

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

March 8, 2023



It was wonderful being back in the sanctuary this past Sunday. Worshipers were greeted in the crossroads and library with construction decoration, reminding us of all the work that has been accomplished these past 8 weeks. The sanctuary looked beautiful, and we were greeted by Touch of Brass, the Chancel Choir, and Hudson on the organ, all sounding beautiful. It was good seeing so many of our church family and beloved friends. The kids did a great job ushering, acolyting, and assisting with the service, even collecting offering



with paint trays. We then enjoyed a special reception of cake, punch, and coffee in the library. Thank you to all who contributed to a meaningful rededication of the sanctuary.

Thank you to Rev. Pat Gadelmann for leading our service, and to Kay Thuesen for serving as our lay worship leader. We learned a new version of "If I Had a Hammer" during the mini-message led by Diane Highnam. Cliff showed the food pantry he constructed and invited our youth to help stock the shelves. Leon Deal thanked folks for their contributions to help fill several little pantries that are scattered through the neighborhood. First C has volunteered to fill them one Friday per month.

This Sunday, we welcome back to our pulpit Rev. David Glenn-Burns of UNI Three House. Cliff Highnam will serve as worship leader, and Paul Greene will be presenting the mini-message.

THANK YOU to Dave Allbaugh for his leadership as point person for the repair work of our church that is nearly complete. It has been a big job, and we were able to enjoy the fruits of that work this Sunday. Our sanctuary was beautiful! Thanks also to Cliff Highnam and the Board of Physical Resources for their work and support of the project. Another big THANK YOU goes to Kyle Lindaman, our custodian, for all his extra work during this time—it was an enormous task to move us to the chapel and back for worship and dealing with all the extra inconveniences of the project. It has taken hours on everyone's part. We are very fortunate to have such talented and committed folks.



THANK YOU to Diane Highnam for her vision of a great celebration and rededication as we returned to the sanctuary last Sunday. Our new rendition of "If I Had A Hammer" could be a new favorite. And having all the kids with worship duties was wonderful to see.

And THANK YOU to Gina Greene for the wonderful decorations (including paint cans, brushes, caution tape, and drop cloths), balloons, and CAUTION cake all in theme with

the celebration. It was great to see so many of our church family here for the celebration ... and it was a CELEBRATION.



~ Prayers for Lois Johnson - Imagine Lois Johnson with a frown because it hurts to laugh. (Hard to imagine.) Please pray for Lois for a speedy recovery following a fall on Sunday that left her with 2 broken ribs and very sore. Prayers, a call, cards and a meal might be helpful! Her address is 536 Helmet Ave., W'loo 50703.

~ Prayers for John Mardis, who continues his treatments at U of IA hospitals.

Update from Barb: "John surprised everyone by singing (softly, but he had the tune and words right) a little bit of "The Morning Day" yesterday - the verse that includes "Mary and the baby, weary. Oh, we know what weary be!" Which tells me he understood exactly what he was singing and selected it on purpose! There's still a long way to go, but we'll take every forward step and continue to appreciate all your thoughts and prayers." John's address is: c/o UIHC, 200 Hawkins Dr, Iowa City, 52242



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School continues at 9:15 in the Friendship Room for discussion of chapter 6, "Alice Walker" in Listening for God.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

The next breakfast will be held this Saturday, March 11th at 9am. Meet us at Perkins in Waterloo!

TRUSTEE MEETING

The trustees will meet next Tues., March 14th at 6pm.

LOOKING AHEAD... HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- April 2** - Palm Sunday Service, 10:30 a.m.
- April 6** - Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. with Simple Soup Supper preceding
- April 7** - Good Friday Ecumenical Service 7:00 p.m. (at Kimball United Methodist Church)
- April 9** - Easter Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

HUDSON PERFORMING AT WARTBURG'S BACH'S LUNCHEON

You are invited to a special recital at Wartburg College by our organist, Hudson Lourenco-Feld at noon this Friday, March 10th.

He will be discussing the music he will be playing at noon in the basement Commons of the Wartburg Chapel, then performing in the chapel from 12:30-1:00 p.m.

This is a free concert and open to the public. You are welcome to bring a lunch to eat during the discussion from 12:00-12:30. Click [HERE](#) for a link to the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier to an article that appeared in this Sunday's paper.

His repertoire will be by J.S. Bach and include:

- ~ *Prelude and Fugue in E minor "Cathedral", BWV 533*
- ~ *Prelude in G Major, BWV 568*
- ~ *'Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein', Orgelbüchlein No 43, BWV 641*
- ~ *Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor, BWV 582*

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS...



It's Time to Share:

Esmeralda lives in Honduras at “the intersection of hunger and climate change.” She and her family are taking part in a new program that has already reached 500 families. As a 27-year-old wife, mother and farmer, Esmeralda’s family is benefiting from the installation of an eco-stove in their home. This stove uses less wood to heat, thereby preserving their limited supply of available wood, and produces less soot that previously covered her home. Her persistent cough, caused by the soot, has been reduced.

The efforts of One Great Hour of Sharing will improve food security for Esmeralda and her family. We can all agree that food sustains life. It’s time to share our gifts to help Esmeralda and her family and others like her. OGHS offering will be collected March 19.



PANTRY EXCITEMENT

Thank you all for your generous food donations for the pantry and for helping build the 5th (and purple) pantry.

Another pantry equals more, and continued, need. This is an all church project and it does take a community. Amazing!

We are currently out of canned / bagged meats, instant potatoes, cereal and canned fruits and vegetables. Just drop items off in the lobby.

Thank you! Thank you!

JOYCE GAULT PIANO CONCERT SERIES

This series is hosted annually and celebrates exceptional piano concerts offered by UNI faculty and guest artists, in honor of former faculty pianist Joyce Gault. This year's series includes:

Faculty Recital: Korey Barrett, piano & Sean Botkin, piano - March 9, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Faculty Recital: Sean Botkin, piano - March 20, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Faculty Recital: Vakhtang Kodanashvili, piano - March 28, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Guest Recital: Kristín Jónína Taylor, piano - April 20, 2023 at 6 p.m.

All Recitals will be in Davis Hall in the
Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center



I Know We're All Welcome at the Table, But Do I Have to Sit Next to You? Workshop Conference

This is the title of a book by one of our guest preachers, Rev. Janice Springer, and the title of a Saturday conference we would like to sponsor for our church to host on April 1, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

"How do we stay in community with those whose values drive us crazy? How do we regard our opponents with compassion instead of contempt? How do we love our enemies? We'll learn some tools to help us see the face of Christ in those we meet."

Rev. Janice Springer has served churches in the United Church of Christ for more than 40 years. Currently she is Minister of Spiritual Formation at University Congregational United Church of Christ in Missoula, Montana. Her articles have been published in journals, including *The Christian Century*. She is author of *Nurturing Spiritual Depth in Christian Worship: Ten Practices*. She is spiritual director and has led worships and retreats in the USA and Canada. Janice lives in Iowa and Montana.

Please email Anne Hoekstra at annelouisehoekstra@gmail.com, or call the office 319-234-8927 to register or for questions. Cost will be \$10 for the workshop and lunch.

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

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