

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

June 1, 2022



PENTECOST CHURCH PICNIC

June 5, 2022

(Church Parking Lot - Weather Permitting)

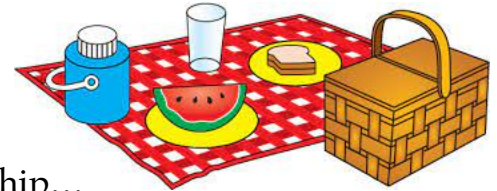
CHICKEN AND DRINKS PROVIDED

If able, please bring a side or dessert to share.

SERVICE 10:30 A.M. ~ LUNCH FOLLOWING SERVICE

June 5 is Pentecost Sunday AND the first Sunday of June--our traditional day for our church picnic. We are resuming our outside worship service and picnic this year, and will hold it at the church. We always enjoy a great day of worship and fellowship...

come join us! Preaching this week will be Rev. Clark Kilgard, retired pastor of the Lutheran Church (ELCA), who will be our guest preacher for several Sundays over the next few weeks.



NEW MEMBERS – We are very excited to welcome **Abbie and Seth Chronister** as new members this Sunday, June 5 as well. How blessed we are to have them and to officially welcome them to our church family.

TAKING CARE OF FAMILY...

~ Prayers for Diana Blankenfeld Paige who continues to convalesce from her brain surgery and complications. Her latest surgery was a week ago.

~ Prayers for Michelle Holt who is convalescing from open heart surgery.

~ Prayers for Lynette and Henry Doepke's nephew, Ben Weber and family on the death of their 2 month old daughter, Camie Rose, of rural Waterloo. She had been ill since birth.



CONSENSUS BUILDING IN THE CHURCH

A Webinar Opportunity from the UCC on **June 2, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**--come to the church at 5:50 to participate, Root beer floats and interesting conversations for all who come! If interested or for more information, contact Abbie Chronister, Anne Hoekstra, or Michelle Wolfe.

We are surrounded by a larger culture where issues continually divide us and the majority rules. While we may have come to accept this reality as the best option for governing a democracy, many of our churches have been crippled by divisive winner-take-all votes on sensitive issues like ONA, racism, and how to spend the endowment. This leaves many members of the Body of Christ feeling unheard, hurting, and in some cases so angry they leave altogether. Surely we can do better than that. Surely we are called to do better than that. As followers of Jesus' gospel we are called to make decisions together in ways that build up our communities of faith instead of blowing them apart.

Welcome to Consensus Building 101 - an introduction to a more cooperative model of decision making centered around respect, equality, sharing power and sharing responsibility. The conversations are hard and those hard conversations can create more community instead of a divided one. Join Rev. Becky David and ACM Rev. Kendy Miller to learn about healthier ways to make decisions, what is consensus, and why it's important. Consensus Building 101 is part of a series of four webinars focused on congregational well-being. The next two will happen in September and November (more details to come).

CHANCEL CHOIR / TOUCH OF BRASS ICE CREAM SOCIAL

An Ice Cream Social will be held on Saturday, June 11th at 6pm at Three Pines Farm (9611 Wagner Rd, Cedar Falls). It will be a time to celebrate our year of musical ministry and look forward to the year to come. The Chancel Choir, Touch of Brass Handbell Choir or anyone who has been, or would like to be a part of these groups are invited to come. Check your email soon to add your ice cream order for the event! Questions can be directed to our Director of Music, Luke Overton at firstconguccmusic@gmail.com.



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

A few years ago I was visiting with a pastor who was in the midst of teaching his first Confirmation class. He shared that he had asked the class to predict what "church" would look like some years in the future. They agreed in their prediction - Churches would all be closed. To add to the shock of this statement, this was before covid-19 days when we learned that through modern technology we can indeed worship just about anywhere. Most of us beyond the age of 50 have probably mumbled and grumbled at least once that things just aren't the same any more.

This Sunday we celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the church. What a good time to contemplate the status of the church. Perhaps for that very reason the United Church of Christ has chosen Pentecost to receive offerings for this initiative. These funds are used to gift ministries in new and renewing spiritual communities. Not only are churches aided in sustaining present programs, but extending the fellowship into the community. Maybe they are helping to feed and clothe the underserved families, reward teachers, mentor students, support the animal shelter. Whatever the need, please support this program with your gifts this Sunday.

~ Lynette Doepke

Youth News

Youth Director Office Hours: Through the summer, Abbie will host office hours Mondays and Tuesdays from 1pm-5pm. Come stop by! She has treats!

Childcare During Sunday Services: As we transition into summer, we wanted to communicate that *childcare will be provided during Sunday Services (still following the Children's Message through the end of service ONLY for kids Preschool to 3rd grade. Communion Sundays children will come up to participate in Communion)*. We do this so that we can better provide a safe and meaningful environment for our youth that is more-so tailored to their developmental needs. If your child is on the border one way or the other, or if you have any comments, suggestions, questions, or ideas, Youth Director Abbie is welcome to a conversation to discuss how we can best provide support for your family.

Wednesday Night Youth Group is on pause through the summer. **Summer Youth and Family Programming** info will be sent out to families by the end of the week and will be in Tidings next week!

VBS Registration is LIVE! Click [HERE](#) to register your student and click [HERE](#) to sign up to volunteer! If you would like a paper copy, please email abbie.youthdirector@gmail.com. Thanks!

**VACATION
BIBLE
SCHOOL**

**JULY 11-14, 2022
5:00PM-7:30PM
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
608 W. 4TH ST. WATERLOO, IA**

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH · FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
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HISTORIC CHURCH ROW COALITION MEETING

We are having our first in-person gathering in more than two years at First Congregational this Sunday after the picnic, so if you'd be interested in meeting the representatives from our neighborhood churches, would like to participate, or have ideas to promote interactions and growth, please feel free to join us!

~ Laurie

Congratulations to our 2022 Graduates!

Best of luck in your future endeavors!



**** Lauryn Rhae Doepke**

(University of Iowa)

Grandparents: Henry & Lynette Doepke

**** Joley Seitz**

(University of Northern Iowa)

Joley is one of our Section Leaders. She graduated with her Bachelor of Music: Vocal Performance Degree and will be attending UNI in the fall to start her Master of Music: Vocal Performance degree.

**** Brandon Whitish**

(University of Northern Iowa)

Brandon is one of our Section Leaders.

**** William Robert McFadden**

(Rock Bridge High School - Columbia, MO)

Will plans to attend Moberly Community College in the fall.

Parents: Albert & Ali McFadden

Grandparents: Todd & Becky Ellison

**** Ava Klopfenstein**

(University of Minnesota)

Ava attended the University of Minnesota where she majored in journalism.

Grandparents: Roger & Joanne Lane

(Please let the office know if there are any graduates who were not listed)

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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