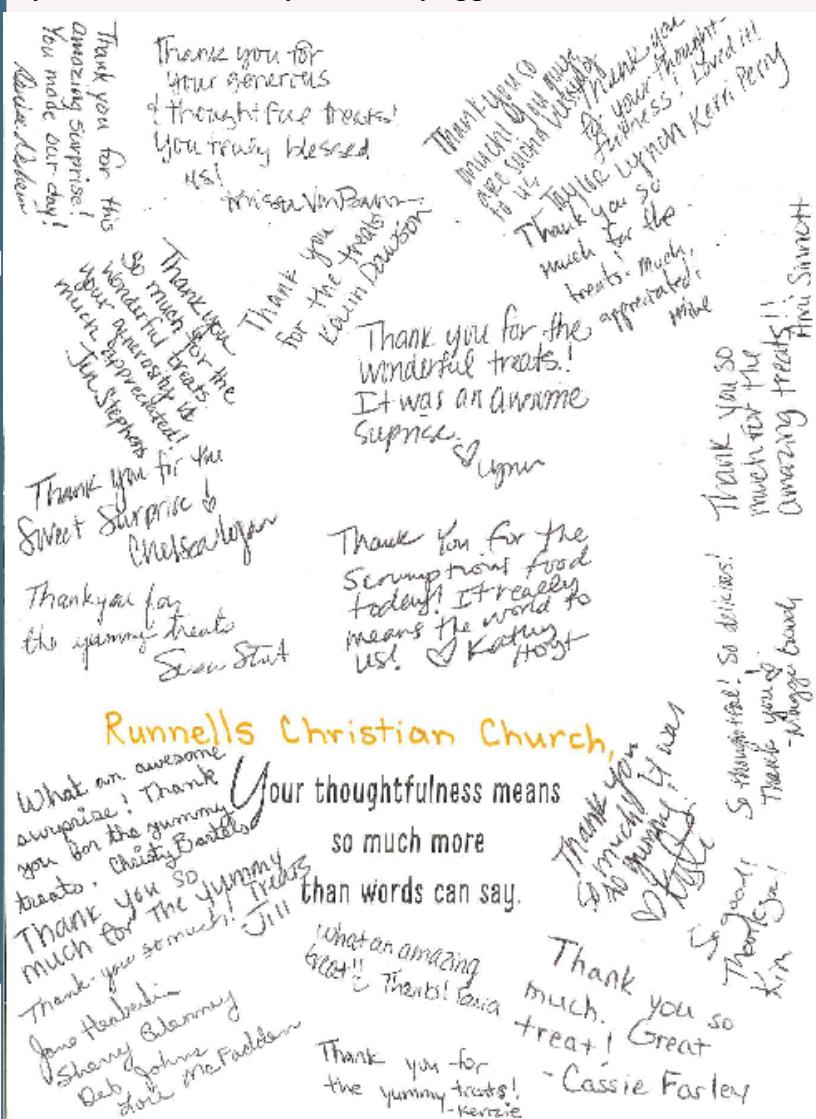
Noisy Offering

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Noisy Offering in January. The total was \$116.67 which will be used by the adults serving on the April Mission Trip to New Castles, VA. In February we collected money to help fund the Simple Supper and March collections will be donated to Knock & Drop Iowa, a Des Moines food pantry that benefits the Latino Community.



Appreciation Treats Delivered to Runnells Elementary

Education is the key to our democracy and the challenges have only been heightened by the COVID pandemic. To show appreciation to the Runnells Elementary School staff we treated them to breakfast. Warm, filled croissants from Nadia's Bakery in Altoona, along with fresh fruit and juice was served on February 16. We wanted them to know we appreciate them! One teacher texted, "Oh my gosh! Those croissants were so, so, so, so, so delicious! Totally made my day! Thank you so much!" And as you can see by the thank you note below, they were very appreciative.



Empowering people to
save starving children

RCC adults are invited to a couple hours of local mission work packaging meals at Meals from the Heartland in West Des Moines, on March 26. You can sign up in the narthex, or by contacting Sheila Aukes, Katie Temple, or the church office. Once we have an idea of how many people are going we will set a time.

Prayer Concerns

All Military Personnel and Veterans
Residents of Ukraine
Aislinn, Jane Charls' daughter-
Gary Beck
Joan DeGroot
Connie Dunn
John & Norma Grinstead
Eleanor Hainline
Leonard Northway
Jeri Sanburn
Jennifer Sieck
Jackie Tate
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!

Home Communion

Our elders are now able to deliver home communion. Contact elder chair, Deb Bracewell at 515-669-8739 or the church office, if you or someone you know would like to receive communion at home.



RCC BOOK GROUP

Wed, March 23 at 7 pm, the RCC Book Group will meet to discuss *The Seven Sisters* by Lucinda Riley.

From Amazon: Maia D'Aplièse and her five sisters gather together at their childhood home – a fabulous, secluded castle situated on the shores of Lake Geneva – having been told that their beloved adoptive father, the elusive billionaire they call Pa Salt, has died. Each of them is handed a tantalizing clue to their true heritage – a clue which takes Maia across the world to a crumbling mansion in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil . . . Eighty years earlier, in the Belle Époque of Rio, 1927, Izabela Bonifacio's father has aspirations for his daughter to marry into aristocracy. But Izabela longs for adventure, and convinces him to allow her to accompany the family of a renowned architect on a trip to Paris. In the heady, vibrant streets of Montparnasse, she meets ambitious young sculptor Laurent Brouilly, and knows at once that her life will never be the same again. ***The Seven Sisters* is the first book in the spellbinding Seven Sisters series, inspired by the mythology of the famous star constellation.**

The book group is open to everyone! Come join the fun!

2022 book group selections

April 2022 - *Apples Never Fall* by Lianne Moriarty
May 2022 - *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah
June 2022 - *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes
July 2022 - *The Summer Girls* by Mary Alice Monroe
August 2022 - *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion
September 2022 - *Fifty Words for Rain* by Asha Lemmie
October 2022 - *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides
November 2022 - *The Noel Diary* by Richard Paul Evans



EASTER LILY ORDERS

Return this form with cash or a check payable to RCC for \$10.00 per lily by Sunday, April 3.

(You may pick up your lily after worship on April 17.)

_____ 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!

Thank you

The weather at the beginning of February was below zero temperatures nightly. On behalf of the recipients of the 22 blankets the congregation donated to the Catholic Worker House, know you made a difference. When they were dropped off, I was assured they would go quickly. You helped make the world a little warmer. —Katie Temple, Community Outreach Chairperson

Cost is always a factor in the decision making process as to whether to participate in an international mission trip. The Runnells Christian Church is generous! Thank you for the \$750 from the budget given to Katie Temple. Thank you to the Marti Ingle mission trip fund for the \$1,000 each given to Seth Reeve and Bruce DeRaad. We look forward to sharing about the trip when we return. Thank you!

Dear Runnells Christian Church Family,
Thank you for thinking of me at my birthday and for the gift card. As a college student, those gift cards always come in handy! I feel so fortunate to belong to such a thoughtful and caring church. Thank you! —Rosie Bracewell



SUMMER CAMP 2022

From an overnight for grandparents and grandkids, to weeklong sleep away camp for elementary, middle and high school students, to a weekend of faith and fun for the whole family, we've got a camp for you! Art, High Adventure, Rustic Camping, Leader Development camps and more are offered in the Christian Conference Center's summer program. We have a lot of SERIOUS FUN, all while growing in faith and learning to live and love with POWERFUL PURPOSE. Visit our website for dates, prices and in depth information about every offering.

Christian Conference Center ~ www.newtonccc.org ~ 641-792-1266 ~ office@newtonccc.org

Registration is now open!

The preferred method of registration for camp is to register and submit your payment through the camp website at: www.newtonccc.org

Once you have completed your registration you can 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** each child or youth wish to attend. The camper pays 50%, the church pays 30% and CWF pays 20%.

Please register for camp by **Sunday, April 24**. The church will then submit their portion of the payment before the May 1 early registration deadline.

If registering online is not an option for you, you may pick up a registration form from the church office and return your completed registration and your payment share (**payable to RCC or Runnells Christian Church**) to the church office by **April 24**.

Descriptions of the camps, costs, a typical day, what to bring and more are available on the Upper Midwest Region website listed above. If you have problems with online registration or payment, please call 641-792-1266.

SESSION DATES AND PRICES

Grand Camp (Children ages 4 through 2nd grade)

Session 1: June 25-26

Session 2: July 16-17

Cost: \$60 per person

Family Camp (Children ages 0-18 who are accompanied by an adult family member)

June 3-5

Cost: \$75 per person, \$275 family maximum
(Children 3 and under free!)

Beginners Camp (Grades 2-3)

June 5-7

Cost: \$140

Junior Camp (Grades 3-5)

Session 1: June 13-18

Session 2: July 11-16

Session 3: August 1-6

Cost: \$280

Chi Rho Camp (Grades 6-8)

Session 1: June 13-18

Session 2: June 20-25

Session 3: July 11-16

Cost: \$280

CYF Camp (Grades 9-12)

Session 1: June 20-25

Session 2: July 18-23

Cost: \$280

Adventure Camp (Grades 6-12)

June 27 - July 2

Cost: \$280

ADAM Camp (Grades 6-12)

July 25-30

Cost: \$280

Standing Rock Study Trip (Grades 9-12)

June 6-12

Cost: \$280

Senior Adult Retreat (Ages 55+)

September 19-21

Cost: \$155

Runnels Christian Church

The Body of Christ:



Building



Growing



Serving

Place
Stamp
Here

Runnels Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

P.O. Box 30

309 Brown Street

Runnels, 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

Children's Choir Director: Tammy Feeley

Address Service Requested



(U. S. Post Office requires P.O. Box 30 on all church mail.)

COVID COMMITTEE UPDATE

Church members have asked about the mask requirement at church, due to the CDC relaxing mask use in communities where hospitals are not under high strain. Cases in Polk County have decreased, but the number remains high. The test positivity rate is also very high (17%), which means cases are being undercounted. We are also sensitive to the fact that we have fellow members that are vulnerable and are aware that many members will travel during spring break. The Committee will reconvene at the end of March to review the latest information with the hope of lifting the mask requirement in time for Easter. Feel free to contact any of the COVID committee with your questions or concerns. Members include Bill Ingle, Deb Bracewell, Denise Pfister, Katie Temple, Sheila Aukes, Tammy Gaudette, and Pastor Katie.

—Sheila Aukes, Covid Committee Chair

Looking ahead to April...

- ◆ April 2-9—Adult Mission trip to Virginia (Katie Temple, Mike Bracewell & Deb Bracewell)
- ◆ April 3—Youth Group
- ◆ April 4—Lenten Bible Study on Zoom 7 pm
- ◆ April 10—Palm Sunday
- ◆ April 14—Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 pm
- ◆ April 14-April 15—Prayer Vigil
- ◆ April 15—Good Friday Cross Raising 6:30 pm
- ◆ April 17—Easter Sunday
- ◆ April 27—Book Group 7pm