

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 23, 2022

FROM THE REOPENING COMMITTEE...

The Next Covid Wave Is Probably Already on Its Way.

<https://nyti.ms/3qp36R6>

The reopening committee is meeting only as needed now that the number of cases has lowered. Yesterday I played golf and one of the players is 78 and can beat us regularly. He contracted COVID a month ago. He played yesterday and rode a cart. Last year he would walk 18 holes. Now he cannot walk 3 holes. He can't complete more than three sentences. So please read this article. When you see me with a mask it is out of respect for virology.

~ Tim, Greg, Beth, Dave



WEDNESDAY PRAYER TIME FOR UKRAINE AND THE WORLD

Please join us for a time of prayer in the sanctuary anytime between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. this Wednesday and the subsequent Wednesdays of Lent. This will be a time for prayer and meditation. You are invited to come for as long as you wish. We sometimes don't know how we can help in the world, but we can make time to pray.

~ Anne Hoekstra

TAKING CARE OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY...

~ Prayers for Russ Towsley and his family as he has now entered hospice care.

~ Prayers for Sue Hummel as she recovers from knee surgery Monday.



WORSHIP LEADERS:

Please consider volunteering to assist with worship as a worship leader. In the weeks ahead, we will have both clergy and lay people leading worship, and we would love to have YOU as worship leader.

If you have never served, or have served many times—you are invited! Please let Michelle Wolfe or Anne Hoekstra know of your interest.

WE NEED YOU...

Looking for a few new members for the Board of Spiritual Life and Care (formerly Deacons)!

We'd love to have you join us! It's a great way to connect with the church family and contribute in a variety of ways (helping with after-church social hour, setting up for communion, reaching out to members who can't attend church, etc, etc). Interested? Contact Diane Highnam (319-240-2849) and we'll talk!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Rev. David R. Sheridan, who was installed this past Sunday as pastor and teacher of Spring Creek United Church of Christ in Rockford, Illinois. He is a son of the late Bob and Donna Sheridan, and a son of the congregation. We celebrate with him, his family, and his congregation, this new venture in his life.

CHURCH MUTUAL SCHOLARSHIP

CM CARES®, the Church Mutual Insurance Company Foundation, is offering 25 scholarships of \$2,500 each to religious scholars!

This program supports full and part-time graduate and doctoral students who are committed to ministry. Scholars of all faiths are encouraged to apply for the 2022-23 year.

The application period runs through April 5th. Winners will be notified in June. A program flier is available to download, and complete details and materials are available online at churchmutual.com/cmcares-scholars.

BEING A CHANNEL OF GOD'S PEACE

Join us via Zoom 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 - 6:30-7:45pm

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.



Youth Group: will meet Wednesday the 23th 6pm-7pm and will do activities surrounding the upcoming One Great Hour of Sharing!

Women in Youth Ministry: A couple weeks ago, Youth Director Abbie attended a conference in Indianapolis, and she learned SO MUCH! You can read her in-depth commentary and reflections at firstcongucc.org/blog/wym2022. In summary, listed below are some action steps and reflection questions that she poses in response to her participation in the conference:

- Identify my values. How do they fit into the work that I am doing?
- Analyze my daily rhythms. What am I lacking? What can I toss?
- Define my intentions of being a youth ministry leader. Why do I do what I do? What can I do to be more present?
- How can I work to provide welcome and affirming spaces for our youth? What language can I change in my vocabulary in my day-to-day life (such as using the word 'folks' instead of 'guys' and how to integrate the usage of pronouns).
- Asking what are ways that we can make our youth spaces more inclusive. What do we already have that we can strengthen? What are we lacking? These questions are both posed for both physical and emotional spaces. Additionally, I will compile a list of local resources to have on hand.
- What are ways we can create space where youth can be invited into a space where they can discover more so who God created them to be? Where are ways that we can implement a Human-Centered Design Thinking Theological Innovation Process like Fail→Safe Studios?



SENIOR RECITAL

Our soprano section leader, Joley Seitz, will be performing her senior recital on Tuesday evening, April 12, at 6:00 pm at Davis Hall in the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. She will be collaborating with Dr. Korey Barrett and performing selections by Cilea, La Montaine, Strauss, and Rachmaninov. There will be a livestream for those who can't make it in person. This event is free and open to the public!

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS...



OFFERING DATE:
MARCH 27, 2022

Love is determined

Daw Aye May is a 56-year-old widow who lives alone in the village of Sar Phyu Su, 40 miles north of Yangon, Myanmar. When she lost her husband in 2019, she thought her future was gone too. But she managed to maintain a living selling herbs at market. Then came COVID-19. Restrictions curtailed public gatherings at large markets and travel, disrupting an already limited economy by reducing farmers ability to sell products in distant and larger markets.

Although Daw Aye May received some additional support from family, she knew she needed to find another way to earn money when selling herbs was no longer a possibility.

Soon she learned that One Great Hour of Sharing partners through Church World Service were sharing chickens with families who had great need and training them in animal care and husbandry. Within weeks of picking up two hens and a rooster from a hatchery delivery truck, Daw Aye May had eggs! At first, "I didn't have any idea about how to raise chickens, but just wanted to try. I just fed the chickens and let all the eggs hatch," she said. In fact, she let the first 12 eggs hatch into young chicks. Shortly afterwards, she collected another 13 eggs from the first two hens and sold 10 eggs in the village to earn \$1.81. That's nearly half the official daily minimum wage of \$3.53. "I was so happy as this was my first time making money from my chicken raising business," she said proudly.



Local partners sourced a local breed of hens and roosters for villagers because they are easier to raise free-range style. In less than five months, Daw Aye May had 30 hens and five roosters—with no prior experience in raising poultry. "I learned that chicken meat from the local breed earns more money." She expects to soon gather 30 eggs per day, earning up to \$5.42/day in sales within a cluster of walkable villages.

The newly inspired chicken farmer shared her joy and gratitude. "I thank CWS for sparking the light of a more hopeful future for me. Honestly, I wasn't initially interested in chicken raising. Now, I want to be a poultry business woman. With a flock of 35 hens and roosters already, I will expand the flock further. My plan is to collect and sell more eggs in neighboring villages where I am allowed to travel. Also, I will use chicken manure in my home garden as organic fertilizer."

Daw May Aye's determination is an inspiration to anyone who hears her story. Though it would have been understandable for her to give up, she found a way to not only survive, but thrive. This new beginning is made possible by the love you share through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing! In a time that will forever be marked by the tragedy of a global pandemic, your determined generosity makes stories like Daw May Aye's possible, showing the world once again that, even amid our most difficult struggles, "faith, hope, and love abide, these three: and the greatest of these us love.

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



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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Congregational Tidings

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