

# 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](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa)

March 2, 2022

## BACK IN THE SANCTUARY AGAIN!

**From the Reopening Committee March 1, 2022...**

WELCOME BACK! It was good to see everyone at Church service this past Sunday! Black Hawk County's Covid-19 status as of February 28th was rated as "Substantial" with a seven day rate per 100,000 of 81. The Omicron virus was and is a highly transmittable variant and we're now seeing a sharp decline in the positivity rate being reported. That being said, it is still with us and the Covid-19 symptoms usually aren't felt until several days after contracting. We will continue to review the data, believing it is in the best interest of our congregation's health and safety to keep our current, requested mitigation efforts in place, at least for the near future. See you next Sunday!

*~ Tim, Beth, Greg, Dave*



**Ash Wednesday service is tonight, Wednesday  
March 2nd at 7 p.m. All are welcome!**



**Tuesday, March 8th will be Dave Greene's 97th birthday.  
Help us celebrate, Shower the birthday boy with cards!  
(3720 Village Place # 5330 Waterloo 50702)**



**\*\* NO Youth Group Wednesday, March 2nd due to the Ash Wednesday Service. You are welcome to join us for the service in the sanctuary at 7pm that evening.**

**\*\* Heads up!** Youth Director Abbie will be out of town at the Women in Youth Ministry Conference March 9th-12th.

**JOIN US FOR**  
*Maple Tapping*

**MAR 6** | **1:30 PM**

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**HARTMAN NATURE RESERVE**  
.....

**S'mores, Hot Chocolate, and Fellowship!**

<http://www.firstcongucc.org/youth.html>

**MEET HERE!**

Hartman Reserve Nature Center  
Woodland area with wildlife & trails

657 Reserve Dr.  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

# MOMENT FOR MISSIONS...

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you in the name of the One who has called us into love and light. We are preparing for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Our theme for 2022 is Love Remains, based on 1 Corinthians 13.

In the theme scripture, the Apostle Paul helped newly converted Christians at Corinth embrace the virtue of love. Love is an active decision to think of others before self; to work on behalf of

others; and to care for other with acts of kindness and advocacy. Paul taught that community is less about “me” and more about “us.”

“Us”—the community—is defined broadly without limitations and boundaries. Community crosses boundaries and borders, creating realities which transcend perceived differences in ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, religion, spirituality, cultural diversity, and social location can be acknowledged and celebrated. It is not limited to one’s household or home church or immediate neighborhood.

Paul taught that Jesus formed a new kind of community from a group of diverse persons—a community whose fabric of communal life is woven with threads of justice, love and service.

Over the last year, there were communities needing a little more compassion, love and support. Tornadoes, wildfires, earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes ravaged communities worldwide, in some cases, destroying everything, and leaving behind devastation, and tribulation. Drought, violence and COVID wreaked havoc in communities, leaving people without food and resources for themselves and their family. When members of the United Church of Christ heard of these disasters, they responded and even invited friends to participate in providing much needed help.

You are making the difference in the lives of many in need around the world. Through your generosity, the United Church of Christ provided support that offered hope during times of despair. With your assistance we offered food, water, medicines, education, and opportunities for sustainable development.

This ministry of compassion is a result of the love Paul called the church to, and the love we will continue to witness through your generosity and gifts given through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Thank you for your congregation’s continued faithfulness in supporting those who need resources and assistance to recover their lives following disasters. Thank you for your individual contributions as well. We bear witness to God’s love and grace through your love poured out among us. Your gifts allow us to put love into action, ensuring that Love Remains.

Sincerely,

*Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson*

*Associate General Minister, Wider Church Ministries and Operations United Church of Christ*

**OGHS Offering will be collected March 27, 2022**

## MARCH TRUSTEE MEETING

The meeting will be held next **Tuesday, March 8th at 6pm.**  
This meeting will be held in-person downstairs.



## ALTAR FLOWERS

You can now sign up again for Altar Flowers.  
There is a sign-up for future Sundays outside the sanctuary.  
It's nice to have the variety that our congregation offers.  
Please stop by and sign up to secure the special dates in your life!

*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

First Congregational UCC  
608 WEST FOURTH STREET  
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

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