

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

April 13, 2022



PRAYER TIME FOR UKRAINE AND THE WORLD

Join us in our church's sanctuary on Wednesday, April 13th for prayers for Ukraine and the world. Printed prayers and a quiet space for prayer and reflection will be available 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Come and go as your schedule allows. If you have any questions contact Evie Waack.



Holy Week Schedule

April 13 - No Wednesday Night Youth Group (*Special event on April 15th instead!*)

April 14--Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 pm Communion and Tenebrae Service

There will be a simple soup supper in the basement of bread and soup at 6:15 before the service. Please gather together as we remember the last meal Jesus had in community with his disciples.

April 15--The Good Friday Service will be held at 12:00 Noon in the sanctuary;
a simple service of readings, prayer, and song.

The Youth Group will be having a build-your-own pizza party at 5:00pm!
Come for food, fun, and fellowship!

April 17--Easter Sunday Service, 10:30 a.m.

Children are invited to an Easter egg hunt prior to the service.

TAKING CARE OF FAMILY...

- ~ Prayers for Gina Greene and her family, on the death of her mother, E Kay (Eddie) Swaim, on Saturday, April 9th.
- ~ Prayers for Teri Graham, and continuing health issues. Prayers also for her friend, Vince, whose brother was recently killed.
- ~ Prayers for Larry Wolfe, Michelle Wolfe's father-in-law, who is being treated for blood clots in his lungs.
- ~ Prayers for Diana Blankenfeld Paige, who will undergo neurosurgery on April 20.
- ~ Prayers for Collene Peirce as she recovers at home from a leg sore.
- ~ Prayers for Michelle Holt who is having open heart/ valve replacement surgery on April 27th at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, MN.
- ~ Prayers for the Mahood family as their daughter-in-law mourns the death of her father.
- ~ Prayers for Russ Towsley, who is in hospice care.



Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

...for all the prayers, visits, cards, calls, and more, following my knee replacement surgery.

You really have helped me heal during this challenging time. My church is truly my family!

~ Sue Hummel



Anna Kendall's family is requesting 90 cards for her 90th birthday on April 17th!

Please send all cards to:

Theresa Vascoucellos
25791 N. 92nd Ave.
Peoria, AZ 85383

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS...

"We All Need a Lift"

Rev. Leonard Harmon, our guest preacher on April 3 (and Easter Sunday), reminded us that we all need a lift. We have been through some tough times in the past couple of years. We were not able to be together but found ways to stay connected as best we could. Fortunately, now we are able to be together again and it is good. Very good! But we miss those who are not with us, for whatever reason. How can we give others a lift? How can we reach out to those who are missing, those in need, those who are struggling? Your efforts matter—your cards, phone calls, and visits all matter. I would encourage you all to reach out to someone in the days ahead—do what you can to "give a lift".

May you and those around you have a blessed Holy Week!

~ Anne Hoekstra



VBS: Mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School will be happening July 11th - 14th in the evenings!

Youth Director Office Hours: Come visit Abbie during her office hours! She will be here on April 14th, 15th, 19th, and 21st all from 1pm-5pm! If you want to schedule a meeting in advance, you can go to <https://koalendar.com/e/meet-with-abbie-chronister>.

Youth Group: As a reminder, there will NO youth group this week because...

YOUTH EVENT! Bring a friend and come build-your-own pizza! Friday, March 15th at 5pm.



HEY YOUTH & FRIENDS!
JOIN US FOR A BUILD-YOUR-OWN...

PIZZA PARTY!

15 APR 2022 • 5PM
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC



“SEED” FOR UPGRADED LAWN MOWER / SNOW BLOWER...

Our custodian, Kyle Lindaman, will be preparing a tasty smoked pork luncheon on May 1st for our congregation and friends. The meal is free to all, but for those who would like to contribute, they may do so. Folks are invited to donate to a “seed” fund to upgrade the church’s lawn mower/snow blower--equipment that will be needed in the future.



STUDENT RECITAL

Graduate music student Brandon Whitish will present a voice recital with faculty artist Korey Barrett, piano. Repertoire will include sections by Nadia Boulanger (Chanson, Doute, J’ai frappé, and Le Couteau), selections from Carlisle Floyd’s *The Pilgrimage*, and Vier Ernste Gesänge by Johannes Brahms. This event is free and open to the public.

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS:



As the original international non-profit exchange organization, CIEE is looking for host families to open their hearts and homes to our amazing high school exchange students next year (2022-2023 school year)!

As a host family, you would:

- Provide a place for the student to sleep & study
- Provide 3 meals a day
- Assist in arranging transportation (school bus is fine!)
- Give support to the student as a parent figure
- Have the love to share wonderful experiences with them!

Host families are as diverse as America itself, there is no "type" of family required. Please feel free to reach out to me directly at elizabethwilson.ciee@gmail.com, or feel free to start an application here with no obligation: <https://www.ciee.org/hostapply>.

~ Elizabeth Wilson @ CIEE

UCC APPEAL TOPS \$1 MILLION TO HELP UKRAINIANS FIND SAFETY, INSIDE AND AWAY FROM THEIR COUNTRY

by [Connie Larkman](#) | published on Apr 7, 2022

As Russia's war on Ukraine rages on, so does the suffering of the country's people. And they have been leaving their homes in record numbers. Donors in the United Church of Christ see them and have stepped up to send help. The response to the UCC's emergency appeal for Ukraine has been unprecedented. Some 3,700 donors have given more than \$1 million to the effort, launched days after Russia attacked Ukraine on Feb. 24. The \$1,073,208 in gifts as of April 5 may be the church's largest international relief effort ever.

As of April 6, more than 4.3 million Ukrainians have fled the country, the majority of them, 2.5 million, taking refuge in Poland, with others in Romania, Hungary, Moldova and Slovakia. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said the war on Ukraine has created the worst refugee crisis since World War II. Added to that are more than 7.1 million people who remain displaced inside the war-torn country. Gifts to the UCC appeal will be sent to partners in Europe — through the ecumenical ACT Alliance — to help tend to the needs of those people.

Due to the generosity of UCC donors, the church is making plans to respond in the long term. All the money sent to the Ukraine appeal will be used to assist people who are fleeing the war now and after the conflict. No funds are used to cover UCC administrative costs.

A current challenge for the organizations is anticipating where refugees will move next. "We are beginning to hear of needs in countries beyond Ukraine's immediate neighbors as people continue to move, but that has yet to materialize into specific information or requests," Baird said. For example, in Moldova — a country of 2.5 million where more than 95,000 people are taking refuge — "they are largely being housed by faith communities, in church buildings and in individual homes, where people threw open their doors in welcome. It is a generous response that is not sustainable."

"We are a part of a collaborative humanitarian response," said the Rev. Georgia Thompson, associate general minister of Wider Church Ministries and Operations. "We are leveraging our resources for the greater good, contributing in a protracted way to ensure we are able to be present as additional needs emerge."

MAY DAY CELEBRATION SUNDAY, MAY 1

Music Appreciation Sunday

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Special Music featuring

Hudson Lourenço, Organist and

FCUCC's Choirs

(Luke Overton, Director of Music)

Lunch to follow Worship

Pulled Pork Sandwiches

smoked and prepared by Kyle Lindaman, Custodian and Pitmaster

(Donations accepted for Church "Seed Fund" for Lawn Mower/Snow Blower)



Please come, bring your family and friends, and celebrate spring with us!

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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608 WEST FOURTH STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

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