

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

January 11, 2023

PULPIT SUPPLY

We worshipped in our lovely chapel last week, with Evie Waack preaching on Jesus' Baptism. Thank you for her engaging message in video, song, and sermon. "Down by the Riverside" was sung for us from all points of the world, and Hudson made our little chapel organ sing!



We will be worshipping in the chapel again this week while plastering work to the sanctuary continues. We welcome Rev. Jim Altenbaumer back to our pulpit. Dale Waack will serve as worship leader and Gina Greene will be presenting the mini-message.

SANCTUARY REPAIR PROJECT

Our Sanctuary repair has begun! We will continue meeting in the Chapel for Sunday Worship Services for the next several weeks.



* * ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE * *

& POTLUCK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023

12:00 NOON



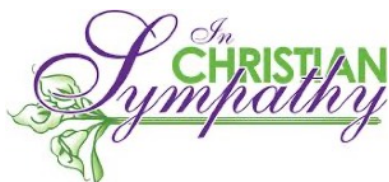
A potluck lunch will be held right after the morning church service with the Annual Meeting to follow

Copies of the 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Proposed Budget will be available to pick up in Crossroads this Sunday, January 15th for review prior to the meeting.

Taking Care of Family...

~ Prayers for Richard Cook, who underwent a heart procedure to treat his atrial fib on Tuesday.

~ Prayers for Diana Paige, who is recovering from recent brain surgery.



We are saddened to announce the passing of **Lynette Doepke** on Thursday, January 5, 2023. Please keep Henry and the entire extended Doepke family in your prayers. We will all miss Lynette!

The funeral will be held at First Congregational at 11am on Monday, January 16th. The family will greet friends for an hour prior to the service. You can view Lynette's full obituary by clicking [Here](#).

CHANGE IN SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR KIDS

Calling all kids. Sunday School will now take place during the worship hour. Kids will follow the leader after the mini message to the youth director's office for Sunday School. Join the fun.

CALLING SUNDAY SCHOOL ADULT VOLUNTEERS...

We need 2 more people who can join a rotation for Sunday School teachers every 4-6 weeks. Sunday School is now during worship and there will be an easy-to-follow curriculum. Please let Anne Hoekstra know if you are interested. What an opportunity to get to know the kids of the church.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adults will meet in the Friendship Room on Sunday morning at 9:15 for a discussion of Chapter 5 of Holy Disruption by Tracy Daub. Beginning Sunday, January 22, the group will begin a new book—Listening to God by Paula Carlson & Peter Hawkins. Each of the 8 chapters in this book is by a different author, and lends itself to folks joining for some or all of the sessions (Stories or excerpts of larger works are by Flannery O'Connor, Frederick Buechner, Patricia Hampl, Raymond Carver, Annie Dillard, Alice Walker, Garrison Keillor, and Richard Rodriguez). Books will be available for those interested. If you would like to join, please let Michelle in the office know. All are welcome to our lively discussion!

INTRO TO CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Tuesday, January 24th - 6:30pm
Westminster Presbyterian Church - Waterloo

Contemplative Outreach of Northeast Iowa and Waterloo Catholic Faith Formation co-host this introduction to a quiet, contemplative style of prayer for anyone wishing to deepen their prayer life this year. (<http://www.centeringprayer.com/>)

JOIN OUR FIRST FOOD CREW

First Congregational UCC has a crew of volunteers every month at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank and we'd like YOU to be there too! Our next dates are January 17, February 21, and March 28 from 6-8pm. Contact Diane at 319-240-2849 or call Michelle at the church office to sign up. We are fortunate to have such an incredible resource in our community. Volunteers make it happen! Hope to see you there!

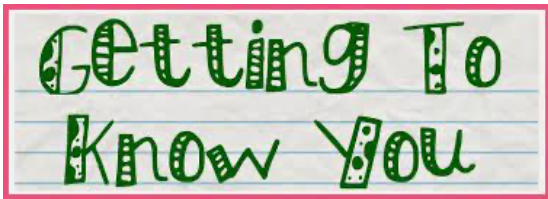
FLOWER CHART



The 2023 Flower Chart is now available in the Crossroads area. Please stop by and sign up now to secure the special dates in your life

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

2023 Offering Envelopes are available on the table under the bulletin board next to the church office.



GETTING TO KNOW: IN LOVING MEMORY OF LYNETTE DOEPKE

(Lynette Doepke was our January “Getting to Know You” special article.
We wanted to still publish this in her honor and memory.)

“It seems that people like to feel the need to describe children in terms of “she’s just like her mom/dad.” If that was the case for me, I’d be honored if you said that I am just like my dad. I certainly did not inherit all of his genes, but he definitely passed his musical ability to me. I sang my first duet in a Christmas program at the age of three, cut my first (and only) record about the same time, and won my first vocal contest in the third grade. I wasn’t the most diligent student and mostly messed around until my teens. Most of my future successes can be attributed to much more self-study as an adult and Dad’s genes. During school years I began to sing in many groups and performed as a soloist. Those years I was toiling away at the piano and organ keyboards. I began playing for church while in high school and played for my first wedding ceremony then. (I wish I had made a list of them.) I served as permanent or substitute organist at every church I attended except one. I branched out to accompanying school and church groups and the ball kept rolling until I retired ten years ago and counted the years sitting on that bench as fifty. I’ve had some wonderful experiences during that time and made some life-long friends. Because of several physical problems I can no longer sing or play well, but I carry with me many warm memories.” ~ *Lynette Doepke*



MOMENT FOR MISSIONS...

IMMERSE SEVEN-SESSION COURSE AT THE SNOWDEN HOUSE (306 WASHINGTON, W'LOO)

11:30am - 1:00pm every Tuesday from January 24th - March 7th (*Facilitated by Laura Hoy, CCDA*)

Answering the question - "How might we love God and love our neighbor in a way that helps us all heal and grow together as a community?" Each session focuses on principles of church-based, neighborhood development.

Do you know someone else who would benefit from this course? Send them [the Immerse Registration Link](#) so they can learn more and sign up! Questions? - Jenna Petersen, jpetersen@webuildhabitat.org or 319-235-9946.

\$10 may be paid at the first class. Lunch will not be provided, but brown bags are encouraged.

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JANUARY WOMEN OF FAITH OF THE CEDAR VALLEY – A Conversation on Faith, Values, and Abortion

Thoughts about the Supreme Court’s recent decision and how views have been shaped by faith traditions and/or personal values can be shared. The discussion will be moderated by retired psychologist Dr. Naomi McCormick.

The meeting will take place on Zoom on Tuesday, January 17 at 6:30 p.m. Click [HERE](#) for the link to the meeting. Views may differ but learning can take place with respectful discussion.

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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608 WEST FOURTH STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

Congregational Tidings

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