

# 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](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa)

November 24, 2021



## MOMENT FOR MISSIONS . . .

“ I Am Very Thankful For My Church Family . . .  
And All You Do, Have Done, and Continue  
To Do To Help People and Make This  
World a Better Place! 🏛️🤝🌍🙏 ”

Did you know Diane Highnam provided the salad for the Getting Ahead in the Cedar Valley dinner last month? There is a thank you from the program coordinator on our bulletin board for you to check out. Getting Ahead in the Cedar Valley is a nonprofit program of Bridges Out of Poverty which attempts to break the cycle of generational poverty. It operates on donations from churches & individuals plus grants from the Community Foundation of NE Iowa, Gaming Commission, and Guernsey Foundation. It started organizing in Waterloo in 2014 and had the first graduation in 2015. Since then there have been 111 grads from 11 groups, one group each spring & one each fall.

In 2020 classes could not be held because of Covid but have resumed in 2021. All sessions have been held at First United Methodist Church where headquarters are located. Since some participants have never had a 'graduation', the ceremony is made special by holding it at the Snowden House with a catered meal. Two of the co-founders are in Waterloo and continue to be involved as the program builds into the future. FCUCC has helped from the beginning through the Historic Church Row Coalition by supplying items for the meals served before the classes. It epitomizes the goals of the HCR as Lutherans, Catholics, Baptists, Methodists and Congregationalists all work together to improve our area.

## TAKING CARE OF OUR FAMILY

Continued prayers for Russ Towsley who had a partial hip replacement. He is at NewAldaya for a few weeks. Covid restrictions are in place so please call in advance if you would like to visit. Karol and Russ thank you for your prayers and cards!

## THANKSGIVING CONCERT

Luke has put together a Thanksgiving video again this year. Check out our Facebook and YouTube pages to listen to some holiday music this week!

## UNI WOMEN'S CHORUS CONCERT

Under the direction of Amy Kotsonis, the UNI Women's Chorus will be performing a holiday concert on Tuesday, November 30, at 7:00 p.m. at First Congregational Church. It will also be streamed live online: click on the "watch online" link at the top of <https://music.uni.edu/>

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

We will resume the adult Bible Study next Tuesday, November 30th at 4pm covering Genesis 18 and 19.

## THANK YOU

A great big thank you to Sue Hummel and Kay Leary and the Board of Spiritual Growth and Programs for setting up and tearing down the Fall Decorations that were enjoyed by our congregation. We appreciate your dedication to our church!

## ADOPT-A-FAMILY

We will be partnering with Bunger Middle School once again this year for the Adopt-A-Family program. With donations from the church, we will purchase gifts for families in need. If you would like to make a donation, please drop off your check with notation on the memo line for Adopt-A-Family in the offering plate at the back of the church on Sunday or mail your donation to Michelle in the office. Thank you for your help!

## CHURCH OFFICE EMAIL

Just a reminder that my office email is no longer michelle@firstcongucc.org. I had a couple of people recently mention that they couldn't reach me by email as they had my old email address. My email address is [fcuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fcuccoffice@gmail.com). Please take a moment to check that you have my correct email in your contacts. Thank you!

~ Michelle



**Youth Director Office Hours:** Abbie's office hours are slightly different this week due to the Thanksgiving holiday. She will NOT be in on Thursday the 25th, but will hold office hours Wednesday the 24th from 1pm-5pm.

**Sunday School/Childcare:** There will be NO Sunday School or Childcare provided this week, the 28th, at service.

**Youth Group:** As a reminder, there is no youth group this week due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Stay tuned for next week where we start getting in the Christmas spirit!



# December 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Please Note: The Church Office will be closed from December 13th - 17th while Michelle is on vacation.</b>			1 6:00 - Youth Group	2 5:15pm - Bells 7:00pm - Choir	3	4
5 10:30 Worship & Sunday School	6	7 4:00pm - Adult Bible Study	8 6:00 - Youth Group	9 5:15pm - Bells 7:00pm - Choir	10	11 9:00 Women's Bkfst @ Perkins
12 10:30 Worship & Sunday School	13 <i>(Office Closed through 17th)</i>	14 4:00pm - Adult Bible Study 6:00 - Trustee Mtg.	15 6:00 - Youth Holiday Party	16 5:15pm - Bells 7:00pm - Choir	17	18
19 10:30 Worship & Sunday School	20	21 4:00pm - Adult Bible Study	22	23 5:15pm - Bells 7:00pm - Choir	24 7:00 Christmas Eve Service <i>(Office Closed)</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>
26 10:30 Worship	27	28	29	30 5:15pm - Bells 7:00pm - Choir	31 <i>(Office Closed)</i>	

## Birthdays

## Anniversaries

**2**  
Vicki Ahrens  
**7**  
Jake Jensen  
**8**  
Marty Zellhoefer  
**10**  
Peggy Essmann  
Tom Wells  
**11**  
Gyobanna Driver

**13**  
Joel Jensen  
**14**  
Thomas Panicucci  
**19**  
Mays Weber  
**23**  
Lynette Doepke  
**25**  
Don Damon

**27**  
Brian Bishop  
**28**  
Dee Vandeventer  
**29**  
Jeff Thompson  
**30**  
Jeff Driver  
**31**  
John Stevenson

**17**  
Jeff & Cindy Thompson  
**26**  
George & Pat Brown  
**28**  
Dale & Evie Waack  
**30**  
Rocky & Mary Kay Petersen

# 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 17th. (\$12.00 per plant)

We will be ordering live poinsettias again this year! You may take your poinsettia(s) home with you after the 7:00pm Christmas Eve service.

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

Poinsettia(s) given by: \_\_\_\_\_

"In Memory of....": \_\_\_\_\_

(OR)

"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

First Congregational UCC  
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## Congregational Tidings

Place  
Stamp  
Here