

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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November 2, 2022

PULPIT SUPPLY

A big thank you to Rev. Dylan Does, for preaching Sunday and reminding us that how we worship doesn't matter as much as what we do as Christians. He reminded us of the importance of going out to the needy, as Jesus did, and loving others unconditionally. Thank you to Gina Greene for the mini-message--showing how Jesus is the light, and encouraging us to share that light with others. Thank you to John Mardis for his Stewardship Moment.



This coming Sunday is All Saints Sunday, when we honor those from our church family who died in the past year. Rev. Clark Kilgard will be preaching and leading our Communion. Laurie Allbaugh is the worship leader, and Abbie Chronister will be providing the mini-message.

TAKING CARE OF FAMILY...

- ~ Prayers for Abbie Chronister's cousin, who had multiple injuries from a suicide attempt.
- ~ Prayers for Bonnie Rickert, who continues in rehab at NorthCrest Specialty Care in Waterloo.
- ~ Prayers for Teri Graham, who continues dealing with debilitating sciatica pain.
- ~ Prayers for Diane Highnam's brother-in-law, who has been hospitalized for health concerns.
- ~ Prayers for Kyle Lindaman, who is having some back problems from a recent injury.
- ~ Prayers for Rick Kiefer, for chronic health issues.
- ~ Prayers for our church as we continue our search for a new pastor.



COMMON MEETING

The Common Meeting will be Tuesday, November 15, at 7:00 p.m.
All boards will meet this evening unless yours has made other arrangements.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 13TH



We have loved this congregation for forty five years. Years have not dimmed our love, but increased it. We have always supported the church in anyway we could,

including funding. For the first thirty or so years, that meant something close to 2 or 3% of our joint income. Since we retired, it has been more like 5%. More recently, even though we are on a fixed income, the need to support the family we love so much has caused us to increase our pledge quite a bit every year. We do not ask "when will it ever end?" or "when will it ever be enough?", any more than we ask such questions about the needs of our biological family. Because we love you. We love them. There is no end or enough. We have important work still to do together. I believe that together we will provide the means to get that work done. ~ *John Mardis*

The current issue of *Our Iowa magazine* has the following story. "A second grade Sunday School class was being taught the importance of tithing. Each child was given several pieces of candy and the lesson began. First it was explained that, like their parents, the Church had bills to pay, and the members needed to help with those bills. To demonstrate, each child was asked to put a piece of their "candy currency" in the collection plate to pay for church electricity. Next, the teacher pointed out that the pastor needed to be paid for their services, and another piece of candy was surrendered. As the teacher began to cite another example, a boy piped up, "I think I see where this is going," and tossed the remainder of his candy into the collection plate." I hope that's not how you feel about the stewardship messages we are currently sharing. But I would ask that you give prayerful consideration for not only your financial, but also your time & talent support for our Church next year.

~ *Dave Allbaugh, Treasurer*

YOUTH & SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Youth Group: November 2nd 6pm-7pm for preschool/elementary school students.

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 ;)

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

"Embracing a Life of Meaning", featuring Kathleen Norris, continues this week at 9:15 am in the Friendship Room, the 2nd part of Chapter 4, "Place Matters". Newcomers are welcome - there are books for sharing and the conversation is easy to join.

POTLUCK WITH A PURPOSE

On November 13th the purpose of our potluck will be to enjoy fellowship and food with our church family and to honor the veterans in our group. It would be wonderful to see tables filled with vets and their families. We would appreciate it if those vets would share rank, branch of service, assignment, etc. If you are comfortable sharing any other information you are welcome to do so. If you'd like, please bring your own table service. All are welcome!

ADOPT - A - FAMILY

Please consider making a donation to help families with children at our partner school, Bunger Middle School in Evansdale. You can mail your offering in or put an envelope or check in the offering plate on Sundays with "Adopt-a-Family" in the memo.



END OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Don't forget to "Fall Back" this Sunday, Nov. 6th. Enjoy an extra hour of sleep before you join us for worship at 10:30am!



A big thank you to Tim Ahrens and the Board of Spiritual Growth and Programs, and Abbie Chronister, and all the other volunteers, for an amazing Fall Festival on Sunday. The weather was perfect for “Trunk-or-Treat”, face painting, and hayrack rides outside. There were more people from the community than we have ever had, and many joined us inside for crafts, games, and award winning chili.



Congratulations to Gina Greene for winning the “Best Chili” award (We remember Tyler Greene who won the award last year—his absence was felt amongst us).



GRIN & GROW TRICK OR TREATING

Some of our staff participated in passing out candy and toys to the Grin & Grow children on Monday. The kids all were so cute!

CEDAR VALLEY LITTLE PANTRIES

Our church will be supporting families in the Cedar Valley by helping to keep 4 little pantries stocked 1 time per month. To get things started we will be seeking donations of non-perishable foods such as peanut butter, nuts, rice, beans, oatmeal packets, granola bars (no chocolate), crackers, kids snacks, canned soups, fruit, (cans with pop top preferred), New/unopened baby formula, sealed/unopened drink mixes, dried fruit, etc. Non-food items include such things as can openers, tooth paste, women's period products, toilet paper, bar soaps, travel size shampoo/lotion/mouth rinse, nail clippers, socks, hats, etc. Please leave items in the crossroads on an ongoing basis. Watch for more information to follow.

Are you handy? Can you donate building materials (2x4s, ply board, fiber glass for door, latch assembly kit (new or used), and screws) and/or volunteer to help assemble ONE new pantry? This would replace a heavily used pantry that collapsed a few months ago. It was used a lot and the property owner would like it to be built again. Please contact Leon Begay or Gina Greene if you can help or with any questions you may have.



...MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY

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: iowaheartlandhabitatforhumanity.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=67993

CHURCH ROW NEIGHBORHOOD EVENT

There will be a Church Row Neighborhood Christmas Craft activity held at our church on Saturday, November 26, 1:00-4:00 p.m. for those living in the Church Row neighborhood. This is an interactive activity for young people, 5th grade and older, and a parent or adult. Kids will have an opportunity to make items that could be Christmas gifts for loved ones. Mary Potter is the coordinator for this activity and is asking that our church provide some volunteers to join volunteers from other Church Row churches. Please let Michelle know if you would be willing to help.

ANNUAL FALL CLOTHING GIVE-AWAY

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the clothing drive last weekend, especially Diane, who transported items from FCC to First Baptist and helped arrange everything with Gina and Laurie.

166 very grateful people came through the doors Saturday and left with full bags.





Church Tours

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2022, 1-5 PM



The Grout Museum is hosting a tour of historic churches **this Sunday, November 6, 1:00-5:00.** Our church has been chosen as one of the sites.

Admission: \$15, (12 & under free)

To Register: GMDistrict.org or at any church on the day of the tours.

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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