

First Congregational UCC

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our church family and friends
September 13, 2023



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



PULPIT SUPPLY

Thank you to Rev. Brad Braley for preaching last Sunday, and to Gina Greene for serving as worship leader. Thank you, Gary Waldon, for his mini message.

You can watch the service by clicking on the picture of Rev. Brad Braley.



This week we welcome our own John Mardis to the pulpit, assisted by Paul Greene, worship leader, and Gina Greene, mini message.



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. The offering this year will be held on **Sunday, October 1st** as part of our World Communion Sunday.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

This year's focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, and buried in landfills. To see how Neighbors in Need donations helped to bolster justice work in churches and the community, [<< Click Here >>](#).

PRAYER REQUESTS:

~ Prayers for Connie Jo as she continues healing from her surgery.

~ Prayers and support for Pat Brock's friend Marisa as she prepares to return to her home in Mexico.

FILL THE LITTLE PANTRIES

We continue to help feed our neighbors. We continue to fill 4 pantries a month! Thank you. Let's keep it going. Remember to add a little something to your cart when you do your shopping and drop items off in the crossroads. **Thank you for your gifts of food.**

ADULT BOOK STUDY

A discussion of Rachel Held Evans's book, *Inspired*, resumed last Sunday. Join us this Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. with "The Beast" and Chapter 5 "Resistance Stories". The group will meet in the Friendship Room for discussion. Newcomers are welcome. Books can be made available by calling Michelle in the office.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CIRCLE UP BREAKFAST

First Congregational Church will be hosting a table at the Habitat Circle Up Informational Breakfast.

Event Date: Wednesday, September 27th

Event Time: 7:30am - 8:30am

Cost: FREE - thanks to generous sponsors

Please let Gina Greene know if you are interested in attending. Thanks in advance!



Save the Date: **Sept 24** is our annual CROP Walk and we want YOU to walk with us! We'll be wearing our walking clothes & shoes to church, staying for a delicious meal after church and carpooling / church vaning to Cedar Heights Community Presbyterian Church in CF for the walk!

You and your friends can join the team online by going to [Cedar Valley CROP Hunger Walk](#) or let Diane know you'd like to join!

Donations can also be made online or in person! Help change the world!

NORTH EAST IOWA ASSOCIATION

The next meeting will be held November 4th from 10am to Noon. Join us for a seminar / workshop led by Rev Janice Springer on "*Learning to Hate, Choosing to Love*" followed by a light lunch of soup and sandwiches and a brief meeting. Event will be held at Cedar Falls UCC and should conclude by 1:30pm.

(This is a change from the speaker originally scheduled to speak due to a conflict on the speaker's part.)

Rev. Janice Springer has served as a local church pastor for 40 years. She is a spiritual director and has led workshops in several states and Canada. She lives in Iowa and Montana.

Janice is open to have non-Association members attend if they contact the association in advance.



~ Youth Group will be held on Wednesday nights from 5:30-7:30pm during the month of September at Kimball Avenue United Methodist (1207 Kimball Ave.) and in October we will be at First Baptist (434 Baltimore Ave.).

~ September 15th we will enjoy a bonfire from 7pm to 9pm at Three House Collaborative Ministry (Snacks/smores will be provided).

~ The Youth Group will participate in the Crop Walk on September 24th.

~ We will also enjoy a "Haunted Hay Ride" in October - Tickets will be \$15 each. More information to come.

Getting To Know You

GETTING TO KNOW: CINDY THOMPSON



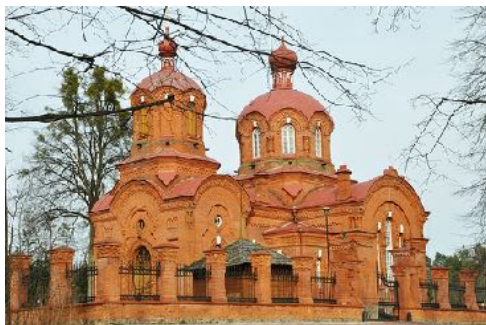
My story began in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, when I was born on July 17. I was raised on a farm near Elkader, Iowa; the oldest of five children. My youth was spent involved in doing farm chores, 4-H, babysitting, Sunday School, and church youth activities. As a senior in high school, I enrolled in a class that cemented my career dreams. I worked with Miss Arlene Schoien, my first-grade teacher, as a helper in the first grade. I got credit, and spent every day working in the classroom. I graduated from Central and moved to UNI to pursue my degree in elementary education, with a reading endorsement.

While at UNI, the next chapter in my life began, when I meet Jeff Thompson at a Christmas party. We were married December 17, 1977; in the midst of finals for me and teaching junior high science for Jeff. We moved to Decorah, where I began my teaching career at Waukon. The birth of our daughters added excitement to our lives. Sara was born on August 2, 1981; just in time for a move to Dunkerton, and teaching jobs for Jeff and I. We built a new home and moved to Waterloo in 1982. Daughter Kati arrived on February 17, 1985. We added a new church family – First Congregational- later that year.



After over 33 years of teaching, it was time to start another chapter in our lives. Jeff and I retired in 2012, though I continue to sub. Except for the Covid shutdown, I have been in the classroom for about 60 years- wow!! 😊 I enjoy my flower gardens, sewing, reading, cheering for Iowa football and basketball, time with our dogs Buster and Scout, and traveling. Travels to spend time with our daughters in Portland, Oregon and Chicago are always a highlight. Our latest big adventure was a cruise around the Hawaiian Islands for our 46th anniversary. Who knows where this chapter will take us from here.....

God's Blessings to our church family!



Women of Faith, September 19 About Eastern Orthodox Christianity

Each year, included in the schedule of Women of Faith programs, at least one program is on a particular religion or spiritual tradition. This year, we have the opportunity to learn about Eastern Orthodox Christianity, one of the oldest and largest branches of Christianity, from Dr. Alicja Boruta-Sadkowski. She is a delightful and engaging speaker whom you will enjoy meeting on

**Tuesday, September 19 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church
2410 Melrose Drive, Cedar Falls. (in-person only, no zoom)**

Coffee and tea will be served at the start of the meeting. Those attending are invited – but not required! -- to bring cookies, baked items, or other goodies from the cuisine of Poland (Alicja's native country) or other Eastern European countries. Women of Faith welcomes women of all religious and spiritual traditions -- so bring a friend!

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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