

The Good *News*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
RUNNELLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2023 | VOLUME 271

COMMUNITY-WIDE CHILI & POTATO SOUP SUPPER DINE-IN OR DRIVE-THRU



Runnells Christian Church
309 Brown St, Runnells
Saturday, February 4th
4:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Public invited!
Free will donation!
No reservations needed!



Pastor Katie's Notes



Dear RCC,

It happens to me often. When I tell someone that I am a pastor, they say things like, “I’m a Christian but church just isn’t for me.” Or when I check on someone who hasn’t connected with our congregation in awhile, they will often tell me, “I know I haven’t been to church, but I pray every day!” or “I can read the Bible on my own.”

It’s true that we can each pray or read the Bible on our own—in fact, our tradition expects that of us! And I certainly understand why many people have become disillusioned with the church and have decided it isn’t for them. But the truth is, if we *want* to be followers of Jesus, then we cannot do it on our own.

Being part of a faith community is essential to Christian life. We can read the Bible on our own, but we *learn* scripture when we study and discuss it with others. We can pray to God on our own, but we *worship* God when we pray with others. We can like Jesus a lot, but we only *live* like Jesus when we are part of a community of people trying to do the same.

When Jesus was teaching and healing in Judea, he sent his disciples out to minister in his name. But he didn’t send them out alone! He sent them in pairs. Jesus knew that having a partner in ministry would provide encouragement and accountability for his disciples. Today, a church community does the same for us. It is necessary for our spiritual lives.

Now there are many ways to participate in a Christian community. You can worship in-person at Runnells Christian Church, while also attending Sunday School, Youth Group, potlucks, board and committee meetings, and fellowship events that will connect you to the life of the church. You can worship online with Runnells Christian Church to sing hymns, share communion, and hear God’s word with people you love (and who love you!). If you live in a senior living community, you can find Bible studies and worship services that meet there; you can also request that the RCC elders bring communion to share with you.

If none of the above are options for you, reach out to me and I will help you find another way to connect you to the church! Because it is that important. We cannot be Christians on our own. We each need the church and the church needs each of us.

*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

Connie Dunn

John & Norma Grinstead

Shawn Hunter

Marcie Huffman, friend of Jill Simonsen

Sharon Lawson

Ryan N.

Cristie Scarnatti, friend of Suzanne Morecock

Jennifer Sieck

Jaque Tate

Denny Wing

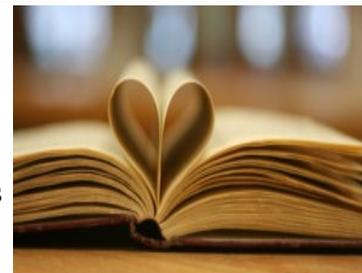
Clay York

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!

BOOK GROUP

Due to Ash Wednesday, the Book Group will meet on Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall and will be discussing *Our Little Lies* by Sue Watson.

From Amazon: Marianne has a life others dream of. A beautiful townhouse on the best street in the neighborhood. Three bright children who are her pride and joy. Sometimes her past still hurts: losing her mother, growing up in foster care. But her husband Simon is always there. A successful surgeon, he's the envy of every woman they've ever met. Flowers, gifts, trips to France – nothing is too good for his family. Then Simon says another woman's name. The way he lingers on it, Caroline, gives Marianne a shudder of suspicion, but she knows she can't entertain this flash of paranoia. In the old days, she'd have distracted herself at work, but Marianne left her glamorous career behind when she got married. She'd speak to a friend, but she's too busy with her children and besides, Simon doesn't approve of the few she has left. It's almost by accident that Marianne begins to learn more about Caroline. But once she starts, she can't stop. Because what she finds makes her wonder whether the question she should be asking is not 'should she be jealous', but... 'should she be scared'?



TEXT SCAM

This month members of RCC received a scam text message from someone pretending to be Pastor Katie. This is a well-known scam that has been targeting pastors and churches for several years; we have been fortunate to avoid it until now. Pastor Katie will never ask for donations via text message, so if you receive such a message in the future, please ignore it! We encourage you to save Pastor Katie's number to your contacts and to download the church directory to your phone so that you can verify any number claiming to be someone from the church.

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 December we raised \$174.62 for Many Hands for Haiti Goat Program. We were able to purchase 2 goats and 2 shares toward the purchase of another goat. Thank you so much for sharing your loose change.

The February Noisy Offering will be utilized for the Simple Supper that CWF serves.



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.

2023 RCC Book Club Picks

February 2023 - *Our Little Lies* by Sue Watson

March 2023 - *Bellewether* by Susanna Kearsley

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

Thank you!

Dear RCC,
Thank you for the monetary Christmas gift. It is a joy to serve such a caring and generous congregation. -Pastor Katie

To the wonderful Runnells Christian Church,
Your support of Runnells Elementary is so much appreciated. Thank you to the parishioner(s) who purchased the scented hand sanitizers for my class. When we head to lunch, I enjoy giving them special smelling sanitizer to help get rid of germs. I know the students enjoy the special treat, too. It's great knowing I work in a community surrounded by such kindness, generosity and love. I hope you see these same attributes from the students I teach. They are my role models.
Thanks again—Mrs. Christy Bartels

Runnells Christian Church,
Thank you so much for the generous gift of classroom supplies. My students and I are so appreciative of your generosity & thoughtfulness. —Jen Stephens

THANK YOU NOTE FROM RUNNELLS ELEMENTARY

Thanks so much for the LED lights. We love them!
-Cassie Farley

Thank you for all the new school supplies!
God Bless!
Mikayla Hoyt

Thanks for the candy. My fourth graders love earning it as a reward!
-Kenzie

Thank you for the cups & wipes. Preschool uses a lot of them.
Ardie Barnes!!

You are so thoughtful!
Our black lights will be great for rewards!
-Chelsea Logan

It means more than we ever could say.

Thank you for the twistable crayons. The kids love to use them!
Keri Perry

Thanks for everything!
Masha Baboy

Thank you so much for the goodies. We appreciate your support every year!
-Nikese Taylor

Thank you so much for the LED lights—the students LOVE them!!
-Anna

Thank you so much for the fun puzzles. The 5th graders love them during indoor recess!
-Maggie Good

Thanks for thinking of us
Susan

We all appreciate your kindness!
Mary McLean

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

The youth Sunday school class used the Advent wreath themes for our studies in December: hope, peace, joy, and love. We tied fleece blankets for the church Christmas market and to donate to the Seasons of Sharing family. The class decorated Christmas cards to be sent to some who are unable to join us in worship. To share with our feathered friends, and probably squirrels, we made peanut butter pinecone bird feeders and hung them on the pine tree by fellowship hall.



In January the class made t-shirt bags for Zach Funk and Katie Temple to take to the Dominican Republic. The bags will be used for the medical-dental clinics. Back by popular demand, the pine cone bird feeders! We discussed Elijah being fed by ravens while making the feeders. The class will bake on the last Sunday in January and study about the miracle of the widow's flour and oil feeding Elijah and her family. Please join us and bring a friend.



INTERNATIONAL MISSION

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION TRIP

Zach Funk and Katie Temple will be traveling with a mission group from the Disciples of Christ of the Upper Midwest on February 24, to the Dominican Republic. It will be a week-long experience. They will be doing construction on schools for Haitian children living in the Dominican. There will be two days of medical and clinics as well.

If you are able, donations are needed of:

- Vitamins (adult and children)
- Tylenol and Ibuprofen (adult and children)
- Ointments (antibiotic, antifungal-athlete's foot, hydrocortisone).
- As always monetary donations are welcome but your prayers are essential.



Thank you to the Community Engagement committee for the \$50 donation for New Testaments in Creole. By sending the money through the Dominican Republic missionaries organization here in the USA, they will have access to the money to buy the Bibles in the Dominican for approximately \$1 each. Many families would not have money to buy their own Bible

Brunch Church—January 1, 2023



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: runnellsc@gmail.com

pastor.krussell@gmail.com

Website: www.runnellsc.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



Has your address
changed?



Keep us
posted!

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

Runnells Christian Church—Board Meeting Summary—01/11/2023

- Jack Merkle reported that Larry Grove will be changing out all toilet floats. Larry worked on basement door; it wasn't latching. It is not completely fixed yet but is latching for now. He's still working on it.
- Deb reported the 5th Sunday project is appreciation gifts for Prairie Vista employees. There is church challenge to fill the baptistry with items for Caring Hands before Super bowl Sunday. Tentative date for a community blood drive on March 4.
- Tammy Gaudette is setting up AED and CPR training to be held at the church.
- Jon Gaudette talked about how we are behind on giving. He said we have an average of 57 givers. 38 are constant givers. 92% of our giving comes from those givers. At this time are down \$6000 from last year's giving. Expenses are roughly \$4,600 behind (YTD). The board looked at passing the collection trays again.
- Bill Ingle talked about communication-how can we communicate better to the congregation?
- Pastor Katie reported Cozy Christmas and New Year's Bruch worship services went well. She is planning Lent and the Women's Retreat and will be leading the Women's Retreat. She is on the Region Personnel Committee, will be attending Minister's Institute Jan 30-31, and is looking ahead to General Assembly July 30-Aug 2. There was no youth event in Feb, hoping for something in March. She is planning Star Word check-ins quarterly. She asked the Board to prayerfully consider if our current Board model is meeting the goals we set out or if we should go back to our old structure.

Looking ahead to March...

- Katie Temple & Zack Funk return from their Mission Trip—March 3
- Community Blood Drive—March 4 (tentatively)
- Potluck after church—March 5
- RCC Board Meeting—March 8
- Easter Lily orders due—March 26
- March book group—March 29