

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

May 5, 2021



It was a beautiful day to plant trees at church! The Spiritual Growth & Programs Board wishes to thank all who participated. Our grounds are beautified by 33 new shrubs and 3 new trees.





Our Condolences..



Please pray for the family of *Donna Sheridan* who passed away peacefully on Saturday morning, May 1, at Sartori Hospital at the age of 91. Service details will be announced at a later time. Condolences to her four children, Ginni Casteel and Becky Ellison from our congregation, David Sheridan, a good friend of the congregation, and Richard Sheridan, as well as her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She loved her church family and will be missed!

Taking Care of Our Family

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

~ Please keep Colleen Peirce in your prayers who was hospitalized briefly but is now at home and is being assisted by her daughters.

~ Please keep Lynne Ensworth in prayer as she recovers from a break in her tibia and fibula close to her ankle, and was to undergo surgery on Monday. This was a very unfortunate way for her to begin her retirement from teaching at UNI, but we congratulate her and hope she is able to enjoy her retirement soon!



Attention youth!

This Sunday, May 9th from 6-7pm, we will be getting together outside the church to play some games and start planning for Youth Sunday (May 30th)! Questions? Email Abbie Greene at abbie.youthdirector@gmail.com.

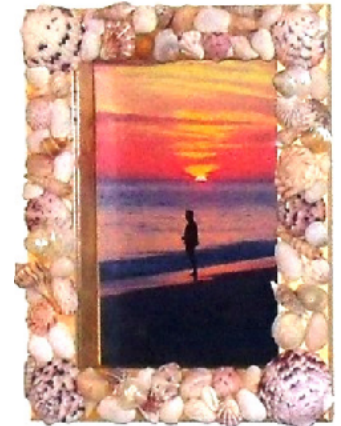
Graveside Service

The graveside service for *Sally Walker* will be held next Wednesday, May 12th at 1pm at Waterloo Memorial Park Cemetery. Rev. Myers will be officiating the service.

CREATIVE CORNER



After a couple weeks of beachcombing during a trip to Florida a few years ago, we came home with boxes of shells. I filled a couple of glass jars and put them in bathrooms, but the rest of the shells just sat in the basement for a while. Finally,



one day I was browsing in the craft store and saw these shadow boxes. I used tacky glue to add shells to the wide border edges and then framed a few of our vacation pictures. I think the end result is a better reminder of the beach "feel" than either the pictures or shells separately!"

~ Barb Mardis



MOMENT FOR MISSIONS



Last year, Grin and Grow served 170 different children. 78 of these children were from single-parent households. 64 families were at 100% of the federal poverty level. 30 families were over 150% of the federal poverty level. Through generous grants, scholarships, and donations, over 95% of the families received greatly reduced cost or free child care. 92% of these families are employed and were able to continue working because of reliable child care. A couple of years ago Grin and Grow was struggling and considered closing. Since then, Ed Gruenwald has taken over as executive director, Trebion Wade is the new educational director, Connie Grimm is providing excellent help in grants, and Cliff Highnam is president of their board. I was part of a small committee and have since then made trips to local churches to talk to their mission boards. Some of the local churches' mission boards have contributed to "The Morale Boosting Fund". First Presbyterian, First Baptist, Cedar Heights Presbyterian, St. Johns in Cedar Falls, and folks from our church have contributed. Trebion has used this to pay for staff meals on their quarterly training days. Another project was to repaint the walls with brighter colors. The fund has involved local churches and will involve more as the response has been good. This fund is meant for Trebion to boost morale by providing some needs that are not in the yearly budget.

~ Greg Hoekstra

Job Foundation Student Talent Show



You are invited to an evening of entertainment in support of The Job Foundation. Enjoy student performances, live music, food, raffle prizes, and fun for the whole family! Free admission! Masks are required and CDC guidelines will be followed. Not able to attend in person? No problem – the event will be live streamed! This event will be held Tuesday, May 11th from 5-7pm at the Electric Park Ballroom. (310 W. Conger St. Waterloo, IA 50703) **RSVP: www.thejobfoundation.org, or call/text 319-823-1030**



Want to Take a Walk Around the Block?

The Historic Church Row Neighborhood has a newsletter explaining Clean-Up Day, May 29th and other information that needs to be delivered by this Saturday, so if you'd like to get to know the area, please pick them up at Mary Potter's - 1416 W 4th, Wednesday from 1-4. Call 939-2753 with any questions. Thanks for your support!



When I retired from John Deere I began working with a crew at Habitat for Humanity. We had a regular crew that worked on my days, Monday and Thursday, each week. We worked on new build projects as well as rehabilitation projects. I have a lot of experience with building and fixing things but I always learned something new from one of my coworkers...a great group of guys.

I enjoyed the work but I knew that my efforts meant that a family would have the opportunity to live in a home that they would be buying and experience the pride of home ownership. Family members worked at the house, too, to invest their own "sweat" equity. Their smiles on the day they received the keys to their house were pretty amazing.

~ Rich Thuesen

Our Board of Social Causes and Justice invites anyone who is involved with serving others to share their stories of aid and fulfillment.
Let's inspire each other to make our world a better place!

OUTDOOR WORSHIP REMINDER

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 Anne Hoekstra, contact Anne Hoekstra, 319-269-0241 or annelouisehoekstra@gmail.com.

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

~ Anne Hoekstra

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

Please wear a mask.



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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