

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

December 15, 2021

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

AT 7:00PM

SPECIAL MUSIC PRELUDE

AT ~ 6:35PM

Variety of Carols & Christmas Music:

Touch of Brass Handbell Choir

Hudson Lourenco, Organ,

John Mardis, Vocalist

Greg Hoekstra, Trumpet



EMAIL CHANGE!

As an effort to streamline things, Kyle will be utilizing a new email address for all building needs, repairs, issues, etc.



Please add FCUCCbuilding@gmail.com to your contacts. Thanks!

~ Kyle Lindaman, Custodian

2021 PLEDGES

Our Church has 74 pledge units for 2021. Currently, 28 pledge units have a final payment due on their 2021 pledge, amounting to \$18,650.

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.

~ Dave Allbaugh, Treasurer

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

 We 3+ Kings From Cedar Valley . . . 

Thank YOU ALL for your help with the gifts for the Love, In the Name of Christ holiday stores and the

Adopt-A-Families with Bunger School, our church's Partner In Education.  Eileen and Ed Dams, Sharon Holdiman and her grandchildren, Corina and Callie, Kari Brock and Nevaeh, Sue Hummel, Diane Highnam and Tim Ahrens, all those who dropped toys in the boxes for Love, Inc and all who donated money for shopping and wrapping are our very own royalty from the East (of Iowa), although there was no gold, frankincense or myrrh involved here!  We all benefit from remembering the joy of giving exceeds the fun of receiving and allows us to try to follow the steps of Jesus in helping those less fortunate.

Blessings Everyone 

~ *Laurie Allbaugh*

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Will meet next Tuesday, December 21st at 4 p.m. over Zoom. Check Facebook for updates!

NICARAGUAN PROJECT UPDATE

Thank you to all the sewers, shoppers, packers, and checkers who over the years have made the Nicaraguan project a success. Thank you for sending Zoe, Japhy, Maria, and Kathleen with us. It was a life changing trip. Sadly, the re-election of Daniel Ortega has caused the US Foundation to stop the project.

The U S is not welcome. Currently, we are looking at different outlets for the accumulated materials. This Congregation was the first Cedar Valley volunteer for this project. We had to return the shipments of dehydrated Kids Against Hunger to Wisconsin.

Again, a sincere thank you!

~ *Liz Thorpe*

FROM THE REOPENING COMMITTEE

Thank you for being an member of our church and coming to worship with us on Sundays. Both are important to the life of our church.

Thank you for wearing your mask while you're in the building and for getting vaccinated.

Both allow us to be together to worship the Lord. Our efforts keep us safe as best we can while worshipping.

Please know that these efforts are appreciated. For the good of the whole,

~ *Greg, Tim, Beth, and Dave*

CHRISTMAS MITTEN TREE



Don't forget to bring in your hats, scarves, and mittens to decorate the Mitten Tree in the Crossroads area of the church.

VETERANS OF THE CROSS (THE CHRISTMAS FUND)

This offering provides direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks.

This offering is usually collected the Sunday before Christmas but you can also place your donation in the offering on any Sunday or mail your check with "VOC" in the memo to Michelle in the office by December 28th. Thank you in advance!



Youth Group: Wednesday the 15th from 6pm-7pm. We will have a holiday party with cookie decorating and crafts!

Sunday School/Childcare: Will meet during Sunday Service on December 19th. We will be learning about Love in the context of Advent!

Youth Director Office Hours: Abbie will host office hours on December 16th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd, all from 1pm-5pm.



GET INVOLVED WITH JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT (JA) AT BUNGER!

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 in some 7th grade classrooms on Tuesdays starting in January during a variety of times in the school day. The commitment is about 40 minutes a week over the span of six weeks. Youth Director Abbie is getting involved, and so should you! Email abbie.youthdirector@gmail.com for questions and to sign up!

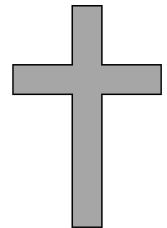
P.S. Did you know the late Harold Brock (Bob's father) was a founding board member of JA in Waterloo? Wouldn't it be awesome for us to continue his legacy of support for this marvelous organization? Since we haven't been able to fulfill so many of our commitments to Partners in Education due to Covid, this will help renew our involvement with the youth of our community!

HEADS UP! OFFICE CLOSINGS

The main office is closed December 13th-17th. No office hours will be held by staff on December 24th, 31st, or January 3rd.

PRAYERS

Please keep Pearl Goos in your prayers this week as she has entered Hospice care.



SEARCH & CALL UPDATE

I am pleased to announce that a Search and Call Committee has been formed based upon nominations made by the Board of Trustees. This committee, comprised of Diane Highnam (Chair), Craig Holdiman, Karen Jensen (Scribe), Craig Mahood, Kaden McConnell, Kerri Mennenga, Hannah Prescott, Lauren Reisinger, Rich Thuesen, and Evie Waack (Chaplain) held their first meeting on Monday, December 13. UCC Associate Conference Pastor, Samantha Houser, met with our newly formed group via zoom to review the Search and Call process. Please pray for these dedicated individuals as they begin their work. And thank them in advance for the many hours they will be spending on behalf of the congregation!

~ Anne Hoekstra

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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 call! 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...": _____