

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 29, 2021

Pastor's Corner:

This coming Sunday, October 3, 2021, is World Communion Sunday. It is a Sunday in which Christians of all countries around this good earth are to celebrate the Communion as one Body and Spirit of Christ. It reminds us that our ties to Jesus and our Christian faith are stronger than our ties to nationality, ethnicity, and all other ways in which we may distinguish ourselves. We are siblings of one another all around the world, and this act of sacramentally partaking of the communion meal, whatever the bread or drink used, no matter the culture or form the ritual may take, binds us together as one.



The Best Supper © Jan L. Richardson

Started in 1933 in the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA by their pastor, Rev. Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr, it was conceived of in 1930 by Kerr, and three years later grew out of Shadyside's Division of Stewardship as an attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity so as to remind us of how congregations locally and around the world are all interconnected with one another. In 1936, World Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a common practice of the Presbyterian Church (US), though other denominations were welcomed to celebrate from the onset. World Communion Sunday was adopted by the Federal Council of Churches (predecessor to today's National Council of Churches) in 1940, and has served as a means of ecumenical celebration of our unity in Christ.

A Presbyterian website states:

"Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed."

(<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/churchcalendar/world-communion-sunday/>)

World Communion Sunday became more widespread in the USA and in other countries after WW II, with the yearning desire for the global community to be able to live in peace with one another.

Holy Communion, of course, is a symbolic representation of Jesus' last supper with his disciples. It was a Passover Seder in which has rich imagery of the liberation of the Hebrew people from the bondage and oppression in Egypt, and was used by Jesus to speak of the need of bondage and oppression of his own people's persecution under the Roman Empire, as well as for all peoples who are discriminated against in every time and culture. It is not only a remembrance of Jesus himself, but also of his values that we are to carry on to make the world one siblinghood where we all care for and love one another as care for and love ourselves.

To partake in World Communion is thus not only our commitment to Christ in the person of Jesus, but to all peoples and creatures throughout the earth who are the "least of these" whom Jesus showed us by word and example that we are to love and aid. When Jesus said, "Inasmuch as you do it (or don't do it) to others, you do it (or don't do it) to me," he intended us to see each other as we see him – as people born of God and of inestimable worth...as people we must see as our own family.

We will present bread and juice that is not of our own culture this Sunday to remind us of our siblings in other places who are also partaking of this sacrament. This is a powerful, uniting act of declaring our loyalty to Christ and to one another throughout the world.

Come join in the celebration, and be inspired to care for others both near and far!

Blessings,
Pastor Bret

Youth Zone!



Don't forget about **SUNDAY SCHOOL!**

We will NOT be meeting at the originally set 9:15am time, and instead will conduct Sunday School DURING service on Sunday at 10:30am. Youth will stay in worship until after the Children's Message, and then head off to learn!

YOUTH GROUP

will meet Wednesday, September 29th from 6pm-7pm outside by the garage! Per request, we will be making slime.

ATTENTION BOARDS & COMMITTEES:

A reminder that during September and the first part of October, boards are asked to develop their goals for the 2021-2022 church year. There will be opportunity to share these goals at the October 12th Board of Trustees meeting. Each committee is vital for the important work of our church. Thank you for your time, energy, and commitment for the good of our church community and the wider community!

~ Anne Hoekstra

Bible Study!

Greetings!

Please join us for Bible Study on Tuesday afternoons in the basement at 4 p.m.! For October 5th, we will be reading Genesis chapters 4 & 5. You can find the text at:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+4-5&version=NRSV>. If you do not have access to a Bible, please let me know and I'll make sure you get one. Hope to see you there!

~ Pastor Bret

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS



THANK YOU to all of the CROP Walkers last Sunday afternoon! I hope you enjoyed the beautiful fall afternoon and the company of other walkers from around the community! Now is the time

for all of the church family to donate to the walk! Please mail your checks to Michelle at the church office or bring them to church on Sunday. Checks can be made out to CROP Walk 2021.

There is also a website at this following address:

<http://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/first-congregational-walkers>. You can make a donation online. Thanks for your generous donations! 25% of all money collected will stay with our local foodbank and the other 75% will go to Church World Service to provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them, and greater food security in communities around the world.

~Diane Highnam



2nd Sunday Speaker Series: Mindful Art in Nature

Hartman Reserve Nature Center, Black Hawk County

Sunday, October 10, 2021

Join Certified Mindful Art Facilitator Evie Waack as she explores mindful art in nature. Mindful art focuses on the practice of creating the art rather than the end product. Those who are practicing mindful art take in their sensory surroundings while making a contour drawing. Evie will be sharing her sketchbooks and stories of making art in nature, plus demonstrating mindful art in nature practices. After a short walk on the trail, attendees will be provided a pen and drawing pad and try mindful art at Hartman. No experience is required for this event. Attendees will meet at the Buckles Programming Center located next to the Interpretive Building. Friends of Hartman Reserve are providing the art supplies for this program.

No cost, but registration is limited to the first 12 who register. For registration and further information see <https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Black-Hawk/Park/Hartman-Reserve-Nature-Center/Events/19298/2nd-Sunday-Speaker-Series-Mindful-Art-in-Nature.aspx>.

~ *Evie Waack*

Create an endowment of love. Please consider including our church in your estate planning.

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First Congregational UCC
608 WEST FOURTH STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

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