

# First Congregational UCC

## TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our  
church family and friends  
April 12, 2023



*No matter who you are or where you are on Life's journey, you are welcome here!*



## HOLY WEEK IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR

We have just celebrated the most holy days in our Christian calendar. We've had some very special worship services thanks to the contribution of many different folks.

On Maundy Thursday, Rev. Jim Altenbaumer, assisted by Diane Highnam, led us through a remembrance of the Lord's Supper, followed by a Tenebrae service. Prior to the service, we met for the breaking of bread and sharing of soup, served by the Board of Spiritual Life and Care. Thank you to our soup contributors, our readers, and our musicians for a solemn and meaningful service commemorating Holy Week events.

Our Ecumenical Good Friday service was held at Kimball Avenue United Methodist Church, led by the combined youth of that church, First Baptist, and First United Methodist Church. The youth assumed the roles of different people in the life of Jesus and reflected on His impact on them and others. A mass choir from our church, led by Luke Overton, shared their message in song.

Our celebration on Easter Sunday was led by Rev. Brad Braley and Diane Highnam, and Gina Greene provided the mini message. Thanks to Luke Overton and the bell and chancel choirs, and Hudson Lourenco-Feld for their wonderful music, lifting our spirits as we celebrated Easter's promises. Thank you to Tim Ahrens and Sue Hummel for preparing a fun egg hunt for the kids. We welcomed several guests as well as family and friends to our Easter festivities. It was with many shouts of "Hallelujah" that we rejoiced in Easter's message of hope and deliverance.

Another highlight of the week was something new for Cedar Valley churches. Greg Holt and Paul Greene coordinated with 6 different churches to have the whole New Testament read, beginning Monday with Matthew and ending Saturday with Revelation. On Easter Sunday, the Courier had a front page article about this project. Click [HERE](#) to read the article. Although our church was not a site this year, we were the organizers. We are hopeful this will continue to be an annual event. You may hear these readings in the comfort of your home by going to [www.youtube.com/@HolyWeekinTheCedarValley-fj9qm](http://www.youtube.com/@HolyWeekinTheCedarValley-fj9qm).

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## PULPIT SUPPLY

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
of  
Easter

We welcome back to our pulpit Rev. Brad Braley to preach, Gina Greene as our worship leader, and Diane Highnam who will be providing the mini-message. This is our second Sunday of Easter in the liturgical calendar. We look forward to our continued encounter with the risen Christ as we gather for worship and fellowship.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School will resume this coming Sunday with a new book for discussion. We will be reading "Inspired, Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again" by Rachel Held Evans. We will meet at 9:15 for an introduction to the book and for discussion. Folks are invited to join in person or via ZOOM. Please let Michelle or Anne know if you would like a book ordered for you, and/or if you would like a ZOOM link.

## PRAYERS FOR...

~ Greg Wolfe, who is the husband of our office manager, Michelle, who had back surgery this week. We pray he has a full recovery.

## SUMMER SERMONS?

Summer will be here before we know it. If you would like to present a sermon during this season, please let Anne Hoekstra or Michelle in the office know. We appreciate our own congregation and what they have to share. If you would like to present something, but aren't quite sure where to begin, there are many "helps" to assist. Just let us know!

## DON'T FORGET THE FOOD PANTRY

Heading to the store? Don't forget to pick up something for your neighbors to fill the food pantry. Mark 12: 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.'

## EASTER LILIES

Thank you to all who celebrated and remembered with an Easter Lily. The sanctuary was beautiful. Some of the lilies were unable to be picked up so if you are visiting someone that might enjoy a lift from a lily- please come by and pick one up and share it with a friend.

## BONNIE RICKERT MEMORIAL SERVICE

The memorial service to celebrate Bonnie Rickert 's life will be next Saturday, April 22nd at 11am.

## FIRST QUARTER REPORT FROM THE TREASURER



At the end of the first quarter of the year we are in good financial condition. At 25% of the way through the year, we have realized 27.7% of our offering income. Thanks to all of you who have done such a great job of keeping your pledges current. Because maintenance expenses and all board expenses are under budget and because we do not yet have a minister or a religious education director, our expenses are under budget. Hopefully, we will find our new minister before long. Please continue to keep your pledge payment current so we can continue to fund Church operations while avoiding drawing from the Endowment Fund.

~ *Craig Driver*  
*Church Treasurer*

## POTLUCK WITH A PURPOSE

Please mark Sunday, April 23rd after church on your calendar for lunch with Jenna Peterson from Habitat for Humanity, who has agreed to talk about the "next step" after their neighborhood survey and their invitation to partner with nonprofits and churches to serve various needs in Church Row. If possible bring food to share and your own table service. Hope to see you there!

## CALLING ALL FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS!

We have another work night scheduled for Tuesday, April 18th from 6-8pm at the Northwest Iowa Food Bank. We'd love to have you join us and help assemble food for hungry families in our community. It will be the best 2 hours of your week! Contact Michelle in the church office or call/text Diane to sign up!

# EASTER SUNDAY PICTURES...



## HOW CAN WE ASSIST YOU?

Each member of our flock is very important to us but sometimes during our search for a minister we feel like a flock without a shepherd. Please help us as a church family to assist YOU if we can. Please call the church office if you would like some assistance and we will get back to you.

Do you need a ride to a medical appointment? An extra hand at the store? An errand run? A visit? Also as a reminder we have some Memorial funds available through the Goodrich fund to support our seniors that need assistance. Need some help with cleaning, moving, repairs, meals, etc? Please ask!

Each member of our flock is so very important.

# MOMENT FOR MISSIONS...

~ Help! If anyone would like to deliver meals on wheels this Thursday (4/13 ) morning, please call Laurie 319-504-3212. Half of our volunteers aren't available this week.



~ Delivery of newsletters to the neighborhood will be between Friday, April 14 - Thursday, April 20. You can pick when, where, how much you'd like to do! By using this delivery schedule we are able to promote the clothing give-away 4/22. Please call Mary Potter at 319-939-2753 for more info.

~ We have been invited to participate in a summer 8 session book read, "Restoring At-Risk Communities" which will be held at the Waterloo First United Methodist Church (614 Randolph St. 50702). Sign up by April 17th to reserve your spot by emailing Jenna Petersen at email [jpetersen@webuildhabitat.org](mailto:jpetersen@webuildhabitat.org) or calling 319-235-9946. You will need to order your own book, but a link to purchase will be provided.

The dates are:	May 2	July 11	
	May 16	July 18	
	June 6	August 8	
	June 20	August 15	

*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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