

First Congregational UCC

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our
church family and friends

June 14, 2023



FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa

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

PULPIT SUPPLY

Our presiding preacher last Sunday was Juan Manuel Arias Perea, a divinity student at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. He comes from a long line of pastors of the Lutheran Reformed Church in Cuba where he served as pastor in a rural parish for 5 years. He and Javier share their gratitude for their time with us, and appreciated the warm reception they received from the congregation.

This Sunday we welcome Dr. John Roberts to our pulpit. John is the Director of Music of The Lee Chapel AME Church in Auburn, AL. Their worship services are a combination of live, SKYPE and Facebook Live presentation. He is also the Pianist of Waterloo First United Methodist Church where several of us were able to attend his presentation on African American interpretation of hymnody on their Mardi Gras Sunday.

He is the Dean Emeritus of The School of Liberal Arts and Sciences having retired from Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana - Columbus Region in 2014. He began playing for the Children's Choir of The Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, Louisville, KY (pastored by his granduncle, Rev. Dr. James L. Roberts, Sr.) in September 1957. While in undergraduate school at Morehead State University, Morehead, KY, in 1968 he became the first pianist & organist for the MSU Black Gospel Ensemble which celebrated its 55th Anniversary this year. He has served during his 66 year career as a church musician in nine congregations of various denominations. His philosophy is "Music is non denominational, music is the thread which keeps the denominational quilt together."

The theme of his presentation will be:

"Worship The Lord Out of Your Comfort Zone"
Familiar 'Hymn Wheels' of The Church with Different Hubcaps

TAKING CARE OF FAMILY...

- ~ Diana Blankenfeld who is scheduled for surgery on June 15 and then again on June 21 for cranioplasty surgery.
- ~ Our sympathy to the Peter Steva family on the death of his father, Rev. Merle G. Steva, on May 28. Rev. Steva, 95, served Spring Creek United Church of Christ, as pastor from 1980-1993, where First Congregational's son, Rev. David Sheridan, now serves as pastor. It was noted in their church newsletter that Rev. Steva "was much-loved and remembered."
- ~ Jacquelyn Eden is asking for prayers for her dad who is experiencing serious health issues and for herself.
- ~ For our Search and Call Committee and Shepherd Staff as we continue our search for our next pastor.





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 10th - 13th, 2023
5:00 - 7:30pm 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. There are still openings for volunteers who will guide students from one location to the next. Let Michelle, Tim Ahrens, or Sue Hummel know if you are willing to assist.



Congratulations to our very own Rex Boatman, who is being recognized as one of the Waterloo/CF Courier's annual 8 over 80 awards.

There is a luncheon planned on June 28, from 11:30am - 1:30pm at the Western Home Diamond Event Center (5307 Caraway Ln., CF).

It would be great to have a group from First Congregational attend and support Rex. Deadline to purchase tickets is June 19th.

For More information and to purchase tickets:

[<< Click Here >>](#)

(Then let the office know that you are going so we can save seats to sit together at the luncheon.)

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS...



FOOD BANK

Join us at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank on Tuesday, June 20, from 6pm - 8pm for our monthly volunteer opportunity! It's a great way to give back to our community, share in a fun, worthwhile project with one another, AND....get a free T-shirt! Yep, we have T-shirts now and you can be the first to receive one!! Contact Michelle or Diane for details!

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. Several of us took her class IMMERSE and found the work she and others are doing in our communities very inspiring. She will also be providing our sermon that day.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Since 1991, Women Build volunteers have come together to build strong, safe communities. Though our neighborhoods are comprised largely of women and children, they are also most likely to be affected by poor living conditions. Our Women Build events provide women to help serve their communities.

This Saturday, June 17, the first "First Congregational Church" Women's Build will take place for Habitat for Humanity. "Putting God's love in action by building homes."

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.

PANTRY DELIVERY

Would someone be available and interested in making a pantry delivery Friday, June 23? Delivery can be done anytime during the day and takes about an hour. Please let Gina know if you are interested. ggreene1124@gmail.com. Thanks for considering.

Getting To Know You

GETTING TO KNOW: SETH CHRONISTER



I love music, but you've probably already noticed... In high school and college, I got involved in everything I could musically; I've performed, conducted, and composed, dabbling in various genres and styles (and have even done some theater and film scoring). I've also been fortunate enough to travel the world thanks to music. I toured parts of Iowa and Minnesota with the UNI Wind Ensemble, traveled across the country as part of the UNI Pep Band, toured Western Europe with the Iowa Ambassadors of Music, Marched in the New Year's Day Parade in Rome, as well as the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin with the Panther Marching Band, and toured Brazil with the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra. I'm hoping to eventually continue my studies in the field of Musicology, conducting research on the historical and social aspects of music.

Outside of music, I love to ride my bike (hoping to complete a century this year), take pictures, read (primarily fantasy and history), build plastic models (I really love early military aircraft), and whatever crafting endeavor that strikes my fancy that day (which could be anything from knitting to bookbinding).

I'm currently working at C&S Car Company down the street doing some analytical and statistical tracking work. I live in Evansdale with my wife (Abbie) and our two cats: Llewelyn (orange/white) and Fintan (black/white).



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

**** Kaden McConnell**

(West High School - Waterloo, IA)

Kaden will attend Hawkeye Community College in the fall transferring to UNI for business.

Parents: Kevin & Brooke McConnell

Grandparents: Tim & Vicki Ahrens



**** 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.

IN OTHER NEWS ...

What makes a monster and what makes a man?

Join the Cedar Falls Community Theatre as Greg Holt explores this question and many other timeless themes through this gripping narrative of the Hunchback of Notre Dame. Tickets still available through June 18! This is one you won't want to miss, so check it out @ <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=175794>.



Please join us for a special Juneteenth edition of our Thursday webinar series, Nurture the Soul, on Thursday, June 15 at 3:30pm ET: **Celebrating Juneteenth: Practicing Antiracism from Emancipation to Freedom**. As part of our engagement with Ibram X Kendi's book *How to Be an Antiracist*, Join the Movement's All Church Read, our Juneteenth panelists will reflect on the themes of the last chapters of the book: Failure, Success, and Survival. The exploration of each theme will include our resident historian, Dr. Renee K. Harrison offering a historical connection to Juneteenth and emancipation, reflection from a UCC leader on the implications for our continued work of emancipation and antiracism, and an artistic expression connecting it to our call to abolitionist futures. Join together to discover how practicing antiracism can continue the Juneteenth lineage of moving us from emancipation toward freedom. To register and for more information: [<< Click Here >>](#).

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE A GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Cedar Valley United Way is conducting Focus Groups this summer to better understand the needs of our community. We are striving to evaluate our impact, identify emerging needs and to stay engaged with those we are aiming to serve through our strategic investments. Join us for a discussion about your experiences, ideas, insight, and needs to help us identify priorities and strategies for advancing the common good.



United Way



Cedar Valley United Way

Focus Group Dates:

Wednesday, June 14 5:30-7:30 pm
Thursday, June 22 2:00-4:00 pm
Tuesday, June 27 10:00am-Noon
Thursday, July 6 5:30-7:30pm
Monday, July 10 5:30-7:30pm
Tuesday, July 18 5:30-7:30pm

* Please only attend one date

Meeting Location:

Cedar Valley United Way
Philanthropy Conference Room
(425 Cedar Street, Waterloo)
Inside the US Bank Building
3rd floor (Philanthropy Room
is down the hallway.)

Your voice matters!

All participants will receive:

- A free meal during the session
- Free on-site childcare
- Grocery gift card
- Cedar Valley United Way swag

Spanish interpretation will be available at all sessions and attempts will be made to locate interpreters in other languages if needed.

Participants must register in advance for each session.

Register by scanning the code:



or visit

cedarvalleyunitedway.org/focusgroups

QUESTIONS? CALL OR EMAIL NILVIA REYES RODRIGUEZ AT NILVIARR@CVUW.ORG / 319-235-6211
(SE HABLA ESPAÑOL)

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).

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