

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

February 9, 2022

SEARCH AND CALL UPDATE

The Search and Call Committee has been meeting weekly to update our church profile and get it ready to submit to the conference. There are many pieces to the profile and we are working through each section to make sure it is current and accurate. Once the profile has been submitted and accepted, we will be able to review potential candidates for our Senior Minister position. We will keep you informed about our next steps! Please keep our church family in your prayers as we move forward during this exciting time. "Lord, we are listening. Be with us as we prayerfully seek Your will and Your wisdom throughout our time of transition. You know our needs and we have faith You want to guide us to the person You have already prepared for this responsibility. Amen" (an excerpt taken from the prayer in our profile).

~ Diane Highnam (chair) and the Search and Call Committee (Craig Holdiman, Craig Mahood, Evie Waack, Hannah Prescott, Kaden McConnell, Karen Jensen, Kerri Mennenga, Lauren Reisinger, Rich Thuesen, and Anne Hoekstra).

COMMON MEETING FOR BOARD CHAIRS...

The chairs of the boards (Spiritual Life & Care, Spiritual Growth & Programs, Social Causes & Justice, Creative Ministries, and Physical Resources) will be meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, February 15 at 7:00 p.m. Past and future chairs are invited to attend this meeting. Here is the zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3192348927?pwd=SzIyY1NWRUVZKzF4MzRsbnHNkSnFSUT09>

TAKING CARE OF FAMILY...

~ Prayers for Ginni Casteel who is hospitalized at Allen Hospital for difficulties with breathing. She is hoping to go home soon. Prayers and cards are welcome.

Cards can be sent to Ginni's home address: 1123 Loren Drive in Cedar Falls.



~ Thanks to everyone for their prayers and concern for Nancy Stevenson as she had surgery yesterday (Tuesday, Feb. 8th). Her surgery went well and she is now recovering from the operation.

YOUTH NEWS

This upcoming Sunday *should* have been Super Bowl Subs, but alas, well-laid plans were foiled again... Maybe an opportunity for a different day? Mother's Day Subs? 4th of July Subs? National Ballpoint Pen Day? National Hug Your Cat Day? The options are endless! When would the wackiest day for Super Bowl Subs Not On Super Bowl Sunday be??



Pilgrim Heights Camp has finalized their Summer 2022 lineup! You can find more details at <https://www.pilgrimheights.org/camps-retreats>, but here is a brief overview:

- You and Me Camp (previously Grandparents Camp): June 26-28 or July 31-August 2
- Primary Camp (K-2nd): July 10-13
- Mid-Level Camp (3rd-5th): July 17-21
- Junior High Camp (6th-8th): July 24-28
- High School Camp (9th-12th): July 24-28

We are committed to helping with any financial barriers. Let Youth Director Abbie know if you have interest in and/or questions about going to camp this summer!



Michelle is working on the 2022 Church Directory this month.

Want to submit a new photo with your listing?

Address Change?

Phone Number Change?

Email any changes to fcuccoffice@gmail.com or mail your picture to the church to be scanned by **February 20th**.

(just note whether you want to pick the photo up once complete)

FROM THE REOPENING COMMITTEE...

Our Reopening Committee continues to review the current Covid-19 Black Hawk County statistics, the transmission rates are still high but heading in a downward trend. With knowing the overwhelming majority of our membership is fully vaccinated and boosted, we feel that by practicing our current mitigation policies we could soon resume in-person worship. We're hopefully optimistic that the positivity rate will continue to decline in the next week or two.



Free Covid-19 tests can be ordered at covidtests.gov. The website states "The tests will be completely free—there are no shipping costs and you don't need to enter a credit card number" Thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

~ *Tim, Beth, Greg, and Dave*

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS...

Dolly Parton isn't just another pretty face and well-known singer and entertainer. In 1995, Dolly and her foundation, The Dollywood Foundation, created a program to instill a love of reading and of books in young children. Today, her program spans five countries and has gifted over 1 million books each month to children around the world. That program, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, is coming to Black Hawk County through the efforts of several public libraries in our area.

It's a simple concept. When a child is signed up in the program they will receive a free book each month from when they are born until they turn 5 years old. Dolly consulted educators and researchers to determine how to create readers, inquisitive youth and a more educated future for young people. Dolly's team reviews and analyzes books to find age- and content-appropriate books from old standards to recently published books. The researchers also found that children relish the opportunity to open a package specifically mailed to them, to hold a book, their book, in their hands and to explore the book with a parent or guardian.

The Foundation partners with local communities to establish the program and administer the selecting, purchasing and shipping of books to each child. The Foundation carries much of the weight of the program but expects the local community to share in the costs. We hope to begin registering area children in June, but we have to reach our funding goal before then. No gift is too small: \$25 provides books for a child for one year, or \$125 provides books for a child from birth until age 5.

As one of my volunteer interests I joined the Friends of the Cedar Falls Public Library board several years ago. The Friends are supporting the Imagination Library through our fundraising efforts. We also fund many library programs and advocate for free access to the resources at the library.

If you would like to know more or donate to this project, let me know.

~ Kay Thuesen



Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will again offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at the **First Congregational United Church of Christ** on **February 24, 2022**.



A package of five screenings to identify cardiovascular disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

- Carotid artery ultrasound that scans the carotid arteries that screens for buildup of fatty plaque-one of the leading causes of strokes.
- Abdominal aortic aneurysm ultrasound screening for an abdominal aneurysm that could lead to a ruptured aorta.
- Heart Rhythm Screening (AFIB) A quick and easy test using a 6-lead EKG placed on the arms and legs to identify the presence or absence of an irregular heartbeat.
- Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening-Evaluates for PAD in the lower extremities, which increases the risk of cardiovascular disease.
- Osteoporosis Risk Assessment-Ultrasound screens the shin bone for bone mass density. Osteoporosis is painless and silent in the early stages.

Special Package Pricing all 5 screenings are offered for only \$139. Register by calling toll free 1-800-690-6495, text the word "circle" to 797979, or register on line at <https://lisa.social/HSC>.

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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