

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 22, 2021



Blessing of the Animals Outdoor Service this Sunday!: This Sunday, September 26th, we'll have a service where you can bring your pets to church at our regular worship time of 10:30 a.m. This way you can bring **all** of your family! We'll meet outside under the portico as we have been doing lately for worship.

Animals are part of our families. We not only love them, but are nurtured and loved by them. So this is an opportunity to include them in our spiritual family and offer a blessing to them. Come join us for this fun and light-hearted gathering in which we will bring our beloved pets to be blessed by a ritual of physically distanced sprinkled water. Yes, if you are holding your pet, you may get a few water droplets on you, too! What fun! 😊

This joyous event is open to the wider community. You may invite your neighbors and friends to come with their pets to be blessed. This is an excellent opportunity to invite to church those who may not have a church home, or simply need a safe way to be in community and relish the beauty of all life. Please ensure that your pets will be appropriately leashed/contained to keep them and the other pets safe.

We hope this will be a spirit-lifting service for all who can attend or watch at home. I'm looking forward to seeing you with your pets!

~ *Pastor Bret*

TAKING CARE OF OUR FAMILY...

~ Prayers for Russ and Carol Towsley who are both experiencing health issues.

~ Prayers for those who are undergoing treatments for cancer and other chronic diseases.

Upcoming Events:

Don't forget about Sunday School this week!

We will meet outside the church at 9:15am.



~ **Youth Group** on Wednesday, September 22nd at 6pm outside the church!
We will be doing activities related to the upcoming CROP Hunger Walk.



CROP Walk is happening on Sunday, Sept 26!! All are welcome to join in the walk starting at 1:30 at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank

(1605 Latayette St in Waterloo). If you'd like to contribute to the CROP Walk, please send a check to Michelle in the office or donate online at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org2021>. Search for our team First Congregational Walkers and donate online! We're participating in the 2021 CROP Hunger Walk to support the Northeast Iowa Food Bank and Church World Service and help families who are struggling with hunger. We're asking you to join us - with your steps and your donations - 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. Happy Walking!

~ *Diane Highnam*



Sunday was the perfect day for kayaking and canoeing at Big Woods Lake in Cedar Falls. A dozen Congregationalists paddled around the lake enjoying the gorgeous weather and fellowship. A big thank you to Gary Waldon for organizing this outing and for hosting a fun "afterglow" at his home afterwards.

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

Match Campaign in September

When you give to Love INC the week of September 20-24, your investment will DOUBLE! Generous Business Partners will be partnering with Love INC to match donations throughout the entire week!



In September, you can make a difference by helping us fund water bills. Love INC helped over 100 households pay their water bills last year! Your gifts will allow us to help even more families keep their water on.

All donations can be mailed or brought to the Love INC office - 2603 Rainbow Drive, Suite 2, Cedar Falls or you can give online by going to <http://loveinccv.org/give/>

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

FROM OUR REOPENING COMMITTEE . . . 09/21/21

The Committee was able to meet this morning in full force. The news from data reporter Greg was hesitantly shared as positive! Hesitantly, because we can compare what is happening in the county with what is happening in our pool of wonderful congregants. We think that barring an unpredicted surge or new variant, continuing with our protocols we will be able to move inside safely when the weather gets unfriendly. Gathering for coffee and cookies in the library is still off the table, but seeing friendly eyes, bumping elbows, sharing a familiar space, just worshipping as a faith family should not have to be virtual only. Continue praying for those who are ill, or have family and friends dealing with this stuff – at work or in your circles. Please, please, please continue safe practices like vaccinations, masking, and safe distancing in order to keep our most vulnerable people safe, because we know that works.

~ Beth, Dave, Greg, Tim

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.

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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