

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

April 21, 2021

OUTDOOR WORSHIP - - YEAH!



Come join your friends for worship, Sunday, May 16, at 10:30, for worship at the Riverloop Amphitheatre, 225 Commercial St., Waterloo. It's been such a long time since we have been together, and we miss seeing each other in person! Since we want to protect each other, we ask that folks wear masks and respect social distancing guidelines.

Would you like to ride your bike? For those who would like to take a group bike ride after the service, bring or ride your bike to worship! Bring a bag lunch, and we'll hit the trails for a special time of biking fellowship following worship and lunch.

Questions--contact the church office.

We also plan to meet for outdoor worship on Sunday, June 6. More information to follow.

~ Anne Hoekstra

VACCINE UPDATE:

Vaccinations available to folks 16 and older:

Allen Hospital should be getting between 2,000 and 3,000 Pfizer/Moderna vaccines this week and people may sign up to get them. The magic phone number to schedule your COVID vaccine is 319-226-2600. If you need assistance making an appointment, or with transportation, please let the church office know, and we will arrange assistance. We want our church family to stay safe and healthy!

Post Vaccination Guidelines:

The CDC says that anyone who is fully vaccinated (full immunity is 2 weeks past the final vaccination) should continue to take these precautions when in public, when visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple other households, and when around unvaccinated people who are at high risk of getting severely ill from COVID-19:

- ~ Wear a well-fitted mask.
- ~ Stay at least 6 feet apart from people you do not live with.
- ~ Avoid medium and large in-person gatherings.
- ~ Get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- ~ Follow guidance issued by individual employers.
- ~ Follow CDC and health department travel requirements and recommendations.

ATTENTION ALL...

Sunday, May 2nd in the early afternoon, we will be helping our community by planting trees and shrubs! Keep an eye out for more details during Sunday Service as well as Tidings next week!

Questions?

Contact Abbie Greene (abbie.youthdirector@gmail.com) or Tim Ahrens (tahrens53@msn.com).

THE LAST WEEK

The Sunday morning Zoom gathering has been discussing 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. We will be discussing the last chapter, "Easter Sunday" this coming Sunday, April 25th.

Topic: FCUCC Sunday Morning Book Study at 9:20 AM
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83998402038?pwd=b1JYRnZjMFRhWUEvNm5MMTJ2bk5aUT09>

Meeting ID: 839 9840 2038

Passcode: 246810

Dial in: 312 626 6799 US

HELLO READING FANS!

The next novel that the book study group will be delving into is *Reading the Bible Again For the First Time: Taking the Bible Seriously But Not Literally* by Marcus J. Borg. We will start on Sunday, May 2nd at our normal time, 9:20am with discussing Chapter 1 over Zoom.

You can purchase the book through Thriftbooks or Amazon but of course there are plenty of other ways to find it! The ISBN is as follows: 9780060609191. You can go to this link for a preview of the book which includes the first two chapters...https://www.google.com/books/edition/Reading_the_Bible_Again_For_the_First_Ti/IKu1ftiVKQsC?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover

We are excited to welcome any and all into engaging conversations and fellowship! Questions? You can send an email to Abbie (abbie.youthdirector@gmail.com). We hope to see you there!

~ Abbie Greene

Director of Youth Ministries

CREATIVE CORNER

During the slow down of COVID I've had the opportunity to revisit a cherished passion of mine - solo piano playing. I didn't realize how much I missed it until I started playing again.

I now make a point to play for enjoyment once each week.

Here's a recent recording of Claude Debussy's "Clair de Lune:"

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xt0Wgud0lirQONN2uZWCPBShctGfd8g/view>

~ Kerri Mennenga



Pastor's Corner for Remembering Earth Day

plus an invitation!

Greetings Church Family, and Happy Eastertide!

As the weather starts to warm, and Earth Day is approaching, I'd like to encourage you to think about how we can make a positive difference on our planet by our own actions. Below is a way you can commit to becoming more ecologically responsible as individuals. It is called the Alverna Covenant, and it has history in our sister denomination, The Christian Church, Disciples of Christ. I think you will find it an interesting history and an important covenant for us to pledge to as citizens of the world.

I'd also like to invite you to **"Walks and Talks with the Pastor."** These walks and talks are designed to get us outdoors to appreciate the beauty of God's creation, and to get to know one another better. The walks, which can also be sitting outside if you are not a walker, can take place in various outdoor settings, such as parks, near lakes, rivers, or ponds, at the arboretum, or even in your lawn. If you are a bicyclist, we could also go for a bike ride. They are to be with individuals or groups of 5 or less. These would take place on Mondays in the afternoon, up to an hour and a half. Text (608-370-9472) or email me (revbmyers@yahoo.com) a time and place you'd like to enjoy a walk and talk, and I will be glad to meet with you and share my love for the outdoors!

History of the Alverna Covenant

The Alverna Covenant was written by members of the Task Force on Christian Lifestyle and Ecology of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) while meeting at Alverna Retreat Center, a Franciscan retreat in Indianapolis, Ind. The name has added significance. Alverna is named for Mt. Alverna in Italy, the mountain retreat given to Francis of Assisi. Francis is honored for his concern for the care of and relatedness of all creation. The 800th anniversary of Francis' birth was celebrated in 1981, the year the Alverna Covenant was first introduced at the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The Alverna Covenant

Whereas:

- * God has created the world with finite resources;
- * God has given to us the stewardship of the earth;
- * God has established order through many natural cycles.

And it is evident that:

- * We are consuming resources at a rate that cannot be maintained;
- * We are interrupting many natural cycles;
- * We are irresponsibly modifying the environment through consumption and pollution;
- * We are populating the earth at a rate that cannot be maintained; As a member of the human family and a follower of Jesus Christ,

I hereby covenant that:

- * I will change my lifestyle to reduce my contribution to pollution;
- * I will support recycling efforts;
- * I will search for sustainable lifestyles;
- * I will work for public policies which lead to a just and sustainable society;
- * I will share these concerns with others and urge them to make this Covenant.

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

The 2021 Love INC Benefit Golf Tournament is the largest annual fundraiser for Love INC of the Cedar Valley. Love INC partners local churches to provide tangible needs to the under-resourced in the Cedar Valley. We are unique in the way we meet needs with a relational focus and a holistic approach. **We are meeting real needs and inspiring lasting change!**



On Monday June 21, your foursome will enjoy lunch provided by Irv Warren Memorial Golf Course at 11:30 am. We'll follow lunch with an organized 12:30 p.m. shotgun start for an 18 hole round of best-shot golf. A prize will be awarded afterward to the winning group!

The festivities will include: 11:30 am Registration/Lunch, 12:30 pm Tee Off, prizes awarded to the winning team, flight winners, and pin event winners, and a putting contest.

To register, please go to: <https://my.e360giving.com/App/Form/f5a73c1b-3c10-46a5-a3ae-d55d42953a76>

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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Congregational Tidings

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