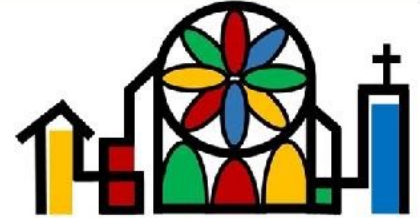


First Congregational UCC

TIDINGS

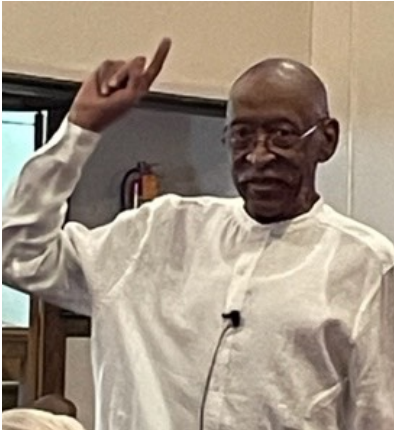
A weekly newsletter for our
church family and friends

June 21, 2023



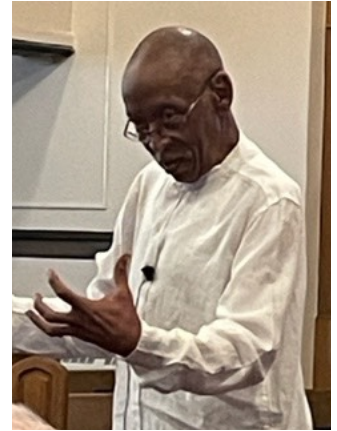
FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa

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



PULPIT SUPPLY

Sunday's worship, led by Dr. John Roberts at the piano and Paul Greene as worship leader, was one of "joyful noise" to God! We came before God with thanksgiving and joyful songs of praise. Dr. Roberts shared some familiar hymns, played and sung in Gospel style. Our worshippers left with smiles on their faces and joy in their hearts!



Our guest next Sunday will be Laura Hoy. She resides in Waterloo's Walnut Neighborhood and has been part of neighborhood development work there for 16 years. During this time, Laura and partners developed a nonprofit called Link CCD that has been practicing a philosophy of ministry taught by CCDA (Christian Community Development Association). This work focuses on connecting people and engaging their gifts in a way that promotes healing and nurtures a flourishing community. Outside of this work, Laura is an active international traveler and sells small group adventure travel through a small business she began in 2020. Laura also loves to spend time with family in Waterloo as well as cheer on her 24-year-old twins who live out of state.

POTLUCK WITH A PURPOSE

Laura Hoy, our speaker during worship this Sunday, will be presenting at our "Potluck with a Purpose," June 25, following worship. Bring a dish to share and your own tableware and learn more about the work Laura has been doing in our community.

TAKING CARE OF FAMILY...

~ Please continue to keep Diana Paige in your prayers. She is scheduled for her 2nd surgery (June 21) during this most recent hospitalization at the University of Iowa. She has had multiple surgeries to deal with a brain tumor and subsequent complications this past year. Her faith and testimony has been inspiring. We pray for health and healing for her, and guidance for her physicians.





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.

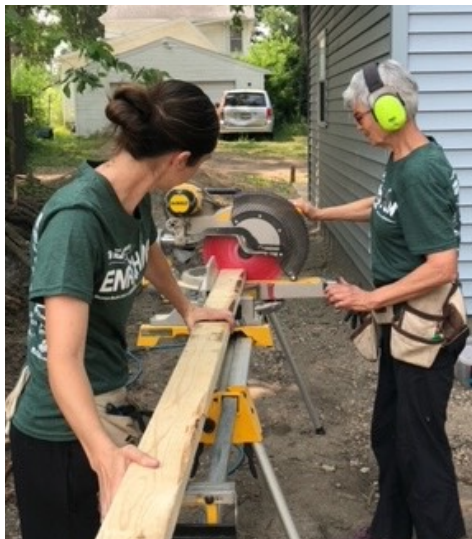
For the 13th year, The Courier will honor eight remarkable individuals who are 80 or older and who in their own way have spent their lives demonstrating leadership. These honorees have made a difference and set examples in their careers and lives, continuing to contribute now and in the past to our community's well-being. There is a luncheon planned on June 28, from 11:30am - 1:30pm at the Western Home Diamond Event Center.

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS...

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.

Last Saturday the first "First Congregational Church" Women's Build took place for Habitat for Humanity. Thank you to those who participated!!



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)



GRIN & GROW IS GROWING MINDS

This year is a special year for our organization. We are celebrating 80 years of service to the community. This is an exceptionally long tenure for a private nonprofit. Although, it is nowhere close to our partners The First Congregational Church of Waterloo (167 years) who have been instrumental in our success over the last 20 years.

It is because of the critical service to the community we provide and the partnerships we have shared that we have been able to survive the ups and downs. As part of our service to the community we have to adapt so that we remain reflective of what is most needed. In our case that might consist of rearranging classrooms and moving teachers. Most recently for us it means a re-brand. We will begin doing business as **Growing Minds Early Learning Center**. Our focus of providing affordable and accessible child care to families who may not have access to other high-quality options will not change.

We wanted our new name to recognize that we also often offer programs that go beyond just child care, such as early education and developmental support. These programs can help support children's cognitive, social-emotional, and physical development and promote school readiness. Furthermore, we hope to offer a sense of stability and support to families who may be facing other challenges. We can be a hub for other community resources and services, connecting families to essential supports that they may not have access to otherwise.

I have always said that all children deserve the best care. I think we have been able to hold ourselves to this high standard because of the support of partners like First Congregational. Thank you!

~ Ed Gruenwald, Director

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