

Congregational Tidings

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



A weekly newsletter



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October 12, 2022

PULPIT SUPPLY

Thank you to Rev. Brad Braley for preaching this past Sunday, to Nancy Mahood for serving as worship leader, and Lynette Doepke for providing the mini-message.

Next week, we welcome Rev. Janice Springer to the pulpit, assisted by Evie Waack as worship leader and Paul Greene with the mini-message. Rev. Janice Springer has served churches in the United Church of Christ for more than 40 years. She is on the staff of University Congregational UCC in Missoula, Montana. Her articles have been published in journals and in *The Christian Century*. Janice is the author of two books, including "I Know We're All Welcome at the Table, But Do I Have to Sit Next to You?" She is a spiritual director and has led workshops and retreats in the USA and Canada. Janice lives in Iowa (Waterloo) and Montana.

TAKING CARE OF FAMILY...

- ~ Continued prayers for Bonnie Rickert, who is recovering from several weeks of hospitalization at the University of Iowa Hospitals for complications related to gall bladder and surgeries. She is now at NorthCrest Specialty Care in Waterloo for rehab.
- ~ Continued prayers for Teri Graham, who has been dealing with sciatica pain. She appreciates your prayers!
- ~ Prayers for Rick Kiefer, husband of long-time member, Julie Kiefer for relief from pain as he struggles with ongoing medical issues. This is a very busy time for the Keifers with their farm of pumpkins, gourds, mums, and fall produce.
- ~ Prayers for the victims of Hurricane Fiona and Hurricane Ian—those whose lives have been devastated by these recent storms. Donations for relief may be sent to the United Church of Christ: <https://support.ucc.org/emailviewonwebpage.aspx?erid=1033791&trid=3b5afd5b-d8f7-47f3-a4e1-19a8dfc31054> or Church World Service: <https://cwsglobal.org>
- ~ Prayers for the victims of massive floods and billions of dollars of damage in Pakistan. World Food Program USA and International Rescue Committee are 2 organizations assisting with emergency responses.



MIDWEST CHAMBER PLAYERS

The concert consisting of Julia Bullard, Eric Wachmann, and Sean Botkin was held last Saturday here at FCUCC. We thank the trio for sharing their talents with us. The performance was enjoyed by all who attended.

GROUT MUSEUM TOUR SAVE THE DATE

Grout Museum is hosting a tour of historic churches November 6, 1:00-5:00. Our church has been chosen as one of the sites. More info to follow.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

“Embracing a Life of Meaning”, featuring Kathleen Norris, continues this week at 9:15 in the Friendship Room, Chapter 3, “The Bible Matters”. Newcomers are welcome—there are books for sharing and the conversation is easy to join.

CHURCH KITCHEN NEEDS:

Kitchen clean up day!

Please join us for a kitchen sort and clean up day next Tuesday, **October 18 from 9-12**. Feel free to come for all or any part of the morning. Thanks so much in advance - your help is appreciated!

Containers

Also, the church kitchen could still use more leftover containers. Please drop off empty containers (Cool Whip, cottage cheese, lunch meats, etc) in the crossroads. Thank you.

DID YOU MAKE A DONATION?

We received a check from Ameritrade that we are assuming is a donation but the check did not list who the donor was and calls to them have not resulted in an answer. So if you did make a donation from Ameritrade, please contact Michelle in the office so you can receive proper credit.

2022 THIRD QUARTER TREASURER'S REPORT

At the end of September, our Church Operating Budget performance is good. We are 75 percent of the way through the year. Our total income is at 76 percent of budget, and our total expenses are at 70 percent. Current Pledge income is at 82 percent, so I want to thank all members for doing a very good job of keeping your pledge payments up to date. Expenses are under budget because ministerial costs and all Board spending except Physical Resources are under budget.

Regarding status of the Organ Capital Campaign, we had 41 members pledge a total of \$90,651 and at the end of September, 24 members have completed their pledge payments. A total of \$14,900 remains to be paid. 2023 will be the third and final year of the campaign.

Later this month we will officially start our Stewardship Campaign for 2023. Stewardship Sunday is November 13th. I have been very thankful with our members' willingness and ability to continue supporting our Church during the pandemic and ministerial transition. As we plan for 2023, I'd ask you to continue your commendable level of financial support for our Church. This includes completing your 2022 pledge payments and giving prayerful consideration to your 2023 pledge. Michelle will be mailing out contribution statements to all members with current amounts due for both 2022 pledge and capital campaign as of 9/30/22 for your convenience. Please let her know if you have any questions about your statement, the operating budget, or the capital campaign.

~ *Dave Allbaugh*
Treasurer



**Treasurer
Report**



Youth Group on the 12th from 6pm-7pm for Pre-/Elementary Schoolers:
We enjoyed time last week for Youth Group at the Cedar Valley Arboretum! This week, our pre- and elementary schoolers will meet to have a *wild* time doing activities that are animal-related (to compliment our new curriculum series on Daniel, "Hear Me Roar!"

Sunday School/Faith Formation classes continue! Join us on Sundays from 9:15am-10:15am for snacks, fellowship, and learning...the FUN kind of learning, that is ;)

Heads up: Youth Director Abbie will be away Oct. 20-26 (with the exception of Sunday the 23rd for Sunday School and worship!). As a newly appointed board member of the UCC Mental Health Network, she will be attending their annual meeting/WISE conference, come back for Sunday's activities at church.



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL FALL FEST ACTIVITIES ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30TH STARTING AT 3PM!

3:00 - 4:00pm: Outside activities - Hay rides, Trunk or Treat, Yard games

4:00 - 5:00pm: Inside activities - Pumpkin painting and carving, guess the weight of the pumpkin & number of candy corn

5:00 - 6:00pm: Chili Cook-off!

**** We need volunteers to sign up to provide chili and also to decorate and provide car trunks for the trunk or treat! ****

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
THIS WILL BE A FUN GATHERING FOR ALL!**

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS...

~ **A Night at the Grout Museum with Barbara Corson** - Barb, Iowa's first woman principal of a 4A high school, is known as an outstanding Waterloo educator and citizen. She has served as a volunteer for many area cultural organizations including the Grout Museum. In 2020, she was honored as one of the Cedar Valley's 8 over 80. Barb will talk about her experiences growing up in Waterloo, her work as an educator, and her service as volunteer. She also will tell us about the Grout's current "Opening New Doors" campaign. (The Grout's Norris Corson Family Planetarium is named for her family.) We also will have the opportunity to explore the Grout's exhibits. We will meet on **Tuesday, October 18 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Grout Museum of History and Science, 503 South Street, Waterloo. You may park in the handicap parking lot at the corner of West Fourth and South Streets.

~ **Church Row Coalition** has organized a work day, Tuesday, November 15, here in the neighborhood with Habitat for Humanity. If you would like to work with our ecumenical friends please sign up using the link below:



<https://iowaheartlandhabitatforhumanity.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=67993>

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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