

First Congregational UCC

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our church family and friends
December 13, 2023



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



Last Sunday, our chancel choir and congregation joined First United Methodist's and First Baptist's choirs and congregations at First Baptist Church for the Christmas cantata, "Canticle of Joy". Our director of music, Luke Overton, as well as Emily Forssberg from First Methodist and Rev. Carol Teare of First Baptist directed. The music was a beautiful way to celebrate the season with our neighbor churches and community. We look forward to more collaborations in the future.



You can watch the cantata by clicking on the picture of the choir above.

PULPIT SUPPLY

This Sunday, the 3rd Sunday of Advent, we welcome Rev. Cathy Young back to our pulpit. Paul Greene will be our worship leader and John Mardis will be providing the mini message.

TAKING CARE OF FAMILY...

Rex Boatman would like a ride to church. If you are able to help, please call him at 319-296-2022.

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). We are asking parents to bring a friendly white elephant gift* this Wednesday for a game. *Please note this can be anything laying around the house.

~ 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES



This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. Our regular Sunday Morning Worship Service will be held at 10:30am.

Then please bring your family and friends to our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service that evening, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. for a Service of Lessons and Carols. Touch of Brass Bells will begin their lovely prelude at 6:30, so come early and grab a seat.

I AM HUNGRY

Keep the pantry in mind as you do your Christmas shopping and plan your meals. Right now, one in twelve people in NE Iowa don't have enough to eat. Your gift will help to provide food to a hungry child, family or senior right here in our community. Help fill the emergency gap! Thank you.

UCC CHRISTMAS FUND

We will collect this offering this **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.

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!

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

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

NAMI HOLIDAY PARTY

The NAMI Holiday Party will be held at FCUCC in the chapel on Wednesday, December 13th from 7pm - 8pm. All are welcome to attend this annual party. Food and beverages will be provided.

ANNUAL REPORTS REQUEST

The Annual church meeting will be January 21, 2024. If you are a chair of a board or committee, please turn your respective report in to Michelle in the office no later than Wednesday, January 10th.

Metropolitan Chorale ~ Light Out of Darkness



The Metropolitan Chorale under the direction of Ryan Ocoña, performed “Light Out of Darkness” last Sunday at First Congregational. They performed a variety of songs, old and new, inspired by the theme. A free will offering of food and monetary donations were collected for the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. The concert was recorded with our new equipment and can be heard by clicking on the picture. It was an inspiring and uplifting concert, well sung and well received!



GRAND REOPENING

On December 8th, Growing Minds celebrated their new name and logo as well as their 80th year in the Cedar Valley. The mayor, the “Purple Coats” from Grow Cedar Valley, staff and friends attended the official unveiling of the new Growing Minds sign. Growing Minds mission is to offer a sense of stability and support to families who may be facing other challenges. They help connect families to essential supports that they may not have access to otherwise. Thank you to all who attended!



First Congregational UCC
608 WEST FOURTH STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

Congregational Tidings

Place
Stamp
Here

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

Last Chance....Please order your Poinsettias today!



Please 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 are 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...": _____