

First Congregational UCC

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our
church family and friends
May 1, 2024



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



PULPIT SUPPLY

Thank you to Abbie Chronister for her message on Mental Health last Sunday, to Kay Thuesen for serving as worship leader and to Greg Hoekstra who provided the mini-message.

You can watch the service by clicking on the picture of Abbie.



YOU ARE INVITED THIS SUNDAY!!!

MUSIC SUNDAY - MAY 5TH

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Special Music featuring
First Congregational, First Baptist &
Waterloo First United Methodist Choirs

Free lunch to follow Worship

*(including pulled pork sandwiches smoked and prepared
by Kyle Lindaman, Custodian and Pit-master)*

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



YOUTH NEWS

The Collaborative Youth Group will meet on May 1, 8 & 15 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at Kimball Avenue United Methodist Church.

UPCOMING CONCERT

Mark your calendars for Friday, May 17, at 7:00 p.m. here at First Congregational!

UNI School of Music faculty, violinist Nash Ryder and pianist Sean Botkin present an eclectic auditory experience of music from Europe and the United States in this free community outreach program. Take a journey to Europe with Poulenc and Bacewicz, then travel through the American countryside with Beach, Avery, Davids and Taylor-Perkinson, each of whom represent different backgrounds, cultures and sound worlds.

LOVE INC DONATIONS

For the month of May we will be collecting Gas Cards. Make sure the gas cards are for "fuel only." Increments of \$10 or \$20 are appreciated. Please place them in the offering plate on Sunday or bring them to the office for safe keeping. Thank you in advance for your support!

FREE MONEY FOR YOUR EDUCATION!



Just a reminder that we have received another scholarship grant from the Donna Koweil Scholarship Fund. The intention of this scholarship is for current college students who have already completed at least one year of schooling. Preference will be given to those students who are pursuing a degree in the health field.

Deadline to submit an application is May 15th. Please contact Michelle in the office for more information or an application.

GRADUATES

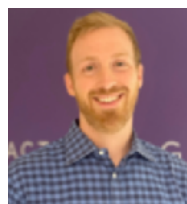
It's that time of year again!

Now is the time to let the church office know if you have someone in your family graduating from high school or college. Please submit their names to the church office for publication in Tidings at a later date. Include school they are graduating from and any future plans they may have in mind such as colleges they will be attending.



The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. *We will receive the STC offering on Sunday, May 19th.*

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



Get answers to the questions you've been too afraid to ask! Charles Moore is a national civil rights lawyer and will give a presentation and discussion on *Wednesday, May 8th*. There will be a social/snack time at 5:00pm with the presentation to begin at 5:30pm. This is a community-wide event and will be held at Impact Church of Hope (710 Broadway St., Waterloo, 50703).

All are welcome!



Pastoral Candidate Weekend

It is with great excitement that the Search Committee brings this announcement – we are recommending a Candidate for Senior Pastor of First Congregational Church!

The Pastoral Candidate will preach at our service on **Sunday, May 19th at 10:30am**. We will then have an all-church meeting following the service to discuss the candidate and take a vote.

There will be more activities that weekend so please save the dates and plan to join us! More information to come.

Please continue to pray for our Candidate and our church family. Thank you for your love, support, and encouragement!



Clean-Up Day

SATURDAY 8:30-12:30

First United Methodist Church - West 4th and Wellington Street

No garbage, yard waste, appliances, or tires

This Saturday (May 4) is Clean-Up Day and junk within reason is brought to First United Methodist Church and placed in one of those large blue junk containers. Join the fun.



LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA EXPANDING IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE SERVICES TO THE CEDAR VALLEY THIS SPRING

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) is excited to announce the expansion of our Immigrant and Refugee Community Services to the Cedar Valley. Starting in the spring of 2024, LSI will begin revitalizing its immigrant and refugee services in the area, including refugee resettlement services. LSI previously welcomed more than 250 refugees to the community between 2000-2012.

Coupled with the expansion of services, LSI opened a new office location at 3640 University Avenue in Waterloo. At this location, we will continue offering current LSI services to the community, including Early Childhood Services, Host Homes, Therapy Services, and Respite Care. More immigrant and refugee services are also planned to start in the Cedar Valley, including our refugee Child Care Business Development program, safe release services for sponsors of unaccompanied children, and case management services for Ukrainians, Haitians, and other recently arrived populations. LSI will be the only resettlement agency in the Cedar Valley area.

LSI is looking for community groups to organize and donate welcome kits to help furnish homes for newly arrived families. For a list of urgent needs or to coordinate drop off, contact michael.knipp@lsiowa.org

Welcome kits include meal service & prep kits, bedding, cleaning kits, baby kits, bathroom kits, and welcome to Iowa kits. If you would like more info, please contact Anne Hoekstra or Michael Knipp. LSI also welcomes financial donations for this expansion of services. Join LSI in providing compassionate care: donate online today: www.lsiowa.org/give.

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

Congregational Tidings

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