

Congregational Tidings

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



A weekly newsletter



January 15, 2020

Why? Weekend Reflection

**Second Sunday
after Epiphany
January 19, 2020
10:30 am**

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

Plants and Parables

Scripture Reading
Mark 4:1-34

Worship Leader
Diana Paige

Deacon-In-Charge
Abbey Akin

Acolytes
Bob & Jo Tefft

Greeters
Janice Akin
Leah Spence

January Ushers
Craig Jensen
Dave Panicucci
Jeff Thompson
Rocky Petersen

In days past, cub reporters were taught to explain the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the story in the newspaper articles they wrote. By answering these questions, the reporter gave the reader a complete account of the story they were covering. I have noticed that most articles in today's papers omit some of these answers, and that's probably OK because when reading about something that happened in the past, I am most interested in what happened and who was involved.

I've also noticed that in planning a future activity, I'm most interested in what we are going to do, how we are going to do it, and who will be involved. But in doing so, I'm bypassing what is possibly the most important question. Why are we doing this activity? If we don't ask this question first and answer it correctly, we won't get the best possible results regardless of how well we answer the other questions.

A good example is the tragedy Boeing is currently experiencing with its 737 Max airliner. Internal documents recently released reveal problems with the design, testing, and certification of the airplane. At each stage in the development of the airplane, Boeing had to decide why they were making the choices they did about how to proceed. The documents appear to show that in many cases, when Boeing answered the question of why, they leaned more toward corporate and airline profitability than passenger safety. And now are paying the price.

As our Church moves forward, we must decide what a successful future looks like and how to achieve that vision. But like Boeing, we will fail if we don't first ask Why? at each decision point in our journey, and then correctly answer the question. Last November, all members were invited to participate in a Why? Weekend to start planning for the future. Those that responded to the invitation first recounted past situations when we were especially proud of our Church, and Why we were proud. We used these examples as a base on which to develop a statement of Why we need to be successful in the future. The statement the participants developed is, "To embody and share God's love so all experience faith, hope, and joy in community where love is made actual." We believe we will be successful if we use this statement to guide the what, how, who, and when answers as we move forward.

Dave Allbaugh
15 Jan 2020

Scott's January

Public Office Hours:

Scott will hold Public Hours as follows:

*1/15 - (No Community Office Hours)

*1/22 - Sidecar (Downtown, W'loo)

1/29 - Fat Cup (Fletcher Ave., W'loo)

If anyone has a suggestion of a new place to hold Community Office Hours this year, please let Pastor Scott know.

Wednesday Bible Study

There will be no potluck or Pastor's class tonight as Pastor Scott will be in Des Moines. Make plans to attend next Wednesday Night as we continue our new Bible Study Series looking at the Prophets of the Old Testament. Class begins at 6:45pm in the Lounge.

Organ Revoicing Task Force

We will meet in the Sanctuary at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, January 21st

Blessing Bags

During the Why Weekend, we made Blessing Bags which are simply bags with emergency supplies (hand warmers, socks, etc.) for you to keep in your car and give to someone in need. If you need another one or never got one but would like one, please let Michelle know so that we can make another batch of them.

~Missions Committee

Community Service

Please consider joining your fellow congregants in a community service opportunity on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 20 from 1:30 - 3:00pm. The Cedar Valley has organized an event to benefit the Northeast Iowa Food Bank's "Backpack Buddies" program at the UNI dome. We hope to take a group to participate in this event (Ages 6 and up). Contact Katie Thomas, (515-451-1722 or katie@firstcongucc.org) by Wednesday January, 15 at 5:00pm.

Bazaar Buzz

We have the grand total from the Bazaar - \$7430.63!! Thank you, again, to everyone who helped make this a HUGE success!! We couldn't do this without you!!

There have been some questions as to what the money is used for? Some of the money goes to local charities in the Cedar Valley. Places that we have made donations are - Rodney's Kitchen, Beyond Pink, Homestart, Hip Hop for Literacy, our Family Fun Day and we purchased play tickets for our youth and their families. We also use some of the money to make purchases that will enhance our church. For example, we purchased the changing table in the women's bathroom and we will soon be adding one for the men's bathroom also, the juice cups for after church refreshments, a commercial quality vacuum and hand truck to help make Kyle's job easier and last, but certainly not least, we purchased the beautiful Sanctuary Christmas tree.

Our Bazaar has become one of the most anticipated and attended Bazaars in the Cedar Valley. What a great way to give back to our community. We can't thank you enough for all you do!!

~ Bazaar Committee

Sub Sandwiches and Youth Fundraiser

IT'S TIME FOR SUPER BOWL SUBS!



Purchase a sub sandwich for \$6.00 to go with your Super Bowl snacks on **Sunday, February 2nd.**

Sign-Up Sheets will be in the Library this Sunday.

Thank you for your support!

Sunday School

Gathering (9:00 - 9:15 am)

Youth and adults initially will meet in the chapel.

Classes (9:15 - 10:15 am)

Students 3rd - 5th grade will gather in the chapel with Katie Thomas.

Children ages pre-K - 2nd grade will meet with Jayne Slaughter in the downstairs children's nursery / classroom.

The Adult class meets in the Chapel.

Weekly Events

Wed., January 15

No Public office hours,
potluck or Pastor's Class
6:30 pm - Choir Practice
7:00 pm - Youth Group

Thurs., January 16

6:00 pm - Bells Practice

Sun., January 19

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

Tues., January 21

7:30 Men's Breakfast
at Village Inn

Wed., January 2

3-5pm - Public Office Hours
6:00 pm - Potluck
6:30 pm - Choir Practice
7:00 pm - Pastor's Class
Youth Group

Worship SCHEDULE



January 19

Parables in Mark

Mark 4:1-34



January 26

*Jesus and the
Gerasene Demoniac*

Mark 5:1:20

Special Music by:
Damascus Road



February 2

Jairus' Daughter Healed

Mark 4:1-34

Communion Sunday
Super Bowl Subs



During the winter months, not only heavy snow but also icy or extreme cold conditions can cause a cancellation. If weather conditions seem questionable, check our Facebook page or watch the announcements on kwwl.com to see if an activity or service has been cancelled.

Ordination and Installation of Hannah Hannover

Sunday, January 19th at 3:00 pm ~ Ames UCC in Ames, IA

A cake reception will follow. An offering will be collected to benefit Ames UCC's Pastoral Emergency Fund.

We celebrate Hannah's completion of the ordination process and Ames UCC's call for Hannah to be officially installed as Associate Minister.



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

Annual Meeting & Potluck Sun., January 26, 2020



The potluck will be held right after the church service with the Annual Meeting to follow. Please remember to bring a dish to share and your own plates and silverware.

You may pick up a copy of the 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Proposed Budget in Crossroads this Sunday, January 19th for review prior to the meeting on the 26th.

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE FCUCC BY-LAWS 01/14/20

Article V – WORSHIP SERVICES AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Section 1 – Worship Services

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Section 2 – Business Meetings

(a) The annual meeting of the church shall be held in January of each year on a day and time designated by the Board of Trustees. Notice of the annual meeting shall appear in the church bulletin for **at least** two publications preceding the annual meeting, the last publication of which shall be not less than one week prior to the annual meeting, and ~~may~~ **shall** be given from the pulpit, and ~~should~~ **shall** be published in ~~any~~ **the** church newsletter.

(b) Special meetings of the membership may be held from time to time upon the call of the Senior Minister or the Board of Trustees on its own motion. The Board of Trustees shall call a special meeting on the written request of at least ~~fifty~~ **twenty-five** qualified voting members of the corporation. Notice of any special meeting shall state the object of the meeting. ~~Notice shall appear in the church bulletin at least one week prior to the special meeting and may also be given from the pulpit and should be published in any church newsletters.~~ **Notice of the special meeting shall appear in the church bulletin for at least two publications preceding the special meeting, the last publication of which shall be not less than one week prior to the special meeting, and shall be given from the pulpit, and shall be published in the church newsletter.**

(c) A quorum for conducting business at any meeting shall consist of ~~at least fifty qualified~~ **the** voting members of the corporation **present**.

(d) Unless otherwise required by these Bylaws or the Articles of Incorporation, a majority of the qualified members present and voting shall determine all questions.

(e) Roberts Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern at all meetings of the membership unless these Bylaws or the Articles of Incorporation describe a different procedure.

Section 3 – Church Year

The official church year shall begin January 1 and end the 31st day of December.