

# First Congregational UCC

## TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our  
church family and friends  
December 6, 2023



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



## PULPIT SUPPLY

Thank you to Rev. Cathy Young for her message Sunday, to Abbie Chronister for serving as worship leader, and Anne Hoekstra for the mini message. **You can watch the service by clicking on Rev. Young's picture.**



This Sunday we have something different for our worship — a Christmas Cantata at **First Baptist Church, 434 Baltimore St, Waterloo at 10:15 a.m.** Choirs from First Baptist, First United Methodist, and First Congregational UCC, along with a children's choir and instrumental ensemble will be presenting "Canticle of Joy" by Joseph M. Martin. Narrators will be Maia Forssberg, Greg Holt, Max Lange, and Kathy McFarland. Music directors from each church — Luke Overton, Emily Forssberg, and Rev. Carol Teare, will be directing.

Please join us and our Church Row neighbors at First Baptist for this special service celebrating Advent/Christmas. The choirs have been working hard to prepare this beautiful cantata. You are invited to join the choirs and our church neighbors for a reception following the concert. Beverages, hor d'oeuvres, and cookies will be served in the basement. An elevator is available for easier accessibility.

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## TAKING CARE OF FAMILY...

~ Leon Begay asked for prayers for healing for Edwardo, David Hernandez-Saca's nephew, who is currently hospitalized. Edwardo is from the Bay area and has been living with them for the past few months.

~ Craig Driver shared a joy and concern for his niece, Kerry (his sister, Cheryl's daughter.) She was recently married and also was diagnosed with cancer.

~ Jonathan Yarngo asked for prayers for his family as they experience some stressful family challenges.

~ Congratulations to Dave and Shelli Panicucci on the birth of their 6th grandchild on November 25. Alice Lucille joins brother, William and sister Ruby, and her parents, Tom and Elizabeth Panicucci of Iowa City.

~ Prayers for Cindy Thompson's friend Cathy, whose husband Kevin died last weekend.

~ Prayers for Jan Bernhard, who is recovering from injuries from a fall.

~ The obituary for **Ruth Linderman** who died on November 27th is now available to read here:  
<https://www.richardsonfuneralservice.com/obituaries/Ruth-Linderman/#!/Obituary>

## TRUSTEE MEETING NOTICE

The next Board of Trustee's Meeting will be held next Tuesday, December 12th at 6:00 pm.

## YOUTH NEWS

~ The Wednesday night youth group will be held at Waterloo First United Methodist Church (614 Randolph St., W'loo) in December from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.

~ No Youth Group on Dec. 20th or Dec. 27th.

~ The youth are scheduled to have a fundraiser on Saturday, January 20th at Kimball Avenue from 5-9pm. We are asking parents/family/friends to join us. Dinner will be provided!



## CHRISTMAS MITTEN TREE

Our mittens, scarves, hats tree is now up in the lobby. If you'd like to help keep someone warm this winter, please drop off your donations.



FCUCC is sponsoring one Bunger family this year. Please consider making a donation to help 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.

## DO YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

We would love to post it in our Tidings or Sunday Bulletin. Print Deadline is Tuesdays by 1pm for the Tidings and Thursdays by noon for the Bulletin.

## PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED

Please remember an extra can or two at the store this week for the pantry! Thanks for all your generous support.

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Thinking about getting a head start on your New Year's Resolutions? Here's an idea ... join a board or a committee at church and get involved with some fun people and fun activities! There are plenty of openings and lots of ways to serve God and help be a part of the community. If you're already on a board or committee and are ready for a change, you're in luck too! Make the change and discover new aspects of the church family and get involved in new ways! Check out some information and sign-up sheets in the church library for the next few Sundays! Let Diane or Michelle know if you have questions! Let THIS be the year that you have resolutions that are meaningful, helpful, and doable! Get involved and let God's light shine through YOU!

## UCC CHRISTMAS FUND

The Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Cross Offering) has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, health premiums, supplementation of small annuities, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

We will collect this offering on **Sunday, December 17th** or you may mail your check to the church. If you would like to give to this special offering, please mark "UCC Christmas Fund" in the memo of your check.

*"From Christ's fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." John 1:16*

## 2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

2024 Offering Envelopes are available on the lower shelf of the table under the bulletin board next to the church office.



## GRAND REOPENING

Great News! On Friday, Dec. 8 at 4pm, Growing Minds Early Learning Center (previously Grin & Grow Childcare) will be celebrating our grand reopening. We will be celebrating our new name and logo as well as our 80th year in the Cedar Valley. The "Purple Coats" from Grow Cedar Valley will be attending and assisting with the unveiling.

We wanted our new name to recognize that we also offer programs that go beyond just child care, such as early education and developmental support. These programs can help support children's cognitive, social-emotional, and physical development and promote school readiness.

Furthermore, we hope to offer a sense of stability and support to families who may be facing other challenges. We can be a hub for other community resources and services, connecting families to essential supports that they may not have access to otherwise.

We will serve some light refreshments and provide a tour of the classrooms. I hope you can attend.

~ *Ed Gruenwald, Director*

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## THE PROUD IMAGE CHRISTMAS CONCERT – “A CHRISTMAS OF HOPE”

The Proud Image Chorus will be joined by River City Chorus on Sunday, December 10th at 2:00 p.m. (Doors open at 1:15pm) at Cedar Valley Church (3520 Ansborough Ave., Waterloo) to present a Christmas Concert. All proceeds from the free will offering will go to benefit House of Hope.

Tickets are \$10 for adults/\$5 students. Our very own Craig Holdiman is a member of the Proud Image Chorus and you can get tickets from him or by going to: <https://houseofhopeccd.charityproud.org/EventRegistration/Index/13788>.

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## LIGHT OUT OF DARKNESS CONCERT



3:00 pm, Sunday, December 10, 2023 ~ ~ First Congregational Church

Admission is free - Free will donations of cash or non-perishables will be collected for the benefit of the Northeast Iowa Food Bank.

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## WOMEN OF FAITH, DECEMBER 12 AT 6:30 P.M. THREE HOUSE COLLABORATIVE CAMPUS MINISTRIES RADICAL HOSPITALITY FOR UNI STUDENTS

At the December 12 meeting, Robin Kime, ThreeHouse Campus Ministry Associate, will tell us about her work. ThreeHouse, she says, offers “an open invitation to be who you are. It’s a place to ask questions and have deep conversations. I love supporting and walking with students on their journeys!”

Click on this link to join the Zoom meeting:

[Women of Faith of the Cedar Valley, Tuesday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m.](#)

# 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 Sunday, December 17th. (\$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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