

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

December 1, 2021

## MOMENT FOR MISSIONS . . .



### LAST CALL . . .

We are 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 this week. Thank you for your help!

### News from Love, INC



This year, LoveINC is registering families for different Christmas Stores hosted by four of their partner churches: Candeo, Orchard Hill, Prairie Lakes and Prince of Peace Lutheran. Christmas Stores provide the opportunity for parents and primary caregivers to purchase gifts for their children at 80-90% off the retail price. Selecting and purchasing their own gifts at an affordable cost gives dignity to parents and families as they provide for their children at Christmas! If you would like to donate gifts or volunteer at a Christmas Store, you can select a specific store and find more information about getting involved on our website.

<http://loveinccv.org>

Gifts should cost between \$10-30 and be appropriate for preschool through high school aged children. Gifts should be new and unwrapped and dropped off at one of the locations below by this Thursday, December 2nd.

DROP OFF LOCATION	ADDRESS	DEADLINE for DROP OFF
First Congregational Church	608 W 4 <sup>th</sup> St, <u>Wloo</u>	Thursday, Dec 2
Love INC office	2603 Rainbow Drive, CF	Thursday, Dec 2
Orchard Hill Church	3900 Orchard Hill Dr, CF	Thursday, Dec 2

# TAKING CARE OF OUR FAMILY . . .

~ Our office manager, Michelle's grandmother passed away Sunday night. She was 101 years old! Prayers for peace for her family and for safety on the road for all the family traveling here.

~ Russ Towsley came home a week early from New Aldaya due to some covid outbreaks. So now his wife Carol is his nurse and she reports that he's doing ok. He still has some healing to do but his thinking is much better!! They thank you again for all prayers!!

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A great big thank you to *Janice Akin* and *Nancy Heinick* for putting up the Christmas decorations this year!

## What Comes After Being Thankful . . . ?

Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday and giving Tuesday, of course!

Abbie Chronister has an idea for us to continue the good that comes from one of these. Let's share with each other our cherished local haunts and where we like to direct our dollars to support our neighbors. Here is her example:

"One of Abbie's favorite small businesses in the Cedar Valley is Hansen's Dairy. She says, *'Their malts are fantastic and I love stopping by to pick up a pint of ice cream for the same price or even lower price that I would pay anywhere else, but I'd rather support our local dairy!'* Go check out Hansen's Dairy at the Waterloo (3015 Kimball) or Cedar Falls (137 E 18th) locations and support local businesses!"

What do you think? A fun way to get to know a little bit more about each other and expand our supporting opportunities. If you agree, please send your suggestions to Michelle for inclusion if future Tidings!

Social causes and justice . . . How do we do it? What comes next?"

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study on Genesis continues to meet on Tuesdays at 4:00p.m.

## 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.

## JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

Junior Achievement (JA) of Eastern Iowa is looking for volunteers! 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 Bunker Middle (to which we are a Partner in Education with) to provide their program, and needs volunteers to help volunteer in some 7th grade classrooms. The commitment is about an hour a week over the span of six weeks. Youth Director Abbie is getting involved, and so should you! Email [abbie.youthdirector@gmail.com](mailto:abbie.youthdirector@gmail.com) for questions and to sign up!



**Youth Group:** Will meet Wednesday, December 1st from 6pm-7pm. We will be wrapping up Mitten Tree donations as well as doing a fun holiday craft!

**Sunday School/Childcare:** This week in Sunday School, we will be working on learning about Advent! Come during Sunday Service, and then after the children's message, youth will depart to the basement with staff for learning and fun!

**Youth Director Office Hours:** Abbie will hold office hours Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 1pm-5pm. Come stop by!

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**December 3, 4, 9, 10, 11,  
& 17 at 7 pm  
December 5, 12, & 18 at  
2 pm**

# **Elf the Musical**

**Directed by Greg Holt  
Music Directed by Jessica Lieb  
Choreography by Jordan Makinster**

Based on the 2003 movie. Buddy, an orphan, crawls into Santa's bag and is transported to the North Pole where he is raised, unaware that he is a human until his size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth.

Others you might know in the cast include John Mardis, Natalie and Emily Lindaman, and Arlo and Crosby Prescott. Call 319 235-0367 or 319 291-4494 or check out [www.WlooPlayhouse.org](http://www.WlooPlayhouse.org). Adult tickets \$25, Youth \$15 or on December 9th remaining seats at the door are "pay what you can". You decide the price cash only please!

## 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  
608 WEST FOURTH STREET  
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

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Place  
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