

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

July 14, 2021

Greetings all,

Ted Loder has an uncommon way of praying, and I pass on this prayer of his for your reflection.

Listen to Me Under My Words

by Ted Loder

*O God,
I come to you now as a child to my Mother,
out of the cold which numbs
into the warm who cares.*

*Listen to me inside,
under my words where the shivering is,
in the fears which freeze my living,
in the angers, which chafe my attending,
in the doubts which chill my hoping,
in the events which shrivel my thanking,
in the pretenses which stiffen my loving.*

*Listen to me, Lord,
as a Mother,
and hold me warm, and forgive me.*

*Soften my experiences into wisdom,
my pride into acceptance,
my longing into trust,
and soften me
into love
and to others
and to you.*

~ Rev. Bret Myers



The new church directories will be available to pick up this Sunday.

PASTOR BRET'S OFFICE HOURS:

Sundays: after worship until 1 p.m.

Mondays: 1-3 p.m.

Tuesdays: 5-7 p.m.

Wednesdays: 4-6 p.m.

Pastor Bret is continuing the Monday walks with the Pastor.

If you are interested in participating, please contact him.

Pastor Bret's cell # is 608-370-9472 and email is

revbmyers@yahoo.com.

PIANIST COMING TO FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

The Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival will be held again this July, and First Congregational Church has been selected as a venue for one of the performers, Peter Miyamoto, a pianist, on July 29 for a masterclass, and on July 30 for a recital. More information to follow.

The theme of this year's Festival is "Without Music", a nod to the many performances that didn't occur during the pandemic. There will be 3 full concerts for the season, all performed at GBPAC Great Hall at 7:00 p.m. "Speaking Without Words" is Saturday July 24, "Travel Without Borders" is Wednesday, July 28, and "Nature Without Form" is on Saturday, July 31. As with previous years, other special events, like the one coming to First C, will be held throughout the week.

For more information, check cedarvalleymusic.org.

~ Anne Hoekstra



YOUTH GROUP:

Our next youth group is Wednesday, July 21st at 6pm! Start letting those creative juices flow, as we build contraptions that help keep eggs safe from a fall! How high will we be dropping these eggs you may ask? Well, you'll have to come to find out!

Make sure you also have on your calendars Sunday, July 25th at 6pm, where we will be having fun with shaving cream! Both of these events are for ALL youth of any age!

YOUTH DIRECTOR OFFICE HOURS:

Thursday, July 15th: 10am-2pm

Monday, July 19th and Tuesday, July 20th: 1pm-5pm

GENERAL SYNOD 33:

UCC General Synod 33 is off to a great start! Synod is taking place virtually this year, which has presented a variety of challenges, but also an abundance of creative problem solving and teamwork. There were a number of pre-synod workshops on a variety of subjects before the official kick-off on Sunday the 11th. The Iowa, North Dakota, and Nebraska delegates met for our first "caucus" in the afternoon, where we introduced ourselves and started our camaraderie. Opening worship was beautiful, and then we went into our first Plenary, or business meeting. If you would like to view my notes from the Plenaries throughout the week, I invite you to go to <https://tinyurl.com/GS33PlenaryNotes>. That link will take you to a Google Document authored by myself. The rest of the business meetings will be towards the end of the week, with the coming days filled with networking and workshops. I will also post periodic updates to the FCUCC Facebook!

-Abbie Greene, Iowa Delegate

YOUTH GROUP:

'Kids Klub' is our childcare which is provided during Sunday Services. Youth will remain in Service through announcements, prelude, and the children's message and then can head downstairs with our staff for the rest of service.

MODERATOR MUSINGS

Greg and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on June 26 by gathering with our 3 sons and their families in Colorado. It had been 2 1/2 years since we had all been together, so that in itself made our gathering extra special. We chose to be with our family to celebrate, but many couples choose to invite the wider community and celebrate with an open house. The picture I included is a coffee serving set my grandparents used for their open house some 60 years ago. It was then used by my parents and all my uncles and aunts for their 50th anniversary celebrations. It now sits on my kitchen counter and reminds me of the loving families that preceded us and supported us in so many ways over the years.



Celebrating milestones is a time honored tradition. We celebrate the birth of new babies, graduations, new jobs, retirements, birthdays and other life events. In the church, we celebrate Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, Pentecost--important days in the Christian calendar. Even Sundays are celebrated as a day different from all the rest--well sorta! Why do we do it? I'm sure there are many explanations, but it seems important to me to occasionally step aside from the mundane and celebrate the life we are living, what it means to us, and what it means to others--to acknowledge, "THIS is special! Pay attention!"

We are reminded in Ecclesiastes that there is "a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. . ." Setting aside time to celebrate gives us the opportunity to thank God for the gift of life, for the joys it brings, and for the people that make it special. Sunday morning worship is our weekly reminder of God's love and the love we have for one another. I look forward to celebrating with you soon!

~ Anne Hoekstra



Malcolm Russell Lauterbach Clausen was born on July 9th - 21.5 inches, 8 lbs, 14 oz and a full head of black hair! The hospital hat wasn't big enough for long! He joins big sisters, Josie and Nelle. Congratulations to parents, Colin Clausen & Sarah Lauterbach and grandparents, Gordon & Beth Lauterbach!

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS



We Need Your HELP...Last week Sue Hummel brought her friend Anne and Greg Hoekstra was there with Jerry, the everyday Meals on Wheels volunteer, BUT next week, Thursday, July 22, three of our regular and two of our substitute deliverers are NOT available! Now would be a perfect time to give this very rewarding pastime a chance. Barb could give you a 25 cent tour of Evansdale and wouldn't even charge you 25 cents! If you are available at 10:15 on the 22nd for less than a couple hours or would like more information, please call me at 504-3212.

Also we are beginning to plan for National Night Out, Tuesday, August 3rd, 6:30-8:00 in Washington Park and are looking for a watermelon and 36 cookies. Interested? I would love to hear from you (319-504-3212).

Lastly, as a way to let the Historic Church Row Neighborhood know about such coming events, Mary Potter is seeking assistance in

delivering a newsletter anytime between July 16 and July 20th. If you're up for a stroll, please pick them up at 1416 W 4th St or call 233-2204.

Thank YOU for your support!

~ Laurie Allbaugh

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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