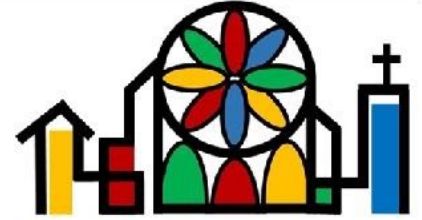


# First Congregational UCC

## TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our church family and friends

June 7, 2023



FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa

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



## CHURCH PICNIC

Thank you to Rev. Bruce Braley for leading worship at Lookout Park in Cedar Falls this past Sunday, to Cliff Highnam for assisting, and to Kay Leary for her mini-message. We were in beautiful surroundings as we listened once again to the Creation Story in Genesis. We were reminded of



the AWESOME and beautiful world we live in, as well as our responsibility to care for this world we so enjoy. We also enjoyed communing with bread and wine and later fried chicken and tasty dishes that satisfied our souls and stomachs! A big thank you to all who assisted—planning and setting up, leading music, making ready communion, preparing food, leading Bingo, cleaning up. It was a lovely day! If you left a couple lawn chairs at the park on Sunday, please contact the office to schedule a time to pick them up.



## PULPIT SUPPLY

We welcome a special guest this coming Sunday, Juan Manuel Arias Perea, a native of Havana, Cuba. He served as pastor in a small rural church in Cuba for 5 years, then moved to Russia, and now is studying for a Master of Divinity at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. Juan Perea's sermon, "Each of us is more than the worst thing we've ever done" will be an interesting journey with someone from a very different walk of life. Anne Hoekstra will be serving as worship leader, and Juan will be providing the mini-message.



## PRAYERS FOR...

~ Please continue to pray for the Search and Call Committee and The Shepherd Staff as we continue our search for our next pastor.

## NEW PARAMENTS

This Sunday, you will be greeted with the beautiful new paraments for our chancel—green cloths that adorn the pulpit, lectern, and altar. These paraments, made by Jeff Wunrow Designs, are entitled “God so Loved the World” and “Pathways” (Psalm 16:11--You will make known to me the path of life.). These paraments, meant for the season of Pentecost, are gifted from the memorials of Rex Boatman’s mother--Millie Emma, his son--Russell Robert, and Rex’s wife--Phyllis Mae Boatman. We are very grateful for this generous gift to our sanctuary.

## COMMON MEETING

June 13, 7:00 p.m.

CALLING ALL BOARDS—Physical Resources, Spiritual Life and Care, Creative Ministries, Social Causes and Justice, Spiritual Life and Care—it’s time to get together again for our next Common Meeting on Tuesday, June 13, at 7:00 p.m! Please plan on meeting--it has been 4 months since our last official Tuesday Common Meeting and always energizing when we can be together.

## POTLUCK WITH A PURPOSE

The next Potluck with a Purpose will be June 25th following the morning worship service with Laura Hoy from Christian Community Development.

## 34TH GENERAL SYNOD OF UCC

June 30th – July 4th / Indiana Convention Center

Every two years, General Synod brings together thousands of faithful members of the United Church of Christ for, inspirational worship, conducting the business of the church, formal church witness, and fellowship with friends (new and old). Registration online ends June 12th. For more information and to register please [Click Here](#). If anyone would like to attend, financial assistance is available from the Social Causes and Justice Board budget. Contact Laurie Allbaugh or our office manager, Michelle.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 10th - 13th, 2023

5:00 - 7:30 pm Nightly

First Congregational will be hosting VBS again this year with several churches participating. All children ages 4 years (Pre-K) through 5th grade are invited to attend. Registration has begun! You can register online [<<Click Here>>](#) or pick up a registration form at church. A meal will be provided each night. Kids invite your friends!

## TREE CIRCLE PLANTING AT PAYNE AME



Together The Cedar Valley Interfaith Council, in partnership with Payne Memorial AME Church, will be (literally) laying the seeds for an interfaith, ecumenical outdoor space that we hope will bear fruit for generations! We need help! Saturday, June 10 from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM at Payne Memorial AME Church (1044 Mobile St, Waterloo)

\*We will begin with a breakfast provided by the hospitable folks of Payne at 8:30 AM



## THIS SATURDAY IS OUR FIRST EVENT OF THE SUMMER!!!

Saturday June 10th @ The Falls for Swimming. Price is \$12 per Youth

We will be meeting at The Falls at about 11:50-12:00 and swim from 12pm-2pm

After swimming, we will head to the park and have an ice cream treat and play a big game of kickball!! We will then head over to a members home and have a BBQ!

We are asking parents to RSVP to help us Drive FROM The Falls to the park/home. Also to help us with the cooking and food! If that is something you’re willing to do, PLEASE let Rumen ([hulmequr@uni.edu](mailto:hulmequr@uni.edu)) know asap.

(P.S. if you would like to come hang out with us for the day, you are welcome!)



# CHURCH ROW NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION TEAMS

Over the years, several groups have joined forces to address needs in our Historic Church Row Neighborhood. More recently, Habitat for Humanity has targeted this area for housing builds and rehab. They have also been partnering with churches and community residents to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood. As part of this process, they are organizing action teams for addressing four areas:

- 1.Social (communication & trust)
- 2.Structural and Safety (street lights, sidewalks, speed bumps, etc)
- 3.Housing and Physical Environment (trash, rentals, rehabs, new houses)
- 4.Park and Beautification (renovating a park)

The role of the Social Action Teams is to study needs in the neighborhood that residents identify as priorities, and explore options for addressing them. The immediate neighborhood will be represented by at least 2 people who live in Church Row. Other participants are representatives of neighborhood churches, businesses, and staff of the City of Waterloo. Each team will meet monthly from July 2023-June 2024 to work on specific goals and objectives in those action areas. Partners will get the opportunity to come alongside neighbors and assist in these areas where neighbors would like to see change. This is an opportunity for our church to work more directly with those living in the neighborhood to positively influence our neighborhood. If you are curious and want to learn more, please talk with Anne Hoekstra or Jenna Peterson ([jpetersen@webuildhabitat.org](mailto:jpetersen@webuildhabitat.org)).

---

## MOMENT FOR MISSIONS...

### FOOD BANK

Here is the group from last week's Food Bank volunteer opportunity on May 30th. Thank you to everyone who participated!



---

### LOVE INC OF THE CEDAR VALLEY

The 11th Annual Love INC Golf Tournament will be Monday, **June 26th**. There will be a best shot tournament for all skill levels. 40 churches in the Cedar Valley help to meet the needs for the under-resourced in our community.

11:30 AM Registration/Lunch with 12:30 PM Tee Off  
Prizes awarded to the winning team, flight winners, and pin event winners! [<<Click here>>](#) for more information.

### NAMI

On June 14th from 7-8pm join us downstairs at FCUCC to hear Traci Ludwig, LISW, ACSW, RYT-200 from Mercy One Behavioral Health speak on "Using Trauma-Sensitive Movement to Manage your Mood." This is free and open to the public.

# Congratulations to our 2023 Graduates!

Best of luck in your future endeavors!



**\*\* Katherine Kaliban**

(Mount Mary University)

Katherine received her Master of Science in Art Therapy with an emphasis in Counseling.

She will remain in Milwaukee and start her career at Healing Harmonies.

Parents: Kurt & Margaret Kaliban

Grandmother: Jane Young

**\*\* Maxwell Franke Smith**

(West Central Valley High School - Stuart, IA)

Maxwell plans to attend DMACC in Ankeny studying marketing in the fall. He then plans to attend Iowa State.

Parents: Paul & Kris Smith

Grandparents: Duane & Kathy Franke

Great-Grandmother: Fern Murphy

**\*\* Lauren Leman**

(University of Northern Iowa)

Lauren is one of our Section Leaders.

*(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

First Congregational UCC  
608 WEST FOURTH STREET  
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

*Congregational Tidings*

Place  
Stamp  
Here