

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 28, 2021

GUIDELINES FOR ATTENDING IN CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICE

The Reopening Committee continues to meet. We want to thank everyone for their patience and their cooperation as we have been working to keep everyone feeling safe and confident enough to be with our church family.

We use the Black Hawk County website to monitor the status of our county. They post a daily rating of low, moderate, or high. We will continue to meet inside if the rating is low or moderate, and will move to outside if it reaches high. The status is determined by looking at both percent positivity and rate of disease.

<https://www.bhccpublichealth.org/news/black-hawk-county-public-health-news-04092021>

Black Hawk County stated if we continue to be as vigilant as we have been, our risk is low.

Please get vaccinated.

Please wear your mask.

Beth, Tim, Dave, Greg

John Mardis will be preaching this Sunday - *"Powerful Prayer - We're doing it all wrong."* Special music by Greg Hoekstra and John Mardis. Join us at 10:30 am!

Celebrating



Years...

We wish *Roger and*

Joanne Lane a

Happy 60th

Anniversary on

July 30th!

Congratulations!

PASTOR BRET'S OFFICE HOURS:

Pastor Bret's office hours have changed to Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-5pm. He is available at other times by appointment. You are encouraged to call ahead before coming in to talk as he may be gone for a visit or get called away. Outside visits are also available upon request, as well as Monday afternoon "Walks and Talks with the Pastor." You can reach Pastor Bret by email - revbmyers@yahoo.com or by phone - (608) 370-9472.

PIANIST COMING TO FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Peter Miyamoto, piano

This Thursday, July 30th at 7:00pm

Program

Beethoven: Piano Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 81a "Les Adieux"

Chopin: Ballade No. 4 in F Minor, Op. 52

Ravel: Jeux d'eau (Play of the Water)

Rachmaninoff: Moment Musicaux in E Minor, Op. 16, No. 4

Intermission

Schumann: Carnaval, Op. 9



For more information, check cedarvalleymusic.org.

Update about "Son" of our Congregation

David Sheridan, brother of Ginni Casteel and Becky Ellison, and a son of First Congregational, was recently installed as Pastor of Spring Creek United Church of Christ in Rockford, IL. He was ordained in his home church at the Urbandale UCC congregation on July 17. David graduated from seminary following his career in law. It is a joy to welcome him into the clergy of our denomination and we wish him and his wife, Leslie, the best in their new home and venture!



Youth Director Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 1pm-5pm

Sunday School: Rally Day is coming up, which means Sunday School will be back in full-swing! We are looking for teachers to volunteer to lead classrooms. All of the materials will be set up with easy-to-follow curriculum, so you've just got to show up and go! Email Abbie at abbie.youthdirector@gmail.com for any questions and/or to volunteer!

Youth Activities: Youth Activity Calendars will be sent out in the mail this week. Highlights for the coming week include:

- August 3rd 6:30pm-8pm: National Night Out at Washington Park in Waterloo
- August 4th 6pm-7pm: Youth Group, Elephant Dentist! Elephants need clean teeth, too! Come make them some toothpaste

Youth Care Associate: We are still seeking an additional Youth Care Associate to help with childcare during Sunday services. Pay is \$20/service. Reach out to Abbie at abbie.youthdirector@gmail.com if you or someone you know is interested!

~ Abbie Greene



PRESENTED BY GALLAGHER BLUEDORN

BLOCK PARTY - CHURCH ROW

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021 /
4:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

Join us while we listen and dance to Windsong.

This summer, the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center will partner with Hearst Center for the Arts, Waterloo Center for the Arts and Waterloo Urban Farmers' Market and take its portable stage into Cedar Falls and Waterloo neighborhoods for a series of Gallagher Bluedorn Block Parties.

Location: Church Row Neighborhood, Washington Park, Waterloo, IA



August

Birthdays & Anniversaries



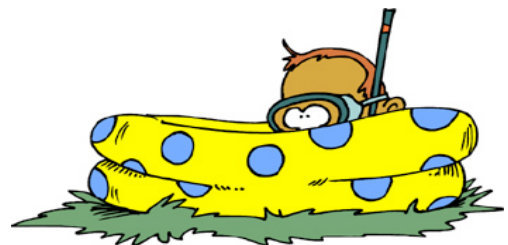
Birthdays

Anniversaries

- 1**
Melinda Farmer
Diana (Blankenfeld)
Paige
- 2**
John Mardis
Cathy Thiele
- 3**
Sara Thompson
- 4**
Michelle Holt
Katinka Keith
Bob Tefft
Roger Winter
- 5**
Dave Zellhoefer
Nolan Farmer
- 8**
Christian Petersen
Nelle Lauterbach
Clausen
- 10**
Kris Johnston
- 11**
Marcia Johnson
- 12**
Erika Meyer
- 13**
Rodney Grandon
- 16**
Diane Highnam
- 17**
Evie Waack
- 18**
Michael Thuesen
- 21**
Cole Highnam
Sara Holdiman Lynch
Michael Vandeventer

- 24**
Aaron Petersen
- 25**
Alecia Lee
Cindy Stevenson
Brian Thuesen
Crosby Prescott
Josie Lauterbach
Clausen
- 26**
Jim Stevenson
Ryan Waldon
- 28**
Rudy Bernhard
Mary Kay Petersen
Clara Lara
- 29**
Rocky Petersen
- 30**
Russ Towsley

- 5**
Duane & Kathy Franke
Craig & Karen Jensen
- 8**
Paul & Gina Greene
- 18**
Tim & Lynne Ensworth
- 26**
Jim & Kris Johnston
- 30**
Dave & Jeanne Allbaugh



PASTOR'S CORNER

This piece of visual art is called "Tree of Life" by Sharon Cummings.

One of the things I love about art is how it can affect all of us differently. We see in it what makes sense to us in our own time and place. Perhaps tomorrow we might think differently about it, or even an hour from now. Art speaks to our inner being, asking us to make sense of what we experience.

Today, I like this piece for several reasons. The colors are vibrant and provide a kaleidoscopic buffet for the eyes. The title expresses a religious theme, and encourages us to remember the story of Eden in the Bible. But yet it is a different kind of tree than what we may have construed that tree to be. It asks us to use our imaginations to consider what this tree of life means to us in our time.

I pray daily for peace in this world. I never tire of wanting a world where we can all get along in love, peace, and justice — no matter our color, ethnicity, religious persuasion, nationality, or any other distinguishing characteristic. At this time

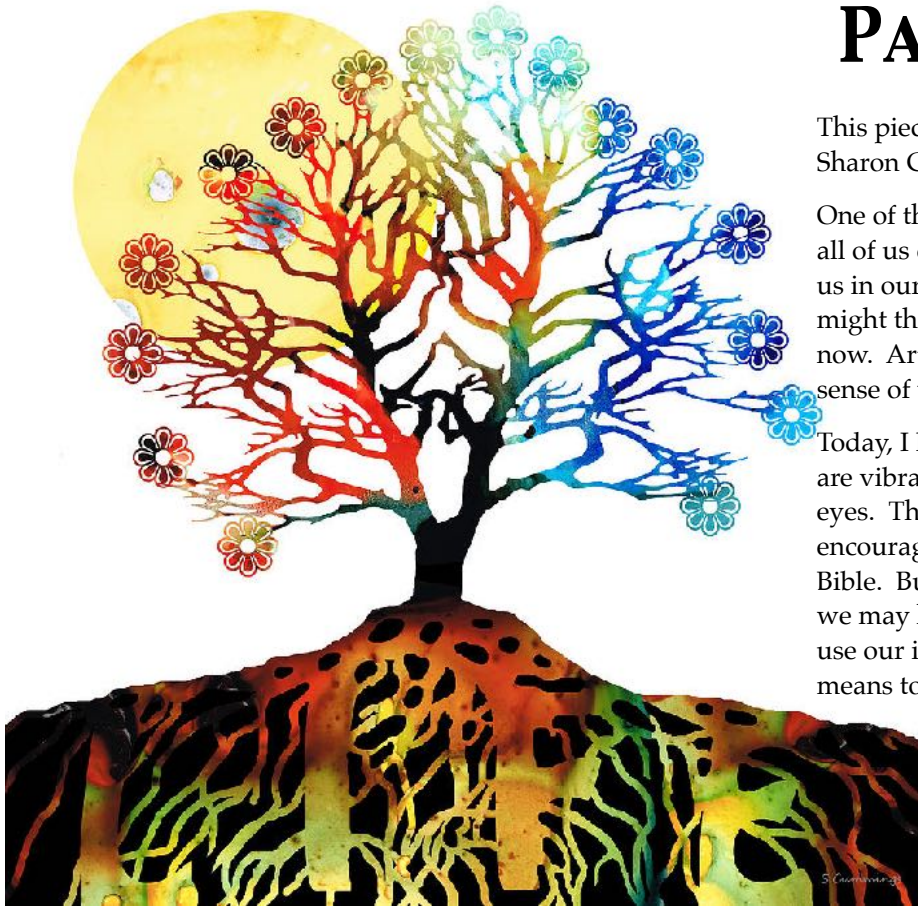
of Olympics, I root for all the athletes, and enjoy learning about their stories. That they can come from all over this good earth, compete, and get along in the Olympic Village and also in competition is a remarkable testament to the human spirit. They seem to push each other to excel — to reach for the best they can do. And while only one person gets the gold medal, they all treasure becoming their best selves. And sometimes they also appreciate that others have done this, too.

Yesterday, I saw an awards ceremony for one of the events, skateboarding I think it was, and the silver medalist's expression of respect for the gold medalist as his medal was being delivered was encouraging. He had lost getting the gold medal, perhaps only by a bit, but had a sense of both congratulations and reverence for what his opponent had achieved. So often we only focus on what is visible, or even most visible — e.g., the first places, not the seconds, thirds, tenths, and 125ths. We see in this piece of art the tree and its limbs, colorful with both branches and flowers, and think how beautiful and magnificent it is. But below are the roots, the life-giving force, that sustains what is visible. Each of these athletes in the Olympics have spent countless hours in training for their events. Their training is the invisible roots that allow them to perform at such a high level. As I see these athletes compete, I recall my days in sports as a teenager, and compare my abilities with theirs. It is humbling that when I was at my very best, I would not come close to measuring up to these star athletes. Yet, in my life, as in theirs, is an unseen history that may not be visible to those who see them perform. And often it is not the end result that is as meaningful as the dedication of pursuing excellence along the journey.

There is a beauty to our lives that only we know; we who have lived through every moment of our lives — who have seldom attained victory, more often suffered defeat, and most usually ended up somewhere in between. This is life. It is that which nurtures and sustains us, gives us our roots, and feeds our spirits. People may only see what is above ground and visible in our lives, and hopefully what they see will be beautiful. But sometimes the real beauty is what lies beneath the surface.

What are the trees of life, branches of beauty, and flowers of fragrance in our lives? And what are the roots that make these truly alive for us in our relationship to others? May we all find ways of being the tree of life to those who may be blessed by our presence.

Pastor Bret
July 26, 2021



Thanks for Stepping Up and Out!

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS



Meals on Wheels welcomed Bob Brock (right), who joined Cliff Highnam (left) and Liz Thorpe, who rode with Barb Mardis, as substitute helpers last week. Thank you both for aiding us all in our time of need. Hope you had fun and enjoyed the good feelings volunteering brings.



Much appreciation to Gina Greene and Anne Hoekstra for offering to supply the cookies and watermelon for our church's contribution to National Night Out, which will be

held Tuesday, August 3rd, from 6:30-8 pm in Washington Park. Please add this to your calendar so you don't forget to come meet our neighbors and enjoy popcorn, music, ice cream and bubbles! "

~ Laurie Allbaugh

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Grin & Grow

For those of you who are on FaceBook, please check out the Grin and Grow FaceBook page (<https://www.facebook.com/GrinandGrowChildCare>). Check out the newly posted videos by staff members sharing what is going on at Grin and Grow!



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