

# 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)

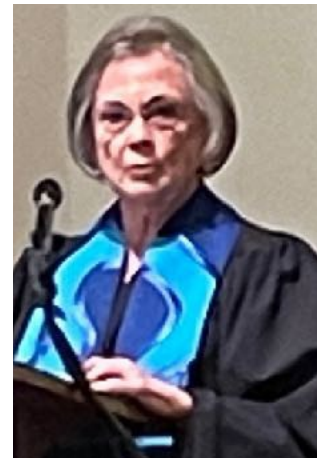
December 7, 2022



## PULPIT SUPPLY

Thank you to Rev. Brad Braley for his sermon Sunday on "Come before Winter", reminding us to do/say the important things, while we still can! Thanks also to Nancy Mahood for serving as worship leader, and Greg Hoekstra for his children's sermon.

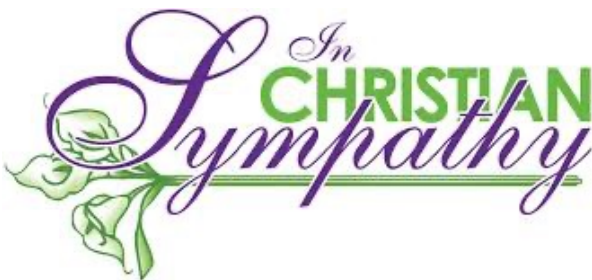
Next Sunday, we welcome the return of Rev. Cathy Young, who will be preaching "Great Things for Me" as we light the "Joy" Advent candle. Kay Thuesen will serve as worship leader, and Lucy Prescott will present the mini-message.



---

## Taking Care of Family...

- ~ Prayers for Ruth Linderman, who is in the Wellspring Care Center at Friendship Village.
- ~ Prayers for Hildegard Larsen, who is also in the Wellspring Care Center at Friendship Village.



Please keep the family of *Bonnie Rickert* in your prayers, especially Stewart and Courtney. Bonnie passed away on Sunday evening, November 27th. We offer our condolences to the family. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Here is a link to Bonnie's obituary:

<https://www.lockefuneralservices.com/obituaries/5635/bonnie-rickert>

Bonnie was a faithful servant who did much to enrich the lives of others. She will be sorely missed by her family, friends, our church family, and the wider community.



## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

**SAVE the DATE!**  
**Sunday Dec 18th 5:30 pm**

We are still trying to get final approval from our local retirement villages for caroling this year, but we are planning on it! So, please save the date and plan to join us for a special way to share the Christmas love with our church family. You'll be glad you did!

## POTLUCK WITH A PURPOSE

The next potluck will be after church on Sunday, December 11th. This potluck will focus on the Bunger Adopt-a-family mission. We will be wrapping presents and pizza will be provided for all. You are welcome to bring your own place setting & a salad or dessert if you would like. Please join us!

## YOUTH & SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

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

**Youth Group:** December 7th and 14th 6pm-7pm ALL KIDS/YOUTH... we are rehearsing for the Christmas skit that will be a part of service on December 18th.

## DECEMBER TRUSTEE MEETING

The Trustee meeting will be held next Tuesday, December 13th at 6:00pm. If you are a Board/Committee Chair or Trustee, please make every effort to attend.



## CHRISTMAS MITTEN TREE

Our mittens, scarves, hats tree is up in the Crossroads! If you'd like to help keep someone warm this winter please consider donating a warm item to the tree.

## 2022 PLEDGES

Our Church has 61 pledge units for 2022. Currently, 27 pledge units have a final payment due on their 2022 pledge, amounting to \$17,541.

Please make an effort to complete your pledge payments so we can finish this year on budget.

Contact Michelle in the church office, 234-8927, if you have questions about your pledge status.

## HOLIDAY GRIEF FORUM

*Tuesday, December 20. 2:00pm.*  
*Cabin Coffee, 2040 Kimball Ave., Waterloo*

The holidays can be a difficult time for individuals who are grieving the loss of a loved one, whether the loss was recent or some time in the past. A grief specialist from Cedar Valley Hospice will discuss the nature of holiday grief and how to cope during the holiday season. The Catholic Parishes in Waterloo host this information forum for grieving individuals and friends or family who are supporting them. The forum is free and open to the public.

Learn more about holiday sadness and grief at: [waterloocatholics.org/holiday-sadness](http://waterloocatholics.org/holiday-sadness)

## 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, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

We will collect this offering on Sunday, December 18th 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. Thank you in advance!

## 2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

2023 Offering Envelopes are available on the table under the bulletin board next to the church office.

# MOMENT FOR MISSIONS...

## FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



We would love to have you join us!

Give the Food Bank volunteer squad a try!

Let's do our part to fight hunger.

Contact Diane Highnam if you're interested in joining us! [diane.highnam@cfu.net](mailto:diane.highnam@cfu.net) or 319-240-2849.

Our next dates are Tuesday, Dec. 20th, Tues., January 17th and Wed., February 22nd from 6 to 8pm.

## WOMEN OF FAITH OF THE CEDAR VALLEY

*Tues., Dec. 13: Experiencing the War in Ukraine.*



At this month's Women of Faith meeting, Tatiana Ivaschenko Jackson and her sister Svitlana Karpluk will speak to us on Zoom. When Russia invaded Ukraine last winter, Svitlana and her daughter fled the country, leaving their husband and father behind. They came to

the Cedar Valley where Tatiana, a well-known artist\*, has lived for many years. Svitlana will tell us about her experience and what Ukrainians are now going through. She and Tatiana will also share what gives them hope and how we can help the people of Ukraine.

You can join us on Zoom by clicking below:

[Women of Faith, December 13 at 6:30 p.m.](#)

\*See Tatiana's art on her website:

<https://www.tatianajackson.com/>

## CROP WALK RESULTS

\$13,698.11 was raised to address hunger issues! 25% will go to our local Northeast Iowa Food Bank and 75% will go to the work of Church World Service.

FCUCC was second in number of walkers (9) and fourth out of 14 in amount donated (\$1,435).

Way to go!

## CEDAR VALLEY LITTLE PANTRIES

Please remember to pick up items for the Little Pantries. As it gets colder the demand for warmth and food will continue to increase. Granola Bars, instant oatmeal packets, pancake mix, cans with pull tops, and canned meats are ideas. If you would like to deliver to our 4 stops on a 4th Friday- please let me know!

~ Gina Greene

## CHRISTMAS ITEMS NEEDED

For the last few years I've hosted a Christmas giveaway for students in need at Hansen Elementary in Cedar Falls. They are given time to come "shop" for themselves and family members. We are looking for new and gentle used items such as brown baby dolls, trucks, cars, winter hats, building toys, and kid puzzles. For parents: scarves, jewelry, lotion, holiday decorations, and dad gifts.

Thank you. I can pick up items from the church or your home.

~ Michelle Holt

## LOVEINC OPEN HOUSE

Join LoveINC of the Cedar Valley for a light lunch, beverages, and fellowship on Tuesday, December 20th from 11:30am to 1:30 pm. This is a time to join their staff and volunteers and learn more about how our church partners to bless the Cedar Valley.

# 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

First Congregational UCC  
608 WEST FOURTH STREET  
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

## Congregational Tidings

Place  
Stamp  
Here