

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

January 2, 2019

Day of Epiphany
January 6, 2019
10:30 am

**Pastor Scott Spence will
present the message:**

Follow the Light

Using the text:
Matthew 2:1-23

Worship Leader
John Mardis

Children's Lesson
Greg Hoekstra

Deacon-In-Charge
Cindy Thompson

Acolytes
Bob and Jo Tefft

Greeters
AJ and Diana Paige
(Sanctuary)

Barb Mardis
(Crossroads)

January Ushers
Craig Jensen
Dave Panicucci
Jeff Thompson
Rocky Petersen

Arise, shine, for your light has come! The Glory of God has risen upon us.

Isiah 60:1



This Sunday in worship First Congregational UCC will be celebrating the Epiphany of the Lord. The holiday gets its name from the Greek word *epipháneia* which means manifestation or revelation. On this day we celebrate that God's saving purpose is for all the peoples of the world. In the same way that the Magi came from a distant land (modern-day Iran) to worship the Christ child, God's covenant of grace was expanded to include all people in all places on Earth.

Just like the star that guided the Magi, the main symbol of Epiphany is light. The light is a sign of the light of God's self-revelation in Jesus. As Christians, we are called to bear Christ's light into the world and not to keep it hidden.

I'm writing this note to you on New Year's Eve. Outside my office window the snow is gently falling as we make our way through the depths of winter. The church halls are quiet as we await the return of our Grin and Grow friends from their holiday break. As we get ready to enter 2019 I believe this is prime opportunity to ask ourselves a few questions as believers and as a church:

*How can we "bear the light" into our homes, our workplaces, and our communities?

*Where can we "shine the light" into places that need that? What will it cost us and are we truly willing to make the effort?

*How is First Congregational UCC "shining"? What are some of the ways that we can shine even brighter? Are there some places that need electricity to turn on the lights?

Included in this edition of the Tidings are some ways that we can shine the light of Christ. We can always learn and do more because we don't walk this path alone. Feel free to share with me or Board of Trustees your ideas and dreams. We would love to hear them.

God bless.

Pastor Scott

Memorial Service for Maxine Martens

This Friday, **January 4th at 1:00 pm** will be the memorial service for Maxine Martens here in the sanctuary.

Reception to Honor Prescott's

Please join us after church this Sunday for a light luncheon to honor Paul and Hannah and their hard work as youth directors.

Advent Decor Removal Sunday, January 6

We need volunteers to help take down the Advent decorations this Sunday following the reception. It would be nice if we could have some "strong" bodies for lifting and ladders.



Thank you to all those who donated mittens, hats, and other winter items on our mitten tree. The donations are appreciated!

Dinner Class

We will begin a new Thursday night dinner class beginning on January 10th. Please call Michelle in the office to R.S.V.P. All are welcome!

Calling All Church Members!!!

Calling All Church Members!!! If you would like to serve on a board or a committee this upcoming year, step right up! It's a good way to get involved in church projects and a great way to be generous with your talents. There are openings in several of the groups. Please contact Diane Highnam at diane.highnam@cfu.net or 319-240-2849. You can also contact the church office. THANKS in advance for your help!

Annual Meeting & Potluck Sun., January 27, 2019



The potluck will be held right after the church service with the Annual Meeting to follow.

Adopt a Family Thank you!

The R.E. Board would like to thank the congregation for their Adopt-A-Family donations and support of our Partners in Education Program! We received over \$1,600 to provide gifts for four families. Thank you also to the Thorpe's for donating coats from Operation Warm and to our shoppers...Tim and Vicki Ahrens, Abbey Akin, Connie Jo Peirce and the Spence Family.

Sunday School

Gathering (9:00 - 9:15am)

Youth and adults meet for singing, praying, and mission news in the chapel

Classes (9:15 - 10:15 am)

CHILDREN

Students 6th grade and up will gather upstairs in the Murphy Youth Room

Children ages pre-K - 5th grade meet with Jayne Slaughter in the upstairs Sunday School Room

ADULTS

Adults will meet in the chapel
Women's Book Study meets in the Friendship Room

Upcoming Events

Fri., January 4

1:00 pm - Memorial Service for Maxine Martens

Sun., January 6

9:00 am - Sunday School
10:30 am - Worship Service
12:00 pm - Prescott Reception (Advent Decor Removal following reception)

Tues., January 8

6:00 pm - Trustee Meeting

Wed., January 9

5:30 pm - Bells
7:00 pm - Choir

Thurs., January 10

Meals on Wheels

Sat., January 12

9:00 am - Women's Breakfast at Perkins

Sun., January 13

9:00 am - Sunday School
10:30 am - Worship Service

2019 Budget Status

I'm pleased to report that 13 of you generously increased your 2019 pledge or contributed additional funding to the 2019 budget. Thank you very much for your stewardship. As a result we are very close to having sufficient funds to "do the same as we did in 2018." However, I'm not sure we want to be known as the Church that just "does things the same." If we want to grow programming and better support our staff, I'd ask the rest of you to consider adding a few more dollars to the budget.

I will present a 2019 Budget to the Trustees on 8 January, so this is the last week to let Michelle know what you can do to help us. Thanks for giving it consideration.

~ Dave Allbaugh



January 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! (Office Closed)	2 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	3	4 7:00 NA Group	5
6 9:00 Sun. School 10:30 Worship (Luncheon to Honor Paul and Hannah following worship) (Advent Decor Removal following luncheon)	7 Comm. Meals (A)	8 10:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Trustee Mtg.	9 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	10 Meals on Wheels 6:00 Dinner class	11 7:00 NA Group	12 9:00 Women's Bkfst @ Perkins
13 9:00 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	14	15 7:30 Men's Bkfst @ Village Inn 10:00 Al-Anon	2 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	17 6:00 Dinner class	18 7:00 NA Group	19
20 9:00 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	21	22 10:00 Al-Anon	2 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	24 Meals on Wheels 6:00 Dinner class	25 7:00 NA Group	26
27 9:00 Sun. School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Annual Mtg	28	29 10:00 Al-Anon	2 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	31		

Birthdays

Anniversaries

1
Joanne Lane
Hildegard Mehlich
Jim Thiele
5
Maxine Clausman
6
Barb Mardis
Julie Thoreen
10
Lois Johnson
David Young

12
Brad Highnam
Cody Koch
13
Ted Martens
14
Megan Panicucci
15
Jesse White
Charlie Mejia
23
Jayne Slaughter
24
Steve Maurer

26
Tara Spence
27
Emile Leighty
28
Dan Hummel
Craig Mahood
29
Connie Stevens
30
Luke Overton
31
Craig Holdiman

31
Marcos & Jill Grano De Oro



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

