

# Congregational Tidings

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



A weekly newsletter



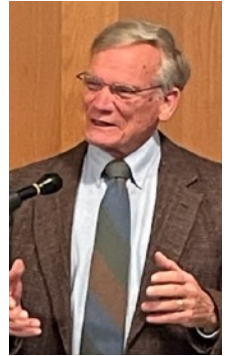
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January 18, 2023

## PULPIT SUPPLY

Thank you to Rev. Jim Altenbaumer for the hopeful message he shared with us on Sunday, and to Dale Waack for serving as worship leader. Thank you to Gina Greene, who presented the mini-message, talking about helping others and having the kids help fill food bags for the little pantries around our neighborhood.

This Sunday, we welcome back to our pulpit, Rev. Janice Springer, whose sermon is entitled "A Poem, A Shelter and Some Beer". Cliff Highnam will be the worship leader, and Keith Jorgensen will be presenting the mini-message. We have been fortunate to have so many talented folks share their time, knowledge, and experience with us.



## Notice of Annual Meeting & Potluck This Sunday, January 22, 2023

*Copies of the 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Proposed Budget are currently in the Crossroads to pick up for review before the meeting.*

The potluck will be held right after the church service with the Annual Meeting to follow.

Pork loin and "Company Potatoes" will be provided. You are invited to bring a dish to share and your own plates and silverware.

# Taking Care of Family...

- ~ Prayers for Nancy Stevenson, who has been ill for several days with bladder infection and acute renal failure.
- ~ Prayers for Richard Cook, whose procedure had to be rescheduled.
- ~ Prayers for Steve Maurer, who has pneumonia.



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## 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 be starting a new series this Sunday and will meet in the Friendship Room at 9:15 am. Our new book is 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, or just show up! All are welcome to our lively discussion!

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to the best church family for all the food that was furnished and all the help before and after Lynette Doepke's funeral Monday. Bless you all!

~ Nancy Mahood

## 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/>)

## WORSHIP LEADERS AND MINI-MESSAGE PRESENTERS:

We have been blessed with those who have served as worship leaders and presenters of our mini-message, but we would like to invite others to assist in these roles. Please let Michelle in the office, or me know if you would be willing to serve.

~ Anne Hoekstra

## MOMENT FOR MISSIONS...

### WEEKLY CHURCH ROW PRAYER WALK



You are invited to join weekly prayer walks in Church Row neighborhood on Thursdays at 8am. We start at the Habitat for Humanity office parking lot at 803 W 5th St, Waterloo. You may walk as long as you wish, although it typically lasts about an hour. Any staff, neighbors, volunteers, and partners are welcome, so please feel free to spread the word!

Please let Jenna ([jpetersen@webuildhabitat.org](mailto:jpetersen@webuildhabitat.org)) know if you plan to join!

Several mentioned that they enjoyed the poem that  
Rev. Jim Altenbaumer read last Sunday so we  
wanted to share it with you:

## In Every Beginning Dwells a Wonder

An early morning. It is still dark.  
Snow has fallen.  
It invokes a transformed world.  
I walk in the glaring lamplight of the  
street.  
Then the forest takes me up.  
Its silence is beautiful, its warm darkness,  
Tinted by the mother-of-pearl reflection of  
the sky.  
The tall trunks overarch the path  
Like the looming pillars of a cathedral.  
From white cushions on black branches  
flakes dust down here and there.  
The yielding snow dampens all noises.  
Soundless quiet – there, the laughter of a  
screech owl!  
Penetrating voices of life in the sleeping  
woods.  
I listen – silence is all around.  
Softly my feet feel for the way.  
Gradually the dark trunks give way,  
The white, wide field shimmers brightly.  
The level surface stretches out  
undisturbed.  
Over it, the appearance of a new day.  
The light rises. Over me, the high heaven.  
Carefully I take a step.

My feet draw the first track.  
What touches me?  
First step on undisturbed  
Ritual-white land  
All is light, soft, silent.  
The senses are enchanted.  
Hard and narrow fall away.  
Reflection of eternity.  
Trusting – even what is coming.  
Stepping away from well-worn paths.  
Experiencing light over daily doing.  
A new year begins, a new day – Indeed!  
New steps into the beginning year.  
Waking at night  
And – wonderfully startled –  
Discovering a star, bright in the window,  
And abandoning a certain fear about it,  
Grasping the rudder like Columbus  
And obediently  
Like the Magi from the Orient  
Traveling through the wilderness  
And seeing in the star the face of the  
angel:  
Trusting like a shepherd toward  
Bethlehem.

*Christine Busa, tr. JA*

## ATTENTION ALL WOMEN...INTERESTED?



Looking for any woman interested in gathering for fellowship once a month (at least to start off) for breakfast at Perkins on San Marnan.... to eat and drink with other like minded women of any age! We would like to carry over a few rules from pre-Covid breakfasts:

1: No engraved invitation, application, special handshake or ID required.

2: Conversation, laughter, tears are accepted

3: Judgement free zone (that doesn't mean we might not make a comment if you show up in pajama pants 😊)! Being there is more important than getting make-up on, and what you order is your own business.

4: And most importantly - What is said at breakfast, stays at breakfast!!

Let's make the first meeting for February 11th, 9:00 a.m., Perkins on San Marnan. We can talk about anything you want to, like other possible places, times, days, more times/month.... etc—

**Please let Michelle in the office know by February 9th** if you are interested in attending the February 11th breakfast.

*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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