

# First Congregational UCC

## TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our church family and friends  
September 27, 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 providing the message last Sunday including the "Good News/Bad News" story of Joseph in the mini message. Thanks to Abbie Chronister for serving as worship leader.

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



This Sunday we welcome back Rev. Cathy Young, assisted by Craig Driver as worship leader and Gina Greene with the mini message. We will celebrate World Communion Sunday and take up our annual offering Neighbors in Need.

## NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN)



The offering this year will be held this Sunday, October 1st as part of our **World Communion Sunday**. Here's one story where this offering helped: This summer, an average of 172 children participated daily in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) programs at various sites in and around Missouri's Ferguson-Florissant School District, an underserved community.

The programs, created by [Unleashing Potential](#), a St. Louis-based organization providing educational opportunities to these children, were made possible through grants from the UCC Neighbors in Need offering. "Because of NIN we were able to offer out-of-school programming this summer, supplementing our existing after-school programs," said Jennifer Wood, manager of Unleashing Potential.

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

~ Prayers for Connie Jo Peirce, as she continues her recovery following surgery.

~ Prayers for Cindy Thompson's friend who has stage 4 pancreatic cancer and is not responding to current treatment regimes.

~ Prayers for those suffering from mental illness, and those who love and care for them.

~ Prayers for farmers as they harvest their crops.

~ Prayers for those experiencing catastrophic disasters such as flooding, earthquakes, drought, famine, and war.

## CIRCLE UP BREAKFAST

Thank you to those that represented FCUCC and attended the Habitat for Humanity Circle Up Breakfast this morning, September 27. Lots of great information and conversation. Thank you Craig and Carmen Driver, Dave Vandeventer, Keith Jorgensen, Paul and Gina Greene, Marcia Johnson, and Gary Waldon.

## ADULT BOOK STUDY

A discussion of Rachel Held Evans's book, *Inspired*, will continue this week. Join us this Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. with "The Sea" and Chapter 7, "Fish Stories". The group will meet in the Friendship Room for discussion. Newcomers are welcome.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The next Trustee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 17th at 6:00pm. Note this is the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

## YOUTH NEWS

Youth Group will be held on Wednesday nights from 5:30-7:30pm tonight at Kimball Avenue United Methodist (1207 Kimball Ave.) and in October we will be at First Baptist (434 Baltimore Ave.). We will also enjoy a "Haunted Hay Ride" in October - Tickets will be \$15 each. More information to come.

## HABITAT BUILD - SEPTEMBER 30TH

A mighty team of builders will be working on a Habitat House this Saturday. Please pray for a great day of fun and fellowship doing great things for Habitat and the community. Thanks to the team of Kari Brock, Liz Becker, Jayne Slaughter, Karen Klaassen, Becky and Todd Ellison, Brittney Taylor and Gina Greene.

## WE FILLED THE LITTLE PANTRIES

Thanks for your continued support for the Pantry Project. Thank you for all the great food donations. Let's keep it going! We are low on cereal, canned vegetables and fruits, snacks, granola bars, instant potatoes, and can always use canned meats. Thanks for helping to feed those that might otherwise go hungry.

## ANNUAL FALL CLOTHING GIVE-AWAY

Saturday, October 28th ~ 9am until 11am

First Baptist Church (434 Baltimore, W'loo)

Sponsored by the Church Row Neighborhood Coalition - More info to come.



Contributions can still be sent to Michelle in our church office until 10/5. Last year we were 4th out of the 14 participating churches with \$1435. Let's see if we can be FIRST this year. 25% will go to our local Northeast Iowa Food Bank and 75% will go to the work of Church World Service.





# October 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 Worship & Sunday School	2	3 7:30am Men's Breakfast	4 3 - 4:30pm Job Foundation M.S. Lesson (Downstairs)	5 8:00 Prayer Walk (Begin @ Habitat every Thursday) 5:15pm Bells 6:00pm NAMI 6:45pm Choir	6	7 12:00pm Girl Scouts (Downstairs)
8 10:30 Worship & Sunday School	9 5:30pm Job Foundation Senior Lesson (Downstairs)	10	11 3 - 4:30pm Job Foundation M.S. Lesson (Downstairs) 5 - 8pm NAMI	12 Meals on Wheels 5:15pm Bells 6:00pm NAMI 6:45pm Choir	13	14 9:00am - Women's Bkfst
15 10:30 Worship & Sunday School	16	17 7:30am Men's Breakfast 6:00 Trustees Meeting	18 3 - 4:30pm Job Foundation M.S. Lesson (Downstairs)	19 5:15pm Bells 6:00pm NAMI 6:45pm Choir	20 11:30 - Social Action Luncheon	21 12:00pm Girl Scouts (Downstairs)
22 10:30 Worship & Sunday School	23	24 6pm - 8pm Volunteering (NE IA Food Bank)	25 3 - 4:30pm Job Foundation M.S. Lesson (Downstairs)	26 Meals on Wheels 5:15pm Bells 6:00pm NAMI 6:45pm Choir	27 Fill Neighborhood Pantries	28
29 10:30 Worship & Sunday School Fall Festival / Chili Cookoff	30	31				

## Birthdays

1 Greg Hoekstra	14 Sabina Meacham
3 Ann Zellhoefer Carol Towsley	16 George Brown
7 Rex Boatman	22 Bonnie Bessman Jack Koch
8 Melissa Wells	24 Sarah Pavelski
9 Lucas Backens	24 Emily Highnam Landon Kelley Marsha Lind

26 Pat Brown
Emily Lindaman
27 Abbey Martens Abbott
27 Andrew Yarngo

## Anniversaries

5 John & Barb Mardis
7 Dale & Barbara Hatinger
25 Rich & Kay Thuesen

# Little Pantries or Food Bank Ideas

*Thanks to Craig Mahood for sharing this...*

Have you ever bought items to help others based on what you thought they wanted? Here are some ideas from actual recipients of donated food:

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac & Cheese in the box. We can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which we get a lot of.
3. We cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies & soup unless you provide a can opener or buy pop tops.
4. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice-a-Roni which we also get a lot of.
5. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some of us.
6. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
7. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible for us to make a child's birthday cake if it only needs water.
8. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
9. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.
10. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.

*A few more ideas will be shared next week....*

*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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