

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

November 3, 2021

TAKING CARE OF OUR FAMILY . . .

~ We would like to extend a big "Welcome Home" to Brian Lynch who has safely returned from being deployed for several months. We thank you for your service! Brian is the husband of Sara (Holdiman) Lynch and the son-in-law of Craig and Sharon Holdiman.

~ Prayers for Hildegard Larsen who undergoes surgery November 12.

~ Anna Kendall has been moved to Arizona to be closer to her daughter.

~ Congratulations to Abbie Greene and Seth Chronister as they are united in marriage this Saturday, November 6th!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS



NOTE!
ADDRESS CHANGE

Bonnie Bessman has a new address that you can add to your church directory:
Windhaven Assisted Living #34,
5500 S. Main Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319-233-6865)



OUR CONDOLENCES...



~ Prayers for the family of **Maxine Clausman** who died on October 31st at the age of 91. Maxine has been a member of First Congregational since April 7, 1950. She had been a deaconess, was a member of Day Circle and worked funeral lunches and the bazaar. Her funeral will be Friday, November 5th at 10:30am with visitation from 5 - 7pm on Thursday, November 4th both at the Locke Funeral Home.

~ Our condolences to Evie Waack's sister who recently lost her husband. She will be moving from Traer to Waterloo. Our prayers of peace go out to the whole family.



Veteran's Day is next week and we would like to honor those in our congregation who are in active duty or who have served in the armed services. Please let us know if you or a loved one have served in the US armed forces.

We would like to post this list in Tidings next week.

Please let Michelle know by noon, Tuesday, November 9.

Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP

Our church has started its Stewardship campaign. Pledge cards have been mailed out. There is a box outside of the sanctuary to place your card or you can mail it to Michelle in the office. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

A Reminder From Your Treasurer... As we approach the end of the year, it is the perfect time to plan your IRA distribution strategy as well as support the church simultaneously.

What is a Qualified Charitable Distribution?

A nontaxable distribution from an IRA owned by an individual over age 70.5.

The Qualified Charitable Distribution strategy guarantees a tax-saving charitable benefit, helping you reduce your taxable income while supporting the church in the coming year. Donating your distribution (or a portion of it) to a qualified charity like the church will exclude the amount donated from taxable income. Be sure to request that your gift be identified with your name and address, and your intention to use it as a 2021 IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution. Thank you, as always, for your support of time, talent and treasure as we look to make Christ known in our lives.

~ Dave Allbaugh

WANTED--VIDEOGRAPHER FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP



Abbie and Seth have been faithfully live-streaming our services for several months, but are both busy with other duties during the church hour. We need volunteers to take over these duties. Please let Michelle, Bret, Abbie, or Anne know if you would be willing to do this, occasionally or regularly. We take all volunteers!

BIBLE STUDY!

The Bible Study on Genesis continues to meet on Tuesdays at 4 pm. Join us in the church basement or on zoom. You can find more information at this link - <http://www.firstcongucc.org/bible-study.html>.

All are welcome.

~ Pastor Bret



We would like to thank everyone that helped us with the Rummage Sale and Concessions. Just like the Bazaar, it takes a village to be successful. What a great way to introduce the new Mini Donut and Popcorn machines!

After prayerful consideration, we have decided to resign from the Bazaar. It's been a pleasure working with everyone that has helped us out over the years.

If anyone is interested in keeping the Bazaar going, please contact Michelle.

Thanks for everything,

Connie Jo

Jayne

Jill

Ginni



FROM THE REOPENING COMMITTEE...

We had our usual Tuesday 8 am zoom meeting. Feel free to text me if you want something addressed. Black Hawk County went back to high, barely. We discussed flu shots and we encourage everybody to hustle on down and get your flu shot, or your covid booster. 5-11 year old covid vaccinations will soon be available. We continue to ask people to be vaccinated and wear masks when entering the church.

Remember that last year the number of people getting the flu and the common cold were much less because of the masks. Protect others. Rejoice that we feel safe to enter the sanctuary and see each other. Listening to our choir is even more enjoyable now that they have costumes. Hudson just keeps getting better and better. Be safe.

~ Tim, Beth, Greg and Dave

FALL FEST... Fall Fest I would say was a major success! I was grateful to be a part of such a fun event and to experience plenty of joy in every aspect! Thank you to all who came, cooked chili, decorated their cars for Trunk or Treat, and/or donated their time and energy to help out. A special thanks to the Spiritual Growth and Programming Board for all of their hard work with planning and executing this year's Fall Fest. I look forward to the next adventurous activity! For more pictures go to <http://www.firstcongucc.org/fall-fest-2021.html>

Blessings,

Youth Director Abbie



PASTOR'S CORNER

Poets speak of truths that are many in their poems. We can read the same poem and take away many meanings. The more imaginative the reader, the more that will be elucidated.

Elizabeth Barret Browning, as an Englishwoman, wrote a poem entitled, "A Curse for a Nation," which follows:

I heard an angel speak last night,
And he said 'Write!
Write a Nation's curse for me,
And send it over the Western Sea.'

I faltered, taking up the word:
'Not so, my lord!
If curses must be, choose another
To send thy curse against my brother.

I have yet to research the poem and its intended meanings, but knowing she lived from 1806-1861, well after the Revolutionary War, reading it makes me wonder if there were still disgruntled English people she had in mind in their possible negative views towards America.

The 'angel,' given the fact that the angel asks her to write a curse, is likely no angel at all — merely one pretending to be. But she does not only not listen to the "angel," but also refuses to obey the angel's command because she does not see it as right. She uses her reason to ask what is the right thing to do rather than simply accepting the 'authority' of the one who wants her to curse her siblings on the other side of the sea. She stands up to the presumed angel, and in doing so sends a message to the angel that she does not believe the angel's request is ethical.

I am thankful for all those in every society who refuse to go along with those who would have us to curse our siblings. They are the moral exemplars whose example we all need to take to heart.

Blessings in your questioning of the angels that would have us curse, rather than bless, others.

Pastor Bret
11/2/2021



Vacation: Youth Director Abbie will be on vacation from Tuesday November 2nd-Monday the 8th. If you have any pastoral needs, please contact Rev. Bret Myers. For all other immediate needs, please contact Office Manager Michelle so that she can get you connected to the right person!

Youth Group: Youth group will not be meeting this Wednesday due to the youth director being out of office. We will see you next week on Wednesday!

Childcare During Service: There will be childcare provided for youth during November 7th's service.

Check out what our youth have been doing at Youth Group!

<http://www.firstcongucc.org/youth-group-photos.html>

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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