

Congregational Tidings

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*



A weekly newsletter



www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa

March 24, 2021

Taking Care of Our Family

Please let Pastor Bret, Michelle, or Anne know of those we should be keeping close.



* Please keep Steve Thorpe and Liz as well as their family in your prayers as he undergoes treatment.

*Please keep the Greene family in your prayers as they prepare for a private family service for Marian Greene on Sunday, March 28 with a church and community memorial service later this summer when covid restrictions allow.

* Ruth Brower is in room 222 at New Aldaya in Cedar Falls continuing rehab from a recent fall. She doesn't have a phone in her room but the facility is now open to visitors. If anyone would like to visit, you can go to Door 4. Masks are still required.



THANK YOU!

A huge thank you and applause for all those involved with Saturday evening's premier of the Spring Talent Show--those who organized it, video taped it, and put it together (Greg Holt, Meach Meacham, Paul Greene, Luke Overton) and all those who shared their talents. We are very blessed to have such talented folks amongst us. It was such a treat to see so many beloved faces as they shared their gifts. We are a blessed congregation!

It is still available for viewing by going to the First Congregational UCC's Website, Facebook or YouTube page.

Graveside Service

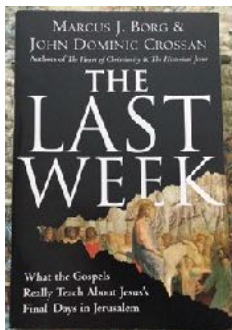
A graveside service will be held for **Sally Walker** on Wednesday, May 12 at 1:00 p.m. at Waterloo Memorial Park Cemetery with Pastor Myers officiating.



Sunday Mornings During Lent

During Lent, the Sunday morning Zoom gathering will read and discuss the book *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem*, by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan.

"Using the gospel of Mark as their guide, Borg and Crossan present a day-by-day account of Jesus's final week of life. They begin their story on Palm Sunday with two triumphal entries into Jerusalem. The first entry, that of Roman governor Pontius Pilate leading Roman soldiers into the city, symbolized military strength. The second heralded a new kind of moral hero who was praised by the people as he rode in on a humble donkey..."



Topic: FCUCC Sunday Morning Book Study at 9:20 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83998402038?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83998402038?pwd=b1YRnZjMFRhWUEvNm5MMTJ2bk5aUT09)

[pwd=b1YRnZjMFRhWUEvNm5MMTJ2bk5aUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83998402038?pwd=b1YRnZjMFRhWUEvNm5MMTJ2bk5aUT09)

Meeting ID: 839 9840 2038

Passcode: 246810

Dial in: 312 626 6799 US

Contact Evie Waack with any questions.

Lenten discussions

During Lent we will take a half an hour after the worship service, starting at approximately 11:35 a.m. to talk about the theme of the day and/or our own Lenten reflections and thoughts. This is an opportunity to have some intentional fellowship after the worship service to deepen and broaden our spiritual connection with one another, and to edify our own faith journeys. A zoom link will be available on our church website and our church Facebook page. We hope to see you there!

Wednesday Night Gathering

Don't forget to join us on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm on Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83810037005?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83810037005?pwd=ZXFKYlFWYnFHaHBYdUZzWUMvK2RCdz09)

[pwd=ZXFKYlFWYnFHaHBYdUZzWUMvK2RCdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83810037005?pwd=ZXFKYlFWYnFHaHBYdUZzWUMvK2RCdz09)

Meeting ID: 838 1003 7005

Passcode: 310289

Dial in: 312 626 6799



PASTOR'S CORNER

Greetings all,

I'd like to share with you one of passion's: writing poetry. Below is a poem I wrote while traveling at night on a plane, overlooking the cities, towns, and villages as I crossed the country. It is a metaphor of how there is not only light above the clouds (e.g., the sun, moon, and stars), but also below them (places we live and work, but also us). Light goes both ways, and we sometimes forget that. I hope you find it encouraging to your own spiritual journey.

"The Light Below the Clouds"

Peering down on earthly orb
With darkness all around
While others sleep, work, or just seemed bored
Aglow below, once darkened clouds are crowned

No sun to light the ebony skies
Luminescent patches rise to heaven's sight
Surrounded by swaths of terrestrial sighs and cries
Radiant islands penetrate the black of night

When hearts are heavy and sadness is near
When peace the world does steal
I'll remember the lesson I now hold dear
How we are the light below the clouds
When truth with love's our meal.

-- Bret S. Myers, 1/17/2017

CREATIVE CORNER

From Greg Hoekstra (glhoek@gmail.com) who writes: "I listened to this song, "Fall to My Knees" by Rose Parkington, Tanya Donnelly, Will Dailey (<https://tanyadonelly.bandcamp.com/track/fall-to-my-knees-acoustic>) on Tim Ensworth's blog and was inspired to play along. I enjoy improvising and find it a great escape. This song, like Tim says, lends itself to sharing:

[http://www.firstcongucc.org/finearts/GregH-fall to my knees.mp4](http://www.firstcongucc.org/finearts/GregH-fall%20to%20my%20knees.mp4)

The Board of Creative Arts welcomes your creative endeavors: photography, paintings, sculpture, poetry, stories, dance, music, acting, recipes, knitting, crocheting, sewing, needlework, woodworking, pottery--whatever you enjoy creating. Or maybe you have a favorite hobby that isn't necessarily your own creation, but an appreciation of the creativity of others. You can take a picture of your creation or something you appreciate. If you would like to present a video, we can link it to our website and/or Facebook page. We would like to know a little about what you are sharing, perhaps a story of how you created your work, and why it, or the experience, is important to you. We miss seeing each other and this is a way that we can share ourselves in a different way. We welcome artists of all ages and abilities. You may send your creation or questions to Anne Hoekstra at annelouisehoekstra@gmail.com. Thank you.



April Birthdays

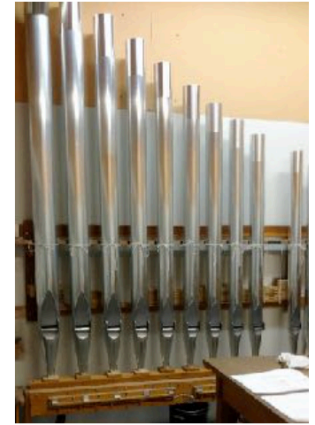
April Anniversaries

5	17	24
Kaylee Holt	Anna Kendall	Alice Schneider
6	19	Sadie Grace Kleitsch
Marlys Tandy	Harper Corson	26
8	20	Keith Jorgensen
Sarah Lauterbach	Erinn Lauterbach	27
9	21	Beth Lauterbach
Peter Blankenfeld	Tim Ensworth	John W. Stevens
10	Tim Lind	28
Jeff Essmann	Ross Martens	Tristan Holt
12	22	29
Janice Akin	Rich Thuesen	Collene Peirce
14	23	
Lucas Greene	Scott Driver	
Donna Sheridan		

APRIL 2021

ORGAN UPDATE... ..

Bob and Pat Brock took a trip to the Reuter Organ company last week. Thanks Bob and Pat for sharing these pictures!



Create an endowment of love. Please consider including our church in your estate planning.

F I R S T C O N G R E G A T I O N A L U C C

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WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

Congregational Tidings

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