

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 16, 2022

FROM THE REOPENING COMMITTEE...

Our group has met almost weekly for about 2 years. The common theme was the intense desire for our congregation to congregate. "Blessed be the tie that binds". If you missed Diane's sermon or happened to doze off, watch it again on Facebook.

Masks are encouraged but optional. Continue to use hand sanitizer. Please make sure that you are well when you come to church. There are many different symptoms, so if you do not feel well, play it safe.

Thanks to Beth, Tim, and Dave for probably over 80 Tuesday morning zoom meetings. As far as we know, there were no cases that occurred from meeting in the sanctuary. That means we were too careful, just right careful, or lucky. So be careful and congregate.

~ Greg Hoekstra



PRAYER TIME FOR UKRAINE AND THE WORLD

The attack of the Ukraine by Russia has been so devastating. We watch in horror as innocent people are being attacked while their homes, hospitals, and communities are destroyed. Many have left their homeland—over 2 million so far, while others stay behind

to defend their country the best they can. There seems to be little we can do besides sending financial assistance for humanitarian efforts. However, we can join others around the world to pray for peace, resolution, and Ukraine's freedom.

Please join us for a time of prayer next Wednesday, March 23, from 11 am to 1 pm. We will open the sanctuary for those who wish to drop in during this time. Folks are welcome to stay for a few minutes or longer. We will open the sanctuary subsequent Wednesdays of Lent, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, so people can come to pray and meditate.

Let there be peace on earth and peace in Ukraine.

~ Anne Hoekstra

OUR CHURCH FAMILY...

- ~ Prayers for Aaron Petersen who was treated for a benign lesion of the brain last week in Kansas City.
- ~ Prayers for Diana (Blankenfeld) Paige who has been diagnosed with a brain tumor and is awaiting a treatment plan.
- ~ Prayers for comfort and healing for Barb Mardis who underwent a procedure for a kidney stone Tuesday.



~ Did you know we have a TV star in our midst? In case you missed it, there is an awesome story on Kwwl.com about our own Charlie Mejia and his family! Just use his name to search for the video.



Sunday School: Will be meeting during Sunday Service after the children's message!

Youth Group: Will meet Wednesday, March 16th at 6pm and we will be exploring some of the different instruments that we have at the church!

NEW AND APPROVED DIGITAL MEDIA POLICY:



The Trustees recently approved a new Digital Media Policy (which can be found at the bottom of the home page of the website or go to http://www.firstcongucc.org/uploads/1/3/5/3/135305693/digital_media_policy_fcucc_approved_03.08.22_.docx.pdf).

This is a living document that will be updated as necessary. It was created to state the specific purposes of our digital media spaces (such as Facebook and the website) and to create criteria of what should be posted to these public forums and what should be left off and directed towards spaces where more open dialogue can be conducted (such as in-person or over the phone).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the head of the Digital Media Committee, Evie Waack.

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS...

LEAVING AN IMPRESSION



OFFERING DATE:
MARCH 27, 2022

1 Corinthians 13:13 New International Version ...

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. ... But the greatest of these is love.

Many impressions are lasting, precious, and crucial. We treasure the little plaster handprint made by our kindergartener. We look back at the interview we had with a promising young applicant and feel assured that she will have an exemplary career. We realize that a choice which we made was the right one. An impression is what's left behind after an action or object is gone, a difference made by the action or presence of someone or something.

The verse from 1 Corinthians tells us that impressions of faith, hope, and love will long be remembered, but the greatest impressions are made by exhibits of love. In time, acts of kindness or compassion may be forgotten, but the impression of love will long endure. I think this may be the impetus for choosing the theme for the 2022 OGHS campaign. LOVE REMAINS. When considering your donation, please remember that your gift of love may leave a lasting impression on friends and strangers both far and near.

Ways to Give:

1. Donate through your local congregation
2. Make a secure gift online - https://support.ucc.org/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/one-great-hour-of-sharing-donation?inf_contact_key=9f4be4ece2a2ae6ce9dbed089762596f4dfbc39d7283b2cb89d5189540b69330
3. Text to give: Text OGHS to 41444
4. Mail a check (payable to OGHS) to: United Church of Christ, P.O. Box 71957, Cleveland, OH 44194

~ Lynette Doepke

MEALS ON WHEELS THANK YOU!

Thanks to Bob Brock, Gina & Paul Greene, John Mardis, Sue Hummel and her friend Anne for filling in with Meals on Wheels delivering the last couple months.



Getting Ahead in the Cedar Valley

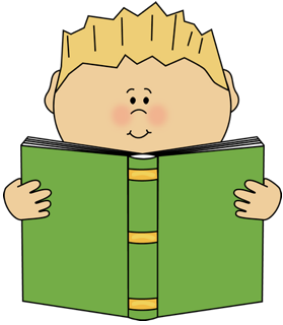
*Helping Neighbors cross the
Bridges out of Poverty*



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

If anyone would like to help with a Getting Ahead in the Cedar Valley dinner at 5pm Thursday, April 7th, please call 319-504-3212.

DID YOU KNOW THAT OUR CHURCH HAS A LITTLE FREE LIBRARY?



It sits between 4th St. and the church, patiently waiting through rain or shine, hoping that someone will open its little door and borrow a book! If you have some novels or even children's books at home that you'd like to contribute, you may place them inside the 4th St. entrance and we'll make sure they get into the Little Free Library (LFL). And don't forget to take a book or two yourself!

The LFL gets so lonely without visitors.

~ Sue Hummel

BEING A CHANNEL OF GOD'S PEACE...

*It's been a rough couple years. Love the people I hate? Some days,
I can hardly love the people I love! I am weary. I am empty. I am tired. Help!*

Divisiveness, lack of civility, despair and hopelessness permeate our nation these days.

I feel sad and scared and powerless Help!

What has happened to our sense of community? Everywhere I turn, there is a clash of values.

What sustains us? What sustains me? Help!

If this sounds like your world, join us via Zoom as we consider BEING A CHANNEL OF GOD'S PEACE: A START led by Rev. Janice Jean Springer. This workshop is designed for people who are already weary and discouraged, people whose energy ran out a long time ago. It is intentionally brief—only 3 sessions, 1 ¼ hours each And it is interactive, playful and nurturing,

3 Thursdays 6:30-7:45 Central Time Zone

March 24, March 31, April 7, 2022

Register by emailing revjanicejeanspringer@gmail.com. Include your name, email address, and the state you live in. When we receive your registration, we will email you the link you need to join us via Zoom. There is no cost for this workshop. Bring pen and paper or your tablet.

Rev. Janice Jean Springer, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, has served for more than 40 years as a local church pastor in Missouri, Iowa, Michigan and Montana. Most recently, she is the author of *I Know We're All Welcome at the Table, But Do I Have to Sit Next to You?*

For more information contact Evie Waack at evie.waack@gmail.com



Time to order your Easter Lilies...

Orders may be placed through the month of March.

PRICE: \$ **12.50** each

Please make checks payable to First Congregational UCC. You may mail your check and this order form to the church or you can fill out an order form (available in the library) and place it in the offering plate with your check on Sunday. You may also call the church office at 234-8927 or email Michelle at fcuccoffice@gmail.com to place your order(s).

Easter Lilies can be picked up after the Easter worship service on April 17th.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Total number ordered: ____ x \$12.50 = _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Celebration of: _____

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

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