

# First Congregational UCC

## TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our  
church family and friends  
November 1, 2023



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



## PULPIT SUPPLY

Thank you to Steve Prust for presenting the message this past week, to Greg Hoekstra for serving as worship leader, and to Gina Greene for her mini message. It was a joy to have Steve and Barbara Prust back in church!

**You can watch the service by clicking on the picture of Steve Prust.**



This week we welcome Rev. Pat Geadelmann to our pulpit for All Saints Sunday. She will be assisted by John Mardis as worship leader and Paul Greene with the mini message. Since it is the first Sunday, communion will be celebrated. Those from our congregation who have died this past year will be honored as part of our All Saints commemoration:

**Bonnie Rickert, Nancy Showers, Lynette Doepke, Marlys Tandy,  
Peter Blankenfeld, Rick Kiefer, Anna Kendall**

---

## TAKING CARE OF FAMILY...

- ~ Prayers for For the family of Anna Kendall, who passed away last week.
- ~ Prayers for Bonnie Bessman's daughter, Teri, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- ~ Prayers for Jim and Anita Altenbaumer's daughter, Hope, for her medical treatment.
- ~ Prayers for Cliff Highnam, as he recovers from knee surgery.
- ~ Prayers of gratitude for Teri Graham, who continues to have problems with her health.
- ~ Lois Johnson would appreciate a ride to church! Please call/text 319-504-3212 if you'd like to help.

---

## NORTH EAST IOWA ASSOCIATION

The next meeting will be held this Saturday, **November 4th from 10am to Noon**. Join us for a seminar / workshop led by Rev Janice Springer on *"Learning to Hate, Choosing to Love"* followed by a light lunch of soup and sandwiches and a brief meeting. Event will be held at Cedar Falls UCC and should conclude by 1:30pm.

Rev. Janice Springer has served as a local church pastor for 40 years. She is a spiritual director and has led workshops in several states and Canada. She lives in Iowa and Montana.

Janice is open to have non-Association members attend if they contact the association in advance.

## ADULT BOOK STUDY

Adults will resume meeting at 9:15am in the Friendship Room on Sunday, November 19. We will begin our next book, by Tish Harrison Warren, "Prayer in the Night: For Those Who Work or Watch or Weep." It has won several awards, including ECPA Christian Book of the Year, *Christianity Today* Book of the Year, *Foreword* INDIES Book of the Year Award Finalist, & IVP Readers' Choice Award

### How can we trust God in the dark?

Framed around a nighttime prayer of Compline, Tish Harrison Warren, author of *Liturgy of the Ordinary*, explores themes of human vulnerability, suffering, and God's seeming absence. When she navigated a time of doubt and loss, the prayer was grounding for her. She writes that practices of prayer "gave words to my anxiety and grief and allowed me to reencounter the doctrines of the church not as tidy little antidotes for pain, but as a light in darkness, as good news."

Where do we find comfort when we lie awake worrying or weeping in the night? This book offers a prayerful and frank approach to the difficulties in our ordinary lives at work, at home, and in a world filled with uncertainty.

Please let Michelle in the office or Anne Hoekstra know if you are interested in participating and would like a book ordered for you.

## THANK YOU FOR FILLING THE LITTLE PANTRIES

Thank you for your continued support to assure that the pantries are filled. Let's keep it going! We are low on canned vegetables and fruits, snacks, granola bars, instant potatoes, and can always use canned meats. Remember to keep in mind the idea of "easy to make" meals and "pop top" cans. Thanks for helping to feed those that might otherwise go hungry.

## GREETERS

What a joy it is to see a greeter at the front door. Thank you to those that have signed up. Take a Sunday morning and welcome your church family, friends and neighbors. Sign up to be a greeter.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER WANTED

We are still looking for another Sunday School teacher. What a fun way to build a relationship with our great youth.

## YOUTH NEWS

~ This past weekend, Zack Steva and Prince Yarngo participated with the collaborative youth group attending the R.Y.E. (Religious Youth Event) in Cedar Rapids. There were 17 Junior and senior high students participating (*Pictures on next page*).

~ Our Church will be hosting the Wednesday night collaborative youth group activities, during the month of November.

## JOLEY SEITZ RECITAL

November 7th - 6:00pm  
Davis Hall, UNI

works by R. Wagner, H. Berlioz,  
J. Marx, and C. Griffes



## CHURCH ROW CANTATA

Something exciting will be happening for 3 Church Row churches this December!

On **Sunday, December 10th** the choirs and congregations of First Congregational Church, First United Methodist Church, and First Baptist church will be combining in worship and music to celebrate the Christmas season with a performance of Joseph M. Martin's Christmas cantata "Canticle of Joy". The service will take place at First Baptist Church (434 Baltimore St) on December 10th at 10:30am. Please plan to join us for fellowship, worship, and community with our fellow Church Row congregations at this very special worship experience this Christmas season.

## FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERING



We had a great time packaging macaroni!

# WEEKLY

Waterloo First United Methodist Church, Kimball Ave United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church and First Congregational United Church of Christ

## PICTURES FROM THE RYE EVENT

OCTOBER 27 - 29TH



# 2023 FALL FEST



Thank you to the Board of Spiritual Growth and Programs - Tim Ahrens, Sue Hummel, Kay Leary, Jayne Slaughter, Kelly Conrad and Peter Steva for another successful event! A special thank-you to all that prepared Chili, made desserts, set-up for the pumpkin carving and painting, decorated, and cleaned up at the conclusion and to all those in attendance. Congratulations to Gina Greene who won the Chili Cook-off! As always, it was a very special gathering for our church and community!



---

# 2023 CLOTHING GIVEAWAY

The Church Row Fall Clothing Give-away was a Big Success! More than 270 people received lots of items to keep them warm due to your generosity! Thanks to all who contributed, delivered, sorted and helped in anyway to make this marvelous ecumenical neighborhood activity.



Stewardship Sunday is November 12th. Our church has had a wonderful history of making generous contributions to this and other funds and we hope that we can continue to make a difference in the upcoming year. We ask for your prayerful consideration as you prepare your hearts for this year's stewardship campaign.



## Deciding What to Give

**W**hile there are many ways to support the congregation, our annual campaign provides a chance to think in a particular and prayerful way about the choices we make with our money in support of the church.

Without your gifts, we would not be able to engage in the programs, projects, ministry, and worship experiences that define our community life.

Deciding how much of our income to donate to charitable organizations can be difficult. We encourage our community to think of giving as a percentage of annual income.

The average gift to charitable causes in our country is 2% of annual income (per household). It is hard to imagine what our world would look like without these generous gifts that do so much good. Fortunately, we are not being asked to consider what the world would be without these gifts! Instead, we are being asked to imagine what just 1% or more might make happen! How many more lives can be changed because you and

---

I have decided to grow in our own giving? Imagine more people being able to say, **“Because of you, our church changes lives”**.

We are each on a journey toward abundant generosity. What next step can you take in your generosity journey?

Every gift to our congregation helps strengthen who we are and what we can do together. Because of you, our church changes lives.

### CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.



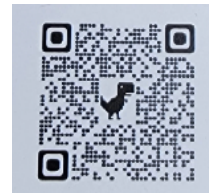


### NAMI PRESENTATION

Dr. Anne Rathe, a distinguished local psychiatrist will lead a discussion and Q & A in this free educational presentation on **November 8th, 7-8pm downstairs at FCUCC.**

### CHURCH ROW ASSOCIATION

Scan the QR Code to learn more about Church Row who we have had a long standing relationship with!



*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

First Congregational UCC  
608 WEST FOURTH STREET  
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

# Congregational Tidings

Place Stamp Here
------------------------