

# 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](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa)

August 25, 2021



## \*\*\*Bazaar Notice\*\*\*

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the annual Bazaar again. We look forward to having one in 2022. Keep crafting!

~ *Bazaar Committee*

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## Taking Care of Our Family...

- ~ Prayers for Dick Grimm, who is in ICU at Allen Hospital and Joan Grimm, at home, both ill with Covid-19.
- ~ Prayers for Jacquelyn Eden as she recovers from Covid-19 and RSV.
- ~ Prayers for our office manager, Michelle's brother also recovering from Covid-19.
- ~ Kerri Mennenga requests prayers for herself, her students, and all educators during this challenging school year.
- ~ Congratulations to Tim and Vicki Ahrens on their upcoming 50th wedding anniversary on September 5th!
- ~ Russ Towsley has finished his 30 radiation treatments for bladder cancer. He and Karol thank the congregation for their prayers.



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, the Hearst Center for the Arts, the Waterloo Center for the Arts and Waterloo Urban Farmers' Market has taken their portable stage into Cedar Falls and Waterloo neighborhoods for a series of Block Parties.

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

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### More Upcoming Events:



#### ~ Retirement Party for Lynne Ensworth CHANGE IN PLANS (Due to COVID)

We are throwing a party to celebrate Lynne's retirement from the University of Northern Iowa and you are invited! You means YOU, all the dear folks of our church family. Children are welcome. Lynne's retirement celebration will now be held on Tuesday evening, September 7, from 5:00-8:00 pm at the Gateway Park Celebration Shelter in Cedar Falls. Come for Starbecks barbecue and cake and to congratulate Lynne. We hope to see you there!

~ *Lynne and Tim Ensworth*

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#### ~ What: Kayaking

**When:** Sunday, September 19, 3:00-5:00

**Where:** Big Woods Lake

You are invited! Please let Michelle know if you will need a kayak.



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~ CROP Walk 2021 will be held on Sept 26, 2021 at 1:30pm, at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank, 1605 Lafayette Street in Waterloo. This year is the 50th anniversary of the CROP Walk, so let's gather 50 of our friends and family together for this wonderful outdoor event to relieve hunger globally and locally! There will be a sign-up sheet and more information at our church Rally Day celebration on Sept 12th. Donation envelopes will be provided, so the walkers can collect donations prior to the walk. Call or text Diane Highnam (319-240-2849) if you have questions or want to be added to the group of walkers. Help end hunger ONE STEP AT A TIME!!!

# PASTOR'S CORNER

## *Some Loves of Life*

I love the rain  
for it falls freely from the sky  
blessing one and all without a reason why  
I love the snow  
for the beauty it bestows  
a blanket of loveliness who teaches, "Take life slow"  
and when melted in the spring nurtures that life to grow  
I love the wind  
that touches you and me  
caressing all our bodies, and filling us with glee  
I love the fire  
that lights and warms our nights  
and burns within our soul till spirit takes to flight  
I love the mountain  
majestic, proud, and bold  
who beckons us to climb, creating stories yet untold

I love the forest  
whose paths we walk and play  
a comforting abode to help us find our way  
I love the moon  
who causes us to ponder  
inspiring here our awe, though it is way up yonder  
I love the stars  
so far beyond our grasp  
who helps us to be thankful for that which we can clasp  
I love the streams  
that sing their joyous tune  
and touch that inner part that invites us too to croon  
I love the lakes  
that reflect their landscapes' splendor  
and buoy up the loon who calls to us so tender  
-- *Bret S. Myers, 8/21/2021*

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## **SURVEY RESULTS:**

The results are in from the survey about adult continuing education! It was close, but we had more people interested in having a Bible study than any other choice. So a Bible Study it is! Moreover, we had the most votes for Tuesdays at 4 p.m., so that is when we will have the sessions. More details will be forthcoming, but I hope that this will be a wonderful opportunity for us to grow spiritually, and get connected again during this pandemic. Blessings,

*Pastor Bret*

*Pastor Bret is available for conversations or visits. If you would like to set up a time to visit with Pastor Bret please contact him by cell (608-370-9472), or email ([revbmyers@yahoo.com](mailto:revbmyers@yahoo.com)).*

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## **FROM THE REOPENING COMMITTEE . . .**

Yes, we are meeting because we want to get together, just like you. We want to get back some semblance of the old normal before we forget how important our community is for each other. Greg continues to teach us a bit more about the virus. This week the lesson was 2 fold. This virus spreads differently than what we are used to. We all know that covering your mouth when you cough or sneeze catches droplets from cold or flu viruses. Covid is like an aerosol. You can't catch it all in a tissue or elbow. It hangs around in the air for hours or even days, waiting for a place to land. Therefore, also hard to trace, because you have no idea what space you caught it in. This is why we are requiring masks inside and outside, vaccinated or not.

The second part of our lesson was hearing about a new variant that is beginning to show up. This one may not be controlled by the vaccines in place now. On the upside, they have been doing such a good job of adapting vaccines, that they may be able to slow this one through boosters. (We think we are going to see yearly boosters, like with the flu shot.)

If you are not vaccinated yet, talk your doctor, find out answers to your questions from someone who knows your medical history, and is looking you in the eyes. In the meantime, mask up when you are in groups, inside or outside, for your sake and for anyone else in any of your communities.

*~ Beth, Tim, Greg, Anne, Dave*

**\*\*Job Opportunity:\*\***

From Green Iowa AmeriCorps Team:

Our Center's [Green Iowa AmeriCorps](#) is hiring 60+ full-time, 11-month positions, throughout the state of Iowa. The new program year will kick-off in mid-September 2021 and end mid-August 2022. Late start dates can be accommodated until early December. AmeriCorps is a great way of gaining hands-on experience in the environmental/energy field, while being of service to communities in Iowa.

These [National Service](#) opportunities are paid positions through the [University of Northern Iowa](#), supplemented with healthcare and/or child care assistance, [loan forbearance](#), interest accrual repayment and a [scholarship/education award](#) at the end of service that can be put toward loan payments and/or continuing one's education. We have full-time (40 hours/week) and part-time (27 hours/week) positions available with our program, perfect for recent college graduates, college students, retired educators, parents, and engaged community members. Our [newly awarded National Service grant](#) means that we'll be expanding into several locations throughout Iowa for the 2021-2022 program year. A list of our locations can be found [here](#). Green Iowa AmeriCorps members have the opportunity to work directly with city governments, non-profits, government agencies, school districts, solid waste agencies and high education institutions to increase sustainability and environmental education awareness throughout the state.

Members must be 17 years or older, meet the National Service [citizenship requirements](#), and pass a National Service criminal history background check. A college degree is not required to serve in Green Iowa AmeriCorps. All interested applicants can apply via our website: <https://www.greeniowaamericorps.org/open-positions> Interested individuals may reach out to [GIACrecruitment@gmail.com](mailto:GIACrecruitment@gmail.com) with any further questions/clarification.

Kamyar Enshayan

*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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*Congregational Tidings*

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