

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

Connections

Exploring the world with the FSB Connect Club

Indescribable Beauty!

CANYON COUNTRY

June 23 - 30, 2019



See inside for details

REFLECTIONS



Hello Connect Club Friends!

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

--Ferris Bueller

Who pressed the fast forward button on 2018?! It's hard to believe the year is already over. The good things about 2018 are ... we made new and lasting friendships, we were blessed with some pretty amazing tours, we experienced some of the most beautiful places and most delicious food in the world, and, most of all, we had a lot of fun on our journey through 2018.

Check out the last couple of pages to see some of the fun group photos we captured in 2018.

The best things about my job are the people I have met, the places we have traveled and the memories we've created along the way. I absolutely love traveling because it first leaves us speechless - and then turns us into storytellers. So, enjoy reliving your Connect Club travels by telling your stories to family and friends!

Be sure to check out this issue to view a list of all the events, tours and activities we have planned, along with some fabulous new trips coming up for 2019 and 2020!

What's on your 2019 wish list? Hopefully a Connect Club Tour!

If so ... let's connect! Please call me or stop by with any questions you may have or to sign up for one of the many upcoming events in the newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Kathy Leeseekamp - Connect Club Director • 319-294-2900

Let's

Explore the World Together!



10 Flytastic Travel Tips

1. Breath Spray - Whether I'm on an airplane or at work, I can't deal with bad breath, so I always have a bottle of breath spray with me.

2. Vitamin C Drops - Because I travel so much, I always feel like my immune system could take a hit, so I take a Vitamin C drop each day.

3. Compression Socks or Leggings - Traveling can be hard on your circulation. Compression socks/leggings can aid circulation and help prevent blood clotting on long travel days.

4. Food - Pack some healthy snacks to bring with you on the flight. Purchasing airline snacks can be expensive, so bring your own almonds, fruit bars, granola, trail mix, pretzels, popcorn, or jerkey.

5. Drink Mix - Sugar free drink mixes can be added to your water to help you stay extra hydrated.

6. Nausea on the Plane - Ask for a drink that is half ginger ale and half club soda.

7. Exercise - Three easy exercises to do while sitting on long flights are ankle circles, foot pumps and knee lifts.

8. Headphone Jacks - Most long flights provide entertainment onboard. In order to watch TV, you will need a headset, so consider bringing your own because the airlines charge a fee.

9. Dryer Sheets - Dryer sheets remove static from your hair and clothing, make your suitcase smell awesome and they don't take up any room.

10. Be Patient - Things will work out in the end. Travel is about the journey, not the destination!

South America

November 10-19, 2019 (10 days)



\$5,249 Double, \$6,059 Single

**Deadline to sign up for this
exciting tour is March 22, 2019.
After this date you will be waitlisted.**

From Argentina's capital Buenos Aires to the Natural Wonder of Iguazu Falls and Brazil's marvelous Rio de Janeiro, join us as we experience the vivacious sights and sounds of South America.


We will spend three nights in fantastic Buenos Aires, the "Paris of South America" where we will discover the best Tango show in Buenos Aires, stroll the famed 9th of July Boulevard as we explore life in this vibrant city. We will take a drive in the Argentinian Countryside where we will enjoy a traditional lunch and gaucho horse show at an Estancia (Estate).

Next on our journey we will fly to Iguazu Falls, located at the crossroads of Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay, hailed as the most beautiful waterfalls in the world and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. We will see the power of the Iguazu Falls from both Argentinian and Brazilian vantage points and explore Iguazu National Park.

Next up we will fly to Rio de Janeiro with its magnificent views, beautiful beaches, flamboyant carnival costumes, great cuisine and friendly people that makes Rio the cultural capital of the world. We will learn how to craft the famous caipirinha cocktail, eat and dance with the locals at a dinner and music show in Rio de Janeiro, and travel to Corcovado by train to Christ the Redeemer, one of the new Seven Wonders of the World. Market guides will take us on a discovery of the different types of exotic fruits from Brazil, while tour guides will take us on a panoramic tour of the city that includes the Metropolitan Cathedral, Maracana football stadium, and on to the carnival parade route the Sambadrome.

Pricing includes transportation to Chicago Airport, round trip air from O'Hare, air taxes and fees/surcharges, hotel, transfers, included tours, and gratuities for included services and baggage handling. A \$500 deposit is due with your reservation, along with the cost of Insurance. Fully refundable up until 5/11/2019. Final payment is due 9/11/2019.

Stop by my office or call me at 319-294-2900 to learn more about this amazing tour!



Spectacular Canyon Country

*\$2,988 per person double occupancy
& \$3,590 per person single occupancy*

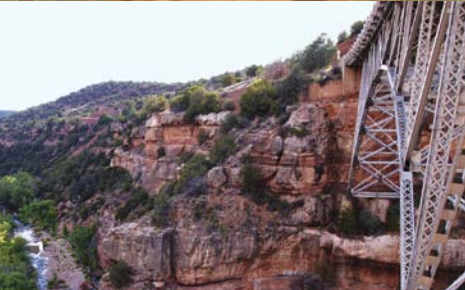
**Deadline to sign up
for this exciting tour
is March 15, 2019.**

Don't miss this amazing trip!

After this date you will be waitlisted.



June 23 - 30, 2019



We will start this tour by visiting the Phoenix Desert Botanical Garden in Scottsdale, and then drive through America's most beautiful western town, where we will take off on a thrilling jeep tour of Sedona. Then it's time to relax and enjoy a Sundown Cookout on the patio with views of the gorgeous red rocks at sunset! We will explore Jerome, Arizona and take a four-hour scenic train ride aboard the Verde Canyon Railroad to see the expansive views and remote wilderness of Verde Canyon. We move on to Oak Creek Canyon located on the south rim of the Grand Canyon, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.

As we travel eastward, we will stop at Glen Canyon National Recreation area (Lake Powell) and take a boat cruise on the lake to see the sandstone formations. We will enjoy the Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park where we will have the opportunity to venture into the sea of sand. If you are daring, you can try out some Sand Boarding!

Next, we are on to Bryce Canyon National Park where you will be awestruck by the indescribable beauty of the eroded limestone towers called the hoodoos. We will then visit the Little Hollywood Museum in Kanab and have some fun putting the sets and props to use for our own western movie before sitting down to a delicious Chuckwagon Cookout! Our last day will take us to Zion National Park to see the rust-colored sandstone cliffs and a forest of Cottonwood trees that line the Virgin River through the canyon. Our narrated tram ride will give us a gorgeous overview of the park. Our travels will end with a guided city tour of Las Vegas!

Pricing includes: Round trip air from O'hare Int'l Airport, air taxes and fees/surcharges, hotel, transfers, gratuities for included services, baggage handling and Travel Protection.

A deposit of \$100.00 per person and your completed reservation form is required to reserve your space. Final payment will be due on March 15, 2019.

Stop by my office or call me at 319-294-2900 to sign up for this spectacular tour!

COOKING WITH THE CONNECT CLUB

Easy Braised Short Ribs



Ingredients

- 3 lbs. beef short ribs, bone in*
- 2 tbsp. raw honey
- 4 tbsp. soy sauce
- 3 tsp. coconut or avocado oil, divided
- 2 lbs. brown mushrooms
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 2 large garlic cloves, minced
- 3 large celery stalks, finely chopped
- 28 oz. can diced tomatoes, low sodium
- 2 cups low sodium chicken stock
- 2 tsp. basil, dried
- 3/4 tsp. salt (or to taste)
- 1/4 tsp. ground black pepper
- 3 tbsp. parsley, finely chopped

Instructions

1. In a large bowl, add ribs, honey and soy sauce. Mix with hands to coat evenly. Let marinate for 10-15 minutes while getting other ingredients ready.
2. Preheat Dutch oven on medium heat and swirl 2 tsp. oil to coat. Working in batches, brown ribs for 3 minutes per side. Reserve marinade in the bowl and transfer browned ribs to it.
3. Add mushrooms and let them brown a bit, cooking for about 5 minutes and stirring occasionally. They will get a nice flavor from previous sauce in the pot. Transfer mushrooms to the bowl with ribs.
4. Swirl remaining 1 tsp. oil and add onion and garlic. Sauté until translucent, stirring occasionally. Add previously cooked ribs, mushrooms, reserved marinade, diced tomatoes, chicken stock, basil, salt and pepper; stir to combine. Cover and let cook for 15 minutes.
5. In the meantime, preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Place Dutch oven in the oven and cook for 2.5 – 3 hours. Ribs should be tender and fall off the bone. Sprinkle with parsley and serve hot with your side of choice like brown rice, quinoa, mashed potatoes or mashed cauliflower.

* Choose ribs with least amount of fat.

Refrigerate leftovers in an airtight container for up to 5 days or freeze for up to 3 months.

--- MOVIE DAY ---



1462 Twixt Town Rd, Marion

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Join your Connect Club friends for your choice of five movies currently showing at the Collins Road Theatres. Enjoy all the free popcorn you can eat and all the pop or coffee you can drink! The concession stand is also open to purchase anything else you might like to have. At 9:15 we will have announcements, door prizes and a synopsis of the movies being shown that day with a chance to change theatres for the movie of your choice, and to get those refills before we start the show!

Due to the staff needing time to set-up, the doors will not open until 8:30 AM.

No reservations are necessary!

Please remember our FREE events are for members only.

NEXT MOVIE DAY: Tuesday, March 19, 2019

FSB to go

SEMINAR

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Elmcrest Country Club

2:00 - 4:00 pm

Farmers State Bank would like to introduce you to FSBtoGO. This group includes Personal Bankers from our various locations that are going out in the community to promote FSB and our "banking anywhere/ anytime" tools and solutions. This group will be talking with you about the different options FSB offers to make your banking more convenient. ***Please join us for this lively and informational seminar.***



IMPORTANT

Facebook.....

Please join our Connect Club Facebook page which is where you can also find information on upcoming tours, events and photos from past tours!

To follow us on Facebook, simply go to:
<https://www.facebook.com/FSBConnectClub/>
and click the "Like" button at the top!



**Like us on
Facebook**

Address Update.....



In order for me to keep track of your correct address and to reduce the amount of returned mail I receive each month, please make sure you contact me with your correct address if you have moved or have two separate addresses.

If you have two addresses (for example: summer and winter), please send me an email letting me know your addresses and the months you will be at each address. I will then update this information into my new system to keep track of your correct mailing address.

If you would like to change your mailing preference (Email or Mail), or if you prefer not to receive a newsletter when you are away, please let me know.

Guests.....

Members are encouraged to invite family and friends to join you on any of our Connect Club tours. We want you to have the best travel experience we can offer!

The word "GUESTS" is written in a white, serif font. It is centered within a horizontal, textured purple brushstroke that has a rough, hand-painted appearance with varying shades of purple and white highlights.

Reservations, Cancellations and Waitlists.....

Once I receive your reservation form and deposit, your spot will be secured for the tour/event.

If a cancellation is necessary, we will contact the members who are on the waitlist to try to find your replacement and, if we do, we will refund your payment. If we do not have a waitlist, you would need to find your own replacement in order to receive a refund. Please keep in mind that all tours have a final fully-refundable payment date.

**RESERVATIONS
CANCELLATIONS
WAITLISTS**



▪ 2019 Sneak Peek ▪

Domestic and International Travel

▪ Jamaica - All Inclusive ▪

February 8-16, 2019 (Caribbean)

* WAITLIST ONLY *

▪ Wonders of Alaska ▪

February 28 - March 7, 2019 (USA)

* WAITLIST ONLY *

▪ Israel ▪

April 10-19, 2019 (Asia)

* WAITLIST ONLY *

▪ SW Canyon Country ▪

June 23-30, 2019 (USA)

* SPACE AVAILABLE - CONTACT ME WITH QUESTIONS! *

▪ Brazil, Chile, Argentina ▪

November 10-19, 2019 (South America)

* SPACE AVAILABLE - CONTACT ME WITH QUESTIONS! *

Watch your upcoming newsletters
for details on the following tours:

One Day Mystery
Extended Mystery Tour
Ladies Outing
Fishing Trip (Men and Women)
Cubs Game
Mississippi River Cruise

Upcoming 2020 Tours:

Hawaii
Cuba
Eastern Mediterranean Cruise
(Spain, Monaco, Rome, Italy, Greece, Turkey)

Our 2018 Travels



**Travel
Dubuque**



**5 Day
Mystery Tour**



**Ladies
Outing**





Iceland



Ireland



Pacific Northwest & California



Mancation





Faster. Stronger. Better.®

1240 8th Avenue
PO Box 569
Marion, IA 52302-0569

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Kathy Leeseekamp
Connect Club Director
319-294-2900
KathyLeeseekamp@fsbmail.net

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PAID
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Cedar Rapids, IA

SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY

- 3rd - Cookie Day
- 22nd - Movie Day
- 23rd - Jamaica Document Party

FEBRUARY

- 1st - Cookie Day
- 5th - Alaska Document Party (Marion FSB)
- 8th-16th - Jamaica **(SOLD OUT)**
- 19th - Seminar
- 28th-March 7th - Wonders of Alaska **(SOLD OUT)**

MARCH

- 1st - Cookie Day
- 13th - Circa 21 (Diamonds & Divas)
- 14th - Israel Document Party (Elmcrest)
- 19th - Movie Day

APRIL

- 3rd - Cookie Day
- 10th-23rd - Israel
- 26th - Seminar

Dates and events are subject to change. This announcement does not include all Connect Club events. Check your future newsletters for further updates.

