

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 26, 2022



CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

The 165th annual meeting of First Congregational UCC was held this past Sunday, January 23, via zoom from 1pm to 2pm. We had a similar crowd as last year, and our business was short but important. The balanced budget for 2022 was approved, the nominated officers and board/committee members were approved, and there was a brief update on the search and call process. Thank you to all who attended. We missed our potluck before the meeting, but hope to resume our regular in-person meetings next year!

TAKING CARE OF FAMILY...

~ Prayers and support for our church family and the new leadership we have elected.

FROM THE REOPENING COMMITTEE...

The Reopening Committee are not able to meet for the next 2 weeks, but we are capable of following the numbers. We need everyone to do what they can to stay healthy, educate those that are still not sure how that looks, and remember that taking care of yourself is the best way to protect your loved ones and friends. We want to get back to seeing as many of you as possible...in person! Meanwhile, contact a couple people you haven't connected with in the last few months and let them know you miss them!

~ *Dave, Tim, Beth, and Greg*



THE PASTOR'S CORNER

If you asked me the number one thing that Christians need to be concerned about that we have traditionally neglected, it would be, as it has been for decades if not centuries, the abuse we have perpetrated upon and allowed upon the earth and its inhabitants of all species. We humans have not been kind to our world. We have used and abused humans, animals, forests, plants, the oceans, and the earth's soils, minerals, and all else that we can extract from her – all for profit. It saddens me to no end how we have justified so many atrocities in the name of jobs, economic gain, standard of living, and so many other excuses that deny the sanctity of all creatures and creation.

Jane Goodall has been a long-time advocate for treating our world better than we have done, and for bearing witness to its sanctity independently of how we use it for our own gain. There are few people whose attitudes towards life on earth, and the earth itself, resonate more with my own understanding of how we are to relate to the world than this ecological saint who has dedicated her entire life to improving our relationships to our wider world, and to learning how to be more caring and less selfish. She wrote a prayer for world peace that speaks to a myriad of ways in which we need to be more respectful and compassionate towards everyone and everything that exists on this blessed Earth. I share with you her prayer. And I pray that you, too, will make it your own.

Pastor Bret
1/24/2022

Prayer for World Peace - Dr. Jane Goodall

We pray to the great Spiritual Power
in which we live and move and have our being.
We pray that we may at all times keep our minds open to new ideas and shun dogma;
that we may grow in our understanding of the nature of all living beings
and our connectedness with the natural world;
that we may become ever more filled with generosity of spirit
and true compassion and love for all life;
that we may strive to heal the hurts that we have inflicted on nature
and control our greed for material things,
knowing that our actions are harming our natural world and the future of our children;
that we may value each and every human being for who he is, for who she is,
reaching to the spirit that is within,
knowing the power of each individual to change the world.

We pray for social justice,
for the alleviation of the crippling poverty
that condemns millions of people around the world to lives of misery –
hungry, sick, and utterly without hope.
We pray for the children who are starving,
who are condemned to homelessness, slave labor, and prostitution,
and especially for those forced to fight, to kill and torture
even members of their own family.
We pray for the victims of violence and war,
for those wounded in body and for those wounded in mind.
We pray for the multitudes of refugees, forced from their homes to alien places
through war or through the utter destruction of their environment.

(Continued on next page...)

Prayer for World Peace (Continued from previous page)

We pray for suffering animals everywhere,
for an end to the pain caused by scientific experimentation,
intensive farming, fur farming, shooting, trapping,
training for entertainment, abusive pet owners,
and all other forms of exploitation
such as overloading and overworking pack animals,
bull fighting, badger baiting, dog and cock fighting and so many more.

We pray for an end to cruelty,
whether to humans or other animals,
for an end to bullying, and torture in all its forms.
We pray that we may learn the peace that comes with forgiving
and the strength we gain in loving;
that we may learn to take nothing for granted in this life;
that we may learn to see and understand with our hearts;
that we may learn to rejoice in our being.

We pray for these things with humility;
We pray because of the hope that is within us,
and because of a faith in the ultimate triumph of the human spirit;
We pray because of our love for Creation, and because of our trust in God.
We pray, above all, for peace throughout the world.



Birthdays

5
Paul Farmer
Kathy Franke
8
Steve Peters
Clark Holdiman
Jenner Buck
9
Dale Hatinger
Jonathan Yarngo
12
Ruth Linderman

13
Regan Casteel
14
Brittney Becker
Kari Lindaman
16
Aidan Kelley
Corina Marie Holdiman
Arlo Prescott
17
Brandon Becker
Kati (Thompson) Collins
18
Nancy Stevenson

19
Emily Stevenson
23
Matt Ensworth
Gordon Lauterbach
26
Justin Dams
27
Greta May McCaffrey
28
Audrey Adams-Sorge
Julie Kiefer

Anniversaries

28
Bob & Beth Hurley



**February
2022**

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS...

Our Social Causes and Justice budget has included a line item for "Adopt a Cabin". For many years a group from our church would spend a Saturday morning each spring helping spruce up the buildings and grounds at our beautiful camp using these funds for supplies. Since we weren't able to accomplish that this last year, the board decided to send those dollars to offer our financial support. Many in our congregation have enjoyed summer camps, Sunday morning services and special events, such as weddings and conferences at Pilgrim Heights, now known as Our Sacred Space, and I invite you all to consider visiting, supporting and joining in future activities there. If you have a favorite memory involving this awesome area, please share with us all by sending to or calling Michelle to include in an upcoming Tidings!

~ Laurie Allbaugh



Thank you from Our Sacred Space...

"Thank you so much for your 2021 contribution. Your support is especially important during these challenging times due to COVID19. We've had many cancellations but will be ready to host camps and continue our ministry as soon as it is safe to do so. We appreciate your support. Your support enables us to preserve and improve this sacred space so generations can continue to utilize this place to be enriched and inspired. Please stop by and visit if you are in the area. Alexa Lloyd, Executive Director."

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

Place
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