

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

September 14, 2022

PULPIT SUPPLY

Thank you to Rev. Brad Braley for his message to us on Sunday, and his reminder that we need to keep LOOKING AHEAD as we, at First Congregational UCC, plan for our future. Thank you to Peter Steva for serving as worship leader and John Mardis for his Mini-Message.



This Sunday, we welcome Dr. John Burnight as our speaker. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy and World Religions at UNI. He teaches courses in Old Testament, New Testament, Judaism & Islam, comparative religion, and world creation myths. His research focuses on the Book of Job as an early form of protest literature.

Seth Chronister will be worship leader, and Greg Hoekstra will provide the “mini-message”.

RALLY DAY NEWS...

~ Thank you to everyone for making Rally Day a success! A special thank you to Tim Ahrens and the board of Spiritual Growth and Programs for the delicious fish fry and pulled pork dinner following our service last Sunday! It is always good to share fellowship with our church family. We were especially blessed with the delicious fish that Tim caught and shared with us!



TAKING CARE OF FAMILY...

~ Diana Paige was re-hospitalized at University of Iowa hospitals following complications. She is resting and being cared for there for the time being.

~ David Young continues his radiation at Mayo Clinics and reports that he is over half way finished in his treatments!



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL—PLEASE COME!

The adult Sunday School class is utilizing a study/discussion of Kathleen Norris's book and dvd, Embracing a Life of Meaning. It will meet at 9:30 in the Friendship Room. Participants are invited to grab a pastry, coffee and juice in the chapel and proceed to the Friendship Room. Although the series will be ongoing for 8-10 weeks, it is designed so that folks may join the group as they are able.

** END OF SUMMER CHURCH EVENT **

What: Kayaking

When: Sunday, September 18, 2022

Time: 2:00-4:00pm

Where: Big Woods Lake, South Parking Lot, NE Corner at the Kayak Launch

What to bring: Bring a Kayak or Canoe and a life jacket, water bottle, sun screen, bug spray & clothing

Afterwards: Meet at Gary Waldon's deck for refreshments, 823 Oak Park Blvd, Cedar Falls.



MINDFUL ART IN NATURE...

I am excited to share with you another Mindful Art offering on the first of October at the Hearst Center for the Arts in Cedar Falls!

What: Mindful Art in Nature. Spark a playful connection with nature through mindful art. The emphasis of this workshop is on the process of exploring through line and mark making. No art nor mindfulness experience necessary.

When: Saturday, October 1 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Where: Hearst Center for the Arts; 304 W. Seerley Blvd; Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Register: Call The Hearst Center at (319) 273-8641 (Tues. & Thurs. 10 am-9 pm; Wed. & Fri 10 am-5 pm; Sat. & Sun. 1-4 pm)

Online at <https://bit.ly/HearstRegister!> Scroll to Hearst Adult Art Classes; click on Hearst Adult Workshops.

Connecting with nature is good for our wellness. I look forward to exploring nature with you in a new way!

~ *Evie Waack*





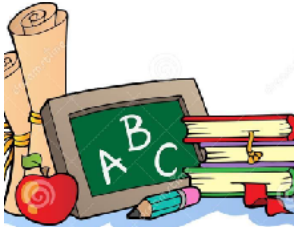
Wednesday Nights: Next Wednesday, September 21st from 6-7pm our middle and high schoolers will gather at the church.

Sunday School: Don't forget about Sunday School! We will meet at 9:15am downstairs in the cafeteria.

As always, find out more about any of these events at <http://www.firstcongucc.org/youth.html>.

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS...

~ SEPTEMBER SPECIAL TEACHER COLLECTION



In the month of September we are collecting items that have been requested by the teachers at Irving Elementary. All items are greatly appreciated:

- ~ Cleaning Wipes ~ Kleenex ~ Band-aids
- ~ Paper Towels ~ Post It Notes ~ Expo Dry Erase Markers



~ CEDAR VALLEY CROP HUNGER WALK = SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

First Congregational Church is invited to participate with other Cedar Valley churches to put your faith on its feet as we come back together this year for the CROP Hunger walk.

Registration begins at 1:30pm and the walk starts at 2pm at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank (1605 Lafayette St., Waterloo). There will be one 3 mile route this year with refreshments and brief tours of the food bank available afterward. There is also a rest stop along the way. If you have questions, email bradbraley@cfu.net or call 319-610-3372.

Thanks for caring and sharing!

Brad Braley, Local CROP Walk coordinator

~ **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S** Jenna Petersen is leading weekly Church Row prayer walks at 8am on Thursdays, starting at their office, 803 W 5th St, Waterloo, IA 50702. The route changes every week. Contact her at 319-235-9946 or jpetersen@webuildhabitat.org if you would like to learn more or join. Thank you for praying with us!

~ **CHURCH ROW CLOTHING GIVE-AWAY** October 29! Please start gathering donations with a special focus on children's items, winter things and bedding.



“DAUGHTER OF THE STRUGGLE”



Martin Luther King III said, “Ayanna is truly magnificent and inspiring! Daughter of the Struggle captures the essence of what the Movement was really about.” He is right! Last Saturday evening the Cedar Valley was treated to a life-changing performance and lesson in the civil rights movement by Ayanna Gregory, daughter of the iconic Dick Gregory. The mixture of dance, singing, video, and storytelling was captivating and so very informative.

And during the long Q&A time following the performance, we got a peek inside the real Ayanna Gregory when not in the spotlight ... only to find out they are one and the same person. She is as genuine in “real life” as she seems on the stage. First Church should be honored to have been the major sponsor for this event.

Here is a quote from a theatre critic who has seen her show and another by Ayanna herself ... Daughter of the Struggle is living history by Ayanna Gregory, daughter of Civil Rights activist, Dick Gregory. Hailed as a “perfect alignment of social consciousness and entertainment” by theater critic Debbie Minter Jackson, this one-woman show will take audiences on an intimate journey through the personal sacrifices of the Gregory family and the families of other Freedom fighters. Ayanna’s poignant stories and captivating songs will transport viewers to the life of a little girl finding her true purpose amidst death threats, social change, and above all the love of her father.

Says Ayanna, “This piece is the gift that keeps giving. It continues to change form and is transforming me in the process. It is such an honor to stand as the continuum of such a powerful legacy. It is so important to me that my father knows who he is to me. Martin and Malcolm never got the chance to hear their children talk about them.”

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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