

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 16, 2022

PULPIT SUPPLY

Thank you to Rev. Jane Springer, for preaching “Fences and Boats and Praising God” last Sunday, to Evie Waack for serving as worship leader, and Keith Jorgensen for his mini-message. Thank you to all who brought their pledges to the church prior to, or during our worship on Stewardship Sunday.

This Sunday, we welcome back to our pulpit, Rev. Brad Braley, who will be preaching on Christ the King, “The Election is Not Over”. Gina Greene will be serving as worship leader, and Kay Leary is providing the mini message.

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 5, “We Matter”. We will be finishing this study this Sunday.

During the 4 Sundays of Advent, November 27-December 18, we will be focusing on Advent. We will be using the book, Holy Disruption by Tracy Daub, 2022, “Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark. Where’s the baby? The Gospel of Mark doesn’t have a nativity story—so where’s the Advent message? It’s in every aspect of Jesus’ life, to his death and beyond. The Incarnation—God come to earth in human form to be baptized, teach, heal, eat, and die—is what we celebrate at Christmas, and Mark shows us just how radical and celebration-worthy it is!” Books will be available. Let Michelle, Evie, or Anne know if you would like one.

TAKING CARE OF FAMILY...

- ~ Prayers for Bonnie Rickert, who is back in the Iowa City hospital.
- ~ Prayers for Teri Graham, who continues dealing with debilitating sciatica pain.
- ~ Prayers for Aaron Peterson as he recovers from brain surgery.
- ~ Prayers for Jane, Gina Greene’s friend, who is under hospice care for cancer.
- ~ Prayers for Kathleen Marsh, who recently lost her grandmother and was ill for several days with a virus.
- ~ Prayers for Ginni Casteel who had shoulder replacement surgery on November 9th and is recovering from home.
- ~ Prayers for our church and the Search and Call committee as we continue our search for a new pastor.



STEWARDSHIP SEASON



Stewardship Sunday was last Sunday. Thank you to those who have turned in your pledge card already. You can still bring your pledge card next Sunday and put it in the box in the library or you can bring or mail it to Michelle in the office.

YOUTH & SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Youth Group: November 16th 6pm-7pm for preschool/elementary schoolers. In celebration of the recent snow, we're going to be doing holiday crafts!

Sunday School/Faith Formation classes continue! Join us on Sundays from 9:15am-10:15am for snacks, fellowship, and learning. Meet us in the basement!

Upcoming Dates to Note:

- ~ There will be no youth group on Nov. 23rd.
- ~ There will be no Sunday School or Childcare during Service on Nov. 27th.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Please plan to stay after church on November 20th to decorate our beautiful sanctuary for Christmas. Many loving hands make light work. A little lunch snack will be provided so you have enough strength to keep going on this busy day.



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.

ORGAN CONCERT

You are invited to join Bethlehem Lutheran as they celebrate their 125th anniversary with a special organ concert by Hudson Lourenço-Feld this Sunday, Nov. 20th at 3:00pm. Their address is 4000 Hudson Rd., Cedar Falls, IA.

SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH UPDATE

Since their visit to our church in September, the Shepherd Staff search firm and the FCUCC Search & Call committee have worked together to create updated profile materials to advertise our opening for the Senior Minister position. The Shepherd Staff have used their contacts and channels to find potential candidates for us. They have talked with several people about our open position and have followed up with several leads. They have had initial interviews with interested parties. We have weekly contact with Shepherd Staff via zoom for updates. Once candidates have cleared their initial interviews and vetting process, they will be forwarded to our local Search & Call committee for additional interviews. We pray that this will happen soon. We continue to ask for your prayers for our church, for the Shepherd Staff personnel, and for the person that God is preparing to answer the call. We continue to pray for patience and anticipation as we prepare for our new minister. We have been blessed with some amazing guest preachers and we are grateful for all of you who continue to lead our church during this time of waiting. Your Search & Call Committee (Craig Holdiman, Craig Mahood, Evie Waack, Hannah Prescott, Karen Jensen, Lauren Reisinger, Rich Thuesen, Anne Hoekstra, and Diane Highnam).

SUNDAY WORSHIP TRANSPORTATION

Would you be able to help with giving Donald Damon a ride to church? Please contact Craig Jensen.

THANKS TO OUR VETERANS

Everyone appreciated listening at last week's potluck to the variety of experiences our fellow congregants lived during their military service. We're glad there could be laughs, music and fond memories between the tears.

Please Note:

No Tidings the week of November 28th.



Getting To Know You

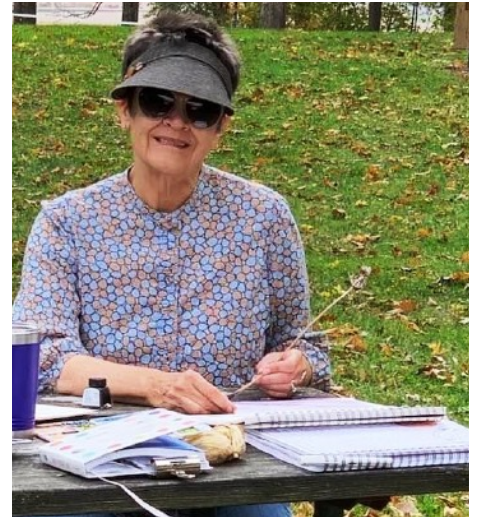
GETTING TO KNOW: EVIE WAACK

I have always enjoyed making art. In 2012 the book, *Everyday Matters* by Danny Gregory, prompted me to start a daily sketchbook practice.



Wandering in nature while searching for a plant, flower or weed to draw or paint is one of my favorite things to do. After spending some time with the plant, a pen and sketchbook, I feel a deeper connection between myself and creation.

This picture shows me on a Tuesday afternoon plein air painting with friends at Cedar Bend Park north of Waverly. The other is a squash blossom - an entry in my sketchbook.



NE Association Fall Meeting

The Northeast Committee on Ministry is inviting the NE Association Church members and pastors to a meeting in Clarksville, IA at Immanuel United Church of Christ (203 S. Mather St.)

Discussion will be around our non-profit status as an association and how we would like to go forward as an association. This conversation requires voice from all our churches and representatives. A lot has happened over the years, and we want to know your thoughts and rebuild our relationships.

Please come Saturday, November 19th at 1:00pm. Cookies and Coffee will be served.

If you would like to car pool with Jim Altenbaumer, please contact him at 319-277-8922 or altenbaumer@cfu.net. Expenses can be reimbursed from the Social Causes and Justice Board.

...MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

Junior Achievement (JA) of Eastern Iowa is looking for volunteers! JA is a nationwide, volunteer led, school based program. The goal of JA is to provide opportunities for educators and students to experience real-world, interactive lessons from the volunteer's perspective. Whether you are a stay at home parent or a CEO, your experiences, coupled with the JA curriculum, opens a student's eyes to see themselves beyond school. JA is working with Bunger Middle (to which we are a Partner in Education with) to provide their program, and needs volunteers to help volunteer in some 7th grade classrooms. The commitment is about an hour a week over the span of six weeks. For questions and to sign up email abbie.youthdirector@gmail.com.

From our very own Liz Thorpe: "I have been associated with JA at various levels for about twenty years. I have taught elementary classes and last year taught at the seventh grade level. Waterloo Schools have had JA curriculum for many years to teach financial literacy, community helpers, and entrepreneur preparation. Last year students learned the differences between debit and credit in addition to budgeting and the differences between wants and needs."

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Calling All Teachers! - You have been nominated as our next group of FCUCC volunteers to work at the Food Bank! Tuesday, November 29 from 6-8pm is our scheduled time to volunteer this month. We have 9 spaces available and would love to have you join us! You can be a teacher of any kind (public school, community college, Sunday school, university, day care, etc). Give the Food Bank volunteer squad a try! It's a lot of fun and a worthwhile way to share a couple hours! We are very fortunate to have such an amazing facility in our community! Let's do our part to fight hunger. Contact Diane Highnam if you're interested in joining us! diane.highnam@cfu.net or 319-240-2849.

CEDAR VALLEY LITTLE PANTRIES

Our church is supporting families in the Cedar Valley by helping to keep 4 little pantries stocked one 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. Thank you!

WE NEED DONATIONS!

Our youth group will be building a Little Free Pantry to replace one in Church Row that is in need of retirement. In order to make this happen, we need a handful of donations:

(Note: Any donations of scrap lumber should be 2ft min please.)

- 4x8 treated ply board (2- 4x8 ply board cuts)
- 4x4x8 treated wood posts (16 LF)
- (or 4x4 scraps that are at least 3ft in length) (16 LF)
- 2x4 scrap lumber (12-15 LF)
- 2x2 scrap lumber (20 LF approx)
- Wood screws (Torx type screws preferred since it might be easier for us to screw it all together)
- Wood glue
- Paint for the outside
- Singles or Sheet Metal scrap for the Roof

CEDAR VALLEY INTERFAITH COUNCIL

CVIC is hosting an event on Nov. 20 from 2-4pm. There will be displays from a variety of faiths with info about their response to climate change. At 2:30, Dr. Kamyar Enshayan will speak on The Status of Environmental Challenges and Practices in Iowa. At 3:15 there will be a panel discussion from the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities about their concerns caring for the earth. All are welcome!

Hawkeye Community College
Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center
120 Jefferson Street, Waterloo, Iowa

It's time to order your Poinsettias!!!



It's that time of year! You may fill out this order form and place in the offering plate or call Michelle at the church office. Orders may be placed any time by Friday, December 16th. (\$12.00 per plant)

We will be ordering live poinsettias this year so you may take your poinsettia(s) home with you after the Christmas Eve service.

Please make checks payable to First Congregational Church (*write "poinsettia" in the memo*).

Poinsettia(s) given by: _____

"In Memory of...": _____

"In Honor of...": _____

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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